

# LARGE-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN BENALLA RURAL CITY

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**15 large-scale solar and battery energy storage projects** are already confirmed or proposed in Benalla Rural City, in various stages of operation, construction, approval, or planning. There may be more we do not yet know about.

Benalla Rural City farmland has also been proposed for inclusion in a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) by VicGrid without meaningful community consultation. A REZ signals that more projects are welcome. Nobody has assessed whether 15 is already too many.

| PROJECT                                  | MAX. POWER   | TYPE            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| ● OPERATING                              |              |                 |
| Glenrowan West Solar Project             | 130 MW       | Solar           |
| Winton Solar Project                     | 99 MW        | Solar           |
| ▲ UNDER CONSTRUCTION                     |              |                 |
| Goorambat Stewarton East Solar Project   | 250 MW       | Solar           |
| Mokoan Solar Project                     | 30 MW        | Solar           |
| Mokoan 2 Solar Project                   | 45 MW        | Solar           |
| Winton North Solar Project               | 100 MW       | Solar           |
| ✓ APPROVED, NOT YET OPERATIONAL          |              |                 |
| Baddaginnie Solar Project                | 5 MW         | Solar           |
| Benalla Solar Project                    | TBC          | Solar           |
| Goorambat Solar Project                  | 75 MW        | Solar           |
| Glenrowan BESS                           | 400 MW       | Battery         |
| ○ PLANNING PERMIT UNDER CONSIDERATION    |              |                 |
| West Mokoan Solar Project (consolidated) | 300 MW       | Solar + Battery |
| Winton BESS                              | 120 MW       | Battery         |
| □ EARLY PLANNING STAGE                   |              |                 |
| Nioka Solar + BESS, Glenrowan West       | Up to 250 MW | Solar + Battery |
| Goorambat BESS                           | 200 MW       | Battery         |
| Winton ReSST                             | 400 MW       | Battery         |

## Benalla Rural City carries the greatest load in the proposed Central North REZ.

Of all four LGAs in the proposed Central North REZ, Benalla Rural City has the greatest number of projects and highest total planned capacity - 1,909 MW. Greater Shepparton: 643 MW. Greater Bendigo: 553 MW. Campaspe: 1,422 MW.

## The impact is concentrated in one corridor.

These projects cluster in a narrow corridor - Winton, Goorambat and Glenrowan West. The cumulative effect on farming, landscape, environment, amenity and property values in that corridor is already severe. No cumulative impact assessment has been done.

## Existing projects do not count against any future REZ cap.

Under VicGrid's own framework, projects already operating, under construction, approved or with connection offers are exempt from REZ access limits. That means all 15 projects sit outside any future cap. Whatever the Minister sets, it adds on top of what is already here. For Benalla Rural City, the REZ does not start from zero. It starts from 15 projects and approximately 3,000 hectares of farmland already under or committed to large-scale energy projects. None of that counts. The clock resets. And then more can come.

## If a community is removed from the REZ, the boundary may redraw.

If a community is removed from the REZ, the boundary may not shrink. There is a real risk it simply redraws instead. Benalla Rural City - already carrying the greatest project load in the REZ - is the most likely place it redraws into.