

## **Recent News**

### **Professor Ross Garnaut AC RESET Webinar Series - RESTORING AUSTRALIA AFTER THE GREAT CRASH OF 2020**

Ross Garnaut's 6 'RESET' lectures described the pandemic and its economic impact; the challenges that Australia, developed democracies and the international community carried into the pandemic; and laid out alternative paths forward for Australia in the challenging post-pandemic world. The lectures explored the economic policy choices that can allow us to manage down extraordinarily high deficits and debt; and restore productivity growth, full employment and broadly based increases in living standards. Garnaut discussed how commitment to accelerated transition to a zero emissions economy can support the restoration of Australian prosperity. You can view any or all of the lecture recordings at the following link:

<https://fbe.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/events/public-lectures/ross-garnaut-reset-lecture-series>

### **Beyond Zero Emission's Million Jobs Plan**

Beyond Zero Emission's Million Jobs Plan launched on 29/6/2020, showing how accelerating the transition to renewables will create new employment.

<https://bze.org.au/the-million-jobs-plan/>

### **Major energy companies call on Coalition to set target of net zero emissions by 2050**

Australia's major energy companies have called on the Federal Government to set a goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/25/major-energy-companies-call-on-coalition-to-set-target-of-net-zero-emissions-by-2050>

## **Rooftop solar data shows drop in unsafe systems, even as market booms**

New data shows a big drop in the number of unsafe solar units being installed on households.

The Clean Energy Regulator found that unsafe units have more than halved in recent years.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/rooftop-solar-data-shows-decrease-in-unsafe-systems-despite-booming-market/>

## **Super giant HESTA divests coal, commits to 'net zero' investments by 2050**

The \$52 billion super fund for healthcare workers has divested holdings in thermal coal companies under a new climate policy that commits to 'net zero' emissions across the entire portfolio by 2050.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/banking-and-finance/super-giant-hesta-divests-coal-commits-to-net-zero-investments-by-2050-20200625-p5562o.html>

## **Up to 11,000 renewable energy jobs could be lost under Morrison government policies**

A new study shows that renewables jobs will fall by 11,000 in the next two years if current Federal Government policies are maintained.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/25/up-to-11000-renewable-energy-jobs-could-be-lost-under-morrison-government-policies>

## **The surprising way renewables can help farmers cope**

The grass is greener under the solar panel. How panel condensation has helped some farmers in drought-stricken NSW.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/the-surprising-way-renewables-can-help-farmers-cope-20200623-p555ba.html>

## **NSW first renewable zone attracts stunning 27GW of solar, wind, storage proposals**

NSW's renewables zone carve out of the national energy market, looks to be an early success.

It's attracted up to 27GW of potential investment.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-first-renewable-zone-attracts-stunning-27gw-of-solar-wind-storage-proposals-82163/>

## **Australia has failed miserably on energy efficiency - and government figures hide the truth**

Australia's 2015 national energy productivity plan aims for a 40% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

So far, it's just 1.1%.

<https://theconversation.com/australia-has-failed-miserably-on-energy-efficiency-and-government-figures-hide-the-truth-123176>

## **Energy Efficiency and Australia's Economic Recovery**

On Wednesday 1 July 2020 ACOSS, Ai Group, the Energy Efficiency Council and the Property Council of Australia held a National Summit on energy efficiency and Australia's economic recovery. You can view the three part recording of the Summit here:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiEzC40kXieTz\\_TKDikWOA3PDLBQuiDs](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiEzC40kXieTz_TKDikWOA3PDLBQuiDs)

## **Marinus Link could send clean energy across Bass Strait, but the case for it is uncertain**

The Marinus Link between Tasmania and the rest of Australia could provide a massive boost for renewable energy in the grid.

So, what's holding it back?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/19/marinus-link-could-send-clean-energy-across-bass-strait-but-its-future-is-uncertain>

## **Consumers want it, networks need it: Verdict in on world-first blockchain solar trading trial**

A WA pilot has found peer-to-peer energy trading popular with consumers and technically feasible.

But it needs better tariffs to make it work, financially.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/consumers-want-it-grid-needs-it-verdict-in-on-world-first-blockchain-solar-trading-trial/>

## **Why Morrison's \$25,000 renovation grant needs to target energy efficiency**

Australian homes are generally built to poor energy efficiency standards.

The Federal Government's renovation grants need to change this.

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/rendezview/why-morrison-25000-renovation-grant-needs-to-target-energy-efficiency/news-story/40653f7486d93376c0f3fdce60a21574>

## **International Energy Agency chief warns of need to prevent post-lockdown surge in emissions**

The International Energy Agency has set out a plan for a green rebound from coronavirus, warning that the next six months are crucial to determining future emissions trajectories.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/world-has-six-months-to-avert-climate-crisis-says-energy-expert>

## **Sustainability Matters 2020 - Circular Economy Webinar**

City of Darebin hosted this webinar all about efforts by different local groups to encourage and realise the Sustainable Circular Economy.

Recording available here. You may have to register to view it:

[https://www.bigmarker.com/darebin-city-council1/Sustainability-Matters-Event-3-Circular-Economy?utm\\_bmc\\_source=SBwebsite](https://www.bigmarker.com/darebin-city-council1/Sustainability-Matters-Event-3-Circular-Economy?utm_bmc_source=SBwebsite)

## **Queensland adds \$23m renewables training centre to Covid-19 stimulus**

Queensland is taking steps along a green economic recovery path with \$23 million for a renewables training centre. The Brisbane facility will focus on apprentice skills.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/queensland-adds-23m-renewables-training-centre-to-covid-19-stimulus-61928/>

## **Europe's €540 billion recovery package is aimed at realising the Green Deal and a just transition**

As Australian governments consider how to recover from Covid-19, they might do well to look to Europe, which is taking a green new deal approach.

<https://www.thefifteenthstate.com.au/business/government/europes-e540-billion-recovery-package-is-aimed-at-realising-the-green-deal-and-a-just-transition/>

## **Nillumbik's Solar Farm Development and Power Purchase Agreement Tender**

The Shire of Nillumbik's planned solar farm has taken another step towards reality with the release of a tender for the work.

<http://syd1-0061dsb.server-web.com/eTendering/ViewTender.aspx?tenderId=T8Q2EISTwPSrw1pAdGBrzQ%3d%3d>

## **"Australian first" network to deliver renewable electricity and hot water from organic waste**

A project in south-west Victoria is set to produce renewable energy from organic waste. The scheme will save 6,300 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australian-first-network-to-deliver-renewable-electricity-and-hot-water-from-organic-waste/>

## **AEMC approves landmark demand response mechanism, rejects calls for delay**

The Australian energy rule maker has approved a change that will allow large energy users to trade unused energy back in the market, encouraging greater energy efficiency.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/aemc-approves-landmark-demand-response-mechanism-rejects-calls-for-delay-56214/>

## **A Just Climate Transition for Rural Australia**

The University of NSW has been awarded a grant to study how to create a just climate transition in rural Victoria.

<https://climatejustice.co/news/arc-grant-a-just-climate-transition/>

## **UK coal collapse – visualised**

The UK has now gone two months without any energy produced from coal.

Partly it's coronavirus but partly it's renewables. Some very nice animated graphs.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/uk-coal-collapse-visualised-71743/>

## **Ikea now selling home solar and storage in Australia, flags plan for Adelaide microgrid**

IKEA has officially launched its solar and battery package in Australia.

The good news is you don't need an Allen key to get it installed.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/ikea-now-selling-home-solar-and-storage-in-australia-flags-plan-for-adelaide-microgrid/>

## **Why community-owned renewables should lead Australia's Covid-19 recovery plans**

A soon to be released report says community energy projects should be at the heart of economic recovery in regional Australia. The plan will be presented to the Federal Government next month.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/why-community-owned-renewables-should-lead-australias-covid-19-recovery-plans/>

## **Green stimulus could unlock 100,000+ new Australian jobs, if Morrison would embrace it**

A green stimulus plan could deliver more than 100,000 new jobs in Australia, through investments in wind, solar, batteries and buses, according to a proposal prepared by EY and outlined by WWF Australia.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/green-stimulus-could-unlock-100000-new-australian-jobs-if-morrison-would-embrace-it-40567/>

## **ACT electricity prices to drop after reaching 100% renewable target**

ACT residents are about to enjoy a drop in electricity prices. It comes after the territory has achieved 100% renewable power generation.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/act-electricity-prices-to-drop-after-reaching-100-renewable-target-38023/>

## **Microgrid feasibility funding awarded to 17 projects in first round of federal scheme**

17 projects have won Federal funding for feasibility studies into microgrids.

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance was among the winners.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/microgrid-feasibility-funding-awarded-to-17-projects-in-first-round-of-federal-scheme-94395/>

## **Homebuilder misses a chance to make Australian homes perform better for us and the planet**

The Federal Government's Homebuilder program has missed a chance to improve the energy efficiency of homes and boost renewables uptake.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jun/08/homebuilder-government-recnovation-grants-australian-homes-energy-efficiency>

## **Shared community battery may be trialled in solar-powered Canberra suburb to stabilise energy supply**

The ACT Government is considering trialling medium-sized batteries for up to 500 households.

The move would support solar and stabilise the grid.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-05/community-battery-may-be-built-in-new-canberra-suburb/12266938>

## **Victoria delays on energy efficiency targets, changes to lighting scheme**

Energy efficiency advocates say they're disappointed by the Victorian government's delay to setting new targets for the Victorian Energy Upgrade scheme.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victoria-delays-on-energy-efficiency-targets-changes-to-lighting-scheme/>

## **Rooftop solar market powers on in Australia, despite Covid-19 blip**

Demand for rooftop solar remains strong despite a slight downturn in May.

Figures show little major impact yet of Covid-19.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/rooftop-solar-market-powers-on-in-australia-despite-covid-19-blip-55984/>



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

Onshore gas drilling in Victoria isn't needed, according to a new report.

Instead, the government should be encouraging a switch all-electric houses.

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

## **Energy firms urged to mothball coal plants as cost of solar tumbles**

A new global renewables report is encouraging energy firms to mothball coal plants and switch to solar, as prices continue to drop.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jun/02/energy-firms-urged-to-mothball-coal-plants-as-cost-of-solar-tumbles>

## **Renewables jobs could boom to 44,000 by 2025, but only with the right policy support**

A new Clean Energy Council report says renewables could provide up to 44,000 jobs by 2025.

But only with the right policy support.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/renewables-jobs-could-boom-to-44000-by-2025-but-only-with-the-right-policy-support-94756/>

## **Net-zero emission buildings: council releases bold post-COVID development plan**

The City of Yarra has been re-drafting its climate emergency plan during the coronavirus crisis.

There's a stronger emphasis on recovering and greener buildings.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/net-zero-buildings-yarra-council-releases-bold-post-covid-development-plan-20200528-p54xbf.html>

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

On one level, Robinvale solar farm is a relatively small large-scale installation.

But it has big implications for small business PPAs.

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

## **BP to write down oil, gas assets, expects faster 'transition to lower carbon economy'**

Fossil fuel major BP will make the biggest write down on the value of its business in a decade ago, as the coronavirus pandemic hurts long-term oil demand and accelerates the shift to cleaner energy.

<http://econews.com.au/64615/bp-to-write-down-oil-gas-assets-expects-faster-transition-to-lower-carbon-economy/>

## **IEA: Renewable generation rose during pandemic onset, coal declined**

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released new data that shows coal-fired power generation has suffered the most in COVID-19's effect on energy use, while renewable energy use continued to surge.

<http://econews.com.au/64624/iea-renewable-generation-rose-during-pandemic-onset-coal-declined/>

## **California Should Go All-Electric in New Construction—State's Largest Utility Agrees**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), California's largest combined gas and electric utility, became the first dual-fuel utility in the country to formally support ending new gas hookups in buildings.

<https://rmi.org/california-should-go-all-electric-in-new-construction-states-largest-utility-agrees/>