

Recent News

Australian governments 'shooting themselves in the foot' with EV policies

Australian governments also seem to be learning all the wrong lessons with supporting electric vehicles. It's not helped by a patchwork approach from different states and territories.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/30/electric-vehicle-vacuum-leads-to-confusion-between-states-and-territories>

Climate change will cost a young Australian up to \$245,000 over their lifetime, court case reveals

The court case revealed the future costs of climate change. Expert testimony puts the figure at \$245,000 per person over the lifetime of a young Australian.

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-will-cost-a-young-australian-up-to-245-000-over-their-lifetime-court-case-reveals-161175>

Australian court finds government has duty to protect young people from climate crisis

In the same case the Federal Court found that the environment minister has a duty of care to future generations to protect them from climate impacts, when making decisions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/may/27/australian-court-finds-government-has-duty-to-protect-young-people-from-climate-crisis>

Court orders Royal Dutch Shell to cut carbon emissions by 45% by 2030

Royal Dutch Shell has been ordered by a court to reduce its emissions by 45% by 2030.

The ruling is expected to have implications for other polluting multinationals.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/may/26/court-orders-royal-dutch-shell-to-cut-carbon-emissions-by-45-by-2030>

NSW smart meter program to soak up solar with “everyday batteries”

A NSW electricity distributor is using smart meters to soak up excess energy exported back to the grid. Endeavour Energy's program with 2,500 homes is an alternative approach to a proposed solar tax.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-smart-meter-program-to-soak-up-solar-with-everyday-batteries/>

Victorian councils sign up to largest local government emissions reduction partnership

46 Victorian councils have signed up to a local government power purchasing agreement. The PPA is led by the City of Darebin and developed with the assistance of the greenhouse alliances.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-19/victorian-councils-climate-change-partnership-veco/100145644>

This brief video explains just what the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) has achieved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7XZA5vhbbc>

VECO is the latest and biggest in the line of local government PPAs. It started with [MREP 1 and 2](#), but also includes the [SSROC](#) councils in NSW as well as individual local governments, such as [Sydney](#) and [Hawkesbury](#).

Switch for Solar pilot program for concession holders begins in Adelaide's north-east and Goolwa

South Australia is launching a pilot program today to provide solar for 1000 concession card holders.

In return, the households will not claim state energy concessions.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-17/sa-switch-for-solar-pilot-program-begins/100143436>

'All about evolution': Here's what to do with a dead power station

What do you do with an old coal-fired power station?

The new owners of the Wallerawang plant in NSW are testing some different ideas.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/sustainability/all-about-evolution-here-s-what-to-do-with-a-dead-power-station-20210512-p57r2w.html>

Australian grid used the least coal on record last summer as renewables shone

The grid used the lowest amount of fossil fuels on record over the most recent summer. It comes as low-cost renewables continue to displace coal and gas.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/australian-grid-used-the-least-coal-on-record-last-summer-as-renewables-shone-20210514-p57s30.html>

Getting ready for climate change is about people, not spreadsheets. Let's use our imaginations

People should be at the heart of adaptation to projected climate impacts. A recent conference explored how that might work.

<https://theconversation.com/getting-ready-for-climate-change-is-about-people-not-spreadsheets-lets-use-our-imaginations-160706>

As the US and EU get on with green recovery, Australia has missed a huge opportunity

Is Australia in danger of being left behind with unambitious renewables policy? Especially as the US and EU accelerate their investments.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/may/13/australia-green-recovery-behind-us-eu-federal-budget-2021-bill-hare>

Blowing in the wind: Have we missed our chance to become a renewables superpower?

Australia could be a renewable energy superpower. But does the Budget reflect a missed opportunity?

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/blowing-in-the-wind-have-we-missed-our-chance-to-become-a-renewables-superpower-20210512-p57rcc.html>

The budget should have been a road to Australia's low-emissions future. Instead, it's a flight of fancy

Worse than missed opportunities, the Budget is actively investing in the wrong alternatives. Is the focus on technology just wishful thinking?

<https://theconversation.com/the-budget-should-have-been-a-road-to-australias-low-emissions-future-instead-its-a-flight-of-fancy-160775>

AEMO says Australia “well ahead” of 90 per cent renewables scenario for 2040

New research shows Australia is well ahead of its target of 90% renewables by 2040. AEMO says the pipeline of proposed projects will double Australia's renewables capacity.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/aemo-says-australia-well-ahead-of-90-per-cent-renewables-scenario-for-2040/>

Sydney to spend \$24 million to accelerate net-zero goal by five years

The City of Sydney has brought forward its zero emissions goal to 2035. Council is spending \$24 million to achieve the target 5 years earlier than planned.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/sydney-to-spend-24-million-to-accelerate-net-zero-goal-by-five-years-20210510-p57qkg.html>

On city councils and the race to net zero

The City of Sydney recently announced plans for net zero for new developments. How does that stack up against other capitals?

<https://thefifthestate.com.au/columns/news-from-the-front-desk/on-city-councils-and-the-race-to-net-zero/>

How a ‘green pillow’ is helping to save Hoi An from climate change floods

Natural embankments comprising a variety of trees, bushes and grasses can provide much-needed protection against climate impacts. In Vietnam, that includes floods.

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/how-a-green-pillow-is-helping-to-save-hoi-an-from-climate-change-floods-20210427-p57mqe.html>

Australia's states are forging ahead with ambitious emissions reductions. Imagine if they worked together

Australia's states are setting ambitious emissions reduction targets, individually. What would be the impact if they worked together?
<https://theconversation.com/australias-states-are-forging-ahead-with-ambitious-emissions-reductions-imagine-if-they-worked-together-160191>

Global heating pace risks 'unstoppable' sea level rise as Antarctic ice sheet melts

Current global warming rates will result in rapid ice loss in Antarctica after 2060, raising sea levels.
That's unless emissions are cut substantially now.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/05/antarctica-ice-sheet-melting-global-heating-sea-level-rise-study>

Qld Conservation Council calls for big battery to replace Callide turbine

The Queensland Conservation Council has joined a chorus of voices calling on the State Government to abandon plans to rebuild the ageing Callide turbine after it was severely damaged by an explosion and fire, sparking the state's worst power outage in decades..

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/06/03/conservation-council-calls-for-big-battery-to-replace-callide-turbine/>

Registrations of interest open for Australia's biggest REZ

Australia's largest renewable energy zone is one step closer to fruition with the New South Wales Government calling for registrations of interest from developers of solar PV, wind and energy storage projects.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/06/03/registrations-of-interest-open-for-australias-biggest-rez/>

SA social housing VPP expanded to provide Tesla batteries to homes without solar

The Housing SA Tesla VPP is being expanded to include a trial of 20 homes unsuitable for solar installation. The SA Government is offering free Tesla batteries to such homes to show how participation in the VPP with a battery alone can still deliver significant savings.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/06/02/sa-social-housing-vpp-expanded-to-provided-tesla-batteries-to-homes-without-solar/>

'We see a future where Australia produces thousands of terawatt hours of renewable electricity

Chief Executive of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Darren Miller, says he envisions a future where Australia will produce up to ten times more clean electricity than the country requires to become a "shining example of what is possible if you have the right ingredients and the right ambition."

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/06/02/we-see-a-future-where-australia-produces-thousands-of-terawatt-hours-of-renewable-electricity/>

Australia's energy storage installed base to grow more than five times by 2030

In its latest report, IHS Markit predicts that energy storage installations in Australia will grow from 500 MW to more than 2.8 GW by 2030. Today, Australia makes up less than 3% of total global installations for battery energy storage and is the seventh largest market globally. By 2030, it is forecast to comprise 7% of global installations and become the third largest market. This growth will be largely driven by three distinct market segments: residential,

standalone front-of-the-meter, and collocated with utility-scale renewables.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/31/australias-energy-storage-installed-base-to-grow-more-than-five-times-by-2030/>

Australia experiences ‘never seen before’ level of collaboration with hydrogen

Larry Marshall, Chief Executive of the CSIRO, Australia’s national science agency, told Australia’s Hydrogen Conference that he was “highly optimistic” about Australia’s future, saying the country is currently at the “forefront” of hydrogen – a position not often held by our island state and one we must “dig our teeth into.”

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/28/australia-experiences-never-seen-before-level-of-collaboration-with-hydrogen/>

Hydrogen start-ups targeted as Geelong Cluster joins national network

Victoria is accelerating plans to carve out a share of the evolving global hydrogen market, calling for Expressions of Interest from parties keen to play a role in the newly launched Greater Geelong Hydrogen Technology Cluster.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/28/hydrogen-start-ups-targeted-as-geelong-cluster-joins-national-network/>

Motoring body says EVs at turning point as road tax passes

A national motoring body has called on the Federal Government to “provide leadership”, declaring the rollout of electric vehicles in Australia is facing significant roadblocks.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/27/motoring-body-says-evs-at-turning-point-as-road-tax-passes/>

Large scale solar generation exceeds gas for first time, rooftop solar pushes peak demand to five year low

Evidence of Australia's energy transition and the force with which renewables are pushing fossil fuel generators out of the mix are now glaring, with a raft of new reports highlighting different records and trends testament to the seismic shift.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/19/large-scale-solar-generation-exceeds-gas-for-first-time-rooftop-solar-pushes-peak-demand-to-five-year-low/>

Huawei enters Australia's residential battery market with modular Luna2000

Chinese giant Huawei has entered Australia's residential solar battery market with its home energy storage system, the Luna2000. The lithium-iron phosphate 5kWh cells have a modular design and are scalable to 30kWh. Huawei is banking on 10 kWh system capacities being most popular, telling pv magazine Australia they will retail for under AU\$10,000.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/18/huawei-enters-australias-residential-battery-market-with-modular-luna2000/>

Australia can be 'renewable energy superpower' says Albanese

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has outlined his plan for Australia to "emerge as a renewable energy superpower," underwritten by a \$100 million initiative to fund apprenticeships in new energy jobs including solar, large-scale renewable projects, green hydrogen and renewable manufacturing.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/14/australia-can-be-renewable-energy-superpower-says-albanese/>

Solar Citizens warns controversial 'sun tax' shapes as threat to NEM

Solar Citizens has warned the Australian Energy Market Commission's controversial proposal to make solar PV owners pay to export their surplus production to the grid could send the National Electricity Market into a 'death spiral'.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/05/13/solar-citizens-warns-controversial-sun-tax-shapes-as-threat-to-nem/>

A new flagship coal plant failed spectacularly - but it won't be the last time

On May 25th a fire at the Queensland Callide C coal plant caused the facility to suddenly snap offline. That triggered a cascade of flow-on events, including the disconnection of multiple transmission lines, and other generators, along with nearly half a million customers being disconnected.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/a-new-flagship-coal-plant-failed-spectacularly-but-it-wont-be-the-last-time/>

Wyndham City Council Launches Energy Smart Homes

Wyndham City Council is launching a series of energy saving workshops for residents. The program will run in April and May.

<https://www.miragenews.com/wyndham-city-council-launches-energy-smart-homes-541695/>

A path towards low carbon communities in Hepburn Shire

Hepburn in central Victoria wants to be the first shire in Australia powered by 100 per cent renewable energy. In the spirit of engaging whole communities to act on climate change, Sustainability Victoria supported Hepburn Shire to develop a 10-year Community Transition Plan.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM4z5jpJEM&list=PLX_YcuIauqgIVUtx7BuRhiOzhonVwNP-e&index=4

SUSTAINABLE STRATHBOGIE 2030

Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2022

https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/images/Sustainable_Strathbogie_2030_FINAL_AUG_2019.pdf

AEMC Responds To “Solar Tax” Confusion And Misinformation

Michael Bloch from the Solar Quotes Blog writes about the ‘10 facts’ document the AEMC has issued regarding its proposals.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/aemc-sun-tax-facts-mb2005/>

Hunter Valley gas plant ‘would only operate a week a year’

The proposed gas-fired power station in the Hunter Valley that the Morrison government is insisting should be built would operate just two per cent of the time - the equivalent of about a week per year - and employ only 10 full-time workers.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/hunter-valley-gas-plant-would-only-operate-a-week-a-year-20210513-p57rqn.html>

“They’re going broke”, ESB chair says coal plant closures now unavoidable

Australia’s fleet of ageing coal fired generators are going broke and are likely to become less reliable in the future as operators stop maintaining them, according to the chair of the federal government’s key energy advisory body.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/theyre-going-broke-esb-chair-says-coal-plant-closures-now-unavoidable/>

ACT seeks proposals for massive 250MW ‘Big Canberra Battery’ network

The ACT government has formally opened a market sounding to establish a ‘Big Canberra Battery’, as part of a plan to massively increase the national capital’s storage capacity.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/act-seeks-proposals-for-massive-250mw-big-canberra-battery-network/>

TrueGreen says it has three EVs coming to Australian market under \$35,000

TrueGreen bringing three EVs under \$35,000 to Australia market, and calls on other car makers to step up and stop waiting for subsidies.

<https://thedriven.io/2021/05/31/truegreen-says-it-has-three-evs-coming-to-australian-market-under-35000/>