

Victoria gets gross feed-in tariff for large scale solar

The Victorian government has set its sights on becoming Australia's solar state, through increased support for medium- and large-scale solar energy providers via a gross feed-in tariff.



Credit: Silex Systems Pty Ltd

The plan will see Victoria's electricity supply from large-scale solar farms increased to five per cent by 2020, and result in the State having up to 25 per cent of its power coming from renewable energy by the same year.

In announcing the change, Premier John Brumby said the five per cent target would be backed by the nation's first feed-in tariff for large-scale solar, which should see the establishment of between five and 10 large solar farms across regional Victoria.

The feed-in tariff will assist in the take up of solar power by paying medium- and large-scale facilities extra money for feeding the renewable power they generate back into the grid – above what they would normally get on the energy market.

The Australian Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Earth (FOE) welcome the announcement. FOE campaign coordinator, Cam Walker, comments that it will be a popular initiative among the millions of Victorians who are looking for strong leadership on climate change.

‘It’s time for Victoria to shed its image as a world leader in burning polluting brown coal and become a world leader in renewable energy,’ he says.

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