

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

## Inquiry into the 2022-23 Budget Estimates



**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Solar Homes



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

## Solar Homes portfolio

The 2022-23 Budget makes available **\$26.3 million output funding** and **\$20.9 million loans funding** to build on the success of the Solar Homes Program and make switching to solar more affordable than ever

### This will enable:

- **64,000 Victorian households** to take up solar panel rebates and zero interest loans at the current rebate value of \$1,400 (\$42.2 million); and
- **1,700 new solar battery rebates** at \$2,950, bringing the total number of battery rebates in 2022-23 to 5,200 and securing more solar savings for households (\$5 million).



**Solar Victoria was established to deliver the 10-year Solar Homes Program, working with consumers, industry, regulators and training organisations to boost access to clean, affordable and reliable solar energy as part of Victoria’s renewable energy future.**

Solar Victoria has since expanded to become the trusted delivery agency for the Victorian Government’s **Solar for Business, Home Heating and Cooling Upgrades** and **Zero Emissions Vehicle Subsidy** programs.

Solar Victoria is committed to:

- Ensuring the highest standards in safety and quality;
- Supporting industry to create new jobs and accelerating the installation of renewable and clean energy technologies on Victorian homes; and
- Continuing to create jobs in the Latrobe Valley. In 2021, Solar Victoria established its headquarters in the new GovHub building in Morwell.

## Solar Homes Portfolio

**Solar Victoria is facilitating access to affordable, reliable and clean energy now and into the future**



### **Solar Homes Program**

778,500 rebates for solar PV for owner-occupiers and rental households, solar batteries, and solar or heat pump hot water over 10 years



### **Solar for Business Program**

Rebates to support Victorian small and medium businesses to install solar PV at their work premises



### **Home Heating and Cooling Upgrades Program**

Supporting low-income and vulnerable households to upgrade to energy-efficient heating and cooling systems



### **Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Subsidy Program**

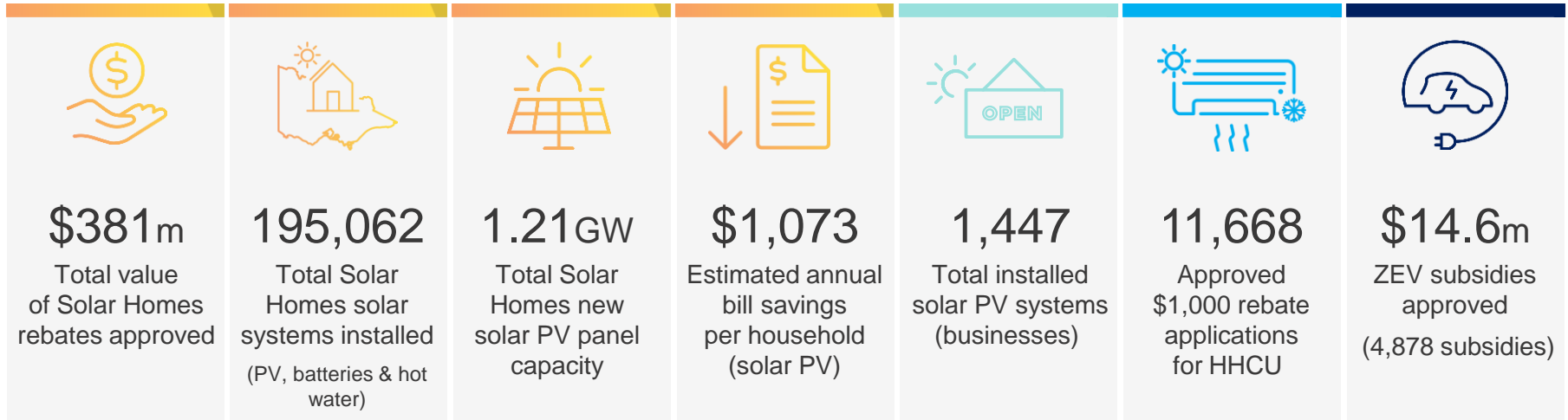
Subsidies to support more than 20,000 Victorians to purchase a new electric vehicle, accelerating the uptake of ZEVs



### **Training and Workforce Development Package**

Training and skills packages to support the residential solar and HVAC industries, including dedicated support for women in solar

## Solar Victoria program achievements to date



Figures as at 9 May 2022

### The Solar Homes Program is a significant contributor to helping the state meet the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) of 40% by 2025:

- Solar Homes target is: 12.5% of legislated target by 2025.
- Solar Homes contributed 2.2% of Victoria's 2025 VRET in 2019-20.

### In addition, the Solar Homes Program has:

- Reduced CO2 emissions in the NEM by approximately **1,140,000 tonnes** to March 2022
- Saved Victorian households approximately **\$355 million** on their energy bills
- Supported nearly **4,400 jobs** last financial year (2020-21)

Solar Victoria's programs are proving to be immensely popular with Victorians and are helping Victoria achieve its renewable energy targets



### **Solar Victoria's programs are delivering benefits for Victorians, including those who need it the most:**

- 57 per cent of households supported earn less than \$100,000 p.a.
- 1,165 solar PV systems for community housing tenancies.
- 30 per cent of Solar Homes households are from regional Victoria.
- 88 per cent of customers rate Solar Victoria's service as good or very good.
- 88 per cent of Solar Homes customers consider that the program met or exceeded their expectations.



### **The Zero Emissions Vehicle Subsidy Program is accelerating the growth of ZEVs in Victoria:**

- More than 4,800 subsidies approved to date – higher than initial forecasts.
- Victoria's annual ZEV new sales market share increased from 1.2% to 2.1% following launch of the ZEV Subsidy.
- ZEV Subsidy is positively influencing customer decisions to purchase a ZEV and reducing household transport costs.



## Solar Victoria's Safety and Quality Framework



### Solar Homes Program audits

8,287

2018-19: 3.2% unsafe  
2019-20: 2.2% unsafe  
2020-21: 1.0% unsafe  
**2021-22: 0.0% unsafe**

\* auditing 5% of rebated installations; data as at 3 May 2022



### Solar installer safety

4,495

Installers have completed solar safety training

1,947

WorkSafe Victoria site inspections

913

Energy Safe Victoria site inspections



### Solar retailer accountability

113

Solar retailers and installers suspended or removed from the program

31 of these have been reinstated after meeting Solar Victoria's remediation requirements



### Regulatory partnerships



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