

Double Glaze Matters

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Solar Panels for Araluen

As you maybe aware, I am a member of a climate action group called Montmorency Community Group. We have had some spare money sitting in our bank account and wanted a project to invest in. We are trying to set up a community project where we install solar panels for a community organisation and they repay us out of the savings over a 6 year period.

This is similar to a model set up by Corena which has successfully installed \$150,000 worth of panels. Several of you may have contributed to them. <http://corenafund.org.au/>

I started looking for appropriate sites and found Araluen that is situated only 300 metres from my house. It is a large site with a sheltered workshop for disabled people as well as house accommodation for disabled people. They have a

large roof area without too much shading. I have spoken to them and found that they use a whopping 360 kwh a day, although they hope to reduce this by installing LED's. A rough calculation suggests that if we installed 20 kw of panels they would use in excess of 90% of the generated power and so pay it off in under 6 years.

The only problem is that it will cost approximately \$20,000. So we are giving you the chance to be involved!

We will be asking people to buy one of the 80 solar panels for \$250. This is not a donation, but an interest free loan. You will be paid back over 6 years.

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Franciscus Henri's contribution. I will feel guilty whenever I buy a sausage at Bunnings...

Solar Panels for Araluen (cont)

This is a wonderful opportunity to assist a very worthwhile charity to cut their power bills and save a considerable amount of emissions at the same time.

There are many people who want to take tangible action on climate change but cannot purchase panels themselves. This is their opportunity.

There are many reasons why purchasing panels is not possible for everyone, such as:

- Properties are rented
- Significant shading
- Do not want to lose the Premier Feed in Tariff.
- Small power usage during the day so most of the power would be exported for 5 cents/kwh

So, if you think you may be interested, please get back to me and indicate how much you may be willing to contribute. This is very much an "expression of interest" rather than a formal commitment since there are many technical issues and financial issues that we need to resolve and the final framework may change.

I would also appreciate any comments from people who may have been involved in similar projects.

Hazelwood

Having fought for many years for the closure of Hazelwood, I am pleased to say that it is finally going to happen.

What surprised me most was that so many of our politicians were surprised! Having promoted a policy of 20% renewable energy by 2020, it was inevitable that 20% of our coal fired power would need to close by 2020.

I was pleased to read a submission from a senate committee saying that Australia must close 1 power station a year so all are gone by 2030 if we are to meet our Paris commitments. By comparison, AGL's plan is to keep them running until 2050.

Hopefully our government may start looking at the planning necessary to organise an orderly shutdown of the power stations. If nothing else, Hazelwood has shown that the only alternative to an orderly shutdown is a disorderly shutdown.

A disorderly shutdown will not only adversely impact power station workers but will also impact customers. Planned closures will ensure other capacity is in place to meet supply and

I was also pleased that the energy regulator came out and said Hazelwood is unlikely to impact our ability to meet the 99.998% reliability target currently in place.

There has been comments that power costs will increase when Hazelwood closes. Over the last 5 years, the extra generating capacity from renewables has reduced prices since there was an over-supply of power. This closure removes the over-supply and returns prices to where they would have been if renewable generation hadn't been installed.

Over the next 20 years, power prices will drop as renewable generation comes online then will jump back up whenever a coal station closes.



Hazelwood