

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development



Getting Things Done.
Making Things Fair.

Friday, 29 December, 2017

RENEWABLE ENERGY TO POWER STAWELL FARM IN WORLD-FIRST

The Andrews Labor Government will build a major new wind farm with battery storage in Western Victoria that will power the expansion of Stawell's Nectar Farms.

This project will make the advanced agriculture facility the world's first ever crop farm to be completely powered by renewable energy.

The 15-year Support Agreement between the Labor Government and Neoen Australia will deliver the Bulgana Green Power Hub – an integrated energy project of a scale and technology never been seen before.

More than 1,300 jobs will be created – including 270 direct ongoing jobs in the agricultural sector and 10 direct ongoing jobs in the renewable energy industry – all located in the Stawell region.

The wind farm and battery storage system will provide reliable and affordable renewable energy to unlock the development of a major new advanced agriculture facility in Stawell, with a total expected investment of \$665 million.

The farm will use the latest in hydroponic glasshouse and plant technology to create a 40 hectare, state-of-the-art facility to supply the highest quality vegetables into domestic and international markets.

The co-located 204MW Bulgana Green Power Hub will be backed up by a 20MW battery, making the farms expansion a reality by providing the secure and affordable energy that Nectar Farms needs for its hydroponic greenhouses.

The project will help secure the Labor Government's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets of 15 to 20 per cent (from 2005 levels) by the year 2020.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"We're delivering affordable, secure and clean energy, which is powering new jobs right across our state."

"This project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while helping meet Victoria's renewable energy generation targets."

"This is an exciting initiative which illustrates how renewable energy can unlock opportunities for large, energy intensive businesses to create jobs and build a better future for regional communities."