

# Community Solar Banks – Victoria

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule																					
Parties	Commonwealth Victoria																				
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2026 or on completion of projects, including final evaluation reports, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.																				
Purpose	This Schedule will support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the deployment of solar infrastructure on apartment buildings targeting up to 10,000 apartment households, supporting apartment dwellers and renters to better access the benefits of solar</li> <li>the delivery of up to 18 solar and battery storage projects for First Peoples' Corporations and Organisations and their Communities.</li> </ul>																				
Estimated financial contributions	<p>The Commonwealth will provide a total financial contribution of up to \$22.2m to the Victorian Government as part of a matched co-contribution in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>This funding is from the Commonwealth's Community Solar Banks Program to match funding from the Victorian Government for their Solar for Apartments program and First Peoples' solar and battery storage program.</p> <p>Given these are demand-driven programs, the final number of apartments and communities supported will depend on the number of applications and projects completed over the period of the program.</p> <p>If there are any unspent Commonwealth funds remaining in 2024-25, a movement of funds will be requested by the Commonwealth to move funding into 2025-26.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Table 1</th> </tr> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2023/24</th> <th>2024/25</th> <th>2025/26</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Estimated total budget</b></td> <td><b>16.10</b></td> <td><b>24.40</b></td> <td><b>3.95</b></td> <td><b>44.4</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td>8.05</td> <td>12.2</td> <td>1.95</td> <td>22.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1					(\$ million)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>16.10</b>	<b>24.40</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	8.05	12.2	1.95	22.2
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	<p>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</p> <hr/>	8.05	12.2	1.95	22.2
<p>Use of Commonwealth Funds</p>	<p>Commonwealth funding will be used for the direct costs of the programs such as rebates and grants for the deployment of infrastructure and will not be used for any Victorian Government program administration related expenditure.</p>				

<b>Table 2.1: Solar for Apartments performance requirements, reporting and payment summary</b>			
<b>Output</b>	<b>Performance milestones</b>	<b>Report due</b>	<b>Payment</b>
Provide apartment dwellers access to the benefits of solar through a program to support the installation of rooftop solar.	<p>Milestone 1</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of a Project Plan containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed objectives, implementation details, timelines and milestones</li> <li>Communications Plan targeting specific participants (apartment dwellers, renters, low-income households)</li> <li>Evidence of arrangements with key program stakeholders where applicable, for example solar-sharing technology provider.</li> </ul> <p>Program Guidelines containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program objectives, including to support a target of up to 10,000 apartments to better access the benefits of solar</li> <li>Eligibility</li> <li>Merit assessment criteria</li> <li>Application process.</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of Victorian funding allocation towards the program for grants and program administration (\$8.05 for stage 1 of the program).</p>	15/01/2024	\$2m
	<p>Milestone 2</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of a Progress Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of shared solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of individual solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of households participating (total as well as subset number of target groups e.g., renters, low-income households)</li> <li>- Energy cost reduction to date (overall as well as per-household average e.g., bills savings real/ estimated)</li> <li>- Value of grants provided to date</li> <li>- Total capacity installed to date (kW/ MW)</li> </ul>	01/05/2024	\$6.05m

	<p>- Program Expense Report containing total grant commitments and payments, Owners Corporation contributions and administration expenses.</p>		
	<p>Milestone 3 Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory Progress Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of shared solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of individual solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of households participating (total as well as subset number of target groups e.g., renters, low-income households)</li> <li>- Energy cost reduction to date (overall as well as per-household average e.g., bills savings real/ estimated)</li> <li>- Value of grants provided to date</li> <li>- Total capacity installed to date (kW/ MW)</li> <li>- Program Expense Report containing total grant commitments and payments, Owners Corporation contributions and administration expenses.</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of Victorian funding allocation towards the program for grants and program administration (\$14.15 for stage 2 of the program).</p>	<p>01/12/2024</p>	<p>Up to \$8.05m based on 50% of the program's commitments and expenses to date.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory Progress Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of shared solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of individual solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of households participating (total as well as subset number of target groups e.g., renters, low-income households)</li> <li>- Energy cost reduction to date (overall as well as per-household average e.g., bills savings real/ estimated)</li> <li>- Value of grants provided to date</li> <li>- Total capacity installed to date (kW/ MW)</li> <li>- Program Expense Report containing total grant commitments and payments, Owners Corporation contributions and administration expenses.</li> </ul>	<p>1/05/2025</p>	<p>Up to \$8.05m based on 50% of the program's commitments and expenses to date (less any milestone 3 payment).</p>

	<p>Milestone 5</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory Final Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of shared solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of individual solar systems installed (and average size kW)</li> <li>- Number of households participating (total as well as subset number of target groups e.g., renters, low-income households)</li> <li>- Energy cost reduction to date (overall as well as per-household average e.g., bills savings real/ estimated)</li> <li>- Value of grants provided to date</li> <li>- Total capacity installed to date (kW/ MW)</li> <li>- Program Expense Report containing total grant commitments and payments, Owners Corporation contributions and administration expenses.</li> <li>- Project evaluation.</li> </ul>	1/06/2026	\$0
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**Table 2.2: First Peoples’ solar and battery storage program performance requirements, reporting and payment summary**

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
<p>Provide a solar and battery storage grant program for First Peoples’ Corporations and Organisations and their Communities.</p>	<p>Milestone 1</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Plan containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed objectives, implementation details, timelines and milestones</li> <li>• Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan targeting specific participants (Registered Aboriginal Parties, Traditional Owners Corporations, Aboriginal Cooperatives and Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations)</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation framework which would include the collection of relevant data to perform an evaluation in Milestone 4.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Guidelines containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program objectives, including a target of up to 18 grants to support First Peoples group to better access the benefits of solar and battery storage</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	01/02/2025	\$1m



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility and Merit assessment criteria</li> <li>• Application and assessment process</li> <li>• Timelines</li> <li>• Evidence of Victorian funding allocation towards the program for grants and program administration.</li> </ul>		
	<p>Milestone 2 Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory Progress Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and details of the applications under the First Peoples’ solar and battery storage program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Details of the solar and battery installations including cost, size and capacity</li> <li>○ How the First Peoples’ Corporations and Organisations and their Communities will be supported</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Commitment/Expense Report including commitments from executed grant agreements, payments, co-contributions and administration expenses.</li> </ul>	01/05/2025	\$3.15m
	<p>Milestone 3 Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory Progress Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of projects under the First Peoples’ solar and battery storage program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Details of the solar and battery installations including cost, size and capacity</li> <li>○ How the projects are supporting First Peoples’ Corporations and Organisations and their Communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Commitment/Expense Report including commitments from executed grant agreements, payments, co-contributions and administration expenses.</li> </ul>	01/02/2026	Up to \$1.95m based on 50% of the program’s commitments and expenses to date.
	<p>Milestone 4 Commonwealth acceptance of a satisfactory Final Report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of projects under the First Peoples’ solar and battery storage program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Details of the solar and battery installations including cost, size and capacity</li> <li>○ How the projects are supporting First Peoples’ Corporations and Organisations and their Communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Commitment/Expense Report including commitments from executed grant agreements, payments, co-contributions and administration expenses.</li> </ul>	1/06/2026	\$0

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation report on the First Peoples' solar and battery storage program including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Achievement of objectives and outcomes, benefits provided to first people's and their community and related energy and emission savings.</li></ul></li></ul>		
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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by*



**The Honourable Chris Bowen MP**  
Minister for Climate Change and Energy

17 December 2024

*Signed for and on behalf of the Victorian Government by*



**The Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources

19 February 2025