

# Richard Wynne MP

STATE MEMBER FOR RICHMOND



1 March 2021

## **MAKING GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ENERGY EFFICIENT**

Fitzroy High school is set to become greener and more environmentally sustainable while reducing their electricity costs, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Richard Wynne MP today announced schools in the Richmond electorate are among 171 government schools across Victoria that will receive solar power systems under the Greener Government School Buildings program.

The \$8.8 million program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at schools and save them money by installing solar power systems. The program will contribute to the Labor Government's goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

A solar power system is a strategic investment that can pay for itself over several years. This program will remove the upfront costs of installing a system that may otherwise discourage schools from pursuing this option.

The Greener Government School Buildings program is established from the success of the pilot program rolled out across 42 schools in 2019.

The solar power systems installed as part of the 2020-21 Greener Government School Buildings program are expected to see 6,974 kW of solar installed, with an estimated saving of \$1.8 million per year and 10,200 tonnes of carbon emissions abated.

By June 2022, in total the program is expected to see 8,200 kW of solar installed, with an estimated saving of \$2 million per year and 11,500 tonnes of carbon emissions abated.

In the past five years, the Labor Government has invested more than \$9 billion in more than 1,600 school upgrades – creating more than 10,000 construction jobs.

The Government is now ahead of schedule its commitment to open 100 new schools by 2026, with 48 new schools opening between 2019 and 2022.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino**

*"We're taking action to make these schools more sustainable and more energy efficient, so we can all do our bit for the environment."*

*"Not only will the environment benefit from this program, installing solar panel systems will help reduce power bills for our schools."*

### **Quote attributable to Richard Wynne Member for Richmond**

*"This is a project that will make a big difference for our schools. It will cut emissions while at the same time cutting costs and that is good news for everyone."*

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