



SUMMER BBQ GUIDE: TALKING ENERGY

With the festive season underway, be equipped for the moment when the banter around the BBQ shifts to energy...

Here are 5 common Australian energy myths and facts.

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QUESTION:
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SUN DOESN'T SHINE AND THE WIND DOESN'T BLOW?

ANSWER:
RENEWABLE ENERGY AND STORAGE CAN PROVIDE ELECTRICITY 24/7.

Renewable electricity can power the economy rain, hail or shine. All it takes is a mix of wind and solar energy, together with on-demand renewables (such as solar thermal, biomass or hydro power) and energy storage (such as pumped hydro or batteries). Improving energy efficiency, installing modern appliances and ensuring these appliances are not running when electricity demand is high, can also help make the grid more reliable.

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For more detail on how to power Australia's energy system with renewables, check out: www.climatecouncil.org.au/powering-a-21st-century

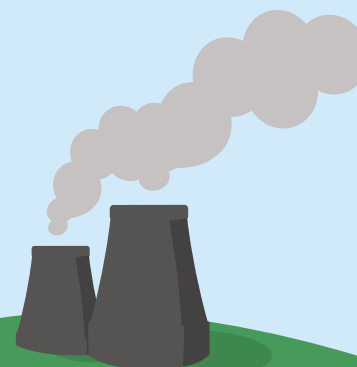
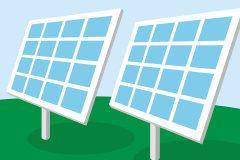
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QUESTION:
IS COAL RELIABLE?

ANSWER:
AGEING COAL GENERATORS ARE UNRELIABLE AND VULNERABLE IN HEATWAVES.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has identified ageing coal power stations as a risk to reliable electricity supply. By 2030, most of Australia's coal fired power stations will be over 40 years old. Once the coal fleet reaches this age, they become increasingly expensive to run, and increasingly unreliable particularly during heat waves.

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For more detail on Australia's potential for a modern energy grid, check out: www.climatecouncil.org.au/powering-a-21st-century



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QUESTION:
HOW MUCH DOES
RENEWABLE ENERGY COST?

ANSWER:
RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE CHEAPEST FORM OF NEW POWER.

New renewable energy is *driving down* electricity prices by increasing electricity supply. Australia's coal power stations are reaching the end of their lives and need replacing. Renewable power from wind and solar farms is the cheapest form of new power generation and is best suited to replace these old clunkers.

Plus, more than 1.8 million Australian households are already reducing their electricity bills with rooftop solar.

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For more detail on basic electricity facts, check out:
www.climatecouncil.org.au/fact-sheet-10-basic-electricity-facts-to-help-you-navigate-the-finkel-review

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QUESTION:
WHAT ABOUT BLACK OUTS?

ANSWER:
MOST BLACK OUTS ARE CAUSED BY EVENTS AFFECTING POWER LINES.

98% of all interruptions to power supply, including blackouts, are caused by events affecting power lines - not a lack of sufficient generation. Common causes of blackouts include fallen tree limbs, possums, vehicle impacts, bushfires, lightning strikes and storms. And to make matters worse, climate change - driven by the burning of coal, oil and gas for electricity - is worsening many extreme weather events such as storms, heatwaves and bushfire weather.

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QUESTION:
DOES AUSTRALIA LACK
LEADERSHIP ON
RENEWABLE ENERGY?

ANSWER:
YES AND NO. STATES AND TERRITORIES ARE LEADING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE ABSENCE OF CREDIBLE FEDERAL POLICY.

While Australia waits for a credible climate and energy policy from the Federal Government, states and territories continue to lead the charge on ramping up renewable energy and cutting pollution. However, there is still much more that needs to be done.

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For more detail on what states and territories are doing check out:
www.climatecouncil.org.au/2017-states-report

