



'Helping build a renewable energy community'

DRREA NEWS OCT 2017

Big savings!

On September Renew Economy reported that the City of Mandurah expects to save around \$73,000 a year on power costs with the installation of a 200kW solar system at its sports and aquatic centre.

Sunshine Coast Council

In August Sunshine Coast Council took a bold new step for local government when it opened its 15 MW Valdora Solar Farm. I think it is the first local government to build and own its own solar farm.

Its significance is that it will supply the equivalent of all the Councils electricity needs, lock in costs and deliver significant savings of \$22 million over the 30 year life of the plant.

Tony Abbot should perhaps pay close attention to stories like this. Maybe there is also a message here for Yarra Ranges Council.

Emerald Library Solar Upgrade

Emerald Library has had a solar upgrade. It had a 2 kilowatt system. It was installed 2008 as a joint project between Cardinia Council and DRREA. Below is a brief description of the new system from the Council's Sustainability Officer Brett Munckton who is a strong supporter of solar.

Cardinia Shire Council has installed a 22.8 kW solar electricity system on the Emerald Library. The system comprises of 76, 300 watt high efficiency solar panels.

A display screen is also being installed in the library foyer that will demonstrate the energy being produced from the solar system and the benefits it is providing.

The system will produce approximately 30,000 kWh of electricity per annum. This will reduce emissions by approximately 33 tonnes of CO₂e per annum, the same annual emissions as produced by 8 average cars per annum.

The system will also lead to energy cost savings. The system includes the 1000th solar panel installed on a Cardinia Shire Council owned building. The system has been modelled to save approximately **\$5,000 per annum** in energy costs.

Library Production figures

Courtesy of Remote Monitoring the first production figures from the Libraries Solar System were sent to DRREA by Cardinia Sustainability Officer Brett Munckton. They showed that

on Tuesday October 3, a fine spring day that the “solar system provided 54% of the libraries electricity, a percentage that will grow as we head into summer” .

Solar 101

South Australian solar company Solar Quotes has a very good solar guide on its website called 'Solar 101'. Their website is www.solarquotes.com.au

Top 10 solar postcodes

In September 'One step off the grid' revealed Australia's Top 10 Solar Postcodes. Three (3) were from Victoria. They were Werribee (no 2), nearby Hoppers Crossing (no 3) and Cranbourne (no 6).

This was a measurement of small scale solar of 1-100 kilowatts. It was the first time any Victorian postcodes appeared in the Top 10. The data came from the Office of the Clean Energy Regulator.

Solar Record

On October 6 Renew Economy reported that “Australian households and businesses added another 97MW of rooftop solar in 2017, setting a record for the first nine months of the year of 780MW and putting it on track to break through the 1,000MW, or 1 gigawatt, mark for the first time in 2017”.

“Queensland still leads the way, according to data from industry statistician SunWiz, adding another 27MW in the month to take its total to 1.85GW, followed by NSW (now at 1,3GW) and Victoria (1.14GW)”.

Zinc bromine battery sale

Brisbane based battery company Redflow that make zinc bromine Flow Battery's have achieved a second major sale in the Pacific region. Redflow claim their battery's outperform and outlast lead acid batteries in these tropical locations. This news courtesy of Renew Economy on September 18.

Big solar system at Brisbane airport

As previously reported Adelaide and Alice Springs Airports already have big solar systems. Also, Brisbane Airport is currently getting a solar upgrade. The current upgrade includes a 260kW array at the airport's Skygate building, and a 220kW array at the Immigration and Border Protection building. The 6 stage upgrade when finished will total 6 MW. Source from Renew Economy.

Wind and solar together

On October 5 Giles Parkinson of Renew Economy reported that “The Gullen Range solar farm – the first in Australia to be co-located with a wind farm – has begun generation into the grid.

“The 10MW solar farm is adjacent to the [165MW Gullen Range wind farm](#). Gullen Range is one of a number of co-located wind and solar projects that are being built in order to share infrastructure such as roads, power lines and telecommunications, and so lower costs, and also because of the way their output can complement the other”.

"Goldwind is also building [the 20MW White Rock solar farm near Glen Innes in northern NSW](#), next to the White Rock [wind farm](#), while Windlab is also planning to build a [60MW project comprising both wind and solar](#) – and battery storage – at the Kennedy project in north Queensland'.

Australia's biggest wind farm proposed for Vic!

Below are excerpts from a recent Renew Economy article. This wind farm will have 231 turbines. At present, Victoria has policies which encourage large scale renewable energy projects including the Victorian Renewable Energy Target or VRET which the coalition has said it will repeal if it wins the 2018 state election.

"Plans to build what would be Australia's largest wind farm, an 800MW project proposed for Victoria's Golden Plains Shire by German-backed outfit WestWind Energy, have been submitted for planning approval by the state government".

["As well as offering the 39 host landowners a collective "drought proof" income of \\$3.5 million a year](#), the company has set up a community benefit fund, a community investment program a power offset and energy audit scheme and a financial incentive program for neighbouring landowners".

"For each of the host landowners, the financial incentive is calculated based on the number of turbines within 2km of eligible dwellings: \$1000 for each of the first three turbines, and \$750 for each additional turbine that is constructed within 2km of their dwelling".

"The annual payment – which will be adjusted for CPI, and will continue while the wind farm is operational – will begin when construction of the foundation of the turbines within 2km of their dwelling is complete".

Legal action on Climate Change

Many thanks to Monique Decortis for this contribution. Is this the first of other similar examples to follow?

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 20, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera and Oakland City Attorney Barbara J. Parker announced today that they had filed separate lawsuits on behalf of their respective cities against the five largest investor-owned producers of fossil fuels in the world.

The lawsuits ask the courts to hold these companies responsible for the costs of sea walls and other infrastructure necessary to protect San Francisco and Oakland from ongoing and future consequences of climate change and sea level rise caused by the companies' production of massive amounts of fossil fuels.

The defendant companies - Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil, BP and Royal Dutch Shell - have known for decades that fossil fuel-driven global warming and accelerated sea level rise posed a catastrophic risk to human beings and to public and private property, especially in coastal cities like San Francisco and Oakland, who have the largest shoreline investments on San Francisco Bay.

Despite that knowledge, the defendant companies continued to aggressively produce, market and sell vast quantities of fossil fuels for a global market, while at the same time

engaging in an organized campaign to deceive consumers about the dangers of massive fossil fuel production.

Farmers for Climate Action

F4CA recently had a full page open letter in the rural newspaper 'The Land' signed by hundred's of farmers and graziers. The letter was a protest aimed at the recent motion passed by the National Party (at their annual conference) trying to limit the building of solar and wind farms in regional Australia.

This motion (if successful) they said will mean “fewer jobs, less investment, no secondary income stream for farmers to rely on in hard times, and cutting us off from accessing an energy source that’s clean and cheap and we control!”.

F4CA went on to ask who is the National Party really representing? This was in the context of “at their annual conference on the weekend, the National voted, in effect, for a coal energy target”.