



January 'Big Picture' News

Have you heard?

AEMO boss Audrey Zibelman says energy transition is as unstoppable as the internet, because economics and technology have changed. Some baseload may be needed in the future, but it doesn't need to be coal. Source Renew Economy, December 11.

EV's cross the Nullabor

Pictured below is one of 2 Tesla's from the Tesla owners club of WA that recently crossed the Nullabor and back disproving EV range myths. This story (see link below) came from Renew Economy. At the time the largest charging gap was 225 kilometres.

http://reneweconomy.com.au/driving-electric-vehicle-across-nullabor-now-routine-58197/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a1fb98b20d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-a1fb98b20d-4031



Indigenous renewable energy

Most of you know of Carnegie Wave Power. Recently they have diversified into a solar farm and have partnered with 2 local indigenous businesses. The short excerpt below from Renew Economy on November 27 tells more.

“Carnegie Clean Energy is set to begin building its 10MW Northam Solar Farm, after the selection of the Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and Perth Noongar Foundation (PNF as co-equity investors in the merchant solar project”.

“The ASX listed Carnegie said on Tuesday that IBA and PNF had signed a binding term-sheet for a collective 50 per cent ownership of the “battery ready” solar farm, after they were selected from a competitive investment process”.

No to Lord Howe

On November 27 Renew Economy reported on a plan to make Lord Howe Island renewable/ The plan seemed assured of success after extensive community consultation and the securing of funding from ARENA

“ With savings of nearly 70% in both diesel and money, the Hybrid Energy System with two mid-size wind turbines, a solar array and a battery for storage was deemed the best option”.

However out of the blue the idea was killed off and funding was withdrawn by Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg with minimal explanation. It seems continuing to ship in expensive diesel fuel has got the ministers vote.

Did you know?

Nissan (<http://www.nissan.com.au/Discover/Intelligent-Mobility>) is the world's leading supplier of electric vehicles (EVs), with more than 270,000 sold globally since 2010.

Who said this?

“We do not believe that any private capital will invest in new coal plants,the” CEO told the assembled analysts. “Someone may say they want to, but that does not mean they will.” This was AGL CEO Andrew Vesey at the company's recent investor day briefing. Source: Renew Economy

Glaciers in trouble

A DRREA members recently visited the Tibetan Plateau. He was troubled by what he saw of the glaciers. His account is below.

“My train trip across the Tibetan Plateau was often screened by dull, threatening and overcast skies. However, during those thirty four hours it was very apparent that the snow and ice on the northern slopes while climbing onto the Plateau were blanketed by a dark substance which I believe to be the fallout of industrial smog as reported by Chinese scientists.

The Chinese Government has expressed concerns about the changing of the albedo of these once pristine environments and attributed these dark materials to industrial smog particles emitted from not only China but from other industrial locations such as Western Europe, Eastern Europe and North America.

The Chinese Government expressed concern at the rapid retreat of huge glaciers on the Plateau with resultant avalanches destroying whole villages killing more than 200 inhabitants in 2 separate incidents.

Of even greater concern is the threat to the integrity of the flows of the huge rivers that drain the Plateau. The Chinese of course are concerned with rivers such as the Mekong, the Yangtze and the Howang Ho where they have emplaced large Hydro Electric Schemes and for thousands of years have used these waters for intense irrigated rice farming.

However, the Tibetan Plateau ice fields also provide flows to other major rivers in neighbouring countries including.

However, many other major rivers also drain from these glacial areas and snow fields of the Plateau to many neighbouring countries.

These include the: Indus River towards Pakistan, the Ganges and allied tributaries to India and Bangladesh the Bramaputra to India and Bangladesh, the Irrawaddy to Myanmar the Salween and the Menam to Thailand and the Mekong to Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

I have undertaken a guesstimate that nearly 40% of the human population is dependant upon the predictable flows of these rivers for agricultural food growing purposes.

No wonder the Chinese Government is concerned with events on the Tibetan Plateau. We should be likewise”.

sincerely

Roger Willsher

Kennedy Energy Park begins!

On December 11 Renew Economy reported the following. “Construction has begun on the first 60MW of a proposed 1200MW Kennedy Energy Park, with the ceremonial turning of the sod on Monday at the site of the world-leading wind, solar, and battery storage project in north Queensland.

The \$160 million first stage of the grid-connected hybrid renewables project, which is being developed by Windlab and Japan’s Eurus Energy, will initially combine 43.2MW of wind, 15MW of single axis tracking solar PV, and a 2MW/4MWh lithium-ion battery storage system supplied by US giant Tesla”

What is Windlab?

Windlab – which is a Canberra-based CSIRO spin-off – managed to raise \$50 million through a highly successful initial public offer in August. The now ASX-listed company floated 25 million shares at \$2 each, the proceeds of which were divided between existing investors, and phase one of the Kennedy project. Source: Renew Economy, December 11 .