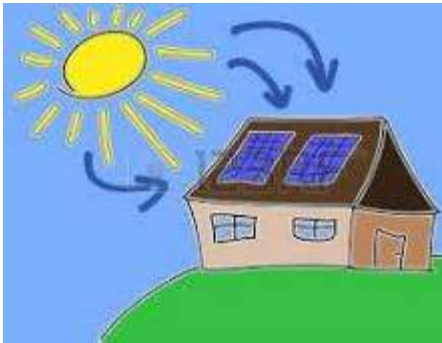

Solar Panels Petition:

Lately there have been many letters written to the Morning Bulletin disagreeing with the Queensland Treasurer, Tim Nicholls, who recently described people with solar panels as "champagne sippers and the latte set". The Queensland Government has blamed the solar feed-in tariff for rising electricity prices. Energy Minister Mark McArdle said in May that the "overly generous" scheme of the former government to increase the use of rooftop solar panels was forcing up power prices for the rest of the state. See link: [McArdle claims solar scheme driving power prices up](#), but there has been no discussion about the environmental benefits of feed-in tariffs to encourage solar panel installation.



Solar panels reduce the reliance on coal generated electricity and so reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Queenslanders have installed sufficient numbers of solar panels to be equivalent to one coal fired, greenhouse gas polluting power station. The Government is focused solely on the price of electricity, while at the same time, it collects almost one billion dollars a year from the Government owned transmission and distribution companies after they have paid the feed-in tariff.

If you feel strongly about this injustice please **sign the petition** to have a discussion into all aspects of the electricity industry to ensure renewable and sustainable sources of electricity and modes of supply, including household solar panel installation, receive support and encouragement. The government recently released a 30 year strategy called PowerQ. It has no strategy for solar panel owners except to tell them to trust the market.

Petition Link is: [let's have a real debate about energy policy in our Queensland Community](#)

Good News and Bad News Queensland to Open Another Coal Fired Power Station

Stanwell Power Corporation, a State-owned utility, that used to own wind farms and be a leader in emission reductions, is now re-opening its mothballed coal fired power station. The **re-opening of the Tarong coal fired power station** is a backward and selfish act, a decision that must also contradict the corporations own greenhouse gas abatement strategies. A preferred strategy for Stanwell would be to change its business case. Become a provider of solar panels and energy efficiency services to its customers. That would lead to cheaper bills, less electricity generated from coal or gas and a corporation leading a transition to a cleaner energy future. See [Queensland to open another coal fired power station](#)

WHY couldn't a smaller Concentrated Solar Thermal Power Station be built instead? See: [worlds first hybrid solar plant almost complete](#)

'The Queensland Plan' calls for Queensland to become a renewable energy state by 2030. Why has the State Government been so silent on this matter? Why is a State owned corporation like Stanwell Power Corporation not leading the way towards renewable energy?

A NEW port expansion is on the table at Hay Point:



including offshore coal loading operations that could extend into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Documents filed with the Federal Environment Department show the proposal would involve a barge taking coal to an offshore "transhipper" for loading on coal ships for export. Behind the project is Hay Port Exports, a subsidiary of the Mitchell Group, the company involved in the controversial Fitzroy Terminal project in the Fitzroy Delta south of Yeppoon. [New Coal Barge Plan](#)



Daily Mercury Reader Poll:

Is the coal industry destroying the Reef? **Yes72% No27%**

Now the Good News: Massive Australia coal project dumped in face of China energy revolution and Obama's Clean Power Plan

The proposal to develop a 180 million tonne per annum coal export facility at Dudgeon Point in Queensland has been cancelled. Dudgeon Point is one of a number of multi-billion dollar Queensland coal export terminal proposals that have been relinquished over the last two years. This highlights the rapid deterioration in the global coal industry prospects, with key turning points this last month by China's President Xi Jinping's call for an "energy revolution" [china readies energy revolution](#). China has experienced explosive growth in renewable energy production, with wind and solar power increasing 35.3 per cent and 122 per cent respectively in 2013. At the moment, nearly two thirds of China's energy consumption is powered by coal. Beijing wants to reduce that reliance to 52.4 per cent by 2023.

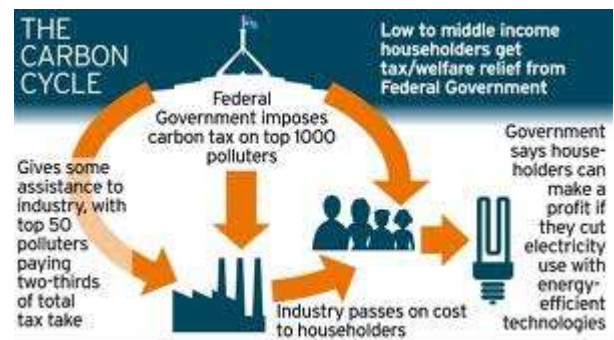
In the **United States** President Obama's "Clean Power Plan" the EPA's newest proposal will require every state to cut the amount of carbon-dioxide emitted by their electricity sectors. See [EPA-power-plant-rules-explainer](#). Different states **will have different goals** for cutting emissions, depending on their specific energy mix. States will then have to come up with plans to meet those goals, using a wide array of different options. They can use more efficient technology, shift from coal to (somewhat cleaner) natural gas, invest in renewable energy, or even [join cap-and-trade programs](#).

Carbon Tax Repealed:

despite the fact that 94% of Australians want a clean energy future [Big Solar Future](#). Maybe the guy singing 'We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome one day' in the gallery of the Senate today knows we must change for the benefit of the next generation.

Direct Action What is it to be?

We wait with unabated breath. Will a Green Army on the march plant and nurture a billion trees? Will local councils slash them at the first available opportunity? Will polluters get paid dirty money rather than pay for their pollution. Will you invest the tax compensation for the carbon price on joining the sustainable energy revolution – keep posted!



ReNew Magazine (thanks to Brian Bartlett)

The Pears Report: The war on renewable energy

With neighbouring Asian countries investing millions or billions of dollars in renewable energy and energy efficiency, Alan Pears reflects on Australian policy in 2014.

Life is certainly interesting in Australia in 2014. What is most tragic is that our leaders seem to be uninterested in having transparent, balanced processes to work things through to a consensus position that is in the interests of society. Every inquiry or audit seems to be stacked with partisan people, and has inadequate process to allow consensus to be built. Every announcement is full of PR spin and provides little information, much of which is selected to support a particular view. This is a serious challenge for democracy. Of course, in the energy sector, we're used to this kind of behavior.



Science also seems to be in disrepute. We are paying a high price for the lack of scientific training of our leaders and their advisers. I visited China recently for an APEC sustainability workshop. I was the only westerner present at the invitation-only session, which made me feel very honored. I was given the task of explaining Australia's renewable energy policy to the attendees: they were all completely bemused. I then had to sit and listen as they took turns telling the group about the hundreds of millions or billions of dollars they were all investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. [Read the whole article](#)

Sustainable Central Queensland an initiative of CCC welcomes contributions on energy efficiency; technological options and actions individuals and groups can take help CQ lead the transition to a sustainable future. Opinions may not necessarily represent the policy of Capricorn Conservation Council.

Backyard chickens

Keeping chickens in your backyard can have many advantages, and not just for you, as Justin Brasier explains.

I once heard about a man who recovered from serious depression after acquiring a small backyard flock of chooks. Observing the complex, often hilarious social hierarchy of his chooks as they foraged and explored his backyard gave the man a focus, helped him wrestle with his own inner demons and reminded him of the simple pleasures of life. His story is proof that eggs aren't the only benefit of backyard chook-keeping.

Many of you who are reading *ReNew* are already trying to make a difference at home with your environmental footprint. Some will have water tanks, others solar panels; worm farms and compost heaps are also popular. Well, chooks can help complete the picture. In fact, chooks are also champion composters. Justin Brasier says: 'Since I got chooks I have had next to no food rubbish, with the exception of citrus and potato and some vegetable peel and coffee grounds, all kitchen scraps are decimated'.

[Read more on backyard chickens](#)



Some Other topics in this issue of RENEW: See <http://renew.org.au/current-issue/>



[Sourcing a green builder](#)

[Know your renewables off grid basics](#)

[The economics of going off grid](#)

[No wires and too much power](#)

South Australia could become a text-book case for the transition to a low carbon electricity grid, if the most up-to-date forecasts from the Australian Energy Market Operator are any indication.

See: [the remarkable energy transition in South Australia](#)

Cheap foreign carbon could save emissions trading

So long as we lift our target to 19% by 2020, Australia could join international permits and this would be less stress on Australian businesses. Australian business would be wrong to believe it will be off the hook from climate change costs by repealing the Carbon Tax, according to a new report being released by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia.

[listen to the abc on Radio National](#) (goes for 7 minutes)



Explaining climate change science & rebutting global warming misinformation

Explaining climate change science & rebutting global warming misinformation



Scientific skepticism is healthy. Scientists should always challenge themselves to improve their understanding. Yet this isn't what happens with climate change denial. Skeptics vigorously criticise any evidence that supports man-made global warming and yet embrace any argument, op-ed, blog or study that purports to refute global warming. This website gets skeptical about global warming skepticism. Do their arguments have any scientific basis? What does the peer reviewed scientific literature say? <http://www.skepticalscience.com/>