



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01AM AEDT FEBRUARY 10 2022**

## **A record year: Renewables provided 5x more power than gas in 2021**

RENEWABLES PROVIDED FIVE times more power into Australia's largest grid than gas in 2021, according to new data from the Climate Council.

Renewables reached record highs in all mainland states in 2021, while gas generation fell [once again](#) across the country, down to its lowest level in more than 15 years in the National Electricity Market (NEM) despite virtually no change in electricity demand. Tasmania equaled its previous record of 99.9 percent of wind, water and sun in 2021

“The increase in solar, wind and batteries in our electricity system is making power bills cheaper for Australian households and businesses. Electricity is now the [cheapest it has been in almost a decade](#) and we have solar and wind to thank for that,” said **Climate Council Senior Researcher, Tim Baxter.**

“Let's be clear, this record has nothing to do with the federal government, which has been missing in action and leaving all of the heavy-lifting to the states and territories.”

“When you look at the data and what renewables are doing for Australians' hip-pockets, the push for gas from the Morrison Government seems increasingly irresponsible and economically reckless.

“This week, [the federal government approved its Kurri Kurri gas-fired power station](#), despite it making zero commercial sense.”

In NSW, gas provided just 1.5 percent of the state's power, its lowest level in 15 years.

**Climate Councillor, energy expert and former BP Australasia President, Greg Bourne said:** “Every taxpayer dollar spent on new gas-fired power infrastructure is at risk of being wasted on unnecessary stranded assets.”

“Gas simply cannot compete with renewable energy, which is bringing down power prices for consumers and creating a cleaner, healthier energy system.”

“We’re also seeing a similar clean energy trend on the other side of Australia, in WA’s largest grid, which for the first time ever in 2021 saw renewables overtake gas to become the state’s biggest source of power. This is incredibly significant considering renewable energy generation has more than doubled in WA in just three years,” said the former West Australian.

Renewable energy generation increased by almost 20 percent in the NEM in 2021, with a 30 percent jump in Victoria and 26 percent jump in Western Australia. In South Australia, gas generation slumped to its lowest level in more than two decades, while in Victoria it dropped a whopping 30 percent in just 12 months.

“Why is the Morrison Government investing in gas-fired power stations when the need for gas in our electricity system is clearly disappearing?” said Mr Bourne.

“Gas is expensive, polluting, and diminishing in importance and relevance as the rest of the world moves towards net zero, and our own states and territories rapidly roll-out large-scale renewable energy and storage.”

#### **Further information:**

The National Electricity Market (NEM) is Australia’s largest grid and supplies the vast majority of Australia’s electricity. It is an interconnected system supplying electricity right across Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, and most major populated regions of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. ACT’s generation is accounted for within the NSW total.

OpenNEM is an open source platform that displays electricity generation data. This data covers the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. You can view the data [here](#). The Climate Council has recently begun working with the OpenNEM team to grow the site’s functionality, which has recently added [Australian](#), and [global](#) greenhouse gas emissions data tools.

<b>State</b>	<b>Renewable energy generation in 2021</b>	<b>Gas power generation in 2021</b>
National Electricity Market	31.4%	5.7%
Tasmania	99.9%	0.1%
South Australia	65.7%	33.5%
Victoria	31.6%	1.8%
New South Wales	24.6%	1.5%
Queensland	18.5%	8.7%

Western Australia (South West Interconnected System only)	32.2%	29.8%
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**VISION FOR MEDIA:** [GAS OVERLAY](#) AND [RENEWABLES OVERLAY](#)

**For interviews please contact Brianna Hudson on 0455 238 875 or Jane Gardner 0438 130 905**

The Climate Council is Australia's leading community-funded climate change communications organisation. We provide authoritative, expert and evidence-based advice on climate change to journalists, policymakers, and the wider Australian community.

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