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Toxic smoke warning for community

Chris McLennan

CFA crews have brought a fire at a Raywood solar farm under control.

Ten Country Fire Authority units responded to a fire at the solar farm about 28km north of Bendigo at 5.50pm on Thursday.

The solar farm was located in McQualters Road, Raywood.

While near Cohuna, one of Victoria's biggest solar farms has been out of action for almost a year. Built at a cost of around \$67 million in 2019, the Cohuna solar farm is still undergoing a refit after a fire in late 2023.

Meanwhile on Thursday, 10 CFA units from Bridgewater, Campbells Forest, Eaglehawk, Golden Square, Raywood and Woodvale attended the Raywood solar farm fire.

Police and Powercor were

also on the scene. A transformer caught fire on the "moderately sized commercial solar farm" and crews used foam to extinguish it, the CFA said in a statement.

A warning was issued to the Raywood community because of the black toxic smoke drifting over the township.

"Access was difficult for crews because of the density of the smoke," the CFA said.

The scene was under control about 8.30pm.

Energy Safe Victoria is investigating the cause of the fire.

There was a small fire at a solar farm at Walla Walla, just north of Albury, back in early January as well.

Local farmers blamed the owner of the solar farm for failing to adequately maintain the grass around the farm.



A transformer at a central Victorian solar farm caught fire late on Thursday. Picture CFA.









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