

Recent News Over The Last Month

Garnaut predicts renewables to boom on cheap money as coal loses out

Leading environmental economist Professor Ross Garnaut has predicted the current economic crisis will lead to growth in renewable energy at the expense of coal, and has argued Australia should not fear taking on debt to fuel a green economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

<http://econews.com.au/64366/garnaut-predicts-renewables-to-boom-on-cheap-money-as-coal-loses-out/>

South Australia increases target to 100% renewables by 2030

South Australia has accelerated a timeline for renewable energy to provide 100 per cent of its electricity needs, with plans to hit the ambitious target by 2030.

<http://econews.com.au/64362/south-australia-increases-target-to-100-renewables-by-2030/>

Home energy saving tips for lockdown

With Australia in lockdown, we're now spending an enormous amount of time at home. As a result, most households will be using extra energy – up to 50% more than usual. So how can you power a home office (or two), cook every day and keep the comfort level of your home just right without seeing a surge in energy bills?

<https://wattever.com.au/home-energy-saving-tips-for-lockdown/>

AEMO says Australia's electricity grid could run with 75% renewables

Australia already has the technical capacity to safely run a power grid in which 75 per cent of the electricity comes from wind and solar and, if it gets regulations right, should occasionally reach this level within five years.

<http://econews.com.au/64337/aemo-says-australias-electricity-grid-could-run-with-75-renewables/>

New Behind-The-Meter Data Guidelines Could Reduce Solar Export Restrictions

If we want to add lots more solar power to the grid, the grid needs more real-time data about what is happening behind solar owners' meters.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/behind-meter-data-guide/>

Octopus intel to power Origin customer experience

In coming years digital services will transform end-to-end energy management, from the point of generation to bill payment. Origin Energy has announced plans to adopt Octopus's Kraken platform as it also buys a piece of the tech-tailer's action

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/05/04/octopus-intel-to-power-origin-customer-experience/>

Only solar panel factory in Australia set to expand

Australia's only solar photovoltaic panel manufacturer, Tindo Solar is expanding its Adelaide factory after a strong surge in demand as consumers turn to locally sourced products. (Thanks for the link Rob G.)

<http://econews.com.au/64198/only-solar-panel-factory-in-australia-set-to-expand/>

Renewables supplied more than 50% of national grid on Easter Saturday

Australia's main electricity grid was powered by 50 per cent green energy on Saturday, the second time ever this has happened. (Thanks for the link Rob G.)

<http://econews.com.au/64180/renewables-supplied-more-than-50-of-national-grid-on-easter-saturday/>

Virtual Power Plants using Solar and Batteries

This is a recording of the Smart Energy Council's 'Virtual Power Plants using Solar and Batteries' held on 17 April 2020.

<https://vimeo.com/408762951>

Relief for five constrained solar farms as new inverter “firmware” passes test

The owners and operators of five solar farms in Victoria and NSW that have had their output cut in half for the last seven months have breathed a sigh of relief as new inverter “firmware” designed to avoid uncontrollable “oscillations” successfully passed a week-long series of testing, leading to a lifting of constraints.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/relief-for-five-constrained-solar-farms-as-new-inverter-firmware-passes-test-95704/>

Westpac commits to a decade of transition

Westpac is committing to major investment restructuring over the coming decade as it looks to align its business with Paris 2050 commitments and its own emissions reduction scheme. The bank is seeking to offset its global emissions with 100% renewables by 2025

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/05/05/westpac-commits-to-a-decade-of-transition/>

New Behind-The-Meter Data Guidelines Could Reduce Solar Export Restrictions

Have solar panel optimiser manufacturers been too optimistic in their performance claims? A Danish study indicates optimisers can be the opposite of optimal.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/panel-optimisers-danish-study/>

Snowy 2.0 The Numbers Don't Stack Up

Could the Government's huge project called Snowy 2.0 be an expensive white elephant?

[Snowy 2.0 podcast https://www.3cr.org.au/beyondzero/episode-202003161700/snowy-20-numbers-dont-stack](https://www.3cr.org.au/beyondzero/episode-202003161700/snowy-20-numbers-dont-stack)

A series of in-depth interviews with DNV GL's energy experts on the challenges facing transmission and distribution operators

There are a number of white papers prepared by DNV GL on the challenges facing transmission and distribution operators. Great read, they can be accessed here:

<https://www.dnvgl.com/power-renewables/themes/powering-tomorrow/index.html>

Simon Holmes a Court presentation at the Smart Energy Council & RenewEconomy Stimulus Summit

Slides for talk given by Simon Holmes a Court on Heavy Industry to the Smart Energy Council & RenewEconomy Stimulus Summit on 6 May 2020.

<https://www.scribd.com/document/460121461/20200506-Stimulus-Summit-Heavy-Industry-Simon-Holmes-a-Court>

AEMO wants better inverters, and ability to shut down rooftop solar, as penetration grows to 50%

AEMO wants new inverters to enable rooftop solar to be visible, and switched off if necessary, as PV penetration heads to 50% of grid demand.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/aemo-wants-better-inverters-and-ability-to-shut-down-rooftop-pv-as-solar-penetration-grows-to-50/>

Australia's biggest "solar garden" seeks to power 300 homes in NSW Riverina region

1MW "solar garden" designed to deliver renewable power to people without a rooftop of their own seeks expressions of interest from the local Riverina community.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australias-biggest-solar-garden-seeks-to-power-300-homes-in-nsw-riverina-region/>

Green Loans For Solar Power Can Make Solid Financial Sense

SolarQuotes founder Finn Peacock joined Sonya Feldhoff on ABC Radio Adelaide's Afternoons program yesterday to discuss green loans for solar power systems.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/solar-green-loans-mb1497/>

NEM 2.0 – COAG sets out for two-sided market

The COAG Energy Council's plan to unlock Australia's potential to reindustrialise its energy system has taken another step forward with the publishing of an Energy Security Board consultation paper. The paper discusses what the two-sided market required to free up the potential of household energy technology will look like.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/04/23/nem-2-0-coag-sets-out-for-two-sided-market/>

Solar Victoria expands battery rebate scheme to pave way for VPPs

Solar Victoria says it will expand its home battery rebate scheme starting July to encourage the aggregation of distributed battery systems and pave the way for VPPs in the state.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-victoria-expands-battery-rebate-scheme-to-pave-way-for-vpps/>

Australians installed 22,661 home battery systems in 2019

Australian households invested in almost two-and-a-half “Big Batteries” worth of home energy storage in 2019, installing 22,661 systems over the course of the year with a total capacity of 233MWh, and taking further control over their energy supply.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australians-installed-22661-home-battery-systems-in-2019/>

Home battery software aims to outsmart electricity prices

The product aims to maximise savings offered under time-of-use pricing for households that do not have solar panels.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/home-battery-software-aims-to-outsmart-electricity-prices/>

Power play: How fossil free homes are Australia’s answer to economic recovery

Housing is Australia’s greatest resource to tackle climate change and pave the way to economic recovery. Three families show how 100% renewable electricity can be achieved.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/power-play-how-fossil-free-homes-are-australias-answer-to-economic-recovery/>

How your household battery can keep the grid stable and prices down

Tesla data shows how household batteries orchestrated through a "virtual power plant" provide critical system security services and respond to price signals to push down costs for all consumers.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/how-your-household-battery-can-keep-the-grid-stable-and-prices-down/>

NSW State government backs big batteries and solar to drive recovery

NSW is changing its planning rules to allow households to install larger solar systems, without council permission.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/state-government-backs-big-batteries-and-solar-to-drive-recovery-20200423-p54mky.html>

Indigo Power raises funds for community energy hubs

Community energy company, Indigo Power, has had a successful first investment round, raising more than \$300,000 to invest in community energy projects in Victoria.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/indigo-power-raises-funds-for-community-energy-hubs/>

Solar Victoria expands battery rebate scheme to pave way for VPPs

Solar Victoria has released plans to extend its battery rebate offer to households.

In particular, it will focus on aggregating batteries to support virtual power plants.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-victoria-expands-battery-rebate-scheme-to-pave-way-for-vpps/>

Five big solar farms set to increase energy output after tests

Big solar farms in Victoria and NSW may soon be able to increase their output, following tests to improve their compatibility with the national grid.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/five-big-solar-farms-set-to-increase-energy-output-after-tests-20200420-p54lf0.html>

Norway and the A-ha moment that made electric cars the answer

Three out of four new cars sold in Norway are fully or partially electric.

How did this country change its vehicle profile in such a short time?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/19/norway-and-the-a-ha-moment-that-made-electric-cars-the-answer>

Australians installed 22,661 home battery systems in 2019

Australian households installed more than 22,000 home battery systems in 2019.

That added more than 233MWh of storage.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australians-installed-22661-home-battery-systems-in-2019/>

Charging the Regions: Local Government EV Charging Network Study

The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance has released a report identifying opportunities for installing public EV charging infrastructure in regional Victoria.

http://www.cvga.org.au/uploads/9/8/3/8/9838558/81670_ctr_outcomes_va.3_public_1.pdf

New “super peak” contracts open new markets for batteries and hydro

A new 'super peak' electricity contract could boost new battery storage for renewables.
It's being floated as the morning and afternoon energy demand peaks become more pronounced.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/new-super-peak-contracts-open-new-markets-for-batteries-and-hydro-15285/>

Australia's first offshore wind farm Star of the South takes major step forward with EES referral

Australia's first off-shore wind farm, the Star of the South, has taken a step towards reality with its referral to state and Federal environment ministers for consideration.

https://www.foe.org.au/starofthesouth_offshorewind_ees

Spain targets huge new wind and solar additions as part of stunning renewables plan

Spain is targeting a stunning renewable energy share of 74 per cent of total electricity by 2030, and 42 per cent of total energy demand, in its new National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) that has been submitted to the European Union.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/spain-targets-huge-new-wind-and-solar-additions-as-part-of-stunning-renewables-plan-25524/>

Small grants for community groups to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy use and power bills

The Victorian Government has announced funding for small scale community energy projects.
The grants are worth up to \$12,500 for equipment and audits.

<https://www.business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs/Community-Energy-Efficiency-and-Solar-Grants-2020>

Neoen, Mondo plan massive 600MW Victoria big battery near Geelong

Neon and Mondo are teaming up to build a big battery near Geelong. The 600 MW system will be four times the size of the Tesla battery in South Australia.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/neoen-mondo-plan-massive-600mw-victoria-big-battery-near-geelong-16169/>

West Australia puts community batteries at top of new energy roadmap

Community battery storage and renewables are at the heart of a new energy roadmap released by the Western Australian government.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/west-australia-puts-community-batteries-at-top-of-new-energy-roadmap-38533/>

Solutions, actions and benchmarks for a net zero emissions Australia

Australia has all it needs now to reach net zero emissions by 2050 (and perhaps even sooner), according to a new report from ClimateWorks.

<https://www.climateworksaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Decarbonisation-Futures-March-2020-full-report-.pdf>

'Remarkable' jump in solar PV installations even as power prices eased

Australians were installing rooftop solar at a record rate, before coronavirus hit.

Installations in March were up 44% on the previous year.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/remarkable-jump-in-solar-pv-installations-even-as-power-prices-eased-20200402-p54gai.html>

Australia's great solar buy-back: Business offered 6-month break from power bills

Solar companies are testing new models of financing with buy back schemes offered to Australian businesses.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/commercial-solar-buy-back-scheme-offers-six-month-break-from-power-bills/>