



Drrea Big Picture News April 2019

Please note text in italics indicates commentary by DRREA.

Thermal battery

Below is an excerpt from the Smart Energy Council's Solar and Storage E-News on March 29. It is about an aussie built thermal battery with lots of potential. *Will it realise that potential or will it quietly disappear never to be heard of again?* For more details see link below

“South Australian company CCT Energy Storage has unveiled the world’s first working thermal battery or TED (Thermal Energy Device), a ‘game changer’ in renewables with its ability to significantly reduce power costs while providing versatile and long-lasting energy with little to no environmental effect”.

“TED accepts any form of electrical input to convert and store energy as latent heat – making it versatile, affordable and long lasting, according to CCT. The Lonsdale-based business will supply at least 10 TED units to commercial customers this year, with production expected to increase to more than 200 units by 2020”

https://www.smartenergy.org.au/news/world-first-thermal-battery?utm_source=Solar+%26+Storage+eBulletin&utm_campaign=d3f3b658a3-Solar+%26+Storage+enews+Fri+23+Nov+2018_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_72845e3a7c-d3f3b658a3-89222669)

Acoss slams coalition climate policies

The most important assessment of any policy is its impact on low income households. The Australian Council of Social Services provide this insight. Below is just a bit of what they had to say about this policy announcement.

The Coalition’s climate package does little to tackle climate change or to protect people on low-incomes who are more vulnerable to its impacts as well as high energy prices.

“The Coalition has not increased its woefully inadequate 2030 emissions reduction targets, or outlined a plan to transition equitably to clean energy with protections for people on low-incomes, ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie said.

384,000 mirrors

South Africa is leading Australia in the adoption of CSP as the excerpts below from Renew Economy illustrate.

French electric utility ENGIE has completed and begun production from one of South Africa’s largest renewable energy projects, the 100MW Kathu Solar Park, a concentrated solar plant (CSP) with storage located in the Northern Cape province.

Solar Park consists of parabolic trough technology and is equipped with a molten salt storage system that provides up to 4.5 hours of thermal energy storage. The site is made up of over 384,000 mirrors. *About the same time it was announced that a similar CSP that was to be built near Port Augusta by Solar Reserve would not go ahead due to its inability to attract funding. This was very disappointing news. Perhaps this suggests the need for a POPS (People's Owned Power Station) in each state based on Virtual Net Metering*

Don't tell fibs!

Recently the Prime Minister and the Energy Minister Angus Taylor have repeatedly repeated fibs that emissions are going down and that we will meet our 2030 commitments in a canter. The excerpts below from Renew Economy are a bit more accurate.

A group of 28 climate scientists, academics and former heads of energy companies on Monday released a joint statement to correct the record, and remove any ambiguity on the subject:

The joint statement also reminds those who need reminding that Australia's 2030 target is economy wide, meaning that total greenhouse gas pollution must be reduced across all sectors: electricity, stationary energy, transport, fugitive emissions, industry, agriculture, waste and land use.

"The electricity sector has been going down... but the overall energy sector, if you take energy as a package, energy emissions for Australia have been going up continuously," said Bourne, who is also the former CEO of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. Australia is NOT on track to meet its 2030 emissions reduction target.

Wind Farm near Hazelwood?

A 300MW wind farm has been proposed for development in Victoria's Latrobe Valley, overlooking the site of the now closed Hazelwood coal-fired power station.

Unusually this wind farm will be located in a plantation forestry area. The location for the project took inspiration from European examples, where wind turbines often paired with forestry plantations. It will be the first forest based wind farm in Australia.

Once completed it would generate around 10 per cent of the capacity that Hazelwood provided to the grid or enough electricity to power around 220,000 homes. The planned 53 turbines will be 250 metres in height. *This proposal also includes very generous profit sharing with locals.*

Clean Hydrogen

Last year a proposal was put forward for the production of hydrogen from La Trobe Valley Brown Coal. This is not clean energy unless used in conjunction with Carbon Capture and Storage to capture its emissions.

VCAN (the Victorian Climate Action Network) in a recent submission identified the main barrier to the use of hydrogen in Australia as limited community awareness of its environmental, social and economic benefits.

Like the chief scientist their submission backed a surplus renewable energy powered hydrogen export industry as a clean alternative to gas exports. Safe, bulk export of hydrogen became possible through the CSIRO and the development of its electrolysers and membrane technology.

Their submission also backed the use of clean hydrogen for heavy transport using CSIRO technology to achieve net zero emissions. *DRREA might hold a Next Generation Hydrogen Forum later in the year to explore the topic thoroughly. We hope you find this new short format agreeable.*