



## DRREA 'BIG PICTURE' NEWS JUNE 2018

### Off Grid

DRREA has a forum on 'Going off grid in the suburbs' on Monday June 4 at 7.30 pm at Emerald Library. Hope to see you there.

### Sunwiz

According to solar analysis group Sunwiz off grid domestic PV installations Australia wide totalled 44 megawatts in 2010. That grew to 118 megawatts in 2016. It would appear that quite a lot of people disconnected from the grid in those 6 years or built off grid.

### Council Solar News

Julian Guess is the Sustainability Project Officer at Yarra Ranges Council. "YRC is part of a group of Councils that is part of the Solar Savers programme and we are just about to start promoting this within the community".

"We aim to get around 100 installations completed over the coming months on pensioner owned homes. We are also in the early stages of planning a community bulk buy scheme, and this is something that may be of interest to you and DRREA". Cardinia Council is also involved in the Solar Savers programme.

### Did you know?

Wind turbines/wind farms use 97-99% less water than coal fired power stations? How much do the owners of those coal fired power stations pay for that water?

### Ride 4 Solar

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> DRREA is running its 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Ride 4 Solar' from Belgrave to Fed Square. We are seeking sponsorship of our team of 9 riders of \$5.00 total. Proceeds towards a solar system on Emerald Ambulance Station.

Please direct deposit sponsorships as per instructions on the membership page of the DRREA website or by sending a cheque to DRREA C/- PO BOX 1002, Upwey, Vic, 3158

### DRREA Membership

This is due at the end of June. It is \$10.00. To renew [step 1](#) is to go to the DRREA website

membership page. [Step 2](#) is to renew by direct deposit or by sending a cheque to PO BOX 1002, Upwey, Vic, 3158 [Step 3](#) is to email me [pcook@wildcoast.net.au](mailto:pcook@wildcoast.net.au) if you did it by direct deposit so we know who has renewed. Thanks. Peter Cook.

## Book review

I am reading New York Times best seller 'Drawdown' by Paul Hawken. As the cover says it is “the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming”. It is like an earth audit. It walks you through “the 100 most substantive solutions to reverse global warming”.

Each solution it says has been “meticulously researched by leading scientists and policy makers around the world”. One to three pages is dedicated to explaining each solution.

Each of these explanations is an education in itself containing lots of interesting facts and information. This book is all about innovation. Drawdown is a must read for the PM. We have written to him about this.

## Battery innovation?

On May 17 Renew Economy reported on this battery innovation. See excerpts below. I doubt this will address the recycling issues around lithium type batteries.

ASX listed material technology company Talga Resources is claiming a breakthrough in its plan to piggyback on the global battery boom, after tests of its graphite anode were shown to significantly boost the performance of lithium-ion battery cells.

For those wondering, pouch cells are one of three main types of lithium-ion cells used, largely, to make up EV batteries – for example, they’re used in the Nissan LEAF, and in Jaguar’s new I-PACE SUV.

## Mackay Council leads the way

The excerpts below from Renew Economy on May 16 is a lesson to Councils Australia wide.

Queensland’s Mackay Regional Council has become the latest Australia local government to shift its operations to solar, in a bid to cut its electricity costs and pass millions of dollars of savings on to ratepayers.

The [council – in the heart of one of the state’s biggest coal regions](#) – says a tender to install 1.7MW of solar at 21 council facilities – including the main administration building, libraries, depots and water assets – has been awarded to Brisbane-based firm Akcome Power for \$2.1 million.

Council said that cost would be offset by \$541,890 in small-scale renewable energy certificates, taking the actual price of the project – once other council and contingency costs are included – down to just over \$1.97 million.

That is going to provide a significant return for the council, with the investment paid back on average in four years, and total savings on electricity bills over the next 20 years estimated at \$16.89 million – even after maintenance and replacement inverters.

## Small-scale solar snapshot

Small-scale renewable energy systems installed across Australia January to March 2018 A report of small-scale installations across Australia shows 50,592 small-scale PV systems were installed nationally in the first quarter of 2018, with a total capacity of 259,889 kW. Among the trends: Queensland continues to have the highest level of small-scale installations across Australia with 12,286 in the first quarter, as illustrated above in the Clean Energy Regulator's postcode data. Excerpt from Solar & Storage E News May 25  
MORE INFORMATION (<https://www.smartenergy.org.au/news/small-scale-snapshot>)

## Lithium battery recycling

New Gisborne company Envirostream has set up a \$4 million recycling facility for the recycling of power tool and mobile phone batteries. Please let me know if you have any lithium batteries you want recycled. We (Hills Recycling) are collectors for Envirostream.

We can only hope that their technology can be eventually be expanded to include the processing of the tsunami of solar storage and EV batteries that will be entering the waste stream in years to come.

## Who are they?

A friend recently asked me if I knew about the Lavoisier group? My answer was no. A clue is they have links to the Institute of Public Affairs, the **Cormack Foundation** and maybe also the Monash Group. Below is one answer from Wikipedia.

The **Lavoisier Group** is an [Australian](#) organisation formed by politicians and dominated by retired industrial businesspeople and engineers.<sup>[1]</sup> It does not accept the [science of global warming](#) and works to influence attitudes of policy makers and politicians. The organisation downplays the risk of the [effects of global warming](#), rejects the scientific conclusion that human activity causes it, and opposes [policies designed to curtail it](#). Some members regard climate change as a "scam."<sup>[</sup>

## Windfall from Wind farms

In April the Australian Wind Alliance released a report on how wind farms are benefiting rural communities. ( I don't think they are members of the Lavoisier Group). The report details how wind farm construction has delivered an economic boost of \$4 billion to regional Australia to date.

In addition wind farm Community Enhancement Funds are delivering a wide variety of community projects.

## Mining sector going for hybridisation

As solar costs come down and diesel prices go up the mining sector is increasingly looking at hybrid energy systems. Evidence of this is a conference in WA titled 'Reducing Mine Power costs with renewables' and also a report by Zenith Energy Executive Chairman to a Energy and Mines Summit concluding "that the falling cost of solar underlines the business case". The report was on a case study conducted at Nova's new nickel mine in WA.

Zenith initially constructed a 20 MW power station at the Nova nickel mine in W.A. Another 6 MW was proposed but initially was not considered viable. Falling solar costs have since changed that. Thanks to Jim Happ for bringing this report to my attention.

I hope you found this newsletter informative/ Peter Cook / DRREA President

