

Recent News

Strategic

Cloud hangs over Yallourn as owners power on with 'decarbonising'

Yallourn power station's future is increasingly uncertain, as its owners report a profits slump.

The plant may close before its designated date of 2032.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/cloud-hangs-over-yallourn-as-owners-power-on-with-decarbonising-20200225-p5449z.html>

Study casts doubt on carbon capture

Current approaches to carbon capture can increase air pollution and are not efficient at reducing carbon in the atmosphere, according to new research (notified from Science Daily).

<https://news.stanford.edu/2019/10/25/study-casts-doubt-carbon-capture/>

Australia told to prepare for 'completely new' two-sided energy market

Australia's energy rule maker says the market needs to change to give more power to consumers.

The AEMC says the energy market will become increasingly two directional.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/14/australia-told-to-prepare-for-completely-new-two-sided-energy-market>

Renewables growth will need to double to meet 2°C climate goal

Global renewables growth will need to double to help deliver a 2 degree temperature increase.

A new report says the industry will need \$10 trillion investment by 2040.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/renewables-growth-will-need-to-double-to-meet-2c-climate-goal-19118/>

Federal Government hands \$1 billion to Clean Energy Finance Corporation to boost power grid reliability

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation has received \$1 billion extra in funding.

The funds will be for improving grid stability.

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-30/clean-energy-finance-corporation-gets-\\$1b-government-funding/11653944](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-30/clean-energy-finance-corporation-gets-$1b-government-funding/11653944)

Distributed solar to lead global renewables surge, as costs fall another third

A new IEA report expects a 50% jump in renewables investment in the next 5 years.

Much of it will come from distributed rooftop solar.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/distributed-solar-to-lead-global-renewables-surge-as-costs-fall-another-third-42203/>

South Korea's capital leading the way on rooftop solar

Seoul, South Korea's largest city, is shifting to green energy in a big way following a big public campaign pressuring the government to do so.

<https://planetark.org/news/display/4866>

Tesla Big Battery Expansion To Bring Bigger Benefits

The world's largest operating lithium-ion battery system, Hornsdale Power Reserve in South Australia, is to expand its capacity by 50%.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/tesla-hornsdale-expansion-mb1298/>

Why network operators will take thousands of customers off the grid

Increasingly, network operators will be removing remote customers from the grid.

To see what that looks like, WA gives us a clue.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/why-network-operators-will-take-thousands-of-customers-off-the-grid-70149/>

Victoria bill to lock in 50% renewable target passes through upper house

The Victorian Government bill to boost the state's renewable energy target to 50% by 2030 has passed the upper house.

The bill passed by 25 votes to 14.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-bill-to-lock-in-50-renewable-target-passes-through-upper-house-36300/>

Renewables

Australia's main grid reaches 50 per cent renewables for first time

Renewable energy provided more than 50% of power going to the grid on Wednesday November 6. It's the first time renewables have broken through the 50% barrier.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australias-main-grid-reaches-50-per-cent-renewables-for-first-time-17935/>

India cancels plans for huge coal power stations as solar energy prices hit record low

India has cancelled nearly 14 GW of planned coal fired power.

It comes as the price of solar hits new lows.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/india-solar-power-electricity-cancels-coal-fired-power-stations-record-low-a7751916.html>

Events/Seminars

Reports/Articles

Green/Circular Economy

Brisbane to get 60 all-electric mass transit vehicles for metro fleet

The vehicles are expected to join the fleet in 2023

<https://thedriven.io/2019/11/25/brisbane-to-get-60-all-electric-mass-transit-vehicles-for-metro-fleet/>

Community Power/Solar Farms

Victoria's renewable energy auction to deliver net benefit of \$285 million

An Auditor-General report has found that the Victorian reverse auction for new renewable energy has delivered \$285 million worth of benefits to the state

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victorias-renewable-energy-auction-to-deliver-net-benefit-of-285-million-14706/>

Power to the people: how suburban solar could become the Uber of the energy grid

The next major disruption to the energy market could come from households.

Virtual power plants hold the key to providing grid stability and lower emissions energy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/16/power-to-the-people-how-suburban-solar-could-become-the-uber-of-the-energy-grid>

City of Sydney to go totally renewable by 2020. And Coal city Newcastle signs 10-year deal for 100 per cent renewable supply

The City of Sydney will be powered by 100% renewables from next July.

The City of Newcastle has joined it in a similar 10 year deal.

<https://www.governmentnews.com.au/city-of-sydney-to-go-totally-renewable-by-2020/>

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/coal-city-newcastle-signs-10-year-deal-for-100-per-cent-renewable-supply/>

Domestic/Apartments

City of Moreland calls on community to install more solar, drive electric

The City of Moreland is aiming to double the amount of solar on households by 2040.

It's part of council's new net zero carbon plan.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/city-of-moreland-calls-on-community-to-install-more-solar-drive-electric/>

Calls for changes that could save renters up to \$1400 a year

Renters could save big on their energy bills if COAG ministers agree to increase energy efficiency standards, at their meeting in Perth.

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/money/costs/calls-for-changes-that-could-save-renters-up-to-1400-a-year/news-story/8b804e4aae407f888e3ef54bfe658868>

Thousands more Victoria solar rebates snapped up, battery uptake still flat

Demand for the Victorian government's solar rebate may be slowing. Unlike previous rounds, the latest version didn't sell out right away.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/thousands-more-victoria-solar-rebates-snapped-up-battery-uptake-still-flat/>

Batteries

DNVGL 2019 Battery Performance Scorecard: Cheaper, Better, Maybe Safer

Energy storage - DNV-GL have tested 16 different battery cells from various manufacturers and published the results in their 2019 Scorecard

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/dnvgl-2019-battery-scorecard/>

Victoria extends solar battery rebate offer to another 80 postcodes

Victoria has extended its rebate for batteries combined with solar, to another 80 postcodes.

It follows low initial uptake of batteries.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victoria-extends-solar-battery-rebate-to-another-80-postcodes/>

Home battery scheme off to sluggish start in SA, despite \$6,000 subsidy

South Australia's ambitious home battery subsidy isn't hitting its targets for uptake.

What's stopping potential customers?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-31/slow-start-for-sa-home-battery-subsidy-scheme/11654962>

Commercial

Utility Scale

Tesla Big Battery Expansion To Bring Bigger Benefits

The world's largest operating lithium-ion battery system, Hornsdale Power Reserve in South Australia, is to expand its capacity by 50%.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/tesla-hornsdale-expansion-mb1298/>

City of Melbourne leads second "bulk-buy" renewables auction

A consortium of universities and businesses has released a tender to procure renewable energy.

The group, led by the City of Melbourne, is seeking 113 GWh of renewable power.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/city-of-melbourne-leads-second-bulk-buy-renewables-auction-64091/>

Alinta Energy considers early closure of Victoria's Loy Yang B coal-fired power station

Victoria's Loy Yang B coal-fired power station could be closing sooner than expected.

Currently due to close in 2048, owner Alinta says it may not be economically viable before then.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-19/alinta-energy-considers-early-coal-exit/11715566>

Sustainability/Energy Efficiency

Climate change has emerged as a major source of public concern, according to a new national survey.

The most recent Scanlon Survey now shows climate change in clear second place, only behind the economy as a matter of concern.

<https://theconversation.com/the-most-important-issue-facing-australia-new-survey-sees-huge-spike-in-concern-over-climate-change-127688>

Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings (Friday, 22nd November 2019.)

COAG energy ministers have set ambitious energy reduction trajectories for housing.

The plans build on an agreement in February to significantly reduce household emissions.

<http://coagenergycouncil.gov.au/publications/trajectory-low-energy-buildings>

Mirvac to tackle net zero homes at scale in Melbourne

Property developer, Mirvac, is trialling a large scale build of net zero homes in Altona North.

The all-electric homes will include solar and battery storage.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/innovation/building-construction/mirvac-to-tackle-net-zero-homes-at-scale-in-melbourne/>

