

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

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



Saturday, 19 June 2021

GENERATORS FOR STORM AFFECTED RESIDENTS

Generators will be distributed to Victorian households expected to be without power the longest as a result of the devastating storms that have caused widespread damage and flooding in Victoria's east.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio today announced the arrival of 200 generators, which will be distributed to those most in need in storm affected areas.

The generators were trucked overnight from Sydney to Victoria thanks to both Bunnings – who donated 100 generators – and the Victorian Government, which purchased the remainder.

Distribution of the eight-kilowatt generators will begin immediately. Eligible households will be directed to contact local family and community service organisation Windemere, who will assess need and prioritise distribution to ensure the generators go to those who need them most.

The generators will give people who want to stay at home enough energy to power the basics like some lights, a microwave and a small heater.

People who receive the generators will still be able to receive the Victorian Government payments, such as the Prolonged Power Outage Payment of \$1,680 per week.

Volunteers from VICSES and the CFA, as well as Australian Defence Force personnel will help get the generators and accessories to people in need.

Safety information will be provided by Energy Safe Victoria to all recipients about setting-up, refuelling, and maintenance.

Extensive damage to the electricity network, particularly around Mount Dandenong, is expected to leave around 1,500 households to be without power for the next three weeks.

People affected by the storms are also being provided broader support services through Windemere, to ensure their immediate physical and mental needs are met.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"These generators will allow people to stay in their homes and stay warm as we clean up after these devastating storms."

"The outages have had, and continue to have, a big impact – and we'll continue to help people rebuild their houses, their communities and their lives."

Quote attributable to Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services Danny Pearson

"This storm event has been incredibly difficult for the communities impacted – especially those who are without power. We'll continue to ensure they get the support and resources they need on their road to recovery."

Quote attributable to Emergency Management Commission Andrew Crisp

"These generators will make a big difference, and we appreciate the work of all our emergency services and the ADF in getting them to residents".

Media Contact: Lorraine Haase 0447 763 735 | lorraine.haase@minstaff.vic.gov.au