

## **Recent News**

### **Queensland joins Victoria in opposing rooftop solar tax, prefers battery support**

Queensland has joined Victoria in pushing back against a proposed charge for rooftop solar exported back to the grid, instead calling for more support for battery storage.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/queensland-joins-victoria-in-opposing-rooftop-solar-tax-prefers-battery-support/>

### **We've got way too many "glorified tents" and our death rate from cold is worse than Sweden's**

Too many Australian homes are 'glorified tents' losing energy, according to a new campaign. Healthy Homes for Renters says it results in up to 10,000 people a year dying from the cold.

<https://thefifthestate.com.au/housing-2/weve-got-way-too-many-glorified-tents-and-our-death-rate-from-cold-is-worse-than-swedens/>

### **Forever Fest - Sustainable Living for Now and the Future**

The City of Greater Dandenong's Forever Fest is coming up soon, starting 22 May. It focuses on the 8 themes of the council's climate emergency strategy.

<https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest>

### **Climate change: Promises will mean rise of 2.4C - study**

Analysis of proposed emissions reductions says they will result in a slight decrease in rising temperatures. But it's still well beyond the 1.5 degree target set in Paris.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56984691>

## **Wind and solar deliver stunning price, demand and emissions falls in main grid**

The ongoing expansion of wind and solar power in Australia's main grid has delivered stunning price falls in the latest quarter, along with big falls in demand and further reductions in emissions.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/wind-and-solar-deliver-stunning-price-demand-and-emissions-falls-in-main-grid/>

## **Gas customers to pay more for pipelines ahead of mass exodus and stranded assets**

ACT households will be charged more for gas, following a ruling by the energy regulator.

Energy companies are recovering the cost of stranded assets as customers switch to renewables.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/gas-customers-to-pay-more-for-pipelines-ahead-of-mass-exodus-and-stranded-assets/>

## **Victorian coal plants likely to close early with new emissions target, analysts say**

Energy analysts expect Victoria's remaining coal power plants to close early, as a result of the state government's new emissions targets.

The government aims to cut emissions by 50% by 2030.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-03/emissions-target-to-force-coal-closures/100111694>

## **Victorian government pledges to slash state's carbon emissions by 50% by 2030**

The Victorian government has set a target of a 50% cut in emissions by 2030.

It includes powering all state facilities by renewables by 2025.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/may/02/victorian-government-pledges-to-slash-states-carbon-emissions-by-50-by-2030>

### **Victoria offers \$3,000 subsidy for electric vehicles, sets 50pct target by 2030**

The Victorian government has announced a \$3000 subsidy to purchase electric vehicles. It follows criticism of the state's decision to impose a road user tax on EVs.

<https://thedriven.io/2021/05/01/victoria-to-offer-3000-subsidy-for-electric-vehicles-sets-50pct-target-by-2030/>

### **Australian energy board chair says gas-fired power plant in Hunter Valley 'doesn't stack up'**

The Federal Government appears determined to build a gas-fired power station in the Hunter Valley, even using taxpayer funds. The chair of Australia's Energy Security Board has rubbished the idea.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/30/australian-energy-board-chair-says-gas-fired-power-plant-in-hunter-valley-doesnt-stack-up>

### **Draft Towards Zero Emissions Strategy of Mildura Rural City Council**

Mildura Rural City Council has released its draft zero emissions strategy. The strategy covers corporate emissions and is open for comment until 21 May.

<https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Latest-News/Draft-Towards-Zero-Emissions-Strategy>

## **Historic German court decision rules climate inaction violates rights of the young**

Germany's highest court has ruled that the country's climate change targets violate the rights of future generations, because they do not detail action past 2030.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/historic-german-court-decision-finds-inaction-violates-the-rights-of-the-young/>

## **Solar panels, cooler summer drive power prices into negative territory in South Australia**

South Australian renewables have driven wholesale electricity prices to new lows. Off-peak prices are now regularly negative.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-28/sa-wholesale-power-price-drop-sees-sa-in-negative-territory/100100776>

## **Swap and go: electric trucks to run between Sydney and Brisbane using exchangeable batteries**

An Australian company is about to trial swap-and-go batteries on electric trucks. The trial will run on trucks between Brisbane and Sydney.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/29/swap-and-go-electric-trucks-to-run-between-sydney-and-brisbane-using-exchangeable-batteries>

## **This \$1 billion energy deal promises to cut emissions and secure jobs. So why on earth is gas included?**

South Australia and the Federal Government recently announced a \$1 billion energy deal. It's supposed to reduce emissions so why is gas included in the deal?

<https://theconversation.com/this-1-billion-energy-deal-promises-to-cut-emissions-and-secure-jobs-so-why-on-earth-is-gas-included-159342>

### **Analysis of the impact of proposals to charge solar homes to export electricity to the grid - VU Report**

A new report suggests a proposed rule change to allow electricity companies to charge homeowners for exported solar, may have a bigger financial impact than originally thought.

[https://243b2ed8-6648-49fe-80f0-f281c11c3917.filesusr.com/ugd/92a2aa\\_87d87ade4e6349a59af847e9b7853278.pdf](https://243b2ed8-6648-49fe-80f0-f281c11c3917.filesusr.com/ugd/92a2aa_87d87ade4e6349a59af847e9b7853278.pdf)

### **Victoria puts out call for virtual power plants with rooftop solar and batteries**

The Victorian government is calling for the development of virtual power plants. It's part of a pilot program to deal with the state's excess solar energy.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-puts-out-call-for-virtual-power-plants-with-rooftop-solar-and-batteries/>

### **More reasons for optimism on climate change than we've seen for decades: 2 climate experts explain**

There may be reasons for optimism on climate change. A big part of it is due to increased social understanding of the threats.

<https://theconversation.com/more-reasons-for-optimism-on-climate-change-than-weve-seen-for-decades-2-climate-experts-explain-159233>

### **'Insanely cheap energy': how solar power continues to shock the world**

The global growth of solar has been constantly under-estimated.

It's now providing 'insanely cheap energy' to drive the energy transition.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/25/insanely-cheap-energy-how-solar-power-continues-to-shock-the-world>

### **Biden vows to slash US emissions by half to meet 'existential crisis of our time'**

US President Joe Biden has pledged to slash America's emissions by 50% by 2030. The announcement puts pressure on countries like Australia to also increase their targets.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/22/us-emissions-climate-crisis-2030-biden>

<https://youtu.be/6xa7yyypznY>

### **Deakin Uni launches renewable microgrid, with Australia's biggest on-campus solar farm**

Deakin University has launched Australia's biggest on-campus solar farm at Geelong. It includes battery storage and a microgrid.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/deakin-uni-launches-renewable-microgrid-with-australias-biggest-on-campus-solar-farm/>

### **No, Australia isn't beating other countries on climate**

The Federal Government claims that Australia is a leader in reducing emissions. Is it right? And how is it coming up with that claim?

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/no-australia-isnt-beating-other-countries-on-climate/>

### **'The worst electric vehicle policy in the world': automotive coalition pans Victoria's EV tax**

Victoria's proposed EV road user tax has been panned as "the worst electric vehicle policy in the world" by a coalition of environmentalists, manufacturers and infrastructure experts.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/22/the-worst-electric-vehicle-policy-in-the-world-automotive-coalition-pans-victorias-ev-tax>

### **Military leaders, security chiefs demand action on climate threat**

Defence and security experts is calling on the Federal Government to act on climate change. A new group says Australia is lagging behind its allies.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/military-leaders-security-chiefs-demand-action-on-climate-threat-20210420-p57kve.html#comments>

### **Big miners including Fortescue Metals and BHP committing to big carbon reductions**

One of Australia's biggest miners, Fortescue Metals is committing to carbon neutrality by 2030. It's part of a broader shift within the sector. I've also included a link to the 2020 Boyer Lectures (delivered this year due to Covid) by Dr Andrew Forrest.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-21/fortescue-metals-group-andrew-twiggy-forrest-carbon-neutral/100081958>

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/boyerlectures/oil-vs-water-confessions-of-a-carbon-emitter-v1/13072410>

### **Solar export limits for Adelaide suburbs with most panels under SA Power Networks trial**

Some Adelaide suburbs are facing new solar export limits to ease pressure on the local grid. It's a solution likely to be adopted elsewhere.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-15/sa-power-networks-to-control-solar-exports-in-adelaide-trial/100070068>

### **Whitest-ever paint could help cool heating Earth, study shows**

US scientists have developed the "whitest-ever paint" to help reduce household energy costs. The paint is as effective as most air conditioners.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/15/whitest-ever-paint-could-help-cool-heating-earth-study-shows>

### **France to ban some domestic flights where train available**

French MPs have voted to ban domestic flights on routes where trains can replace them. The ban will apply to routes where the train time is less than two and a half hours.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/apr/12/france-ban-some-domestic-flights-train-available-macron-climate-convention-mps>

### **Bold challenge to decarbonise Australia in 15 years laid down by Climate Council**

A new report from the Climate Council says Australia must hit net zero emissions by 2035, not 2050. It's based on emerging science from the IPCC that suggests stronger responses are needed.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-04-15/plan-to-decarbonise-australia-in-15-years-climate-council-report/100063906>



## **New Zealand to force banks and insurers to disclose climate risks in world-first**

Banks and insurers in New Zealand will have to disclose their climate risk, under a new law. The bill is based on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) framework.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/new-zealand-to-force-banks-and-insurers-to-disclose-climate-risks-in-world-first/>

## **CARBON BUDGETS FOR 1.5 & 2°C**

A new report out from the Breakthrough Institute out today explains how carbon budgets work for the different emissions reduction targets.

<https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/briefings>

## **Business lobby accuses Victoria of 'putting cart before the horse' with electric vehicles tax**

The Australian industry Group has come out against Victoria's proposed EV user tax. The AIG says the charge is at too early a stage of development of the EV market.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/12/business-lobby-accuses-victoria-of-putting-cart-before-the-horse-with-electric-vehicles-tax>

## **Government accused of pressuring experts who questioned its gas-fired recovery plan**

The federal Government has been accused of pressuring senior energy experts to agree with its gas-led recovery plans, according to a report out tonight on 4 Corners.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-12/four-corners-gas-plan-pressured-experts/100055730>

### **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/>

### **From seven solar mini-grids to 750: How Cameroon is empowering communities**

Cameroon has seen strong growth in solar mini-grids in recent years. It's now looking at creating 750 mini-grids to power the countryside.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/from-seven-solar-mini-grids-to-750-how-cameroon-is-empowering-communities/>

### **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/>

### **There will be no gas shortfall, says AEMO**

A new report from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) forecasts there will be no gas shortage in the coming years, amid federal government plans to support new gas projects.

<https://www.manmonthly.com.au/news/will-no-gas-shortfall-says-aemo/>

## **Western Australia sets new record for wind and solar share, and minimum demand**

This article is from March but still worth mentioning. Western Australia has set a new record for the share of wind and solar in its grid, on the same weekend that it also set a new record low for minimum demand, a result of the ongoing surge in rooftop solar installations.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/western-australia-sets-new-record-for-wind-and-solar-share-and-minimum-demand/>

## **Battery uptake booms during coronavirus as clean energy gathers pace**

This article is from March but also still worth mentioning. Australia's uptake of household battery systems increased 20 per cent last year despite the economic downturn, in the latest sign that the transition away from fossil fuels in favour of renewable energy is gathering speed.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/battery-uptake-booms-during-coronavirus-as-clean-energy-gathers-pace-20210318-p57bx6.html>