

**Renewables in the Abbott era:  
current status of the energy revolution  
and upcoming campaigns**



100% Renewable Webinar  
October, 2013



Umme Sarah Hoque -  
Communications & Media  
Manager

Lindsay Soutar - National  
Director



Taegen  
Edwards -  
Community  
Organising  
Manager



*Goodbyes and huge thanks to...  
Rebecca Garden and Geoff Evans*



**SolarCitizens**

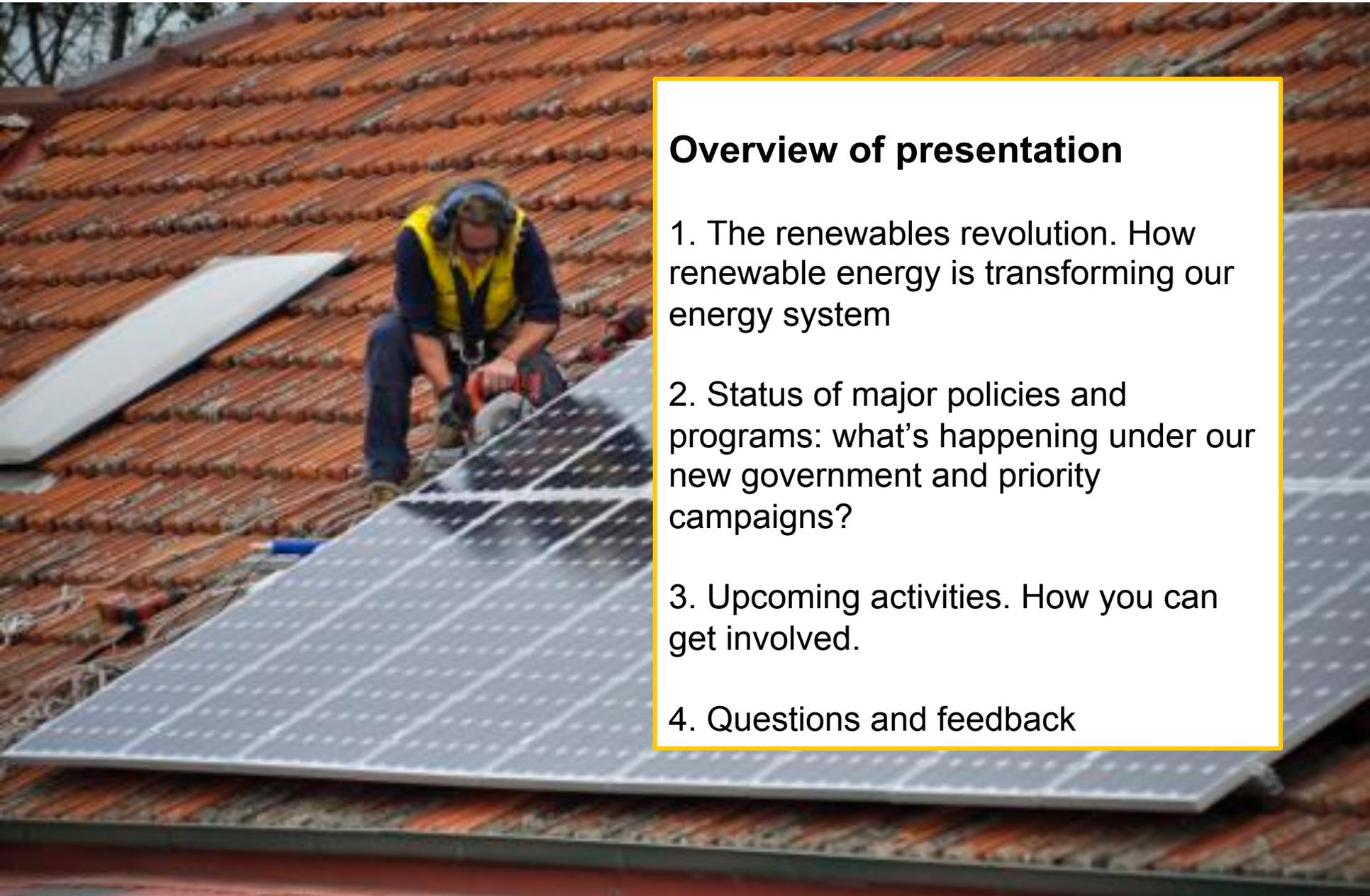


Nick Taylor –  
Community  
Campaigner



Adrian Brown -  
Organisational  
Development  
Manager

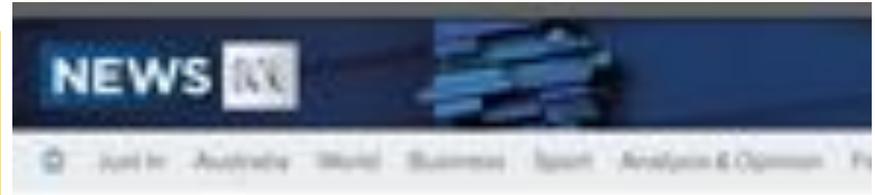




## **Overview of presentation**

1. The renewables revolution. How renewable energy is transforming our energy system
2. Status of major policies and programs: what's happening under our new government and priority campaigns?
3. Upcoming activities. How you can get involved.
4. Questions and feedback

The GOOD news: the renewables revolution is underway!



## De Bortoli to launch Oz wine industry's largest solar system

## Wind farms churn out more than half SA's electricity during wild weather

Home Markets Health Politics News Property Tech and Business Local News

### AGL unveils Australia's biggest solar energy plants

14th July 2015

**Andrew Dawson**  
Content Strategy Editor  
View his profile on the ABC website  
Follow him on Twitter | Email him

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube | RSS | Email

13 Comments | 2 Photos | 0 News Excerpts

14 Jul 11:52am | Facebook | Twitter | Email

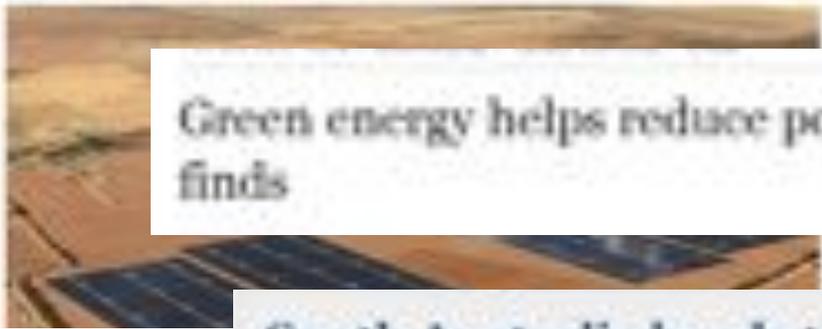
### South Australia's Conservation Council says a record amount of wind energy generated in southern Australia but needs investment in renewable technology

In recent wild weather, wind turbines produced almost half of South Australia's electricity, while 10 per cent of Victoria's energy was delivered by wind farms.

The Clean Energy Council says wind farms powered the equivalent of 2.2 million homes nationwide.



Media: Solar systems produce almost half Australia's electricity - ABC2015 - abc.net.au



Green energy helps reduce power bills, study finds

South Australia heads to 50% renewables within a decade

You're one in a million!  
**1 MILLION AUSSIE HOMES NOW POWERED BY THE SUN!**



Congratulations Australia! **100% renewable**

**Congratulations!**  
 This is the result of all your hard work  
 over the last few years



But the BAD news...

# Solar-powered households face higher fees to use grid

EXCLUSIVE

UNPAID BILLS FOR SOLAR OWNERS

AUSTRALIA'S solar owners are being hit with a \$4b hit as the government forces them to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid.

Household solar owners will have to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion, according to a report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCU).

The ACCU report says that the government is forcing solar owners to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion.

The report says that the government is forcing solar owners to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion.

The report says that the government is forcing solar owners to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion.

The report says that the government is forcing solar owners to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion.

The report says that the government is forcing solar owners to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion.

The report says that the government is forcing solar owners to pay for the electricity they generate and sell to the grid, a move that will cost them \$4 billion.

## The Sydney Morning Herald Federal Politics

Political News   Public Opinion   Breaking Politics & Video   The Pulse   More News

### Clean energy faces \$4b hit

August 19, 2011

Ben Colburn and Tom Kemp

Facebook   Twitter   LinkedIn   YouTube   RSS

Print   Email   Share

Exclusive



## The dark forces lined up against renewables in Australia

By Greg Paterson on 20 October 2011

The Australian renewables industry is under no illusion about the extent of the forces lined up against it following the election of a highly conservative Coalition government in Canberra.

## Why are they so threatened by wind and solar?

- Generators make most of their profits on days of peak demand. But those are the days solar is working best, dropping demand and cutting into profits.
- Wind is lowering wholesale power prices, also cutting into profits.
- Network operators have over invested in poles and wires that are no longer needed.
- The energy market is potentially facing a 'death spiral' with mass exit of consumers from the centralised grid.

## **2. Status of major policies and programs: priority campaigns for 2014**

- Renewable Energy Target
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- Rooftop solar roll out



# The Renewable Energy Target (RET)



# The Renewable Energy Target (RET)

What is the RET?

- National target to see proportion of total energy generation come from renewable energy sources

What is its current status?

- Current legislated target is for 41,000 GWh of renewable energy to be built by 2020
- When target was set that looked like being 20% of energy, but now is more like 28% . A great outcome!
- But continual policy uncertainty and requirement for 2 year reviews has made industry nervous - new project development under the target has stalled
- The target will again be reviewed in 2014.
- Can expect a big industry push to see the target wound back. This is being led by Origin, all big guns are lining up. Industry already told to “take a haircut”.
- Timeline for review not yet clear.

What is our objective?

- Extended and expanded Renewable Energy Target is legislated following 2016 election

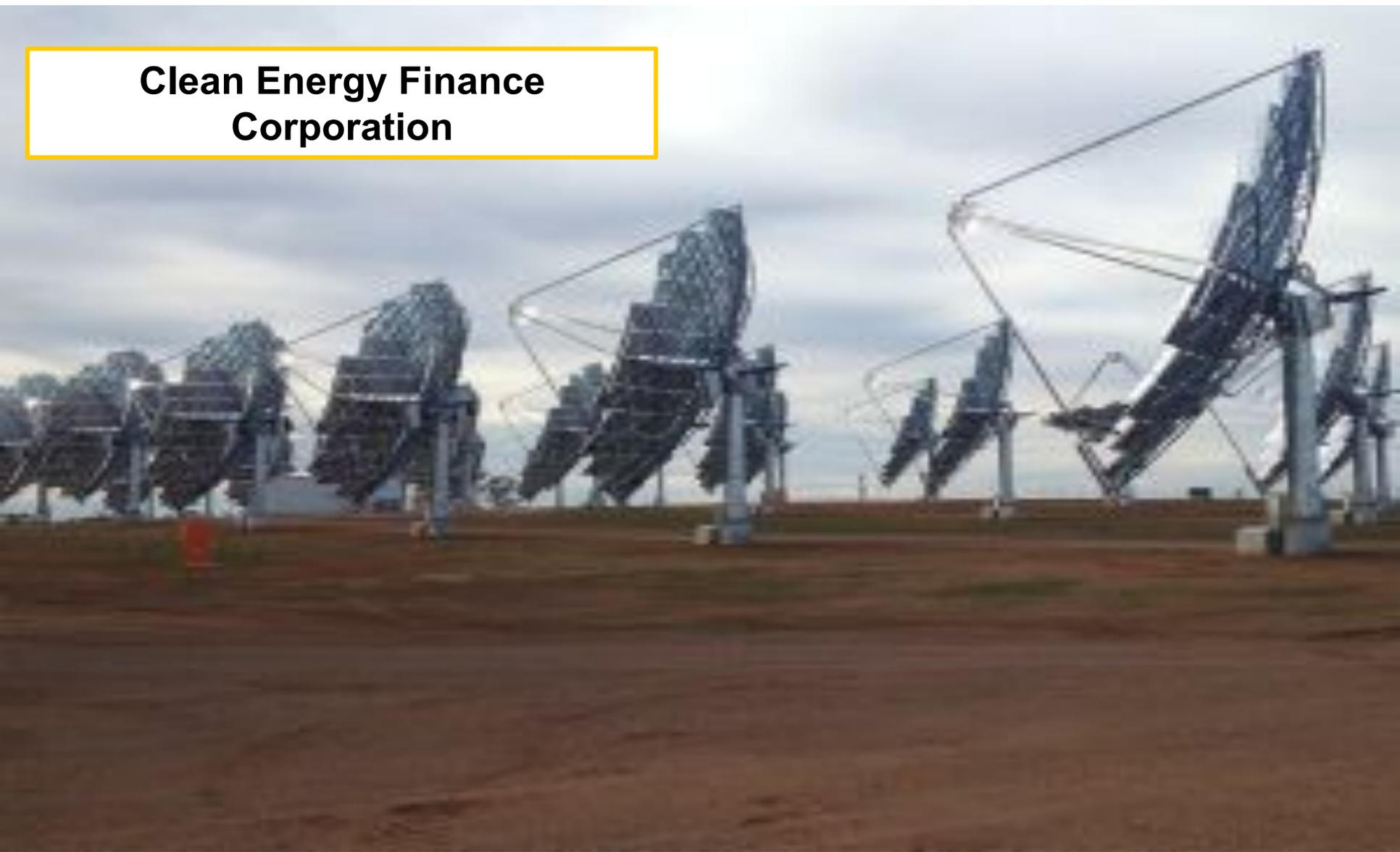
How do we win?

- Government knows renewable energy is popular
- Renewable energy is increasingly important for helping them meet their emission reduction goals
- We need to sideline the biggest opponents (hence Origin AGM action last week)
- And make sure the government knows there will be community backlash if it winds target back



**STRANGLING  
RENEWABLES:**  
ORIGIN ENERGY'S  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Clean Energy Finance  
Corporation**



## Clean Energy Finance Corporation

What is the CEFC?

- \$10 billion loan fund to provide low interest loans to renewable energy projects

What is its current status?

- Started operating in July 1 last year
- At least 10 projects already funded, generating 7% return
- Government has committed to repealing it but it must continue operating until that time
- Recent carbon price repeal legislation did not include repeal legislation for CEFC
- Increasing talk that the CEFC could be useful for government

What is our objective?

- Maintain the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, or equivalent funding for commercialisation of large scale renewable energy projects.

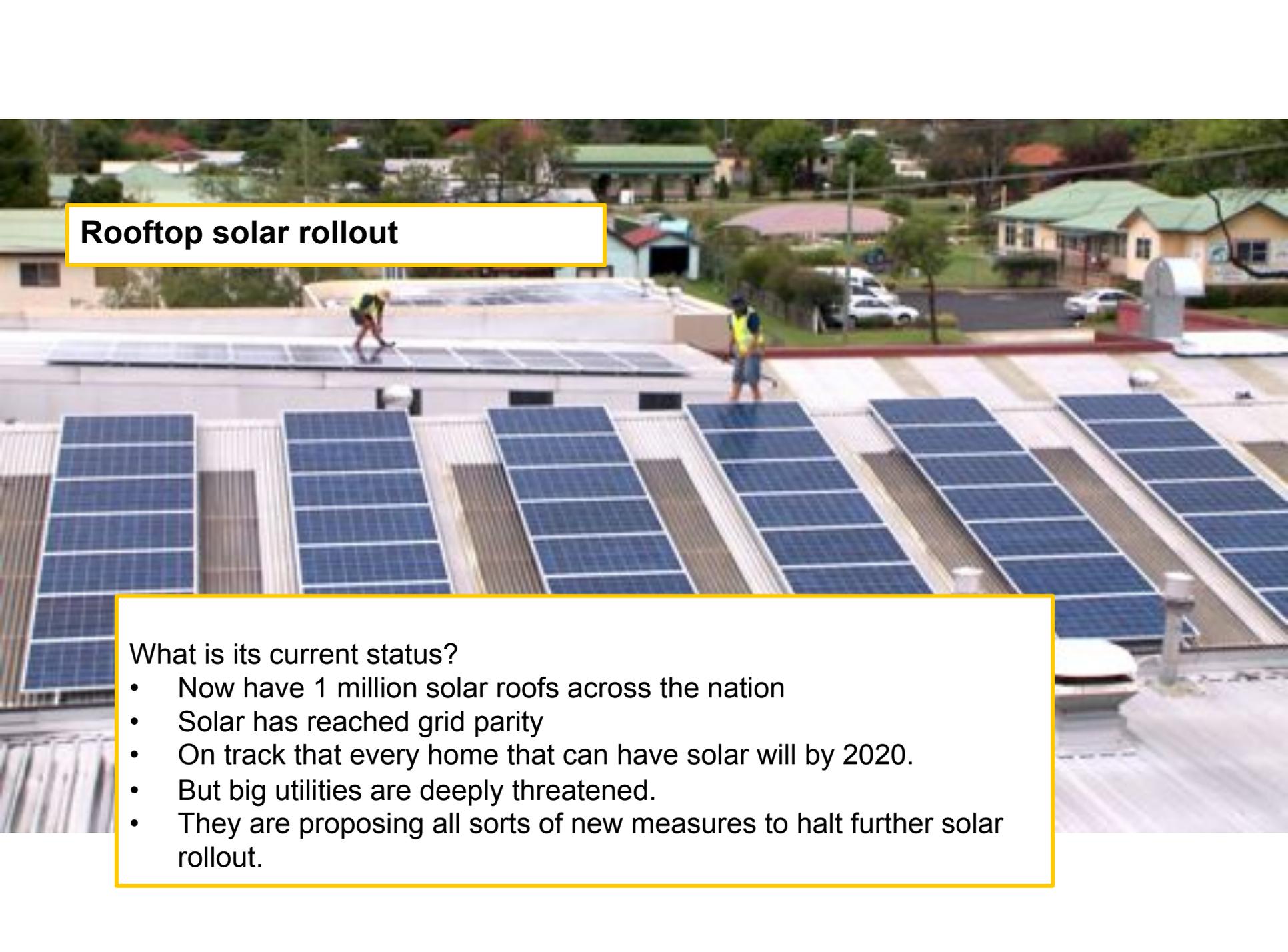
How do we win?

- Two possible paths to winning:
  1. Incoming senate will not pass repeal legislation
  2. New government sees value in maintaining it and decides to keep it (perhaps with a changed name/mandate)



## Rooftop solar rollout





## Rooftop solar rollout

What is its current status?

- Now have 1 million solar roofs across the nation
- Solar has reached grid parity
- On track that every home that can have solar will by 2020.
- But big utilities are deeply threatened.
- They are proposing all sorts of new measures to halt further solar rollout.

An aerial photograph showing several residential roofs. One roof in the center has a man standing on it. To the right, a large array of blue solar panels is installed on a roof. Other roofs are visible in the background, some with solar panels and others without. The sky is overcast.

### What is our objective?

- Ensure no measures are implemented that would undermine confidence in or speed of domestic solar PV rollout

### How do we win?

- Build a huge list of Solar Citizens across the nation [target for 200,000 nationally and 10,000 in key electorates by 2016 election]
- Fight every proposal that would make it harder for people to go solar.
- Engage with million solar roofs program.

# The Power of Solar Citizens

## Cabinet reverses solar tariff decision

Daniel Emerson, Daniel Mincer and Gareth Parker,  
The West Australian

Updated August 12, 2013, 11:20 am

Recommend 2

Tweet 1

Email

Print



Ian Mire, manager of Perth-based group Avant Solar  
Picture: Michael O'Brien/The West Australian

The Government has reversed its unpopular decision to halve the solar feed-in tariff after four days of widespread, stinging criticism.

Announcing the decision midway through today's weekly Cabinet meeting, Premier Colin Barnett admitted the Government got it wrong.

Thursday's Budget revealed that 40c for every unit of electricity contributed to the grid would be halved to 20c by July for solar panel customers signed up to the Government's feed-in tariff scheme.

Mr Barnett said Cabinet had approved a decision to reverse the stance.

"Quite simply, we got this decision wrong and we have to fix it," the Premier said in a statement a short time ago. "We have listened, and we appreciate the commitment that many people have made to take up renewable energy, like solar power."

"We make many decisions in casting the State Budget - and at all times we are trying to achieve a balance on behalf of all West Australians."

"We understand that this measure would have had an unfair impact on one section of the community and it has to be reversed."

Don't tax the sun

## Solar-powered households face higher fees to use grid

10/11/16

"Solar-powered households face higher fees to use grid" read this week's headline in The Australian. "Australia's one million households with rooftop solar"

Will you sign?

First name

Last name

Email

Mobile

Just last week it was suggested that governments might impose fee or levy on every single solar home in Australia.

We have launched a new petition calling on every Energy Minister to reject these suggestion and letting them know there will be huge community backlash if they go down that path.

The petition is already at 6,932 signatures.

**If you haven't already please sign this petition, share it on facebook, send it to your lists.**

**Together we can make sure solar stays strong and the solar rollout continues unabated.**

### 3. What's coming up and why we need you?

Can you help us reach 50,000 Solar Citizens by end of Nov?

- Don't tax the sun petition launched last week
- Currently 25,000 on list
- Recruitment leaderboards will track highest recruiters
- Presented to new government in early December, and energy ministers through COAG

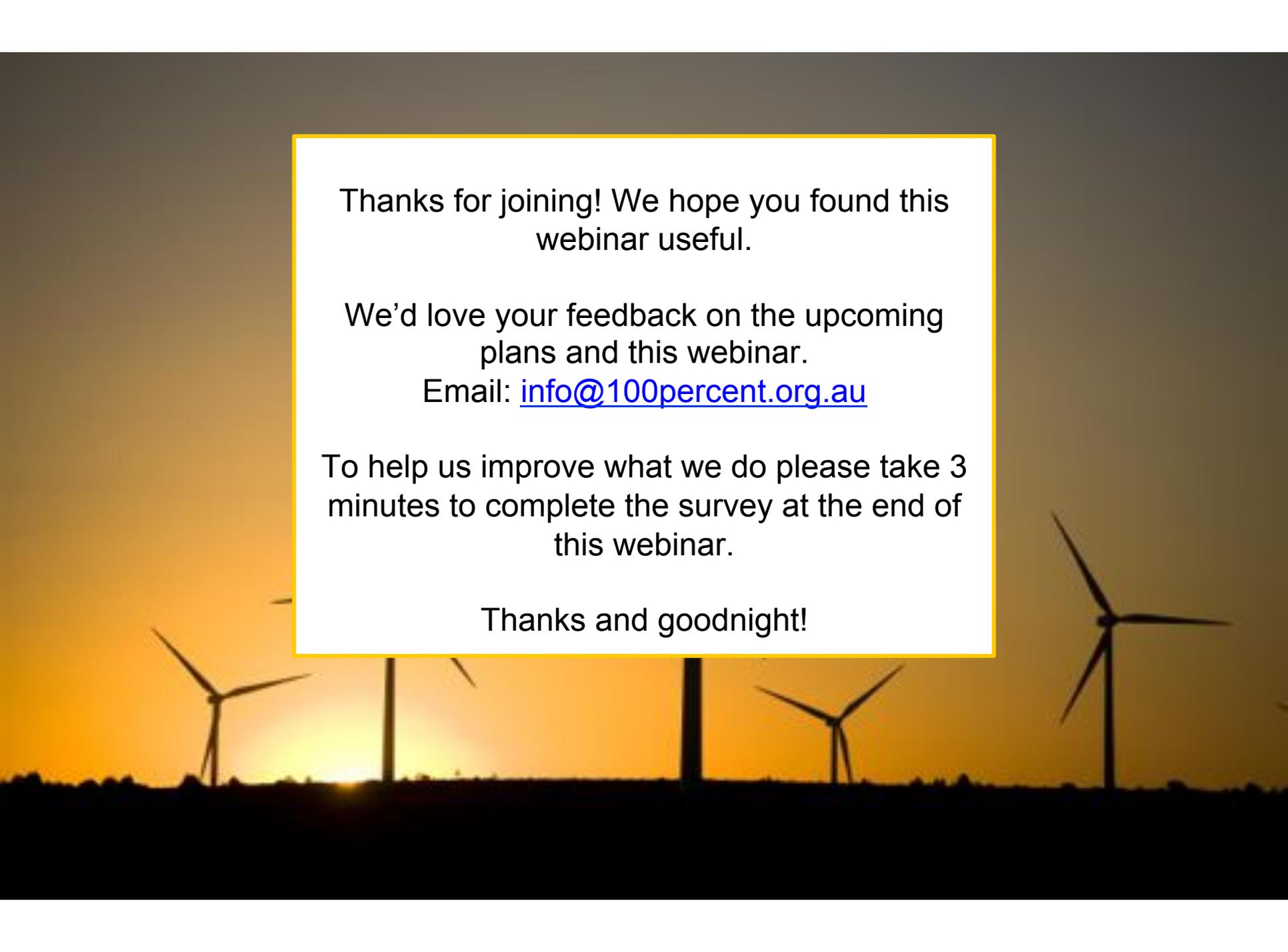
**To hit these goals, we'll need people active online and offline around the country. Can you help?**

Can you donate to Origin fighting fund at [www.originenergy.org.au](http://www.originenergy.org.au)

Put February in your diary next year for state based trainings and campaign planning.



Your QUESTIONS answered

The background of the slide features a silhouette of several wind turbines against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. The turbines are positioned at various intervals across the horizon, with the sun appearing as a bright glow between two of them.

Thanks for joining! We hope you found this webinar useful.

We'd love your feedback on the upcoming plans and this webinar.

Email: [info@100percent.org.au](mailto:info@100percent.org.au)

To help us improve what we do please take 3 minutes to complete the survey at the end of this webinar.

Thanks and goodnight!