

THE REPORT

















SAARC Webinar on "Sharing Australian Experiences in Solar PV Technology"



Tuesday, February 26, 2019, Islamabad

Organized by SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad

February 26, 2019

SAARC Energy Centre 697, Street 43, Sector E-11/4 (NPF), Islamabad, Pakistan www.saarcenergy.org



Introduction

SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad under its approved programme activity for the year 2019 had successfully conducted a SAARC Webinar on "Sharing Australian Experiences in Solar PV Technology" on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Webinar Agenda is available at Annexure I.

2. The Webinar highlighted Australian experiences in Solar PV with the SAARC Member States. The experts from Australia shared best practices, case studies and provide participants with information on successful policy interventions and large scale programmes /projects implemented in field of Solar PV by Australian Government.

Participation

3. The Webinar was attended by a total of 81 professionals that included delegates from Member States, Representatives of Regional/International organizations, Academia and private sector. The Resource Persons from Australian academia and industry gave detailed presentations on their government policies, successful programmes, case studies, and initiatives undertaken in the field of Solar PV technology. The focal person from United Nations ESCAP, Thailand gave an overview of the Australian energy market and outline of its Solar PV sector. The participants list is available at Annexure II.

Opening Remarks

- 4. Mr. Merrille Gonnetilleke welcomed all the delegates and participants for attending the webinar and showing keen interest. He also acknowledged the commitment and contribution of experts and focal person from UN-ESCAP in materializing the conduct of webinar.
- 5. He started with brief introduction of the SEC and its annual program activities with specific

emphasis on Renewable Energy. The programme activities of SEC which includes policy-based research studies, knowledge sharing events i.e., workshops, seminars, webinars, trainings, and pilot projects in all fields of Energy.

- 6. He apprised the participants that the Member States in SAARC region have huge and abundant resources of Solar energy which have not been harnessed to their actual potential. The member states of SAARC could learn from Australia which witnessed huge success in the Solar PV sector due to its innovative policies and interventions. Keeping in view the huge success of Solar PV sector in Australia, SAARC Energy Centre has engaged experts from Australian Industry and academia in this webinar to give detailed information on those effective policies/programmes implemented by them in the last 5-10 years. Those interventions undertaken by the Australian government with support of their key stakeholders such as industry and academia have helped their country in becoming top ten installers of Solar PV around the globe.
- 7. He thanked the experts of the webinar including focal person from UN-ESCAP for playing key role in realizing this webinar. He remarked that this webinar is just a first step, and the centre shall in future; continue conducting such knowledge sharing webinars. At the end, he again thanked all the participants for taking out time to attend the webinar.

Technical Proceedings

8. All the presentations delivered during the webinar are available at SEC's website www.saarcenergy.org. The Experts list is available at Annexure III and Presentations at Annexure IV. A brief information on the content of the delivered presentations is as follows:

Presentation 1 – How solar installer training accreditation and solar product accreditation schemes ensure Australia's solar revolution maintains quality and safety standards Expert: Mr. Demian Netakhan, Director of Enhar Pty Ltd, Victoria, Australia

- 9. Mr. Demian gave an overview of the Smart Energy Council and Clean Energy Council in Australia which have supported its Solar PV sector by lobbying, advocating and conducting industry building campaigns. These councils driven by policy and regulation are also responsible for reviewing and adopting mandatory technical standards for products and installers. The Clean Energy Council offers Accreditation for installers of Solar PV and other renewable energy systems in Australia.
- 10. He mentioned that in presence of a strong Accreditation system in Australia, the pitfalls of quality problems, lack of trust in products and installation industry have been avoided. This nationally recognized accreditation system for products and installers has been the key for successful uptake of Solar PV in Australia.
- 11. Demian stated that this type of a nationally recognized accreditation system for products and installers is necessary for Solar PV success in any country. He suggested that national regulators in each country should make mandatory to uptake energy from renewable sources

through FiT and/or any other mechanisms only if the procured products and installation works on those projects were conducted by accredited companies.

12. At the end, he mentioned that the Solar PV sector, through nationally accreditation scheme has benefited from good credibility, recourse against poor products/installation, and better performance of systems.

Presentation 2 – An overview of Australia's policy journey for Solar PV

Expert: Dr. Anna Bruce, Senior Lecturer in the School of PV and RE Engineering, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia

- Dr. Anna started her presentation by explaining Renewable Energy Policy Framework of Australia which depicted policies at different times in a technology lifecycle. She mentioned that the drive provided by Renewable Energy targets scheme in Australia i.e., 20% RE by 2030 and financial support provided by Clean Energy Finance Cooperation have helped in demonstration and commercialization of early RE projects. The Feed-in-Tariffs (FiT) once introduced were very generous keeping in view the rapidly decreasing prices of Solar PV and thus, had a big positive impact on the PV market.
- 14. Currently in the two states of Australia, more than 30% of the households have rooftop PV systems. These small-scale PV rooftop (below 100 kW capacity) have a promising payback period of 3-5 years. She talked about Solar Flagship scheme, the purpose of which was to demonstrate utility-scale PV projects in Australia. In the last 7-8 years, levelized cost of electricity from large-scale Solar PV in Australia has reduced from 40 to 7 cents/kWh (US\$).
- 15. Lastly, she mentioned the Auction schemes that have been a leading policy around globe for supporting deployment of RE. These schemes provide guaranteed price for all energy generated from RE projects which provides a deal of certainty to project developer/financer. She mentioned that latest challenge now in Australia is providing flexibility for Variable Renewable Energy sources in electricity market through Battery Storage, Pumped Hydro technology and enhancing capacity of electricity transmission system.

Presentation 3 – The role of the Australian States in accelerating Solar PV uptake Dr. Adrian Panow, Director of Deakin Energy, Victoria, Australia

- 16. Dr. Adrian started his presentation by giving an example of Feed-in-Tariff changes in South Australia over a course of few years from 2008 to 2013. In this short period of time, there were several changes made in FiTs which made investment for RE very difficult. He suggested that the Government should take a trajectory/pathway for FiT review changes which is clearer and for longer periods.
- 17. He showed a chart of annual increase in energy generated from residential Solar PV in Australia from 200 GWh in year 2012 to 1000 GWh in year 2017. In the course of 7 years (2011-2018), due to higher number of rooftop Solar PV, the average demand of electricity in the month

of November in South Australia at peak time (8 am to 4 pm) has decreased from an average of 1600 MW to 1000 MW.

- 18. He mentioned about Solar Home Package announced in year 2018 by Victorian state, whereby households in Victoria could get 50% rebate on average 4 kW Solar PV system (Total system costs A\$ 4,500) and A\$ 1000 on cost of solar hot water system. Another similar scheme i.e., 'Solar for Renter' which giving rebates to people living in rental accommodations was introduced.
- 19. At last, Dr. Adrian gave an overview of Hornsdale Power Reserve; a Lithium-ion battery storage system commissioned in year 2018 with discharge capacity of 100 MW and energy storage capacity of 129 MWh. The Storage bank shares a high voltage connection with a 300 MW Wind farm nearby which makes it cost effective. The commercial arrangements for battery bank are made in a way that 70 MW for 10 mins (discharge capacity 11.7 MWh) is contracted to the government for grid stability services while remaining 30 MW for 3 hours (discharge capacity 90 MWh) is available for selling to the market.
- 20. He mentioned that in future, Frequency Control Ancillary Services (FCAS) through battery storage would be more feasible (technically and financially) for utilities than the traditional Gas/Steam turbines.

Knowledge Sharing Session

21. The participants of the webinar provided their feedback on the quality and content of the event. The main discussions during this session revolved around topics such as Mechanism of disposal of Lithium-ion batteries, approximate life cycle of batteries, Economic comparison of battery bank versus Gas generators, charging Electric vehicles, and Frequency regulation through new technologies.

Wrap up and Conclusion

Mr. Michael Williamson, Section Chief, Energy Division, UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand

22. Mr. Michael Williamson from Energy Division of UN-ESCAP thanked everyone for attending the event and hoped that through this webinar, the participants have a broader understanding of Australia's journey in Solar PV sector. He praised the accreditation program of Australia which had helped enormously the industry and the consumers. He was also appreciative of the initiatives taken by Corporate entities in Australia for purchasing renewable energy directly from the utilities. He also mentioned the importance of replacing quick frequency response by Gas generators to battery storage. At the end, he thanked the presenters and specifically Director, SEC for giving him an opportunity to collaborate with the Centre on this webinar.

Vote of Thanks and Closing of Webinar

Mr. Ahsan Javed, Research Fellow (Renewable Energy), SAARC Energy Centre

23. Mr. Ahsan Javed, Research Fellow (RE) informed all the participants that the presentations will be available on SAARC Energy Centre's website (www.saarcenergy.org). He requested the participants to submit suggestions and comments to SEC for any further improvement, plus they may suggest and submit any topics of their interest to SEC for arranging future webinars. The webinar was closed with a thank you note to everyone attending the Webinar.

Tentative Agenda

SAARC Webinar on "Sharing Australian Experiences in Solar PV Technology"

Tuesday, February 26, 2019; 1100–1430 hrs Pakistan Standard time (PKT)

1100 – 1105	Welcome and Introduction Mr. Ahsan Javed, Research Fellow (Renewable Energy), SAARC Energy Centre		
1105 – 1115	Opening remarks Mr. Merrille Gonnetilleke, Chairman Governing Board, SAARC Energy Centre		
1115 – 1130	Introduction to the speakers, Setting the scene – a brief outline of Australia's PV sector in 2019 Mr. Michael Williamson, Section Chief, Energy Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand		
1130 – 1215	Presentation 1 – How solar installer training accreditation and solar product accreditation schemes ensure Australia's solar revolution maintains quality and safety standards (includes 15 mins Q & A) Mr. Demian Netakhan, Director of Enhar Pty Ltd, Victoria, Australia		
1215 – 1300	Presentation 2 – An overview of Australia's policy journey for Solar PV (includes 15 mins Q & A) Dr. Anna Bruce, Senior Lecturer in the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia		
1300 – 1345	Presentation 3 – The role of the Australian States in accelerating Solar PV uptake (includes 15 mins Q & A) Dr. Adrian Panow, Director of Deakin Energy, Victoria, Australia		
1345 – 1415	Knowledge sharing session		
1415 – 1425	Wrap up and conclusion Mr. Michael Williamson		
1425 – 1430	Vote of thanks and Closing of Webinar Mr. Ahsan Javed		

Information for the participants:

1. All times mentioned in agenda are according to Pakistan Standard Time (PKT). The participants from other Member States of SAARC and Australia may attend Webinar by following their own national time. The time conversion for all countries is given below for reference:

Country	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Australia
Conversion Time	(PKT-00:30)	(PKT+01:00)	(PKT+01:00)	(PKT+00:30)	PKT	(PKT+00:45)	(PKT+00:30)	(PKT+06:00)

- 2. The participants can ask questions to presenters by typing questions or clicking to the raised hand option into the Attendees pane of the main window of GotoWebinar software. You may send in your questions at any time during the presentations; we will collect these and address them during the Q & A session at the end of each presentation. You may also discuss your queries during the knowledge sharing session of webinar.
- 3. All participants can also submit comments/views and/or observations on the webinar to SAARC Energy Centre through email to Mr. Ahsan Javed (ahsan@saarcenergy.org) before 5th March, 2019.

List of Participants

Sr. No.	First Name	Last Name	Email address
1.	Ihsan	Marwat	rfee@saarcenergy.org
2.	Muhammad	Yousaf	yousaf khans@yahoo.com
3.	Randika	Wijekoon	randikabw@gmail.com
4.	Tallal	Tauseef	tallal.tauseef@gmail.com
5.	Tashi	Wangchuk	tashisarso@gmail.com
6.	Saad	Mughal	saadmughal1006@gmail.com
7.	Faazaan	Mirza	faazaan@sarco.org.pk
8.	Ronald	Comester	ronaldcomester@gmail.com
9.	Muhammad	Jahangir	mohsin763@gmail.com
10.	Gaurav	Jain	gjain@irade.org
11.	BHASKAR	PRADHAN	plet@saarcenergy.org
12.	Gloria Darko	Esinam	gloria.darko.esinam@uni-
13.	Ziauddin	Muhammad	oldenburg.de ceo@elan.com.pk
14.	Syed Farhan	Ali	farhan.ali@siemens.com
15.	bilal	hussain	rfpower@saarcenergy.org
16.	Irfan	Yousuf	irfan.yousuf@yahoo.com
17.	Tasnim	Shamma	tasnim.h.shamma@gmail.com
18.	Habib	Rahmat	habib.rahmat@gmail.com
19.	Gamini	Hearth	gaminih@pucsl.gov.lk
20.	Jitendra	Roychoudhury	jitendra.roychoudhury@kapsarc.org
21.	Anmol	Soni	anmol.soni543@gmail.com
22.	Abdul	Wahab	deo@saarcenergy.org
23.	A.K.M. Humayan Kabir	Dewan	humayandewan@gmail.com
24.	Muhammad	Iqbal	muzammiliqbal.nust@gmail.com
25.	Zafar	Ayub	ayubdawar617@gmail.com
26.	Sonam	Sonam	sonam@moea.gov.bt
27.	Mohammad	Mahdi	mahdidasht@gmail.com
28.	Muhammad Shabir	khan	shabiruet555@gmail.com
29.	Muhammad	Farhan	muhammadfarhan016@gmail.com
29.	iviunammad	rd[d	inunammauramanuto@gmail.com

Sr. No.	First Name	Last Name	Email address
30.	Muhammad	Adnan	adnanmkd30@gmail.com
31.	Mian Mohsin	Shah	mrshah85@hotmail.com
32.	Iram	Shahzadi	iramrvc@gmail.com
33.	Abu Bakar Abid	Jathol	ravianx.ee.uet@gmail.com
34.	Zebullah	Shah	zebshah18@gmail.com
35.	Zarfar	Mashal	mashal.zar@hotmail.co.uk
36.	Hafiz	Muhammad Kamran	engr kamran1989@yahoo.com
37.	Muhammad Javed	Afridi	mjafridi@outlook.com
38.	Noor	Al Huda	nooralhuda007@gmail.com
39.	sajjad	khan	sajjad.bannu@gmail.com
40.	Ahmar	Ali	ahmerali54@yahoo.com
41.	Syed Faisal	Shah	S Syedfaisal@yahoo.com
42.	Ahmad	Amin	ahmadamin019@gmail.com
43.	Sehrish	Taj	ailia.taj@gmail.com
44.	Tanvir	Ahmad	tanvir.ahmad@uetpeshawar.edu.pk
45.	Sumaira	Fatima	sumairafatima86@hotmail.com
46.	Muhammad Saad	Khan	m saad khan@yahoo.com
47.	Aaron	Podmore	azfish@gmail.com
48.	Shankar Singh	Dhami	dhamishankar37@gmail.com
49.	iman	Afrah	iafrah01@gmail.com
50.	Zeeshan Hamid	Malik	zeeshan.hamid@yandex.com
51.	Mojtaba	Hoshmand	mojtaba.hoshmand@gmail.com
52.	Dr. Wael	Ababneh	ababneh.wael@gmail.com
53.	Shah	Haider	szhaider123@hotmail.com
54.	Shylesh Kumar	МК	shyleshpayyanur@gmail.com
55.	Muhammad	Zeeshan	mzalikhan@gmail.com
56.	Danial	Saleem	danial.saleem@gmail.com
57.	Bilal	Shahid	bilalshahid148@gmail.com
58.	Md Rabiul	Islam	mrabiul eee eng@hotmail.com
59.	Rohit	Shaw	rohit.x.shaw@pwc.com
60.	Yousuf	Jamal	yousuf.jamal@iese.nust.edu.pk

			Email address
61.	Shaohua	Yang	ysh_cjwsjy@163.com
62.	Yasar	Ashraf	khanyasar@yahoo.com
63.	Faisal	Abbas	faisalabbas4513@gmail.com
64.	Emma	Noirault	emn@k2management.com
65.	Muhammad	Affan	ranaaffan97@gmail.com
66.	Khurram	Shabbir	khurram.shabbir@live.com
67.	Muhammad	Armughan	armughan1@hotmail.com
68.	Munal	Akhtar	munalakhtar@yahoo.com
69.	Tehseen	Ilahi	engineer tehseen@yahoo.com
70.	Humairah	Jabeen	humairah jabeen@hotmail.com
71.	yasitha	kariyawasam	yasithak@brandix.com
72.	Steffen	Lindemann	SL@Valentin-Software.com
73.	Muhammad fahad	Zia	fahad.zia@umt.edu.pk
74.	Murtaza	Khalid	murtazarajput@blessedsolar.com
75.	Lucia	Urra	luv@k2management.com
76.	Darcy	Corbett	darcy.r.corbett@gmail.com
77.	Muhammad	Adnan	adnankhattak811@gmail.com
78.	Demian	Natakhan	demian@enhar.com.au
79.	Herman	Jiope	jiope.herman1@uni-oldenburg.de
80.	Saad	Zaheer	saadzaheer@gmail.com
81.	Noor	Zaman	noorzaman590@gmail.com

Annexure-III

List of Experts

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Organization	Email address
1.	Mr. Michael Williamson	Section Chief, Energy Division	United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok	williamson@un.org
2.	Dr. Adrian Panow	Director	Deakin Energy, Victoria, Australia	a.panow@deakin.edu.au
3.	Dr. Anna Bruce	Senior Lecturer	School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia	a.bruce@unsw.edu.au
4.	Mr. Demian Netakhan	Director	Enhar Pty Ltd, Victoria, Australia	demian@enhar.com.au

Presentations Delivered During the Webinar

Presentation on "The Role of Australian States in Accelerating Solar PV Uptake" by Dr. Adrian Panow

The role of the Australian States in accelerating Solar PV uptake

Dr Adrian Panow Director, Deakin Energy

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 001138



Drivers of Change



Commitments

Climate





Cost

Control





2

Australian Government Commitment





Australia's target -

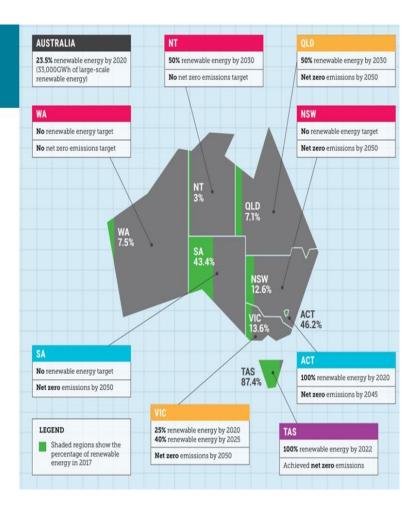
Australia will reduce emissions to 26-28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030.

50-52 per cent reduction in emissions per capita and 64-65 per cent reduction in the emissions intensity of the economy between 2005 and 2030.

3

Commitments and Aspirations





4



Concerns About Climate Change





4in5

78% concerned about climate change



4in**5** ບໍ່ດໍບໍ່ດໍບໍ່

say [unusual] weather events are due to the influence of climate change

What are they concerned about?

The impact upon future generations

The state of the planet

Potential impacts on quality of life

Potential impacts on health

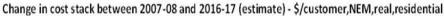


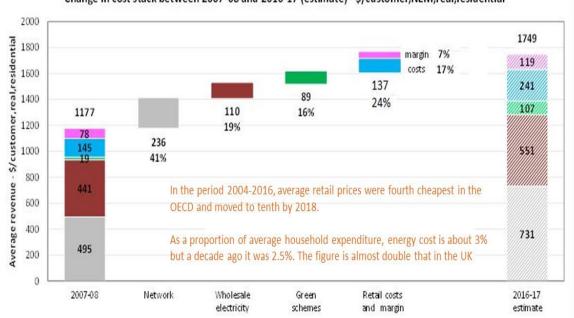
Misperceptions

Only 48% think that others are concerned. Sceptics think their opinion is held by 50% of population

Components of a residential electricity bill







Dookin University CRICOS Provider Code: 001138

ACCC September 2017

South Australia Example of feed-in tariff arrangements and changes

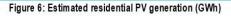


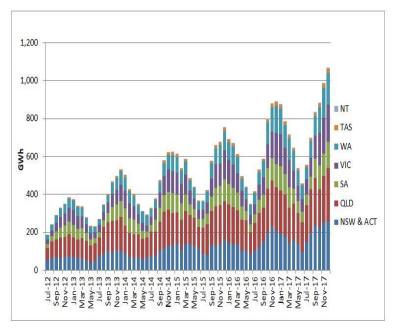
- 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2028. Net feed-in tariff set at \$0.44/kWh
- Reviewed in 2009-10 and amendments to the legislation took effect from 29 July 2011.
- · Reduction of the feed-in tariff for customers receiving approval after 30 September 2011.
- Existing customers continue to receive 44 cents and in addition will receive a minimum retailer payment (6 cents) until 30 June 2028
- New customers approved between 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2013 receive 16 cents plus the minimum retailer payment until 30 September 2016
- New customers approved after 30 September 2013 will not receive any feed-in tariff, but will be eligible for the minimum retailer payment, that is a total payment of about 6 cents ("fair and reasonable" rate).
- Retailers are free to pay customers more than the legislated minimum rates.

7
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Installation numbers and system size



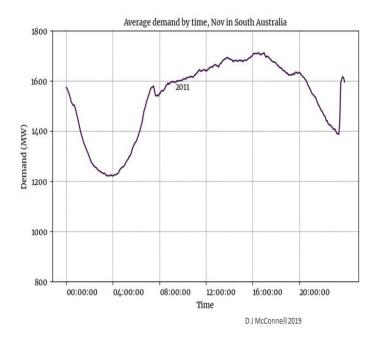




Source: Australian Energy Council analysis, January 2018

Consumers responding

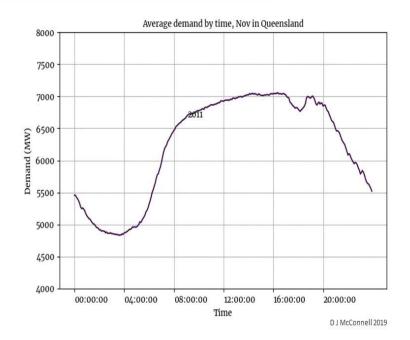




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Changing Demand

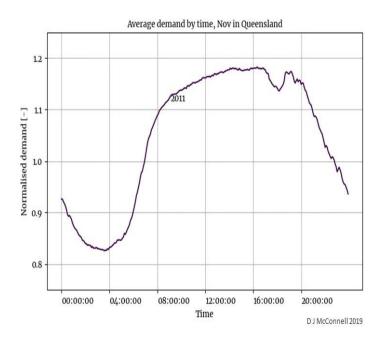




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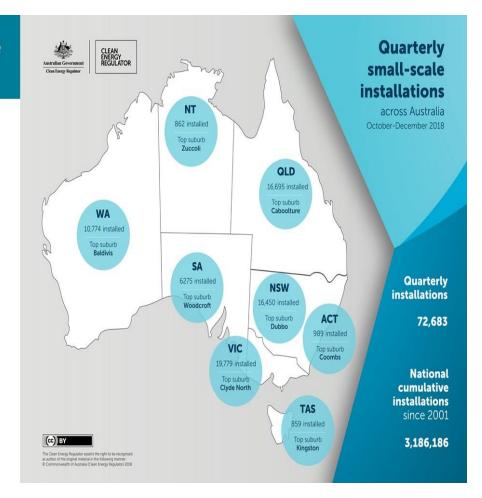
Same impact of rooftop solar





11
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Installations by State



12 Clean Energy Regulatory Oct – Dec 2018

Installations by Suburb – What does this indicate?



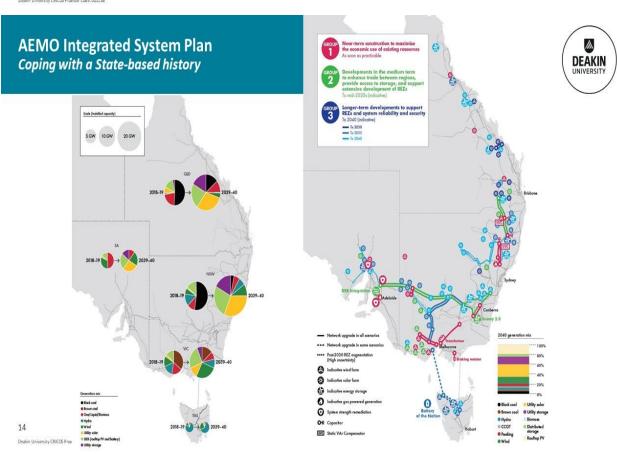
State	Top suburb	Solar water heater installations	Solar PV installations	Installed capacity (kW)
ACT	Coombs	81	13	99
NSW	Dubbo	6	164	1593
NT	Zuccoli	13	62	500
QLD	Caboolture	21	121	834
SA	Woodcroft	83	38	215
TAS	Kingston	16	11	68
VIC	Clyde North	193	253	1517
WA	Baldivis	14	150	891

- Housing construction
- · Urban renewal
- Cost of living pressures
- Targeted marketing
- · Community energy
- · Policy?

Clean Energy Regulator Oct – Dec 2018

13

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Victorian Government Solar Programs "Reduce customer bills"



Solar Homes Package

"The Solar Homes package is about giving Victorian households greater control over their household bills."

50 percent rebate on the cost of an average 4kW solar PV system, (currently a \$2,225 rebate for a system costing \$4,450), or a \$1,000 rebate on the cost of a solar hot water system.

Claimed benefits

PV - "Households will be able to save on average \$890 per year..."

Solar Hot Water - "between \$160-\$400 a year..."

15

Victorian Government Solar Programs "Reduce customer bills"



Solar for Renters

"\$82 million over 10 years to provide an additional 50,000 rebates on solar panels for Victorian renters."

Renters will make a 25 percent contribution toward the cost of installation through a small levy on rent spread over four years, Government and the landlord cover the balance.

Example - \$4,000 PV system – Government \$2,000, landlord \$1,000 (interest-free loan), renters a monthly levy totalling \$250 per year for four years (interest-free loan).

Claimed benefits - save renters up to \$890 per year; landlords see increased property value.

Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme "Jobs, energy security/reliability, climate"



- Reverse auction (\$54-\$58/MWh unsubsidised?)
- · Contract for difference
- · Investor certainty
- Projected benefits \$30 a year for households, \$2,500 a year for medium businesses and \$140,000 a year for large companies



Hornsdale Power Reserve (HPR)



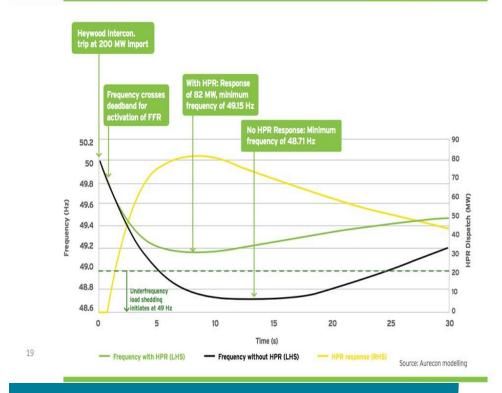
- Lithium-ion battery energy storage system
- Owned and operated by Neoen; supplied by Tesla
- Discharge capacity of 100MW; energy storage capacity of 129MWh
- Shares a 275kV network connection point with the 300MW Hornsdale windfarm
- 70MW of discharge capacity for designated system security services contracted with the South Australian Government
- 30MW capacity and 119MWh energy storage is available to Neoen for market participation

15

17

Sufficient to support security and reliability





Financial Performance/Impact



Market value of Hornsdale Power Reserve (29 Nov 2017 to 29 Nov 2018) 14 Energy **FCAS** \$12.3 Revenue (discharging) Raise 12 Cost (charging) Lower - Net 10 Million AUD \$6.2 6 4 -\$3.3 2 0 . Energy Contingency Regulation

20

Gas FCAS Response



Accuracy and speed of regulation FCAS response - large conventional steam turbine



21

HPR FCAS Response DEAKIN UNIVERSITY Accuracy and speed of regulation FCAS response - HPR 30 15 MW 0 -15 -30 12:44:38 12:47:31 12:50:24 12:53:17 12:56:10 12:59:02 Time (mm:ss) - Battery Power Response **AGC Real Power Command**

Source: Aurecon analysis of HPR logged data

Waurn Ponds Microgrid – Infrastructure Reality







7MW solar farm

1MW/1MWh storage

250kW + batteries distributed

Research, teaching and visualisation centre

AUD20m capital in the initial phase

AUD10m research projected

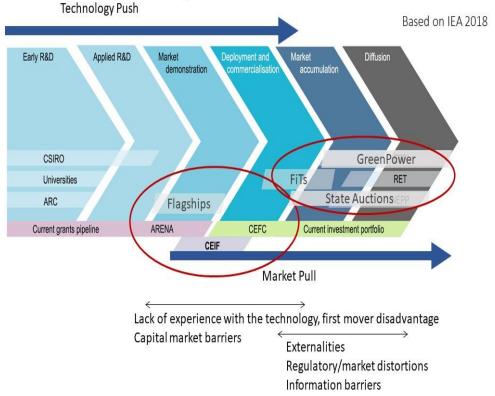
Potential growth in generation, storage and transport



An overview of Australia's policy journey for Solar PV

Anna Bruce
Senior Lecturer, School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy
Engineering
UNSW Sydney

Australian RE Policy Framework

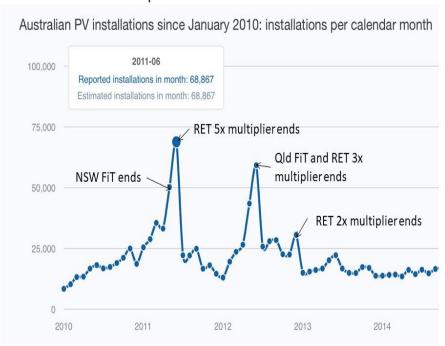


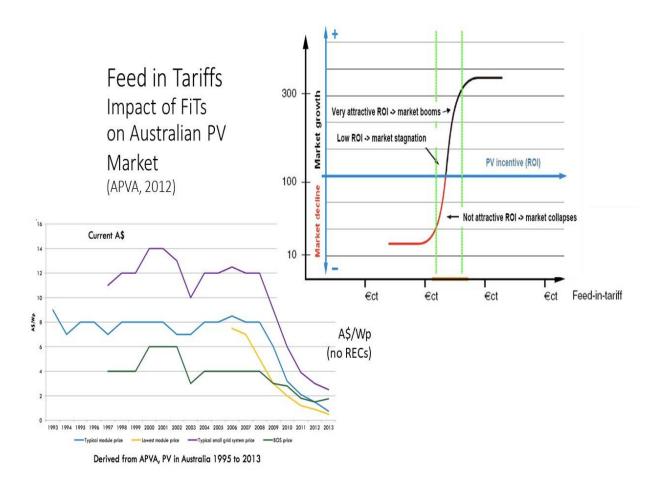
Beginnings – Little Bay



- 1994 The first licensed PV power generation facility in NSW connected to the grid
- Challenges
 - Grid connection
 - Generator registration
- 1996 Grid Connect Guidelines for PV
- Exemption for small generators

Boom & Bust: Impact of Scheme Ends on Market





- Advantages of FiTs
 FiTs have been most successful in growing markets and local industries
 - Provide a market signal based on system output, rather than a fixed capacity subsidy, and hence reward output (efficiency etc.)
 - · Well designed, encourages steady growth (investor certainty, easy to finance)
 - Flexible tariffs can be adjusted if capacity/markets size is too big/small
 - Can target emerging technologies, specific locations
 - · Easy access to small producers (householders, cooperatives), low transaction costs

Disadvantages of FiTs

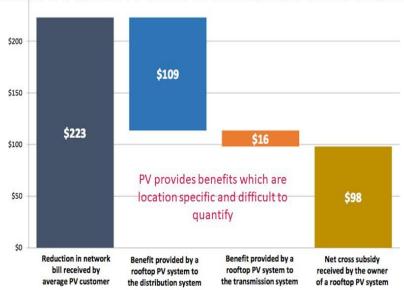
- Can cost a lot of money (non-solar electricity customers or taxpayers unhappy) & difficult to predict cost
 - · Can be unexpected demand
 - Electricity wholesale prices can fluctuate (difference between standard and premium cost changes)
- If price is fixed, may not encourage price reduction (innovation -> dynamic efficiency)
 - ...but innovation may be encouraged by competition for market share (amongst manufacturers) & profitability + critical mass of industry players can better innovate
 - Even so, savings may not be passed on to customers (need regular adjustment of tariffs)
- Not attractive to networks -> no incentive to reduce barriers to RE (may increase them)
- Does not usually reflect variable value of electricity (time, location)
- Customers of utilities in good resource areas may bear most of the cost
 - · Can be addressed by distributing costs among all areas

7

PV Network Tariff Cross Subsidy

custome

Annual impacts of a rooftop PV system on the Endeavour Energy network and other



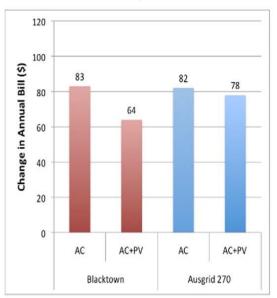
ENA 2014

Other Cross Subsidies in Tariffs

- To consumers in different locations
- To consumers that use the network at peak times

Impact of owning airconditioning (AC) and AC+ PV on bills of other customers

CPD 2013



Network Tariff Changes and PV

- Likely that network peak load savings < value of tariff savings
- How much should PV owners pay to use the network?
- Proposals by DNSPs and others:
 - PV hosting limits
 - Increased fixed charges
 - High and non-transparent fees for network studies
- <u>But</u> at current penetration levels, most of the impact of PV on networks is revenue impact, not costs of managing technical issues

PV Tariffs in a Post 'Grid Parity' World

- What is the Value of PV?
 - To date, Australian FiTs have reflected energy value (avoided purchase of energy from the wholesale market by retailer) + avoided energy losses
 - · Network value?
- Underlying network costs and benefits poorly aligned with tariffs
 - current Cost Reflective Tariffs
 - Do not incentivise DERs to provide services that are locationally and temporally aligned with grid needs
 - Do not compensate them for providing a range of network services and other values
- How to treat other distributed energy resource (DERs)?
- Need new business models for DNSPs and other key stakeholders that facilitate DERs

11

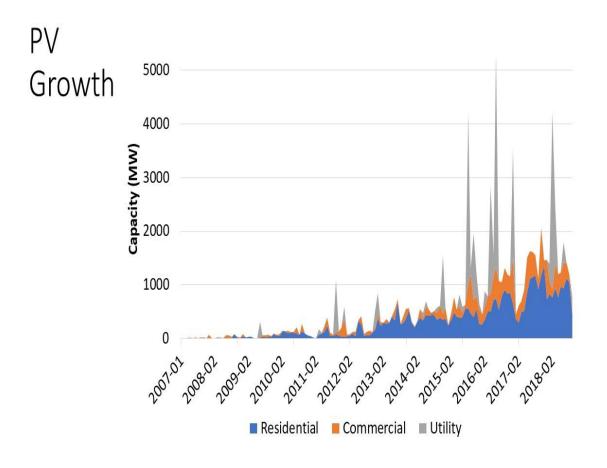
Victorian Time-varying FiT (2018)

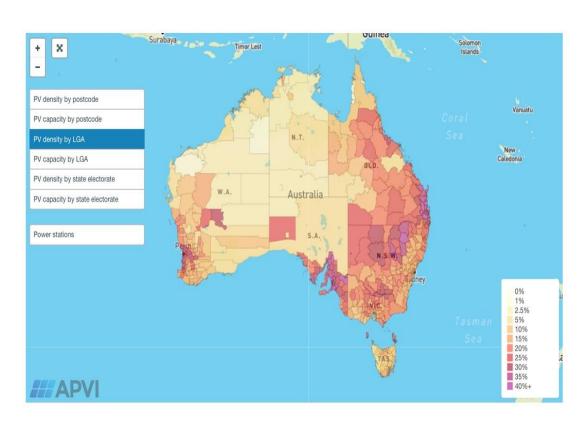
Single-rate minimum feed-in tariff - final rate

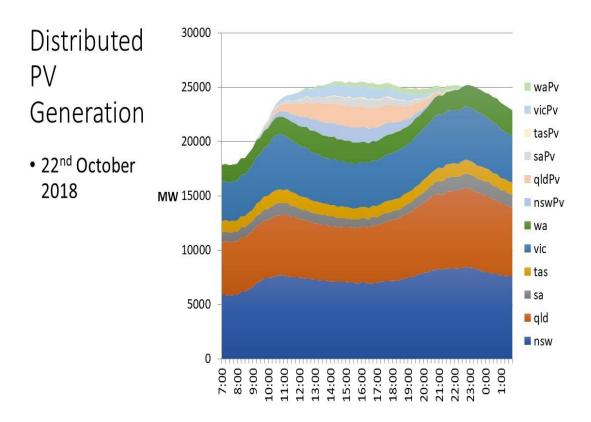
Tariff	Minimum rate to apply (all times) (c/kWh)
Single-rate minimum feed-in tariff:	9.9

Time-varying minimum feed-in tariff - final rates

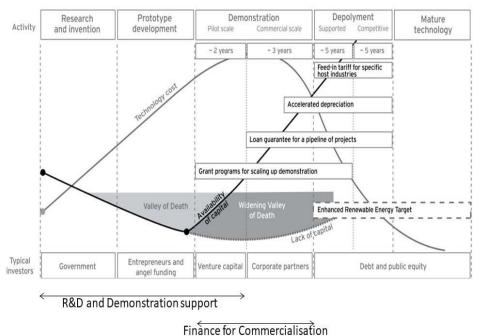
Period	Weekday	Weekend	Rate: cents per kilowatt hour (c/kWh)
Off peak	10pm – 7am	10pm – 7am	7.1 c/kWh
Shoulder	7am – 3pm, 9pm – 10pm	7am – 10pm	10.3 c/kWh
Peak	3pm – 9pm	n/a	29.0 c/kWh







Commercialisation Support and Financing



Lareg Scale Solar Support

- Solar Flagships Demonstrations
- ARENA grants
- CEFC financing support
- State government Reverse Auctions



Demonstration Grants Lessons Learnt

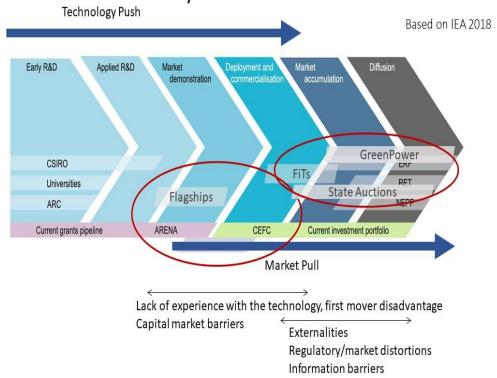
- Often require co-investment (e.g. 1:1 matching capital)
- Milestones problematic due to technology & institutional uncertainties -> much funding never gets disbursed
- Big grants are more risky
- High administrative costs
- Can damage public perception
- Does highlight regulatory & market issues and reduce risk for future projects
- Commercial interests reduce dissemination of learnings

CEFC - Public Financing Support

- Projects in the capital intensive phase of technology development
- Tenor [timeframe] of debt suitable for renewable energy infrastructure projects
- Smaller scale renewable energy projects
- Institutional investor allocations to clean energy/technology fund managers
- Competitively priced long term debt finance for energy efficiency and low emissions technology
- Capital for enabling technologies, such as grid transmission, storage, and smart grid.

19

Australian RE Policy Framework



State Auctions

• State RE Targets

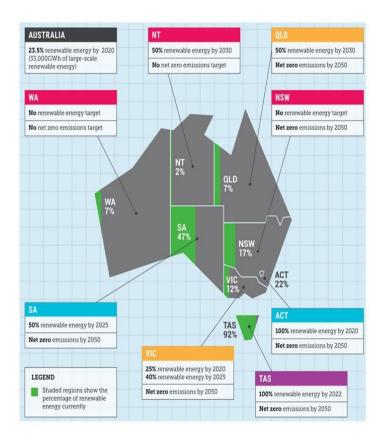
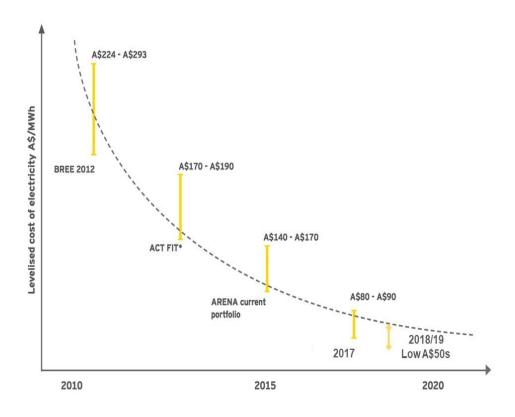
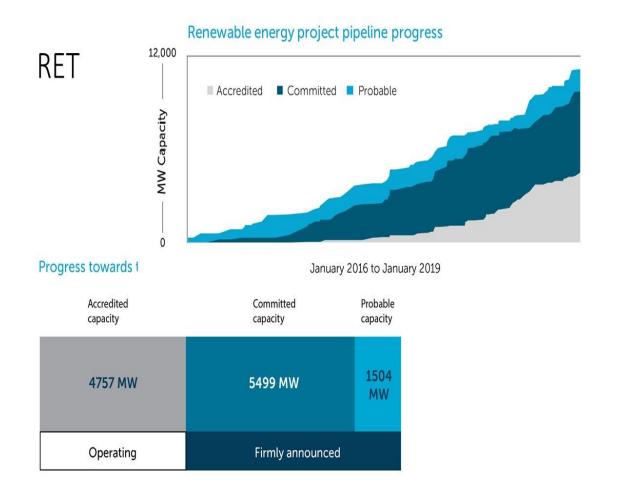


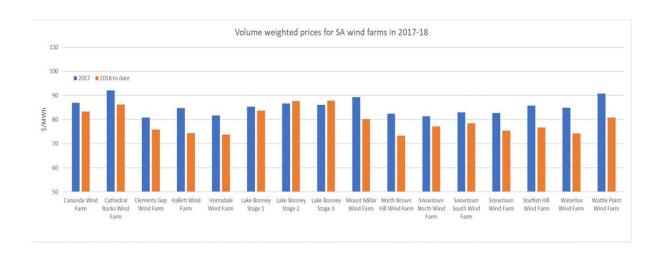
Figure 2 – Historical Levelised Cost of Energy for Australian large-scale solar

EY for Clean Energy regulator 2017

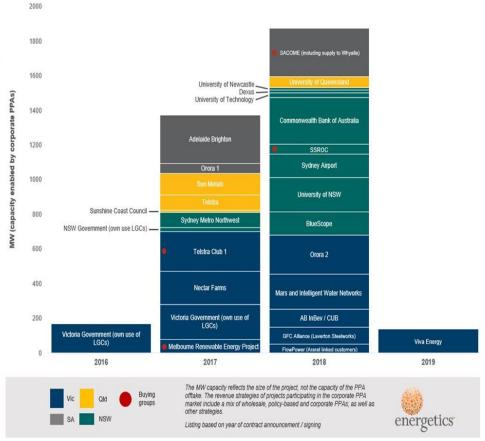


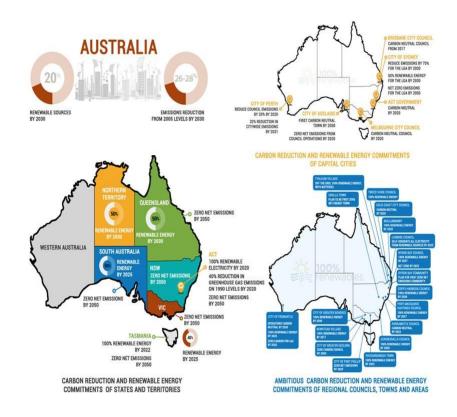


Auctions - Incentivising



Corporate PPAs





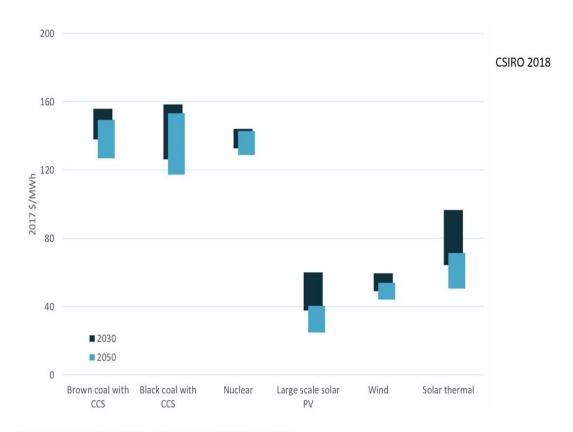
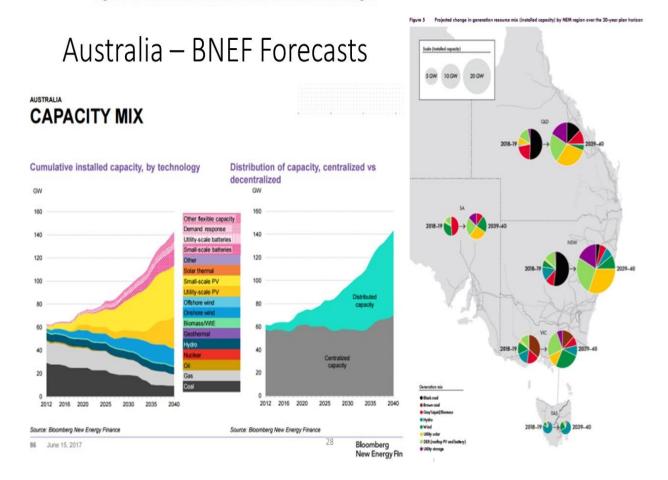


Figure 4-1: Conventional LCOE estimates for selected technologies



Presentation on "Sharing Australian Experiences in Solar PV Technology" by Demain Natakhan



Barwon Water

WARRNAMBOOL

CORANGAMITE SHIRE

all of

MORNINGTON PENINSULA DEAKIN

MELBOURNE

Bayside

LA TROBE

UNIVERSITY

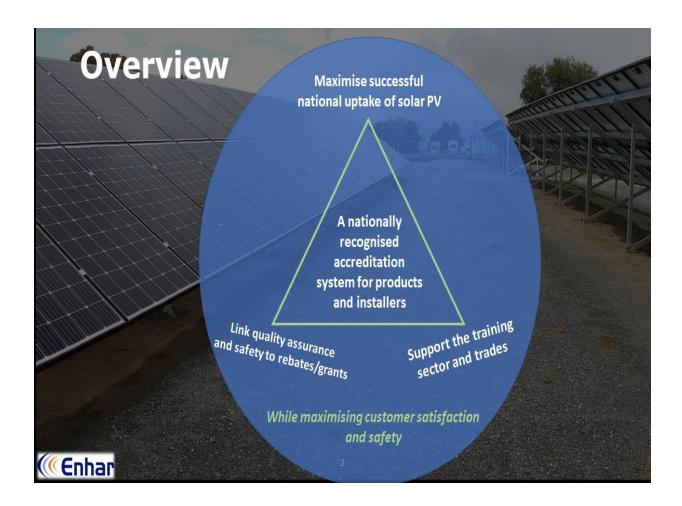


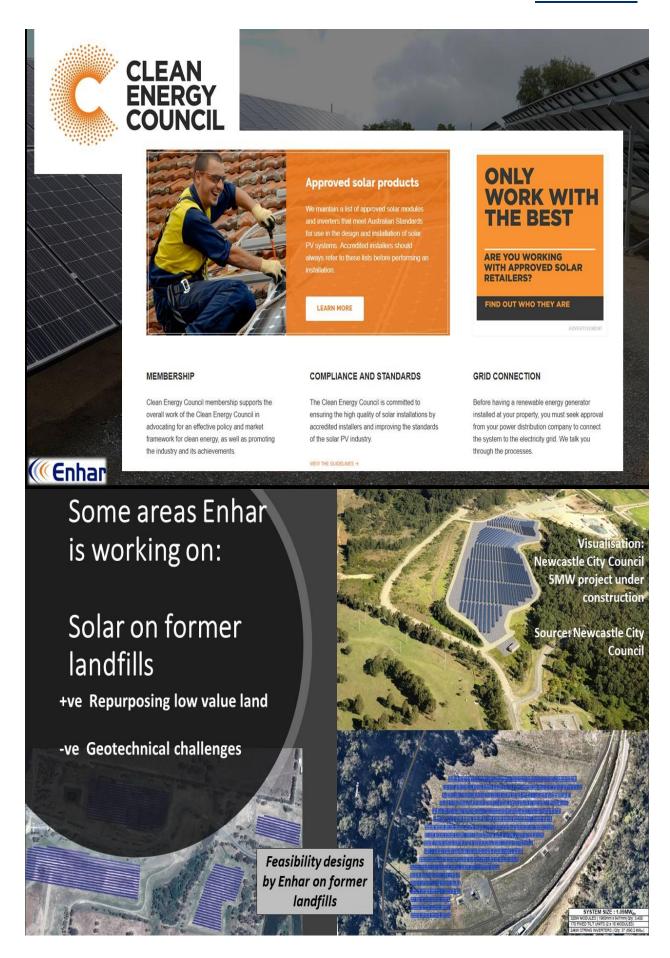
Enhar's own accreditations and memberships:





SMALL BUSINESS MEMBER





Selecting the optimum array technology

Technologies include:

- North-facing fixed tilt
- · Single axis trackers
- · East-west fixed tilt
- PV geomembrane

Constraints include:

- Preservation of the cap's seal
- Differential settlement
- Landfill gas

Optimisation metrics include:

- Energy yield vs land area
- Lowest cost of energy
- Ease of maintenance







Images: Nextracker



Thank you

Enhar Pty Ltd www.enhar.com.au 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053 Tel 03 9429 9463 Demian Natakhan demian@enhar.com.au



(((Enhar

Photo: Enhar