



Don Harwin

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 12 March 2017

NSW BOOSTING ENERGY SUPPLIES WITH RENEWABLES ACTION PLAN

NSW is well on the way to completing all actions in the Renewable Energy Action Plan, the Government's plan that is increasing energy supply through renewables.

The plan shows NSW is securing jobs and investment in our regions, more than doubling the share of renewable energy sources over the past six years.

Releasing the annual report of the plan, Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin said 17 of the recommended 24 actions are now complete, five more than last year.

"We're making great progress on the Renewable Energy Action Plan, which positions NSW to increase energy from renewables at the least cost to customers while also helping to boost our energy security," Mr Harwin said.

Mr Harwin said renewables played an important role during February's heatwave.

"At the time of peak demand renewables provided 27 per cent of NSW's generation. We needed recent investment in renewables to meet this peak," Mr Harwin said.

"We've cemented our national leadership in large-scale solar with arrays online at Nyngan, Broken Hill and Moree. Moree is Australia's second largest solar farm and first with technology to track the sun, which can power 15,000 NSW homes."

Another five solar farms are expected to be built across regional NSW following funding commitments from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

Late last year the Government consulted on additional measures to save consumers money through energy efficiency, and boost investment to secure energy supplies.

NSW Renewable Energy Advocate Amy Kean said the plan supports our aspirational target of net zero emissions by 2050.

"We'll do this by diversifying our energy mix, empowering energy consumers and giving the private sector more confidence to invest in renewables and storage technology to achieve an orderly transition," Ms Kean said.

"We're seeing the community welcome new jobs in places like Glen Innes, which is experiencing the benefits of investment in renewables in regional NSW".

View the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan Annual Report 2016 in full at <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/renewable-energy-action-plan>.