

## **Recent News Over The Last Month**

### **AEMO Q1 2020 Report**

On 13 May, AEMO presented key findings from their most recent Quarterly Dynamics report. The Q1 report analysed energy market dynamics, highlighting trends and outcomes experienced by the NEM and gas markets during the first quarter of 2020(1 January to 30 March).

AEMO's Dr Jonathan Myrtle, Team Leader of Market Insights at AEMO presented the key findings of the Q1 report, including: the lowest wholesale electricity and gas prices since 2016; major power system separation events driving record system costs; and initial impacts of COVID-19 on operational demand and energy markets.

[https://energy.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/news/podcast-aemo-q1-2020-quarterly-dynamics-seminar/\\_nocache](https://energy.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/news/podcast-aemo-q1-2020-quarterly-dynamics-seminar/_nocache)

### **Smart Energy Council Webinars from May**

These are the recordings of Smart Energy Council webinars conducted in May. They can be viewed at any time. Previous webinar recordings are on the same webpage.

[Detailed Market Review: How is the industry performing? – FRI 22 MAY 2020](#)

[Capital Raising for Solar and Storage Projects – WED 20 MAY 2020](#)

[100% Smart Energy Communities – FRI 15 MAY 2020](#)

[Solar and Storage on all Public Buildings – FRI 1 MAY 2020](#)

## **Stimulus Summit: A Renewables-Led Economic Recovery hosted by the Smart Energy Council and RenewEconomy.**

Held online on Wednesday 6 May 2020. The event was a huge success attracting over 3,500 delegates from across Australia. Following the successful Ministerial Session at the Stimulus Summit, the Smart Energy Council has written to all State and Federal Energy Ministers, inviting them to participate in an online Energy Ministers' Summit from 12.00pm-2.00pm AEST on 5 August 2020. The recordings of all the stimulus summit presentations with links to slides can be found here:

<https://www.smartenergy.org.au/stimulus-summit-renewablesled-economic-recovery>

## **Transition Delayed – Renew Webinar**

Andrew Reddaway is an Energy Analyst at Renew. In this webinar Andrew explored the obstacles preventing Australia's main electricity grid from quickly transitioning to renewable energy (as discussed in his discussion paper on the same subject – link below).

He briefly reviewed the latest work from the Australian Energy Market Operator, confirming that the cheapest option to replace ageing coal-fired power stations is wind and solar backed up by energy storage and transmission. Key projects such as Snowy Hydro 2.0 were discussed. He then examined the main obstacle to transition, which is an outdated electricity market, and explored potential ways to overcome it.

Webinar Recording - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSw-gcf8RJg>

[Transition Delayed Discussion Paper](#)

## **New solar farm offers bite-size chunks for small business on road to energy democracy**

The completion of the 9.4MW Robinvale solar farm in the last week of May marked a milestone not just for the project's developer Suntech, but also for a company called WePower and its plans to open up Australia's renewable energy procurement market to a potentially huge market of small businesses.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/small-solar-farm-marks-big-win-for-small-business-ppas/>

## **Ausgrid seeks thousands of homes to take part in expanded virtual power plant**

Ausgrid is expanding a virtual power plant trial in NSW, recruiting thousands of homes to make better use of combined solar storage.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/ausgrid-launches-phase-two-of-nsw-vpp-trial-casts-net-to-thousands-of-participants/>

## **Net zero energy buildings: How to design whole communities that give as much as they take**

Technology and design is rapidly shifting buildings towards net zero emissions – US based article but principles and thinking are relevant.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/net-zero-energy-buildings-how-to-design-whole-communities-that-give-as-much-as-they-take/>

## **Queensland fast-tracks school solar roll-out in bid to beat Covid blues**

Queensland is using the opportunity of Covid-19 to accelerate its solar on schools program.

The state will install 26MW of solar on schools.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/queensland-fast-tracks-state-school-solar-roll-out-to-boost-post-covid-recovery/>

## **Victoria opens \$1 million in new govt grants for community energy**

The Victorian Government has announced \$1 million in funding for community energy projects.

The funding is available for projects in regional Victoria.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victorian-government-opens-1-million-in-new-grants-for-community-energy/>

## **Australia's muddled energy policy and the roadmap to nowhere**

Australia now has an energy technology roadmap.

The Guardian podcast asks where it is supposed to be taking us.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/audio/2020/may/25/australias-muddled-energy-policy-and-the-roadmap-to-nowhere>

## **NSW has approved Snowy 2.0. Here are six reasons why that's a bad move**

NSW has approved the further development of Snowy 2.0.

But is it what is needed for Australia's energy system?

<https://theconversation.com/nsw-has-approved-snowy-2-0-here-are-six-reasons-why-thats-a-bad-move-139112>

## **Solar farm developments could be of benefit for the Loddon Mallee according to state government report**

Victoria's Loddon Mallee region could produce 5 times more energy than it currently consumes.

That's according to a new renewable energy roadmap released by the state government.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/6764891/loddon-mallee-identified-as-potential-powerhouse-for-renewable-energy/>

## **Massive 1000MW “baseload” wind, solar and hydrogen plant pitched for NSW**

A massive 1000MW wind, solar and hydrogen plant has been proposed for NSW.

Project Neo would produce hydrogen from renewables to provide overnight energy supply.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/massive-1000mw-baseload-wind-solar-and-hydrogen-plant-pitched-for-nsw-16049/>

## **Daily global CO2 emissions ‘cut to 2006 levels’ during height of coronavirus crisis**

CO2 emissions fell by 17% during the height of the coronavirus crisis, in early April.

A new study found daily emissions temporarily fell to 2006 levels.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/daily-global-co2-emissions-cut-to-2006-levels-during-height-of-coronavirus-crisis>

## **Is the Coalition's gas nirvana just an attempt to have its fossil fuel cake and eat it too?**

The Federal Government has released its technology roadmap to reduce emissions.

But what sort of future is it locking Australia into?

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/may/20/is-the-coalitions-gas-nirvana-just-an-attempt-to-have-its-fossil-fuel-cake-and-eat-it-too>

## **The City of Darwin introduces smart lighting**

Darwin City Council has embarked on an ambitious streetlight changeover, moving to a smart lighting system to save energy.

<https://www.energydigital.com/sustainability/city-darwin-introduces-smart-lighting>

## **Energy retrofits in community housing are tough, but there is a way**

Doing energy efficiency retrofits in community housing is challenging.

Could blended finance be a way forward?

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/innovation/residential-2/energy-retrofits-in-community-housing-are-tough-but-there-is-a-way/>

## **Four Corners - ABC**

If you want to know how it all went wrong for Australian climate policy at the federal level, the most recent Four Corners tells all.

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/four-corners>

## **Climate Assembly UK concludes in world transformed by coronavirus**

In the UK, the country's first citizens' assembly on climate change has wrapped up.

The last part of the assembly was done online.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/16/climate-assembly-uk-concludes-in-world-transformed-by-coronavirus>

## **Australia's climate future to evolve as economy is rebuilt**

There's a battle looming between those calling for a 'green' recovery from Covid-19 and those who want to continue with fossil fuels.

Will opportunities be missed?

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-climate-future-to-evolve-as-economy-is-rebuilt-20200517-p54tps.html>

## **Yes, carbon emissions fell during COVID-19. But it's the shift away from coal that really matters**

Like other countries, Australia has seen a drop in emissions due to Covid-19.

And renewables are locking in those reductions.

<https://theconversation.com/yes-carbon-emissions-fell-during-covid-19-but-its-the-shift-away-from-coal-that-really-matters-138611>

## **Building all-electric homes – and why ditching gas isn't as easy as it should be**

Building all-electric homes would help reduce emissions by tying them to renewables.

But regulations favour gas and make it harder than it needs to be.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/building-all-electric-homes-why-ditching-gas-isnt-as-easy-as-it-should-be/>

## **Victoria calls on feds to “put aside ideology” and pave way for offshore wind**

Victoria is calling for greater Federal Government support for offshore wind in the form of a legislative framework.

It would help projects, like the massive Star of the South, to proceed.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-calls-on-feds-to-put-aside-ideology-and-pave-way-for-offshore-wind-91010/>

## **Electric incentives could cut need for more gas drilling, report finds**

New research shows Victoria can reduce gas consumption by more than half in a decade, cutting climate pollution and rendering unnecessary new gas projects like AGL's proposed gas import terminal.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/electric-incentives-could-cut-need-for-more-gas-drilling-report-finds-20200602-p54ysy.html>

## **On how the all-electric, net zero horse has already bolted**

Last week, the Morrison government unleashed its technology roadmap on Australia, starring natural gas in a leading role.

<https://www.thefifteenthstate.com.au/columns/news-from-the-front-desk/on-how-the-all-electric-net-zero-horse-has-already-bolted/>

## **RESET: RESTORING AUSTRALIA AFTER THE GREAT CRASH OF 2020**

Professor Ross Garnaut's 'RESET' lectures describe the pandemic and its economic impact; the challenges that Australia, developed democracies and the international community carried into the pandemic; and lays out alternative paths forward for Australia in the challenging post-pandemic world. Lecture one outlines the progress and impact of the pandemic. You can register for the whole series of 6 Wednesday lectures [here](#). Lecture 3 - Restoring Prosperity, is scheduled for 3/5/2020 at 5pm.

Lecture 1 - The Great Crash - Recording -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYfFlUldKVA&feature=youtu.be>

Lecture 2 - Dog Days. Why going back to 2019 won't work -

Recording - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQoISPVSvro&feature=youtu.be)

[v=ZQoISPVSvro&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQoISPVSvro&feature=youtu.be)

## **Microgrid Knowledge Online Conference**

The Microgrid Virtual Conference (June 1-3, 2020) was built from the ground up to be an engaging, interactive event tailored to the needs of our diverse global audience. The editorial team behind Microgrid Knowledge will host more than 15 different virtual sessions over three days full of cutting-edge case studies, market insights, and leadership perspectives. This virtual event is free for anyone interested in the future of the energy industry and the



companies and decision makers leading the way. The sessions will be recorded in case the US timezone doesn't suit. Register at the following link:

<https://microgridknowledge.acemlnb.com/lt.php?s=1bd09f9af81b911439b7fd063a283cf1&i=55A68A4A548>

## **CEC publishes first ever national study of renewable energy workforce**

The continuing dominance of the small-scale solar sector and the great potential for regional and rural jobs are just some of the findings in the Clean Energy Council's "Clean Energy At Work", a first-of-its-kind extensive report into the current renewable energy workforce and its potential over the next 10-15 years.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/06/02/cec-publishes-first-ever-national-study-of-renewable-energy-workforce/>

## **Solcast is offering a free rooftop solar PV performance checker**

Ever stood outside looking up at your rooftop solar PV system and wondered: "Are those panels giving me their best?" Well, Solcast has a free solar PV performance checking tool that can give you a solid estimate of your PV system's performance. After all, if something is amiss, you don't want to wait until you receive an engorged electricity bill to find out.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/06/03/solcast-is-offering-a-free-rooftop-solar-pv-performance-checker/>

## **Australia tops up solar funding to Tonga**

An additional \$2.9 million from the Australian Government's Outer Islands Renewable Energy Project (OIREP) is making its way across the sea to the kingdom of Tonga in the form of solar power plants and energy storage. The project is helping Tonga to achieve its target of generating 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and 70% by 2030.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/06/02/australia-tops-up-solar-funding-to-tonga/>

## **Okra Solar's new tech is a one-two punch against energy poverty**

Okra Solar, the Aussie startup we last saw delivering solar mini-grids to remote communities via a shared ping-pong table, is emerging from Covid-19 lockdown with new investors and two new pieces of tech that will better enable solar energy access to the 900 million people around the world still lacking power.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/06/02/okra-solars-new-tech-is-a-one-two-punch-against-energy-poverty/>

## **New rules pave the way for off-grid renewables to replace poles and wires**

In a major reform of the energy rules, distribution businesses across Australia will be allowed to service remote areas with stand-alone power systems and avoid costly network upgrades.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/05/29/new-rules-pave-the-way-for-off-grid-renewables-to-replace-poles-and-wires/>

## **Solar panel recycling: Turning ticking time bombs into opportunities**

Australia has certainly demonstrated its appetite for solar power. Now, with the average lifespan of a solar panel being approximately 20 years, many installations from the early 2000's are set to reach end-of-life. Will they end up in landfill or be recycled?

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/05/27/solar-panel-recycling-turning-ticking-time-bombs-into-opportunities/>

## **Community Scale Batteries Webinar**

Community-scale batteries are those located in front of the meter on the distribution network, whether owned by community energy groups, networks, retailers or other parties. They are larger than household but smaller than grid-scale batteries. Representatives from the Energy Security Board, the Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program (ANU), Ausgrid and the Total Environment Centre discussed their views on this topic. Recording is at the following link:

<https://www.bigmarker.com/esb1/Community-scale-batteries-webinar>

## **Energy Conversations: Developments in community-based battery storage**

Dr Marnie Shaw and Dr Hedda Ransan-Cooper from ANU joined with panellists who work in different aspects of battery storage to explore the exciting developments in community-based battery storage that are occurring in the ACT and beyond. Video Recording here:

<https://energy.anu.edu.au/news-events/energy-conversations-developments-community-based-battery-storage>