

Double Glaze Matters

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Araluen Solar Panels

Energy This Month = 7.5 Mwh = \$900

Total Energy = 67.5 Mwh = \$10,600

Bird of the year

The Black throated finch won the Australian Bird of the year! Thank you to those who voted.

It won with 11,153 votes (35% of the total), and 7,802 votes clear of second.

[The Guardian's Bird Of The Year.](#)



The Black Throated Finch





Futuristic Teslar Ute



Teslar Semi

Teslar truck

The big news is that Teslar announced its electric ute last week. You either like it or hate it, but you have to admit it is different! The rear view at least looks more like a ute!

A quarter of a million liked it so much that they placed orders within a week.

So now Teslar has a car (several actually), a ute and a semi trailer and it looks like electric vehicles could start becoming main stream.

I think the semi is the most important. With a range of over 900 km it shows that electric vehicles can do the heavy work. And it may well be in this area that they grow the quickest. Electric vehicles are expensive to buy but cheap to run. So if you have a vehicle that runs 8 hours a day, paying of the initial cost is much quicker.

Expect to see electric rubbish trucks in your neighbourhood soon!

There are a couple of issues around electric vehicles. One is that they don't pay any fuel tax. At the moment half of the price of petrol goes in taxes. The government cannot afford to lose that income, so expect some sort of road tax on electric vehicles. I hope that they wait a few years until the electric car market gets established.

The second issue is providing electricity to power them. If all

vehicles were electric, we would need to double our electricity generation. This has to be all renewable power.

So if this is to happen by 2035, we need to add 7% a year. If we are also replacing existing coal over the same period, this adds another 5%. If we replace gas heating and industry over the same period, that is a further 12%.

So, that's around 25% of existing power generation has to be replaced or added every year with renewable power. Last year was our biggest year for renewables, but it was still only around 3%. Installing 25% a year is enormous and highlights the size of the problem we face.

We also have to build a grid to transport that power

However this should drive us into action, not make us ignore the problem.



Rear view of the electric Teslar Ute