



Victorian Regional Channels Authority welcomes Viva Energy's new Energy Hub development for Geelong

Victorian Regional Channels Authority (VRCA) has welcomed today's announcement by Viva Energy that its Geelong refinery has been earmarked for future development as a major 'Energy Hub' for Victoria and South East Australia, incorporating gas and solar storage.

The company said today it was assessing a number of future energy development projects to diversify and strengthen its operations in Geelong.

It said these would potentially support the creation of new jobs and skills, provide ongoing employment for skilled workers already in Geelong, support the transition to lower carbon energies, and enhance energy security for the country.

Viva Energy CEO, Scott Wyatt said operations at the Corio facility were being modernised and it was now well positioned to expand into new areas of energy supply and production.

"This will reduce our own operating costs, enhance energy supply to southeast Australia, and support the transition to lower carbon energies," Mr Wyatt said.

"The 'Energy Hub' will likely involve other commercial partners, but also has the opportunity to involve local research institutions in the application of technology and new energies over time."

VRCA CEO, Peter Mannion welcomed the news saying it was, yet another economic boost for Geelong and reinforced the critical importance to the region of the growing operations within the Port of Geelong.

"This a terrific announcement and underlines the significance of the port to Geelong, as an ongoing enabler of investment and employment for our region and the state of Victoria," he said.

"VRCA looks forward to working with Viva Energy to facilitate access to port waters that provide greater opportunities for trade and expansion."

In making its announcement, Viva Energy said the early focus was on the development of an LNG supply and floating storage facility to bring natural gas from production fields in other parts of Australia, or further afield.

"Along with any development of local gas fields, this can help fill a looming shortfall in gas supply and help keep gas and power costs down," said Mr Wyatt.

He said Viva was also assessing the feasibility of establishing a solar energy farm on surplus refinery land to support the development of strategic oil stocks and support the emerging hydrogen industry.

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According to VRCA's Peter Mannion, Viva Energy's expanded vision for its potential operations could also form a consideration of the future needs of the shipping channels currently providing access to Geelong.

"We know the Port of Geelong has capacity to grow, driving major economic and social benefits for our region and welcome this major announcement and look forward to similarly positive news to come."

ENDS:

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VRCA manages the commercial navigation of the channels in Geelong port waters and oversees the channel management for the Ports of Portland and Hastings.

www.vrca.vic.gov.au