

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes



Sunday, 7 March 2021

## HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES CUT COSTS AND INCREASE EFFICIENCY

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to help small businesses recover from the impacts of coronavirus through two new programs that will increase energy efficiency and reduce costs.

Minister for Solar Homes Lily D'Ambrosio today announced two significant new initiatives – the Solar for Business Program and the Small Business Energy Saver Program – building on Victoria's leadership in renewable energy.

The Solar for Business Program will cover up to 50 per cent of the cost of a rooftop solar system with small businesses eligible for a rebate of up to \$3,500.

This is the first time 15,000 solar rebates will be available for small businesses, joining more than half a million Victorian households saving hundreds a year off their power bills thanks to the Labor Governments Solar Homes Program.

From May, rebates will be available to small businesses operating from non-residential premises with less than 20 staff for systems with a capacity up to 30kW delivered by retailers and installers registered with the Solar Homes Program.

The Solar for Business Program will initially be available to businesses operating in their own premises, before expanding soon after to include businesses that rent their premises. Interested businesses can register now at [solar.vic.gov.au/business](http://solar.vic.gov.au/business).

In addition, \$5 million of support will be provided through the Small Business Energy Saver Program to help small businesses install energy-efficient equipment.

Bonuses of up to \$2,000 can be used for upgrades to energy-efficient work equipment such as air-conditioning, refrigeration and heat pumps.

Small businesses can register their interest in the Small Business Energy Saver program by visiting [sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://sustainability.vic.gov.au).

Both programs are part of a more than \$46 million investment in the 2020-21 State Budget dedicated to cheaper clean energy and energy efficiency for small business.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Solar Homes Lily D'Ambrosio

*"These new programs will drive down energy costs and help boost Victoria's economic recovery, delivering jobs and providing support across a range of industries."*

*"Solar is good for jobs, it's good for the environment and it's good for bringing down power bills."*

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford

*"We're making sure our small businesses have the support they need to recover from the impact of coronavirus – these important programs will save businesses money and make them more environmentally friendly."*

*"This is about helping drive down costs for our small businesses and supporting their ongoing recovery."*

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