

## Victoria hydrogen energy storage

This Plan complements the National Hydrogen Strategy while taking into account Victoria's ambitious renewable energy and emissions reductions targets. We are establishing the foundation for growing a renewable hydrogen economy in Victoria, connecting demand with use, and demonstrating leadership through our actions.

In 2021, the Victorian Government launched the Victorian Renewable Hydrogen Industry Development Plan ("the Plan"). Its goal is to stimulate initial investment, employment, innovation, economic growth, and support Victoria's renewable energy transition.

Along with the Plan, the Victorian Government announced the Accelerating Victoria's Hydrogen Industry (AVHI) Program to support policy and industry development and research. In 2021 the Victorian Government announced two new grant programs under the banner of the AVHI:

In 2021, the Victorian Government launched its Climate Change Strategy and Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Roadmap. The roadmap includes battery and hydrogen powered electric vehicles and is supported by a AUD\$100 million ZEV package to fast track the transition to ZEVs. The ZEV support package includes the following programs open to hydrogen:

In July 2022, the Victorian Government released a Gas Substitution Roadmap. The roadmap outlines the paths by which energy efficiency, electrification, hydrogen and biogas can contribute to carbon emissions reductions in the State. The Roadmap outlines that alternative gases such as hydrogen and biomethane will be essential to reach net zero emissions.

In October 2023, submissions closed for Victoria's Renewable Gas Consultation paper which sought input to help design policy that could best support the efficient and effective use of renewable gas in Victoria. In 2024, the government will aim to publish a Policy Directions Paper in response to submissions to the Renewable Gas Consultation Paper.

The Victorian Government has invested AUD\$9 million (alongside AUD\$9 million in Commonwealth Government funding) to establish the Hycel Technology Hub - a 2,200m<sup>2</sup> bespoke hydrogen research, testing and training facility located at Deakin University's Warrnambool campus in Victoria's south-west. The Hycel Technology Hub was officially opened in October 2024.

The Victorian Government provided AUD\$12 million to support Swinburne University of Technology's Aerostructures Innovation Research Hub (AIR Hub). Amongst other things, the AIR Hub is also supporting research and development for hydrogen storage tanks on aircraft and eVTOL vehicles.



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The Victorian Government provided AUD\$4.7 million for the University of Melbourne's Zero Emissions Energy (ZEE) Lab. The ZEE Lab enables the university to work with industry to develop a range of clean energy products across the hydrogen and solar fields, including new methods for hydrogen gas processing, novel hydrogen fuel systems for engine-based power generation, and transport; and a new, low-cost electrolyser for producing green hydrogen.

Eligible renewable hydrogen projects have been supported through Round 2 of the Victorian Government's Energy Innovation Fund, with Yarra Valley Water receiving a grant of AUD\$11.9 million for its Renewable Hydrogen Hydro-Gen 1 project.

The Hume Hydrogen Highway initiative was announced on 25 March 2022. The Initiative is a AUD\$20 million grant program to deliver Australia's first renewable hydrogen refuelling network along Australia's busiest freight corridor, the Hume Highway between Melbourne and Sydney.

The Victorian Government has partnered with the New South Wales Government (NSW) to deliver the initiative. Each state has committed AUD\$10 million in grant funding to deliver at least four renewable hydrogen refuelling stations and approximately 25 hydrogen powered trucks to use the network. Applications to the initiative have closed and the Victorian and NSW governments are working through the options to identify a suitable project.

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