

Q: what is the renewable energy transition in Australia?

A: the renewable energy transition, Australia

The 2019 Clean Energy Report indicates a 100% increase in investment in large-scale energy projects in 2018 with 14.5 GW of new electricity generation under construction or financially committed at the end of 2018. Including the one in five Australian households now having rooftop solar PV, 21% of total electricity generation comes from renewable sources – the highest ever level.

Australia is experiencing a renewable energy transition and an evolving national electricity system. Larger scale solar and wind energy generation are now the cheapest forms of electricity supply. Public and commercial confidence regarding ongoing investment in fossil fuel electricity generation has diminished.

Q: what are the renewable energy plans for Victoria?

A: the renewable energy transition, Victoria

Victorian Climate Change and Renewable Energy legislation has facilitated major renewable energy investment in the state¹. In the 2017-18 financial year, Victoria generated around 8,800 GWh of electrical energy from renewable sources. The Victoria Renewable Energy Target (VRET) is plans to be 50% by 2030.

Q: what part is the Grampians playing in the renewable energy transition?

A: the renewable energy transition, Grampians Region

The Grampians Region is one of the most energy intense parts of Victoria and has been identified by AEMO as containing the 'Western Victoria Renewable Energy Zone' due to its excellent wind resources.

There is already over 900 MW of in-service wind farms in the region and over 2000 MW of new wind farms under construction in the region.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) have recognised the Grampians region as one of Australia's key renewable energy zones. AEMO anticipates that 5,000 MW of wind and solar renewable energy could be supplied to the national electricity grid from this part of Western Victoria by 2025.

Q: Why develop a Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero?

A: the purpose of the Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero

The Roadmap will assist Western Victorians to understand and influence regional renewable energy options as well as contribute to, and benefit from, an improved energy system and a more secure zero-carbon environmental future.

With over \$3 billion worth of wind and solar construction projects in planning or under construction in the Grampians there are over 2000 new construction jobs secure for the next three years.

But what about after the next 3 years or so; when major windfarm and solar infrastructure is complete?

Can the region leverage long-term growth and benefit by innovation and building upon the renewable energy transition?

Can the Grampians region become a zero-carbon region or even help support all of Victoria to decarbonise?

The Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero is designed to explore and guide how the region could become 100% renewable and strive for a complete zero-carbon regional future. The Roadmap will explore the possibility, long-term benefit and local preferences of Grampians contributing to the decarbonisation of Victoria.

Q: what regions are included and who is developing the Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero?

A: who is affected and who is developing the Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero

The Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero is being developed by the Grampians New Energy Taskforce (GNET) and project managed by Committee for Ballarat. It is being funded by DELWP/Energy Commercial Projects & Programs, under the Victorian New Energy Jobs Fund.

The Grampians Roadmap will be one of five regional Roadmaps (Loddon Mallee, Barwon South West, Gippsland and Hume) and these in turn will subsequently integrate within a common state-wide framework also currently in development. Each region is developing its unique approach to the development of a Roadmap.

Committee for Ballarat has commissioned Beyond Zero Emission to investigate and deliver the draft technical aspects of the Grampians Roadmap to Zero. After period of stakeholder consultation during September and October the final Roadmap will be delivered on behalf of the region by December 2019.

Beyond Zero Emissions is an internationally recognised climate change think tank. Since its formation in 2006, Beyond Zero Emissions has been working to produce research that shows how each sector of the Australian economy can rapidly get to zero emissions using technology that is proven and affordable. Their most recent report is 'The 10-Gigawatt Vision: How renewable energy can power jobs and investment in the Northern Territory'.

The Grampians Roadmap region geographically includes Central Highlands and Wimmera Southern Mallee areas. Local Government regions include Golden Plains, Moorabool, Hepburn, Ballarat, Pyrenees, Ararat, Northern Grampians, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Yarrambiak and Horsham. It includes a population of 235,000 people.

The Roadmap will relate to all energy users and particularly community and community organisations, all businesses, all stationary energy users/suppliers/managers, industry, forestry, mining, tourism, agriculture, transport, construction, waste management, renewable energy developers, local and state government, not-for-profit and many others.

Importantly, regional stakeholders will inform and embed their own aspirations, ideas, concerns and preferences. Real and ongoing action and business and community benefit will require a shared vision. Regional community and business participation and influence is crucial in deciding and defining the regions 'carbon future' and the Roadmap to Zero is designed to support this.

Q; how will the Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero be created?

A: methodology for the Grampians Regional Roadmap to Zero

The Roadmap project will produce a written report (due December 2019) which will envision and enable pathways towards 100% renewable energy supply and a zero emissions economy for the Grampians region. It will support and guide the region's unique development of a zero-carbon economy towards 2050.

GNET and Committee for Ballarat have commissioned Beyond Zero Emission to deliver a 'for consideration' or green-paper version of the Grampians Roadmap to Zero Emissions for consideration by all stakeholders across Wimmera Southern Mallee, Central Highlands and Ballarat regions by late August 2019.

The Roadmap will assist the region to understand and inform regional renewable energy options as well as benefit from an improved energy system and a more secure zero-carbon environmental future for all Victorians.

The Grampians Roadmap to Zero will outline and describe the best way forward for the region over the next 5, 10, 20 and even 30 years in reaching zero-carbon. It will:

1. Explore and describe the existing carbon profile (GHG emissions) and energy context (import/export) for the Wimmera Southern Mallee, Central Highlands and Ballarat regions.
2. Identify the benefits, technical possibilities and real challenges for each region in striving for zero-carbon.
3. Consider GHG and employment implications of zero-carbon within the sectors of Transport, Stationary Power, Industry, Buildings, Waste, Agriculture and Land Use.
4. Be informed and guided by regional people themselves regarding priorities, economically and environmentally acceptable approaches and socially preferred pathways.
5. Produce a place-based and shared strategy and next-step key actions needed to guide the region in building a zero-carbon future and decarbonising Victoria.

Q: how can stakeholders contribute?

A: contributing to the Grampians Roadmap to Zero

Via Engage Vic survey or submission or conversation with andrew@committeeforballarat.com

Via the forum on the 23rd Aug in Ballarat

Via social medial platforms as they develop

Via you local council

Via DELWP