RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK HORSHAM

Project update

October 2026



About the project

The SEC Renewable Energy Park – Horsham is Victoria's first 100 per cent publicly owned large-scale renewable energy project.

SEC is working with developer OX2 to build the energy park, which includes a 119-megawatt solar farm comprising more than 212,000 PV solar panels. This will generate around 242,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy a year – enough to power 51,000 homes – along with a 100MW two-hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Highlights

Powers
Equivalent to 51,000 homes

Development partner
OX2

Generation capacity
119MW

Storage capacity
100MW two-hour BESS

Solar panels
More than 212,000



Operational update

The SEC Renewable Energy Park – Horsham solar farm has connected to the electricity grid for the first time.

The critical development means the project's solar farm has moved from mechanical completion into commissioning and energisation, which involves safely connecting the solar farm to the electricity grid prior to transitioning to operations in 2027.

The solar farm will now proceed through two preparation stages, known as hot commissioning and hold point testing. This staged process includes gradually switching on and testing different parts of the solar farm, including the substations, transformers, underground cables, inverters, and other electrical equipment.

Vegetation screening around the site's perimeter has also been finalised with the support of Dalki Garringa, a native nursery owned and operated by Barengi Gadjin Land Council and located in Wail.

The project's next steps include preparing for the arrival and installation of the battery energy storage system. Forty-one inverters and batteries are expected to start arriving next month.

The solar farm consists of:

- 212,296 solar panels;
- a tracker system;
- a 162.5-tonne transformer;
- switch room substation;
- high-voltage infrastructure, cables and earth grid.

Once fully completed, the SEC Renewable Energy Park – Horsham will have the capacity to power more than 51,000 Victorian homes each year when it begins commercial operation in 2027.

Community Benefit Fund update

We were delighted to receive 35 applications to our recently launched community benefit fund. The fund seeks to support initiatives that benefit locals and build sustainable, resilient and cohesive communities.

In 2026, during the project's construction phase, the fund has combined three years' worth of funding and will invest $126,000 in the Horsham local government area.

The fund's assessment committee, comprising five members from local organisations, has been reviewing and assessing the applications to ensure grants meet local priorities.

Winners will be announced via our website in the coming months; keep an eye on secvictoria.com.au/horsham for details.

From 2027, $100,000 annually (indexed) will be available over the project's 30-year lifetime to support community-led initiatives and positive long-term outcomes for the region.

If you'd like to receive these updates online, sign up to our digital newsletter



The grass is greener under solar panels

Over the next few months, a merino flock will arrive and graze among the solar panels at the SEC Renewable Energy Park – Horsham, supporting their growth while helping the project to manage vegetation.

Solar panels don't just generate electricity, they also create shade, which helps reduce evaporation and conserve moisture in the soil.

For sheep, the shade is incredibly valuable. On hot days sheep can shelter beneath the panels while the surrounding vegetation provides grazing. Solar panels also offer protection from rain and hail. There are even benefits for wool – protecting sheep from the elements can contribute to improved wool quality.

Solar grazing

The practice of hosting livestock on renewable energy sites to manage vegetation and make better use of the land – delivers benefits for all involved.

Solar grazing is increasingly being implemented in Victoria, with solar grazing successfully employed at Gannawarra Solar Farm near Kerang and Numurkah Solar Farm near Shepparton. The concept is part of a broader rethink about land use as Australia builds more renewable energy.

In 2021, the Clean Energy Council released the Australian Guide to Agrisolar for Large-scale Solar, designed to help farmers and solar companies integrate agricultural production with solar projects.

> *"We've been building the solar farm for the last 18 months, and maintaining the vegetation on site requires a significant amount of work. Sheep are an exceptional way to maximise use of the land and this has so many benefits for us and the farmer.*
>
> *It helps us support local agriculture, helps us maintain costs by reducing the need for mowing and pesticides, and it also makes sure we meet one of our highest priorities – to maintain vegetation – as we come into the fire danger period."*
>
> **Liam Dianes,**
> Construction manager, PSD Energy
> (SEC's construction partner).

The goal is simple: find new ways for agriculture and renewable energy to work together, rather than treating them as competing uses of land.

For solar grazing, the picture is increasingly clear. The future of a solar farm may not just be rows of panels producing clean energy. It may also include sheep quietly grazing beneath them.

Helping households to go all-electric

SEC is supporting households to go electric with Easy Electric SEC, a new online platform that offers simple and practical solutions to help households switch from gas to electric appliances and save on energy bills.

Switching appliances like heating, hot water and cooking from gas to efficient electric alternatives can save Victorian households around $2,000 a year on their energy bills, or as much as $2,230 when they also have rooftop solar.

Easy Electric makes it easy to take control of household energy costs in a quick and simple way.

Find out more at easyelectricsec.com.au.

Through a simple online questionnaire, the website helps users to:

- understand potential savings when moving to an all-electric household
- explore upgrade options and rebates
- receive obligation-free quotes to install upgrades
- find a local SEC-endorsed installer

With a Horsham-based installer now available, it's now even easier for Wimmera residents to make the switch.



Coffee and chat

Join us on 28 October for a cuppa at one of our community drop-ins. Whether you have questions about our solar farm or battery energy storage system, would like an update on construction or just have general questions, we are here to listen and chat.

Time: 9am – 11am
Date: Wednesday 28 October
Venue: Chickpea Café, 30 Pynsent Street, Horsham

Project timeline

Early 2025
Establish site access roads and construction buildings

Construction begins

Mid 2026
First supply of electricity to the grid

Late 2027
Project fully operational

Stay connected

At SEC, open and ongoing communication is a top priority. Alongside our contractors, we regularly engage with project neighbours, the broader community, local councils, emergency services, businesses, and other key stakeholders.

We're committed to working collaboratively — answering your questions, providing regular updates, and ensuring the project is delivered with care and respect for the community.

If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

T: 1300 305 700 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)
E: info.SEC@secvictoria.com.au

For urgent matters outside these hours, call our 24/7 line on 1800 809 740

secvictoria.com.au

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