

## **Recent News**

### **New Victorian buying group seeks 68GWh of wind power in virtual PPA**

A new buying group based in Geelong is seeking up to 68GWh of wind power through a virtual PPA.

The group includes Barwon Water, Barwon Health and Geelong Port.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/new-victorian-buying-group-seeks-68gwh-of-wind-power-in-virtual-ppa/>

### **Complicated, costly and frustrating: How to avoid getting burnt on home solar**

Heather worked as a nurse until a workplace accident caused her to leave the workforce. She put most of her compensation towards making a switch to clean energy, hoping to bring down her energy costs and increase her comfort. But a solar company sold her a system that wasn't suited to her needs. They also didn't clearly explain how the system worked or how to maintain it.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/complicated-costly-and-frustrating-how-to-avoid-getting-burnt-on-home-solar/>

## **2021 Visionary Grants**

The Australian Ethical Foundation is offering grants up to \$100,000 for emissions reduction and carbon sink projects.

Details and applications:

<https://www.australianethical.com.au/foundation/visionary-grants/>

## **“Net Zero 2050”: A Dangerous Illusion**

A new report from Breakthrough says that net zero by 2050 targets will lock-in long-term fossil fuel use. It says such targets carry unacceptable risks of runaway climate change.

<https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/nz2050>

## **World’s most powerful tidal turbine begins exporting power to grid**

The O2 turbine in the Orkney Islands produces enough power for 2000 homes.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/worlds-most-powerful-tidal-turbine-begins-exporting-power-to-grid/>

## **‘We need more urgency’: Top renewable group warns against paying to keep coal alive**

Australia's largest renewable energy group has warned against paying fossil fuel generators to maintain guaranteed energy supply.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/companies/we-need-more-urgency-top-renewable-group-warns-against-paying-to-keep-coal-alive-20210802-p58f4b.html>

## **The New Joneses say PLEDGE. JOIN. DO THE THINGS!**

The New Joneses film clips are all available for download and use by councils. Get in touch to find out how your council can use their resources.

<https://thenewjoneses.com>

## **New community campaign to push for the electrification of transport in Australia**

A new campaign has been launched to promote the electrification of Australia's road transport system. Charge Ahead is an off-shoot of Solar Citizens.

<https://thefifthestate.com.au/urbanism/infrastructure/community-campaign-to-push-for-the-electrification-of-transport-in-australia/>

## **All-electric, net-zero emissions aquatic centre blazes a trail in Melbourne's west**

Australia's first all-electric, net-zero aquatics centre is taking shape in Melbourne's west. Brimbank City Council is constructing the centre to replace the St Albans Leisure Centre.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/all-electric-net-zero-emissions-aquatic-centre-blazes-a-trail-in-melbournes-west/>

## **Exploaratory Study – Costs & Benefits Of Adaptation Investment In Greater Melbourne**

A new study by the EAGA has identified potential cost savings from climate adaptation actions. Big winners include savings from urban forests, electricity distribution and improving buildings.

<https://eaga.com.au/projects/exploratory-study-adaptation-costs-investment/>

## **Superannuation giant abandons coal, backs new tech and renewables**

Australia's second-largest superannuation company has completely divested from thermal coal. Instead, Aware Super is putting \$1 billion into renewables and low emissions technology.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/superannuation-giant-abandons-coal-backs-new-tech-and-renewables-20210727-p58dfy.html>

## **More livestock, more carbon dioxide, less ice: the world's climate change progress since 2019 is (mostly) bad news**

A new review shows how vital signs have changed since 2019, when 11,000 scientists declared a climate emergency. While there are some positive shifts, overall trends remain dire.

<https://theconversation.com/more-livestock-more-carbon-dioxide-less-ice-the-worlds-climate-change-progress-since-2019-is-mostly-bad-news-165168>

## **The “Solar Tax:” Are we having the wrong debate?**

Are proponents and opponents of a solar tax arguing about the wrong thing? Alan Pears says the way solar is treated is the problem.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/the-solar-tax-are-we-having-the-wrong-debate/>

## **The Good Car Company's bulk buy model is going national**

A Tasmanian start-up has helped people there buy more EVs than Tesla has sold. Now, they're taking the model national.

<https://thefifthestate.com.au/urbanism/infrastructure/the-good-car-companys-bulk-buy-model-is-going-national/>

## **Human rights issue or 'green lawfare'? Citizens take to the courts to fight climate change**

Next generation litigants are going to the courts to hold governments and companies to account. It's causing a rapid change in the legal landscape.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-27/climate-change-human-rights-legal-challenge/100310206>

## **Melbourne to build inner-city battery network in green power push**

The City of Melbourne is building a neighbourhood 5 MW scale battery. It will provide greater support for renewable energy in the city.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/victoria/melbourne-to-build-inner-city-battery-network-in-green-power-push-20210726-p58cwo.html>

## **How the carbon tax has come back to haunt the Australian government**

The Federal Government once celebrated the demise of a price on carbon. But, that's coming back to haunt them.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-26/carbon-tax-has-come-back-to-haunt-the-government/100322396>

## **Gas generation slumps in first half of 2021, as wind and solar continue to shine**

Australia's gas-led recovery is facing headwinds with new data showing renewables outpacing gas generation in the first half of 2021.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/gas-generation-slumps-in-first-half-of-2021-as-wind-and-solar-continue-to-shine/>

And a new energy policy in Japan is undermining gas exports.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/japans-new-energy-strategy-exposes-folly-of-australias-gas-led-recovery/>

### **Whether or not the Great Barrier Reef is listed as 'in danger' won't alter the fact it is at risk from climate change**

The Federal Government has been lobbying hard to keep the Great Barrier Reef off UNESCO's 'in danger' list. But whether or not it gets listed, doesn't mean it's safe.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/23/whether-or-not-the-great-barrier-reef-is-listed-as-in-danger-wont-alter-the-fact-it-is-at-risk-from-climate-change>

### **Australia has huge potential to develop offshore windfarms near existing substations, report says**

A new report has found that Australia has substantial capacity for offshore wind power generation. Even better, it can be built near to existing substations, reducing the need for additional transmission investment.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/22/australia-has-huge-potential-to-develop-offshore-windfarms-near-existing-substations-report-says>

### **Australia's giant carbon capture project fails to meet key targets**

The world's largest carbon capture and storage project has failed to meet its targets. The Gorgon gas project in WA has met captured just over half its targeted emissions.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-giant-carbon-capture-project-fails-to-meet-key-targets-20210719-p58b3i.html>

## **Obsessing over electric cars is impeding the race to net zero: More active travel is essential**

The increasing focus on electric vehicles as a solution to climate change is undermining sustainable transport modes, such as walking and cycling.

<https://www.research.ox.ac.uk/article/2021-06-14-obsessing-over-electric-cars-is-impeding-the-race-to-net-zero-more-active-travel-is-essential>

## **Adaptive Capacity Checklist**

The Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action has just released its adaptive capacity checklist. It helps councils understand their strengths and weaknesses when responding to climate change.

[https://adapt.waga.com.au/cb\\_pages/adaptive\\_capacity\\_checklist.php](https://adapt.waga.com.au/cb_pages/adaptive_capacity_checklist.php)

## **Coming soon: The carbon taxes that cannot be repealed**

Moves by the EU and the US to impose carbon border taxes are only the beginning. It will mean Australian policymakers can no longer ignore a price on emissions.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/finance/finance-news/2021/07/18/carbon-border-tax-eu-australia/>

## **“Scared of solar:” Why the Top End’s first big solar farms are not switched on**

The Northern Territory has built 4 large scale solar farms. But they haven't been turned on yet.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/scared-of-solar-why-the-top-ends-first-big-solar-farms-are-not-switched-on/>

## **Broome households snap up 900kW of new rooftop solar capacity released by WA grid**

Demand for solar remains strong in the north of WA as shown by the response to a new solar allocation by the regional network operator. 900 households snapped up the offer in an hour.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/broome-households-snap-up-900kw-of-new-rooftop-solar-capacity-released-by-wa-grid/>

## **New AEMO boss wants Australian grids ready to handle 100 pct renewables by 2025**

AEMO's new chief is calling for a grid capable of handling 100% renewables by 2025. Daniel Western says the goal will provide social licence for further renewables investment.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/new-aemo-boss-wants-australias-grid-to-handle-100-pct-renewables-by-2025/>

## **Community energy innovation grants released by Banyule Council**

Banyule City Council has launched its new community energy grants, worth up to \$50,000.

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/About-us/Grants-programs/Community-energy-innovation-grants>



## **World's biggest green energy hub proposed for south coast of Western Australia**

The world's biggest green energy hub has been proposed for the sun- and wind-rich south coast of WA. The project would generate 50GW of energy.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-13/green-energy-hub-planned-for-south-coast-of-wa/100288734>

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

The City of Greater Dandenong has released a sustainable living kit for individuals. It emerges from the council's successful Forever Fest in May.

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

## **Zooming versus flying: The net climate impacts of internet use**

Concerns have been raised about the carbon impact of Zoom meetings. But, compared to alternatives, there's no contest.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/zooming-versus-flying-the-net-climate-impacts-of-internet-use/>

## **Understanding where electric vehicle ownership is highest in Australia**

Where do Australia's EV owners live?  
The Institute for Sustainable Transport has mapped them.

<https://sensibletransport.org.au/project/passenger-evs-registered-in-2020/>

## **Building a climate-resilient Victoria**

The Victorian Government is seeking consultation on its sector-based adaptation plans. Details and feedback options here:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/aaps>

## **South Australia's constrained renewables to be unleashed as four new syncons spin into action**

South Australia is a global hero for its demonstration of a rapid transition to renewable generation. But as renewables supplied more than 60% of the state's electricity, and pushed out coal and even gas-fired generation, cracks appeared in the system strength and inertia required to keep the grid reliably running. ElectraNet has deployed old, clean-running technology — synchronous condensers — to smooth the gaps.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/09/south-australias-constrained-renewables-to-be-unleashed-as-four-new-syncons-spin-into-action/>

## **Derby's day launches a solar-powered future**

PV electricity generation is a natural choice for Australia's remote Kimberley region. State-owned energy provider Horizon Power has deployed WA Recovery Plan funds to make the most of the interplay between sun and shade and put clean energy behind the Derby community's aspirations.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/09/derbys-day-launches-a-solar-powered-future/>

## **AEMO 'white paper' points to inverters as possible path to 100% renewables**

The Australian Energy Market Operator is looking to fast-track the deployment of advanced inverter capabilities to support Australia's

“once-in-a-lifetime transition” to a power system featuring reduced synchronous generation, such as coal-fired generation.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/06/aemo-white-paper-points-to-inverters-as-possible-path-to-100-renewables/>

### **Octopus Group partners with CEFC to accelerate solar farm projects**

The Australian arm of global fund manager Octopus Group has expanded its renewable energy portfolio, teaming with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to purchase the rights to develop two proposed utility scale solar-storage hybrid power plants in Victoria’s Gippsland region.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/06/octopus-group-partners-with-cefc-to-accelerate-solar-farm-projects/>

### **Maoneng pushes safety message for Mornington battery system**

Less than a week after fire broke out at the Victoria Big Battery in Geelong, Australian renewable energy developer Maoneng has given lithium iron phosphate batteries the tick of approval, declaring it will use the technology at its utility scale battery energy storage system planned for Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/05/maoneng-pushes-safety-message-for-mornington-battery-system/>

### **Fire at Victorian Big Battery now under control**

Speculation will be rife as to the cause of the fire which destroyed one Tesla Megapack and damaged another in Moorabool on Friday. Investigators are waiting until the site is deemed safe to begin their forensic examination.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/02/fire-at-victorian-big-battery-now-under-control/>

## **Laying foundations for transformation: Queensland startup answers need for grid digitalisation**

Patrick Matweew, CEO of Australian startup Luceo Energy, is fully aware grid digitalisation stirs fervour in the hearts of few. It is, nonetheless, perhaps the single most important step in realising our clean energy future. “It’s not spoken about enough because it sits in that little niche. There might be other things that are a little bit more sexy, but this is really where the fundamentals get put in place to enable [everything else],”

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/04/laying-foundations-for-transformation-queensland-startup-answers-network-need-for-grid-digitalisation/>