



May 2019 Big Picture News

Please note: anything in italics is DRREA commentary

Solar bushfire refuge

EnviroGroup have installed 100kW of solar PV and 100kwh of battery storage at the Nillumbik Community Stadium. The stadium is now the region's main Bushfire Refuge Area thanks to the solar battery system that can run the facility in off-grid mode during times of emergency. Source: EnviroGroup

Hand break on solar rebate

Solar Victoria have paused the Victorian solar rebate of \$2,225 until July 2019. It was originally announced to close on June 30. The original offer was limited to 24,000 houses but over 30,000 applications have already been submitted. Also, in the last 3 months 8000 rebates have been paid. It has been said that rebate claims will still be processed for applicants who received an eligibility number even if their system is yet to be installed. Source: Solar Victoria via EnviroGroup

Top 10 solar post codes

The Clean Energy Council release their list of top ten solar postcodes this time every year. Cranbourne was number 8. There were 3 suburbs/towns from WA but the majority (6) were all from Queensland. Number one was Bundaberg.

Pumped Hydro for SA

The snippet below is from Renew Economy on April 16. *Will this happen before Snowy 2.0?*

“AGL Energy, the owner of the biggest gas generation fleet in South Australia, has announced plans to build a massive 250MW/2000MWh pumped hydro energy storage project in an old copper mine about 55km south-east of Adelaide”.

“The company said on Tuesday that it has agreed to pay \$31 million for the rights to develop the pumped hydro project at the old Kanmantoo mine from Hillgrove Resources, using the existing open mine pit, with a new upper pond to be built on nearby land”.

“The move reflects the major shift to a state grid that will be nearly all renewable energy within 10 years”.

100% by 2030!

The following paragraph is from Renew Economy on April 29. "Leading economist and climate change policy expert Professor Ross Garnaut says that Australia could be powered 100 per cent by "intermittent" renewables by the early 2030s, and have a grid that is both reliable and secure and cheaper than it is now".

Want to get solar?

This U tube from the Checkout program on ABC was recommended to us as very good for people interested in installing solar. Many thanks to Ian Conibeer of Energy Connections for the tip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOV31ddnsRs&feature=youtu.be>

Did you know?

In April "the Climate and Health Alliance, wrote an Open Letter to all politicians and federal election candidates calling on them to support effective action to address the climate and health emergency. This letter has now been signed by 50 health organisations representing up to one million people across Australia.

The rise of hydrogen

This follows on from our Hydrogen story in the April BPN. "Australia's first large-scale hybrid energy storage system – using lithium batteries and hydrogen fuel cells – will be installed at a \$200m solar farm to be built in south-east Queensland by Risen Energy Group and Providence Asset Group". Source=Solar & Storage e-news Friday April 12, 2019

Climate Emergency

On April 29 Phillip Sutton reported that A "climate emergency" has been declared in Wales following protests demanding politicians take action on climate change.

The Welsh Government's Lesley Griffiths said she hoped the declaration would trigger "a wave of action". Climate change threatens Wales' health, economy, infrastructure and natural environment, she said. Since then a similar motion was passed at Westminster. Since that former Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett has come out and said that if elected a new Labor Government should declare a Climate Emergency also. Locally, I understand Yarra Ranges Council are discussing a similar declaration

And also

On April 29 Activist group Market Forces reported that "DBS, a Singapore based bank which is a major lender to coal. DBS has just updated its coal policy to say it will no longer finance new coal power plants, regardless of technology type! This followed a similar move by Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), another major Singaporean bank and big coal lender.

CEFC on winner

Low-income families in regional New South Wales will soon have access to 220 new highly energy efficient, solar and battery powered community dwellings, through a housing project being backed by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

The CEFC said on Thursday that it was investing \$95 million to support Housing Plus to deliver 47 new homes over the coming three years – 47 in Bathurst, 87 in Dubbo, and 86 in Orange. Source 'One Step off the Grid'. May 8.

Australia as a renewable energy superpower

In a recent email Michael Gunner wrote I am trying to promote the vision of Australia as a renewable energy superpower, based on the research by Beyond Zero Emissions. He said, I have written about this on <https://www.feedbackreigns.net/solutions/australia-a-renewable-energy-superpower/> and am trying to promote it, e.g. on Twitter using #OzRenewablesSuperpower. Please consider promoting this in some way that suits you.

Atlantic Wave Power

Australian designed wave energy technology will be deployed off the coast of the Canary Islands 4th largest islands to reduce its reliance on diesel power. The project will see 4 megawatts of generating capacity using Bombora Wave Power wave energy converters. Source Renew Economy

Electric trucks

The first fully electric rubbish trucks to hit the streets in Australia have done so this week in Melbourne's outer south east council, the City of Casey. (May 25)

Adelaide made batteries

German battery manufacturer Sonnen has launched its "bill shock" busting solar and storage energy package, SonnenFlat, in Victoria. The idea, as Sonnen's Asia Pacific CEO Nathan Dunn explained, is to give households the advantage of knowing how much they're going to pay for their electricity every month. Packages range from 7,500kWh for \$42 per month, 10,000kWh for \$52 per month and 12,500kWh for \$62 per month. Sonnen has set up a battery manufacturing facility in the old Holden plant in Adelaide.

Source: Renew Economy, May 23.

More floating solar farms

French-based Ciel & Terre International has announced that its 70 MW floating solar power plant located on top of an old coal mining area in the province of Anhui, China, is now officially complete after several months of tests and monitoring.

Ciel & Terre has been developing floating solar PV projects since 2011 and has developed over 120 floating solar PV farms around the world – including in Cambodia, Taiwan, and South Africa.

At the end of 2018 construction was completed on a 70MW (peak) floating solar plant in the Chinese province of Anhui, in the country's east, the largest floating solar plant in the world. Source: Renew Economy March 13

When will Australia be added to that list?

We hope you found these snippets informative