

New electricity generation increases in Victoria

28 March 2019

Electricity and gas

The number of [energy generation licences](#) approved in Victoria has surged in the past eight months.

According to the Essential Services Commission's [latest energy market report](#), nine electricity generation licences were granted between July 2018 and February 2019. In comparison, between July 2017 and February 2018 three were approved.

The licences were granted to renewable generators including large scale wind and solar farms, and the first-ever large scale battery system.

Commission energy director Sarah McDowell says renewable energy is growing in Victoria.

“It is the first time large scale battery systems have been licensed to generate electricity in Victoria, with the latest data showing a significant increase in renewable energy in the state,” she said.

“Since July last year we have licensed around 1,100 megawatts of generation capacity, which is enough to power around 226,000 households.”

Despite growing generation, Ms McDowell says the consumer experience has not improved significantly over the past year.

Energy debt remains high, with the average customer in a hardship program \$1,456 in debt. Customers in hardship programs have increased by eight per cent, while disconnections have fallen.

Between July and December 2018 retailers had wrongfully disconnected 291 customers, with

payments totalling \$432,225. The commission had resolved 16 wrongful disconnection payment cases referred by the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria – nine of which were found wrongful. A further 13 disconnections were withdrawn and conceded by the retailer.

From 1 January 2019, customers were given stronger protections from their energy retailer with a new payment difficulty framework now coming into effect.

Electricity generation licences for the financial year 2018-19 (to date)

Applicant	Type of licence	Capacity (MW)	Issued date
LMS Energy Pty Ltd	Generation	23.7 (multiple sites)	06/02/2019
Pacific Hydro Crowlands Wind Farm Pty Ltd	Generation	80	12/09/2018
Iraak Sun Farm Pty Ltd	Generation	112.5	27/08/2018
GESS ProjectCo Pty Ltd	Generation	25	08/08/2018
Wemen Asset Co Pty Ltd	Generation	87.5	04/10/2018
Murra Warra Project Co Pty	Generation	226	13/02/2019

Bulgana Wind Farm Pty Ltd	Generation	194 – wind 20-battery	27/02/2019
Nurmurkah Solar Farm Pty Ltd	Generation	100	27/02/2019
Lal Lal Wind Farms Noms Pty Ltd	Generation	228	13/03/2019

For general enquiries

Phone: [\(+61 3\) 9032 1300](tel:+61390321300) or [1300 664 969](tel:1300664969)

Email: reception@esc.vic.gov.au

You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For VEU enquiries

Phone: [\(+61 3\) 9032 1310](tel:+61390321310) or submit a [contact form](#).

For media enquiries

If you have a media enquiry, please contact:

Michelle Bryne

michelle.bryne@esc.vic.gov.au

0437 677 385

(03) 9032 1324

Clayton Bennett

clayton.bennett@esc.vic.gov.au

0447 933 140

Subscribe

[Subscribe](#) to receive email updates from us, or [view our latest newsletters](#).

[Download this release as a PDF](#)

(pdf, 297.5 KB)

[Victorian Energy Market Report](#)

The annual report (plus regular updates) is a guide on how the electricity and gas markets are performing. It aims to help customers understand how the energy retail market works, and what they need to do to get the best out of it.

(,)

[Having trouble paying your energy bills? You have rights](#)

Energy retailers must help Victorian households with their electricity and gas bills.

(,)

[Energy Retail Code review 2018 \(customers facing payment difficulties\)](#)

We updated the energy rules to better protect residential customers that are anticipating or facing payment difficulty.

(,)

To learn more, visit www.esc.vic.gov.au