

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM: 1 IN 4 HOMES HAVE SOLAR PANELS

The highest uptake of solar photovoltaics globally

NOT THE POINT

ACTUAL SITUATION:

SIMILAR COUNTRIES ARE MOVING TO DECARBONISE

...while Australia continues its reliance on fossil fuels

THE REALITY



CLIMATE ANALYTICS

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM: SOLAR POWER

Already a renewable energy success story.

MISLEADING

- Although rooftop solar progress is good, the bigger picture is that Australia continues to rely on fossil fuels while other countries are moving to decarbonise. Emissions from fossil fuel developments outweigh the benefits of rooftop solar.
- Woodside's Scarborough-Pluto gas expansion project will emit nearly twice as much as the emissions avoided by all the rooftop PV panels in Australia each year.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM: AUSTRALIANS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ROOFTOP SOLAR

...and its environmental and economic benefits.

DIVERSION

- Focusing on rooftop solar misses the point. As similar countries ramp up efforts to decarbonise their entire economies, Australia's rate of decarbonisation remains low.
- Renewables accounted for just 7% of Australia's energy mix in 2020. Similar countries have a much larger share. The USA was 12%, the EU27 about 22%.
- Importantly, the Federal government's support for fossil fuel projects, and a "gas-fired" economic recovery will slow our own decarbonisation and undermine the global efforts to limit climate change.

Sources: [Australian Energy Statistics \(2021\)](#) [CAT \(2021\) Australia](#)
[IEA \(2021\) World Energy Balances](#)

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM: TRIPLE CURRENT ROOFTOP SOLAR CAPACITY

An additional 24 GW of rooftop solar is forecast over the coming decade.

MISLEADING

- Solar expansion is the result of state targets and policy, not Federal government action.
- The grid can't cope with the solar we have. Households can lose up to 20% of rooftop solar output due to grid curtailment (for grid stability).
- The Federal government *lowered* its large-scale renewable energy target (LRET) from 41,000 GWh in 2020 to 33,000 GWh: it was met in 2019.
- There is no post-2020 target, and investment in large-scale renewables is falling when it should be accelerating.

Sources: [Clean Energy Council \(2022\) Clean Energy Australia Report 2022](#)
[CAT \(2022\) Australia](#) [Race for 2030 \(2022\)](#)

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM:
61% OF ELECTRICITY FROM
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Projection by 2030. ←

NOT THE POINT

- This is an improvement on earlier projections but a Paris compatible renewable component in our power sector would be higher than 80% by 2030 and almost totally renewable by 2035.
- The fact is that emission projections for the rest of the economy, outside the electricity sector and land sector, are projected to increase significantly between 2021 and 2030, adding a further 5% to national emissions above 2005 levels.
- The huge scale of fossil fuel projects planned is part of the problem. For example, over its lifetime the new Scarborough-Pluto expansion project will emit 1.37 billion tonnes of GHG emissions from 2021-2055 – 60% more than the annual total GHG emissions from the Adani Carmichael coal mine.

Analysis based on: [Climate Analytics \(2021\) Warming Western Australia](#)