

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy

Minister for the Environment and Climate Action

Minister for Solar Homes



Monday, 26 September 2022

TRADITIONAL OWNER SOLAR PROJECT LAUNCHES

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting Traditional Owner groups' self-determination and economic independence while driving down emissions through renewable energy projects.

Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio today congratulated Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, trading as DJAARA, on launching a solar-battery project supported by the Labor Government, as well as their *Nyuawi Mutjeka* renewable energy strategy.

DJAARA has installed a 32.4-kilowatt solar system and 14 kilowatt-hour battery on the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre, supported through Victoria's Traditional Owner Renewable Energy Program (TOREP).

This renewable energy system reduces the DJAARA's energy costs and reliance on the grid, as it provides clean energy and slashes carbon emissions.

Nyuawi Mutjeka, meaning 'to keep the sun', pledges to reverse historical harms and pursue opportunities for renewable energy production and consumption that protects and supports Djaara (people) and Djandak (Country).

TOREP supports Aboriginal participation and adoption of new energy technologies, boosts skills and fosters a green economic recovery with grants of up to \$100,000 available for Traditional Owner Corporations.

It is the first tailored renewable energy grant program for registered Aboriginal parties, with DJAARA's project the second completed.

The Labor Government's \$1.1 million TOREP funds Victoria's registered Aboriginal parties to self-determine how they want to be part of Victoria's renewable energy transition.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio

"Congratulations to DJAARA for Nyuawi Mutjeka – an historic renewable energy strategy and solar-battery project, set to slash energy bills and emissions while advancing self-determination and economic independence."

"We are proud to have helped fund DJAARA's inaugural solar-battery project and are grateful for their engagement with Victoria's Traditional Owner Renewable Energy Program."

Quote attributable to Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Gabrielle Williams

"We are proud to have helped fund DJAARA's inaugural solar-battery project and look forward to continuing to develop these opportunities for even more Victorian Traditional Owner Groups."