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## New energy partnership drives green museum project

Museums Victoria, Australia's largest public museums organisation is turning green through an innovative energy management partnership with Siemens and the Victorian Government. The partnership will see Museums Victoria:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% – as much as planting 835,891 young trees or taking 6,000 cars off the road
- reduce water usage by 6% – equivalent to the capacity of 102 backyard swimming pools
- reduce utility costs by 32% – enough to power 1264 homes

The Victorian Government's Greener Government Buildings program selected global engineering company Siemens to bring the latest state of the art energy and environmental efficiency technology to Melbourne Museum, the World-Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building (built in 1880), Scienceworks, the Immigration Museum and two storage facilities.

The initiative will improve Museums Victoria's sustainability efforts through the installation of new LED lighting, chillers and water systems. In addition, a co-generation unit on the roof of the 80,000 m2 Melbourne Museum will enable Museums Victoria to produce its own cleaner energy supplies.

Museums Victoria not only cares for a diverse collection of 17 million objects and specimens including rare books and documents and fossils that are millions of years old but carries out ground breaking scientific and humanities research and stages a diverse range of exhibitions and events. And digital technology is a key tool that is used by staff and audiences across the organisation's sites.

Nearly 2.5 million people visit Museums Victoria's venues each year.

The energy management program includes the installation of a new building management system to ensure energy, heating and lighting are used more efficiently.

"We all know that museums help us to learn from the past so we can work towards preserving the future. But it's important that we continue to play a leading role to educate and inform our communities and audiences about a range of topics and issues such as environmental sustainability," Museums Victoria's CEO Ms Lynley Marshall said.

"Museums Victoria, together with Siemens is now making a significant contribution to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability for future generations. "

The Switzerland-based CEO of Siemens Building Technologies Mr Matthias Rebellius said the partnership was an inspirational example of how an organisation such as Museums Victoria could work with a global engineering company and the Victorian Government to create greener buildings.

Unrestricted

Speaking at the Royal Exhibition Building today where 400 incandescent and fluorescent lights have been replaced with energy efficient LED light fittings Mr Rebellius said:

“Buildings represent 40% of primary energy use globally, and energy consumption in buildings is projected to rise sustainably. A holistic review of sustainability initiatives by any government will have to consider rising operating costs and impact of buildings on the environment.

“I commend the Victorian Government and Museums Victoria on the sustainability work that is a benchmark not just in the state, but also in Australia and across the Southern Hemisphere. The work done by Siemens and Museums Victoria illustrates the commitment of both organisations to advancing sustainability and green initiatives – in an environment where millions of visitors come to enjoy and learn of the past, present and the future.”

Under the agreement, the Victorian Government financed the up-front cost of the \$11 million energy contract. Museums Victoria will repay the cost within seven years using the energy savings that are achieved by the Siemens works.

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**Museums Victoria** is Australia’s largest museums organisation and the leading Museums group in the Asia Pacific Region. The organisation’s museums – Melbourne Museum (including IMAX Melbourne with the world’s largest cinema screen), Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum have received national and international awards for excellence and innovation. Museums Victoria is the custodian of the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building, which, along with the Sydney Opera House, is only one of two World Heritage listed buildings in Australia. Museums Victoria undertakes leading research in the areas of humanities and sciences and cares for a collection of over 17 million scientific and cultural objects. Museums Victoria’s origins date back to 1854 with the founding of the National Museum of Victoria. It now attracts nearly 2.5 million visitors to its sites each year. Its collection management systems have set the benchmark with the international museums sector for collections care and management and interpretive experiences. [www.museumvictoria.com.au](http://www.museumvictoria.com.au)

**Siemens AG** (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world’s largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of efficient power generation and power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. The company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2016, which ended on September 30, 2016, Siemens generated revenue of €79.6 billion and net income of €5.6 billion. At the end of September 2016, the company had around 351,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at [www.siemens.com](http://www.siemens.com).

