

Three Decades The Story Of The State Electricity Commission Of Victoria From Its Inception To December 1948

Three Decades of Electrifying Victoria: The State Electricity Commission's Journey (1918-1948)

*** From flickering gaslights to the dawn of widespread electricity, Victoria, Australia, experienced a profound transformation in the first three decades of the 20th century. This period witnessed the birth and growth of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV), a pivotal institution that shaped the state's future by bringing light, power, and progress to its burgeoning population. This delves into the SECV's origins, its key challenges, and its impact on Victoria between 1918 and 1948, examining the critical factors that contributed to its evolution.*

The Genesis of Power: From Early Initiatives to Formal Establishment (1918-1925)

The early 20th century in Victoria saw a growing demand for electricity, spurred by industrial expansion and urban development. Initial efforts to meet this demand were largely fragmented, with various private companies operating independently. This led to inconsistencies in service quality and pricing, prompting calls for a more unified and efficient approach. The groundwork for the SECV was laid during this period, with commissions and committees exploring the potential benefits of state-owned electricity generation and distribution. Real-world example: **The Victorian government's growing interest in consolidating electricity infrastructure can be seen in the establishment of several committees and inquiries that investigated the feasibility and effectiveness of government-run electricity projects. These reports provided valuable data and recommendations that paved the way for the formal creation of the SECV.** Case study: **The 1922 report by the Royal Commission on State Electricity Supply highlights the concerns around private company monopolies and suggests a framework for a more controlled and efficient system.**

Expanding the Grid: Infrastructure Development and Challenges (1925-1935)

The establishment of the SECV in 1925 marked a significant turning point. This new entity embarked on a substantial program of infrastructure development, building power stations, and extending transmission lines across Victoria. However, this period wasn't without its challenges. Economic fluctuations, technological limitations, and the need to balance competing interests presented formidable hurdles. **Chart 1: Expansion of SECV Transmission Lines (1925-1935) (Insert a chart displaying the gradual increase in the length of the SECV's transmission lines over the years. Include key milestones in power station construction).** Example: The Great Depression significantly impacted the SECV's budget and construction plans. The commission had to prioritize essential infrastructure while managing reduced funding and fluctuating demand. Case Study: *The construction of the Yarra Valley Power Station, a significant project illustrating the challenges of capital investment and workforce management during this period.*

The Wartime Years and Post-War Reconstruction (1935-1948)

The Second World War profoundly affected Victoria's energy landscape. The SECV had to adapt to wartime demands, diverting resources and prioritizing essential services. Post-war reconstruction presented a new set of challenges, including

rebuilding infrastructure damaged during the conflict and meeting the surging demand for electricity in a rapidly expanding economy. Real-world example: **The SECV played a crucial role in providing power for war industries and supporting the nation's war effort. This demonstrated the importance of the commission's role in national security.** Case Study: *Post-war resettlement programs led to increased urban development, placing extra demand on the SECV to expand electricity supply and infrastructure to cater to a growing population.*

Distinct Benefits of the SECV (1918-1948)

- **Improved Reliability:** *The SECV ensured a more consistent and reliable supply of electricity compared to the fragmented, privately-owned systems of the past. This reliability was crucial for industries and residential consumers.*
- **Explanation:** This led to greater stability for businesses and a more predictable daily life for citizens, fostering a sense of trust in the new government-backed system.
- **Economies of Scale:** *The SECV benefited from economies of scale in construction, procurement, and operation, allowing it to provide electricity at potentially lower costs.*
- **Explanation:** *By centrally managing resources, the commission could negotiate better deals, leading to lower electricity tariffs for consumers and providing a greater stimulus to the economy.*
- **Expanded Access:** **The SECV extended electricity access to more Victorians, connecting rural communities and industrial areas that had previously lacked consistent power.**
- **Explanation:** **This fostered economic growth and development beyond metropolitan areas, improving living**

standards and creating new opportunities across the state. • Reduced Monopolization: By establishing a state-owned entity, the SECV countered potential monopolistic practices of private companies, leading to fairer pricing and more equitable access to electricity. • Explanation: **This was a key consideration in ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources within the state.**

Related Ideas: The Victorian Electricity Landscape

Power Generation and Transmission Technologies

This section explores the evolving technologies employed by the SECV in power generation and transmission. It would discuss advancements in steam turbine technology, the of hydroelectric power, and improvements in transmission line engineering. Comparing these technologies to those available at the inception of the SECV will illustrate the rapid progress made.

Social and Economic Impacts of Electrification

This section will analyze the societal and economic consequences of the increased access to electricity. This would include insights into the transformation of homes, the growth of industrial sectors, and the development of new social patterns.

The SECV's Governance and Structure

This section examines the SECV's organizational structure, its

relationship with the Victorian government, and the decision-making processes involved in implementing its projects. This will illuminate the challenges faced in managing a large-scale public utility during this period. Conclusion: The State Electricity Commission of Victoria played a transformative role in shaping Victoria's 20th-century landscape. From its humble beginnings to its critical role in the war effort and postwar reconstruction, the SECV's contributions to infrastructure development, economic growth, and the general betterment of life for Victorians are undeniable. Its story serves as a valuable case study in public utility management and its impact on a modernizing society.

Advanced FAQs: 1. How did the SECV address the financing of its ambitious infrastructure projects during the Great Depression? 2. What were the specific challenges faced in coordinating power generation and distribution across different regions of Victoria? 3. What impact did the Second World War have on the SECV's workforce and its operational capacity? 4. How did the SECV's policies affect the growth of industrial sectors in Victoria during this period? 5. What were the long-term implications of the SECV's model for public-private partnerships in electricity provision in Australia?*

Three Decades of Power: The State Electricity Commission of Victoria

(SECV) from Inception to December 1948

Imagine a Victoria that relied on flickering gas lamps and the hum of individual generators. That was the reality for much of the state before a revolutionary force emerged: the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, or SECV. For over three decades, from its inception until the cusp of 1948, this pioneering organisation embarked on an ambitious journey, transforming a fragmented power landscape into a unified, reliable, and increasingly modern electrical network. This isn't just a dry historical account; it's the compelling story of innovation, infrastructure development, and the relentless pursuit of electrifying a growing state.

The Genesis of an Idea: A State in Need of Power

Before the SECV, Victoria's electricity scene was a chaotic patchwork. Private companies and local municipal councils operated isolated power stations, often serving only small urban pockets. This resulted in a bewildering array of voltages, frequencies, and tariffs, making it difficult and expensive to expand or connect different areas. The need for a coordinated, state-wide approach to electricity generation and distribution was becoming increasingly apparent. As the 20th century dawned, with its burgeoning industrial needs and the promise of new domestic conveniences, the demand for reliable power

surged.

The Birth of the SECV: 1918 and Beyond

The pivotal moment arrived in 1918 with the passing of the ****Electricity Commissioners Act****. This landmark legislation brought the State Electricity Commission of Victoria into existence, marking a profound shift in how Victorians would access electricity. The Act empowered the SECV to acquire, construct, and operate electricity works, essentially giving it the mandate to build the future of power for the state. This wasn't an overnight transformation, however. The early years were characterized by planning, acquisition, and the immense task of consolidating existing, often disparate, infrastructure.

Early Years and the Consolidation of Power (1919-1930s)

The initial focus of the SECV was on establishing a robust foundation. This involved acquiring existing private electricity undertakings, a complex and often contentious process. By bringing these under a single umbrella, the SECV could begin to standardise systems and implement a more efficient approach to power generation and supply.

The Yallourn Project: A Monumental Endeavor

Perhaps the most iconic achievement of the SECV's early decades was the development of the ****Yallourn power station and open-cut coal mine**** in Gippsland. This ambitious project,

conceived in the early 1920s, was nothing short of revolutionary. It aimed to harness the vast brown coal reserves of the Latrobe Valley, providing a cheap and abundant fuel source for electricity generation. The creation of Yallourn was a massive undertaking. It involved not only the construction of a colossal power station but also the establishment of an entire town to house the workers and their families. The engineering feats were astounding for the time, requiring the relocation of rivers, the excavation of millions of tons of overburden, and the construction of sophisticated generating equipment. Yallourn quickly became the cornerstone of Victoria's electricity supply, a testament to the SECV's foresight and engineering prowess. This reliance on ****brown coal**** would become a defining characteristic of the SECV's energy strategy for decades to come.

Expanding the Grid: Transmission and Distribution Networks

As power was generated at Yallourn and other key locations, the challenge became getting that electricity to homes and businesses across the state. The SECV embarked on an extensive program of building ****transmission lines**** and ****distribution networks****. This involved stringing high-voltage lines across vast distances, often through challenging terrain, to deliver power to regional centres and eventually to individual properties. The development of these ****electricity networks**** was crucial for economic growth and improving the quality of life for Victorians, particularly those living outside of Melbourne.

Meeting the Growing Demand: Electrification of Victoria

The period leading up to December 1948 saw a significant increase in the demand for electricity. This was fueled by a growing population, a recovering economy after World War I, and the increasing adoption of electrical appliances in homes and industries.

Powering Homes: The Domestic Revolution

The SECV played a vital role in bringing the ****benefits of electricity**** into Victorian households. While initially a luxury, electricity gradually became a necessity. The availability of reliable power facilitated the adoption of electric lighting, replacing the less convenient and potentially hazardous gas and kerosene lamps. Soon after, electric stoves, refrigerators, and washing machines began to appear, transforming domestic life and freeing up time for homemakers. This domestic electrification was a slow but steady process, gradually expanding from urban areas to the more remote parts of the state. The SECV's efforts in establishing ****affordable electricity tariffs**** were instrumental in making these modern conveniences accessible to a wider population.

Fueling Industry: The Engine of Economic Growth

Victorian industry was a major beneficiary of the SECV's expansion. Factories, mines, and other industrial enterprises

relied on a steady and reliable supply of electricity to power their machinery and drive their operations. The SECV's ability to provide this power at a consistent and competitive rate was a significant factor in Victoria's industrial development and economic competitiveness during this period. The availability of **industrial electricity** spurred innovation and growth across various sectors, from manufacturing to mining.

Challenges and Triumphs: Navigating a Dynamic Era

The journey of the SECV was not without its hurdles. The organization had to contend with significant challenges, including economic downturns, the complexities of wartime resource allocation, and the sheer scale of its infrastructure projects.

Economic Fluctuations and Resource Management

The interwar period saw its share of economic challenges, including the Great Depression. The SECV had to navigate these fluctuations, ensuring its operations remained viable while continuing to serve the public interest. This required careful financial management and strategic planning to adapt to changing economic conditions. Resource management, particularly in relation to coal supplies and equipment procurement, was a constant consideration.

The Impact of War: World War II and the SECV

The outbreak of World War II presented new and significant challenges for the SECV. The demand for electricity surged as industries shifted to wartime production. The Commission played a crucial role in powering the war effort, ensuring that factories producing munitions, aircraft, and other essential materials had the electricity they needed. This involved not only meeting increased demand but also adapting to wartime restrictions on resources and personnel. The SECV's resilience and adaptability during this critical period were essential for the nation's war effort.

Looking Ahead: The SECV at the Dawn of a New Era (December 1948)

As December 1948 approached, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria stood as a testament to decades of dedicated effort and ambitious vision. It had successfully transitioned from a nascent concept to a powerful, state-wide entity responsible for powering the lives and industries of Victorians. The infrastructure built, from the colossal Yallourn power station to the extensive transmission and distribution networks, provided a reliable foundation for future growth. The principles of integrated planning and state-led development had proven to be highly effective. The SECV had not only provided electricity but had also contributed significantly to the social and economic fabric of Victoria, bringing modern conveniences and driving industrial progress. The story of the SECV from its inception to December

1948 is a narrative of overcoming obstacles, embracing innovation, and fulfilling a vital public service. It's a story of building the backbone of a modern state, one kilowatt-hour at a time, laying the groundwork for the continued electrification and prosperity of Victoria in the decades that followed. The legacy of these early years, forged through vision and determination, continues to power our lives today. The keywords integrated here, such as ****electricity generation****, ****power supply****, ****Victorian electricity****, ****energy infrastructure****, and ****state-owned utility****, help paint a comprehensive picture of the SECV's crucial role.

The Evolution of Electricity in Victoria: A Three-Decade Chronicle from 1918 to December 1948 In the early years following World War I, Victoria stood at a pivotal moment in its industrial and social transformation—one deeply shaped by the establishment and development of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, or SECV. Conceived in a time of growing demand for reliable power and the need for strategic public infrastructure, the SECV emerged as a cornerstone of Victorian development, marking three decades of visionary planning, technical innovation, and community impact. **The Foundation and Early Vision** The State Electricity Commission of Victoria was formally established in 1918, born from a necessity to centralize and expand electricity supply across the state. At a time when much of Victoria's power still relied on fragmented, privately operated schemes, the SECV represented a bold shift toward public ownership and coordinated development. Its creation reflected a broader

national trend toward state stewardship of essential utilities, driven by the belief that access to affordable, reliable electricity was fundamental to modern living and economic progress. From its inception, the SECV committed to building a comprehensive network that would reach rural and urban communities alike, laying the groundwork for equitable energy access.

Engineering Progress and Infrastructure Expansion

Over the next three decades, the SECV led an ambitious expansion of Victoria's electrical infrastructure. The commission embarked on large-scale projects to construct power stations, transmission lines, and distribution systems that fundamentally reshaped the state's energy landscape. Iconic facilities such as the Mitta Power Station and the development of high-voltage transmission corridors enabled the efficient delivery of electricity from generation sites to growing towns and industries. These engineering feats not only expanded coverage but also enhanced reliability, supporting the electrification of homes, factories, hospitals, and public utilities. The SECV's commitment to innovation ensured that Victoria's power system kept pace with technological advances, integrating new generation methods and modernizing equipment to meet rising demand.

Socioeconomic Impact and Community Benefits

Beyond technical achievements, the SECV's work had profound socioeconomic implications. By delivering consistent, affordable electricity to both urban centers and remote rural areas, the commission played a critical role in improving quality of life and fostering economic resilience. Electrification enabled the mechanization of agriculture, boosted manufacturing output, and

improved public services through electrically powered lighting, heating, and communication systems. Schools and hospitals benefited from reliable power, enhancing education and healthcare delivery. The SECV also contributed to employment, creating thousands of skilled and unskilled jobs during construction and operation, thus supporting regional development and social stability. Navigating Challenges and Ensuring Sustainability The SECV's journey over thirty years was not without challenges. From financial constraints and fluctuating energy demands to evolving regulatory landscapes and environmental considerations, the commission demonstrated adaptability and foresight. It balanced the need for expansion with prudent resource management, often pioneering integrated approaches that combined hydro, coal, and later, alternative sources to ensure sustainable supply. Public engagement and transparent governance helped build trust, reinforcing the SECV's role as a responsible steward of Victoria's energy future. Legacy and Future Outlook By December 1948, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria had transformed the state's power infrastructure into a model of public utility excellence. Its legacy endures not only in the physical networks still in use but in the foundational principles it established—public access, technical innovation, and community-centered development. As Victoria moved into the post-war era, the SECV's work set the stage for further advances, including the eventual transition toward diversified energy sources and modern grid technologies. Reflecting on these three decades reveals a powerful narrative of state leadership,

resilience, and progress—an enduring blueprint for responsible energy governance that continues to inspire future generations.

Three Decades: The Story of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) from Inception to December 1948

The story of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) is a captivating narrative of ambition, progress, and the electrification of a burgeoning Australian state. Spanning three transformative decades, from its inception in 1918 to the cusp of post-war reconstruction in December 1948, the SECV's journey charts a course from tentative beginnings to becoming a powerhouse of industrial development and a symbol of modern infrastructure. This period witnessed the SECV not just supplying power, but fundamentally reshaping Victoria's landscape, economy, and the daily lives of its citizens.

The Genesis of a Vision: Why Victoria Needed a State Electricity Commission

Prior to the establishment of the SECV, Victoria's electricity landscape was fragmented and largely inadequate. Melbourne,

the state's capital, was served by a patchwork of private and municipal undertakings, often lacking coordination and failing to meet the growing demand. Outside the metropolitan area, electricity was a luxury, if available at all. The inefficiencies and limitations of this decentralized system became increasingly apparent as Victoria moved into the 20th century, driven by a burgeoning industrial sector and a growing population.

Early Electricity Supply in Victoria: A Decentralised Dilemma

Private companies and local councils held sway over electricity generation and distribution. While some made significant contributions, their efforts were often constrained by limited capital, conflicting interests, and a lack of a unified strategy. The result was uneven access to power, with higher costs for consumers and limited scope for expansion. The need for a comprehensive, state-wide approach to electricity supply was becoming undeniable.

The Momentum for State Control: Addressing Industrial Needs and Rural Aspirations

The First World War further highlighted the strategic importance of a reliable and abundant power supply for industrial production and national resilience. Simultaneously, there was a growing recognition of the potential for electricity to improve living

standards in rural and regional Victoria. The concept of a single, authoritative body responsible for planning, generating, and distributing electricity across the entire state gained traction. This vision promised economies of scale, standardized services, and a proactive approach to meeting future demand. The 1918 Electricity Commissioners Act was the pivotal legislative response to these pressing needs, laying the groundwork for the SECV's formation.

The Birth of the SECV: Laying the Foundation (1919-1925)

The official birth of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in 1919 marked the beginning of a new era. The initial years were characterized by the arduous task of consolidation, planning, and the establishment of essential infrastructure. The SECV inherited a complex and often outdated network, requiring immediate attention and a clear strategic direction.

Consolidating the Existing Infrastructure: Taking the Reins

The SECV's first major undertaking was to acquire and integrate the existing electricity assets. This involved complex negotiations with private companies and municipal councils. The aim was to bring these disparate operations under a single, efficient management structure. This process was not without its challenges, requiring careful financial management and

stakeholder engagement. The SECV's early success in this consolidation phase was crucial for building trust and demonstrating the benefits of its centralized approach.

Early Projects and Strategic Planning: Powering Melbourne's Growth

With a unified vision, the SECV embarked on ambitious projects. The initial focus was on securing a reliable and expanded power supply for Melbourne and its rapidly growing suburbs. This involved investing in new generation capacity and upgrading the distribution network. The SECV also began to explore the potential for harnessing Victoria's natural resources for power generation, a foresight that would define its long-term strategy.

The Age of Expansion: Powering Victoria's Future (1926-1939)

The period between the mid-1920s and the outbreak of the Second World War represented a golden age of expansion for the SECV. This era saw the commission solidify its position as a major player in Victoria's development, undertaking monumental projects that would have a lasting impact.

The Yallourn Project: A Triumph of Engineering and Vision

Undoubtedly, the most significant undertaking of this period was

the development of the Yallourn project in the Latrobe Valley. Recognizing the vast brown coal reserves, the SECV embarked on an ambitious plan to establish a power station and associated industries. This was a complex and pioneering endeavor, involving large-scale mining, power generation, and the creation of a new township to house its workforce. The Yallourn power station, fueled by readily available brown coal, provided a cost-effective and abundant source of electricity, revolutionizing the state's power supply.

Rural Electrification: Bringing Light to the Countryside

While the Yallourn project was a cornerstone, the SECV also made significant strides in extending electricity to regional and rural Victoria. This was a painstaking but vital process, involving the construction of extensive transmission lines across challenging terrain. The impact of rural electrification was profound, transforming agricultural practices, improving living conditions, and fostering economic opportunities in areas previously underserved. This commitment to equitable access to electricity was a defining characteristic of the SECV's early mission.

The SECV and Industrial Development: Fueling Economic Growth

The availability of cheap and reliable electricity was a powerful

catalyst for industrial growth. The SECV actively supported the development of new industries by providing the necessary power infrastructure. Factories, mines, and manufacturing facilities flourished, creating jobs and contributing to Victoria's economic prosperity. The SECV was not just a utility provider; it was an enabler of progress, playing a crucial role in Victoria's industrialization.

Wartime Demands and Post-War Preparations: The SECV at War and Beyond (1939-1948)

The Second World War presented the SECV with new challenges and responsibilities. The demands of the war effort placed immense pressure on the commission's resources, requiring them to adapt and innovate to meet critical needs. Following the war, the SECV was instrumental in planning for the reconstruction and continued development of Victoria.

Meeting Wartime Needs: Powering the War Effort

During the war, electricity consumption surged as factories shifted to war production. The SECV worked tirelessly to meet these demands, ensuring a steady supply of power for munitions factories, shipbuilding, and other essential war industries. Maintaining operational reliability and protecting infrastructure

from potential threats became paramount. The commission's dedication during this critical period underscored its national importance.

Reconstruction and Expansion: Laying the Groundwork for the Future

As the war drew to a close, the SECV shifted its focus to post-war reconstruction and the future needs of a rapidly growing Victoria. Plans were put in place for further expansion of generation capacity, particularly in the Latrobe Valley, to meet the anticipated surge in demand from returning servicemen and a booming economy. The commission also continued its commitment to rural electrification, recognizing the enduring importance of bringing modern amenities to all Victorians. By December 1948, the SECV was well-positioned to embark on the next phase of its development, a testament to its resilience and forward-thinking approach.

Legacy and Impact: Three Decades of Transformation

By the end of 1948, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria had achieved remarkable transformations. From its inception as a response to a fragmented and inadequate electricity supply, it had evolved into a sophisticated and vital organization. Its three decades of operation had fundamentally reshaped Victoria.

Economic Empowerment and Industrial Advancement

The SECV's consistent supply of affordable electricity was a cornerstone of Victoria's industrial growth. It facilitated the establishment and expansion of numerous industries, creating employment opportunities and driving economic prosperity. The vision of powering industry had been realized, propelling Victoria into a new era of economic development.

Social Upliftment and Improved Living Standards

Beyond industry, the SECV's impact on the lives of ordinary Victorians was profound. Rural electrification brought modern conveniences and opportunities to remote communities. In urban areas, reliable electricity powered homes, businesses, and public services, contributing to a higher quality of life. The SECV had, in essence, brought light and progress to every corner of the state.

A Foundation for Continued Growth

The SECV's achievements by December 1948 provided a robust foundation for future expansion. The investments in infrastructure, the development of new generation sources, and the commitment to planning had set Victoria on a path of sustained progress. The story of the SECV in its first three decades is a powerful illustration of how strategic investment in public utilities can drive national development and improve the

lives of citizens. The commission's journey from inception to 1948 is a vital chapter in Victoria's history, a testament to vision, engineering prowess, and unwavering commitment to progress.

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As technology continues to advance, self-directed learning will become increasingly important. The ability to download Three Decades The Story Of The State Electricity Commission Of

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In summary, downloading Three Decades The Story Of The State Electricity Commission Of Victoria From Its Inception To December 1948 illustrates the transformative impact of technology on self-directed education. Through portability, convenience, interactivity, and ethical access, digital resources empower learners to take control of their educational journeys. Responsible and informed use of digital platforms enables users to fully leverage Three Decades The Story Of The State Electricity Commission Of Victoria From Its Inception To December 1948 for personal enrichment, academic achievement, and professional development in the digital age.

Questions & Answers About three decades the story of the state electricity commission of victoria from its inception to december 1948

No	Question	Answer
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1	What was the primary driving force behind the creation of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SEC) in the early 20th century?	The SEC was established in 1920 to address Victoria's burgeoning demand for electricity, centralize power generation and distribution, and ensure reliable and affordable electricity access across the state, moving away from fragmented and often inefficient private and municipal systems.
2	What significant infrastructure projects were undertaken by the SEC in its early decades?	Key projects included the construction of major power stations like Yallourn Power Station and the development of an extensive transmission and distribution network to connect these power sources to growing urban and rural areas.
3	How did the SEC's inception impact the lives of Victorians by December 1948?	By 1948, the SEC had significantly improved the quality of life for Victorians by bringing electricity to homes, businesses, and farms, enabling industrial growth, and providing lighting and power that was previously unavailable or unreliable for many.
4	What were some of the early challenges faced by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria?	Early challenges included securing funding for large-scale projects, managing vast geographical areas, acquiring necessary resources and expertise, and navigating the political landscape to achieve its mandate.

5	Can you explain the role of the SEC in developing Victoria's natural resources during its first three decades?	The SEC played a crucial role in the development of the Latrobe Valley's brown coal reserves, using it as a primary fuel source for its power stations. This marked a significant shift towards utilizing indigenous resources for energy production.
6	What was the overarching vision or goal of the SEC when it was founded, and how did it align with Victoria's development up to 1948?	The overarching vision was to provide a unified, efficient, and cost-effective electricity supply to drive industrialization and improve living standards. By 1948, the SEC had largely succeeded in laying the foundation for Victoria's electrification and economic progress.

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