

Title:	Australian solar industry frustrated by stagnation as California powers ahead
First Broadcast:	3 rd December, 2014
Source:	ABC's The World Today
Minutes:	4:20
Audio & Script:	http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2014/s4141227.htm <i>Right click on the 'Click To Play' button to save the audio file</i>
Summary:	As a massive, 25 square kilometre solar power plant with over a million PV panels begins operating in California, clean energy firms in Australia remain disappointed by the government's lack of commitment to the renewable energy industry and their ongoing review of renewable energy targets.
Related Stories:	http://www.theguardian.com/news/2014/aug/15/guardian-shorts-ebook-extract

KEY WORDS

Below is a list of words which appear in the report - which ones don't you know or you are unsure what they mean?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> massive (adj) | <input type="checkbox"/> additional generation (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> install (v) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boast (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> financial incentive (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> predominantly (adv) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> inspire (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> ensure (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> state of limbo (n) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> whole transformation (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> negotiation (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> clarification (n) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stalemate (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> represent (v) | |

DEFINITION MATCH

Can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.

act or speak officially for another	
claim, to speak of with pride	
complete or major change	
connect, make ready to be used	
discussion between people trying to reach an agreement	
guarantee, make certain	
huge, large in comparison to what might be typical or usual	
mainly, mostly	
make someone want to do something, encourage, motivate	
making something clearer and easier to understand, explanation	
production, creation	
something that encourages someone act in a particular way or do something	
standstill, deadlock, a dispute in which neither side can gain an advantage or win	
state of uncertainty	

massive (adj)
boast (v)
inspire (v)
whole transformation (n)
stalemate (n)
additional generation (n)
financial incentive (n)
ensure (v)
negotiation (n)
represent (v)
install (v)
predominantly (adv)
state of limbo (n)
clarification (n)

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- Where do countries normally get most of their electricity from?
- What is renewable energy?
- What is a renewable energy target? Why is it an issue for many governments at the moment?
- Why do you think in some countries the process of committing to a renewable energy target has been difficult? Who would support a renewable energy? Who would be opposed to one? What are the pros and cons?
- How do you think the uncertainty surrounding the introduction of renewable energy targets impacts on renewable energy companies?
- Should all countries have a renewable energy target? What should the target be?

PRE-LISTENING

Try to complete the following exercise before you listen to the report

- The Topaz Solar Farm in California is the largest active solar farm in the world. **True / False**
- What do you think the following figure from the report refers to?
Enough for 160,000 homes -
- Australia doesn't have a renewable energy target. **True / False**
- Very few countries in the world have some kind of renewable energy target. **True / False**
- In the US, most new renewable energy projects are ...
a. solar b. wind c. hydro

LISTENING

Listen to the report and check your answers

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

After listening to the report, try to answers the following questions

1. The Topaz Solar Farm in California is likely to remain the biggest active solar farm in the world for many years to come. **True / False**
2. By 2020, the state of California aims to generate what proportion of household electricity from renewable sources?
3. John Connor, from Australia's Climate Institute, says California's new solar farm has left the renewable industry in Australia feeling inspired but.....
4. Under Australia's renewable energy target, what proportion of Australia's electricity supply is supposed to come from renewable sources by 2020? **At least**
5. Australia's renewable energy target is **lower / higher** than California's.
6. According to Kane Thornton, the CEO of the Clean Energy Council, the uncertainty surrounding the renewable energy target and the ongoing review in Australia has had an impact but jobs in the renewable energy industry continue to grow and more and more renewable energy companies are coming to Australia. **True / False**

CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences – you may have to change the form of the word

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> massive | <input type="checkbox"/> generation | <input type="checkbox"/> install |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boast | <input type="checkbox"/> incentive | <input type="checkbox"/> predominantly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> inspire | <input type="checkbox"/> ensure | <input type="checkbox"/> limbo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> transformation | <input type="checkbox"/> negotiation | <input type="checkbox"/> clarification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stalemate | <input type="checkbox"/> represent | |

1. A device was in all new homes in the city which allowed occupants to see exactly how much electricity was being used and the average hourly cost at any given time.
2. After seeing the documentary film by Al Gore about climate change, many people were to take action to reduce carbon emissions.
3. Although many countries have set a renewable energy target, their electricity will still be generatedfrom fossil fuels, such as coal and gas, for many decades into the future.
4. Business leadersthe coal mining industry argued against the introduction of a carbon tax saying consumers would face much bigger electricity bills.
5. Construction of the massive wind farm was indue to legal challenges from nearby residents and delays in receiving final approval by the government.
6. Debate on the issue of a carbon tax had reached awith neither of the major political parties wanting to commit to one. This is despite experts saying it was the best method for reducing carbon emissions and opinion polls showing a lot of the public supported the introduction of one.
7. Developers of a new wind farm said they were frustrated the project hadn't yet been formerly approved by government authorities after they had originally supported it. They said they would be speaking with the environment minister to seek
8. During after work drinks, the manto his colleagues about how many sales he had done last month and how he was the best salesperson in the company.
9. Manufacturing company Siemens has built awind turbine with each blade measuring an astonishing 75 meters in length. That is almost the same length as an A380 Airbus.
10. Many people believe the Internet has completelysociety and the way we interact.
11. Nuclear power accounts for around 70 per cent of France's electricity
12. The bestfor people to use less electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to increase prices.
13. The government admitted that the new carbon tax would have an impact on the price of some products. But it said they would be compensated to no one was financially worse off.
14. There was a lot of among world leaders attending the climate change summit before a renewable energy target was finally agreed to. Most observers had expected the meeting to end in stalemate and were therefore very surprised by the outcome.

ANSWERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T • The number of homes the Topaz Solar Farm aims to generate enough electricity to power • F • F • solar 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. T 2. F 3. A third 4. frustrated 5. 20 per cent 6. lower 7. F
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act or speak officially for another	represent
claim, to speak of with pride	boast
complete or major change	transformation
connect, make ready to be used	install
discussion between people trying to reach an agreement	negotiation
guarantee, make certain	ensure
huge, large in comparison to what might be typical or usual	massive
mainly, mostly	predominantly
make someone want to do something, encourage, motivate	inspire
making something clearer and easier to understand, explanation	clarification
production, creation	generation
something that encourages someone act in a particular way or do something	incentive
standstill, deadlock, a dispute in which neither side can gain an advantage or win	stalemate
state of uncertainty	limbo

1. A device was **installed** in all new homes in the city which allowed occupants to see exactly how much electricity was being used and the average hourly cost at any given time.
2. After seeing the documentary film by Al Gore about climate change, many people were **inspired** to take action to reduce carbon emissions.
3. Although many countries have set a renewable energy target, their electricity will still be generated **predominantly** from fossil fuels, such as coal and gas, for many decades into the future.
4. Business leaders **representing** the coal mining industry argued against the introduction of a carbon tax saying consumers would face much bigger electricity bills.
5. Construction of the massive wind farm was in **limbo** due to legal challenges from nearby residents and delays in receiving final approval by the government.
6. Debate on the issue of a carbon tax had reached a **stalemate** with neither of the major political parties wanting to commit to one. This is despite experts saying it was the best method for reducing carbon emissions and opinion polls showing a lot of the public supported the introduction of one.
7. Developers of a new wind farm said they were frustrated the project hadn't yet been formerly approved by government authorities after they had originally supported it. They said they would be speaking with the environment minister to seek **clarification**.
8. During after work drinks, the man **boasted** to his colleagues about how many sales he had done last month and how he was the best salesperson in the company.
9. Manufacturing company Siemens has built a **massive** wind turbine with each blade measuring an astonishing 75 meters in length. That is almost the same length as an A380 Airbus.
10. Many people believe the Internet has completely **transformed** society and the way we interact.
11. Nuclear power accounts for around 70 per cent of France's electricity **generation**.
12. The best **incentive** for people to use less electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to increase prices.
13. The government admitted that the new carbon tax would have an impact on the price of some products. But it said they would be compensated to **ensure** no one was financially worse off.
14. There was a lot of **negotiation** among world leaders attending the climate change summit before a renewable energy target was finally agreed to. Most observers had expected the meeting to end in stalemate and were therefore very surprised by the outcome.