



'Helping build a renewable energy community'
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Standing against Frydenberg

The former head of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Oliver Yeates has announced that he will contest Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's seat of Kooyong. Yeates is a Liberal but is opposing Frydenberg as an independent on the platform that the coalition is doing too little about climate change. High profile climate change independents are also standing against Tony Abbot and Greg Hunt.

What is PERC? It's a bit new, a bit different and a bit more efficient. See page 3 for the answer.

First 2 forums for 2019

On February 11 at Emerald Library at 7.30 pm our forum will be on Energy Monitoring and Management systems. On March 4, also at the Library but between 6-7 pm we have a forum for local businesses on EUA's (Environmental Upgrade Agreements). These are Council agreements which benefit both landlord and tenant.

1/3rd of Hazelwood

The Victorian government has approved a windfarm 60k north west of Geelong that will generate 1/3rd of what Hazelwood used to or enough power for 40,000 homes. The wind farm has a levelised cost of power less than \$50 megawatt hour because of the size of the site (17000 hectares), the wind resource and the latest technology in wind turbine technology. The Golden Plains Wind farm now requires Federal Government approval.

Why the delay?

Federal Energy Minister ?? is yet to explain why the approval of the Southern Star off shore wind farm is taking so long? It will be located along the 90 Mile Beach. It has the potential to supply up to 20% of the states power needs

Record breaking year

Like the year before it, 2019 is expected to be a record breaking year for utility scale solar farms in Australia. Last year 3 GW was installed. The same is predicted for this year.

For example the NSW government has just approved a 900 MW solar farm for the Riverina. Solar PV is predicted to supply 10% of NEM demand by 2020.

Cheaper than coal!

A recent joint study by the CSIRO and AEMO said that for energy generation wind and solar and storage are all clearly cheaper than coal. Bloomberg New Energy Finance came up with the same conclusion in its most recent report. Source, Renew Economy, Dec 20.

Also in ReNew Economy on Dec 2nd "New analysis from BloombergNEF (BNEF) shows that the rising cost of coal power generation in Australia's is the primary - yet often overlooked - cause of the recent doubling of power prices on the National Electricity Market (NEM)".

Ground source heat pumps

A housing estate in Sydney's west is being equipped with geothermal heat pumps that tap into year-round subterranean temperatures of around 20 degrees. In the first of its kind development, the Fairwater housing community will also play a major role in determining the feasibility of commercial-scale ground-source heat pumps. Source: John Grimes: Solar-Storage e-news

Lucy for PM!

I was recently sent a video of a gathering in Melbourne of school students on strike in protest against climate change. All the presenters spoke passionately and impressively but an 11 year old student leader called Lucy stood out. She made the point that our "politicians should think about what it means to be a leader" and "should take responsibility for things when they go wrong"?

She went on to say that "when kids mess up they have to clean up. That she said, is fair but when leaders make a mess (eg as with climate change) they leave it for us to clean up. That she said is not fair!" I wish sometimes I could see things with such clarity. [Another student strike is planned for March 15.](#)

PERC?

PERC stands for Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell. It is a new, more efficient type of solar cell which has been developed by the University of New South Wales. They have recently signed a deal with a Chinese company to produce them. According to the Renew Economy article on December 5 PERC solar cells "are expected to hit the mainstream by 2020, and dominate the market 2022. They are also expected to halve the price of solar".

What is Solarshare?

Solarshare is the name of a community solar farm project in the ACT. At a glance it looks far more advanced than Ranges Energy. For more information google solarshare.

MEFL community project

Moreland Energy Foundation has set up with the Valley Centre to set up a rolling fund of no-interest loans to install solar and batteries in indigenous communities across Australia, Called The Re4Bre project because it is based in Brewarrina. To find out more go to the MEFL website

Carnegie/Genex update

WA based wave and tide power company has ended its brief involvement with solar and storage projects which were over schedule and over budget and default back to its core activities including focusing on its Albany Wave project. Hopefully its bad times are behind them.

Meanwhile Genex has received funding from Energy Australia for its pumped hydro and solar project in North Queensland. Hundreds of jobs it is claimed have been created on site for 2019 according to the Genex website.

Is coal unreliable?

If you have ever wondered why we need excess generating capacity maybe it is because old coal plants are proving more and more unreliable. This was spelt out in 2 articles in Renew Economy. The headings below from Jan 31 say it all.

'Coal power plants in Australia broke down once every three days in 2018'. and "Survey finds that modern "HELE" coal plants favoured by the Coalition and the coal lobby broke down more often than the ageing black coal fleet"

Is coal toxic

According to EnviroJustice Australia "in NSW, nearly 300 people die prematurely each year from breathing in pollution from coal-fired power stations. More than half of those people live in Sydney, far from the source of the pollution.

This morning, we released a report, The health burden of fine particle pollution from electricity generation in NSW

(<https://www.envirojustice.org.au/healthstudynsw/>), by leading health expert, Dr Ben Ewald that outlines the serious health damage NSW's five coal-fired power stations are causing. They say, "If the NSW government does not act now, thousands more people will die from exposure to toxic coal pollution before the states five power stations close. And thousands more will suffer from heart attacks, stroke, asthma attacks, low birth weight, lung cancer and type 2 diabetes".

They go on to say, "It is shocking and entirely preventable. The companies that own these power stations have the technology to reduce toxic pollutants from coal-fired power stations by up to 98% - they just do not bother to install it and the government does not make them".

