

We The People
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We the People 237 Power Failures



Good day to you. It's been hot, really hot and the extremes of climate are right on target as predicted by reputable scientists. That heat caused a big demand for electricity across Australia to run air conditioners and to keep services operating. In places the roads melted it was so hot. Our civilisation runs on electricity and yet it's only been able to be generated by man for about 200 years and in commercial quantities since Faraday built the first dynamo in 1831. Most electricity has been produced from burning coal to heat boilers and produce steam to drive turbines and generate electricity. Now we know that the burning of fossil fuels is dangerous and unsustainable for the planet and future generations and so we now find ourselves moving away from coal fired power stations and rightly so. Renewable energy generation is the sensible catchcry of this century and it must come soon if we are to avoid a number of major perhaps catastrophic problems.

Now we come to the broad scale disastrous black outs recently in South Australia. SA has adopted very adventurous renewable energy targets and probably too high when reliability is considered. However I say good on them for being adventurous and acting as leaders even though their system was fragile in terms of reliability. A report found that high winds, thunderstorms, lightning strikes, hail and heavy rainfall caused problems with the electricity transmission system. This includes the failure of three major transmission lines north of Adelaide in the space of 12 seconds. Without governments and leaders taking some calculated risks nothing new happens and in that I think people should not be too quick to judge the SA government poorly. Nonetheless the lights went out and in that the rest of us can look and learn. The federal government saw the need to intensify their attack on the SA government while Bill Shorten referred to it as a 'hick up'. I would have thought not even a truck load of Mylanta could fix that level of dyspepsia. So quite predictably the two major political parties trying to point score proves yet again neither party is worthy of government. Bill Shorten who believes in fairies at the bottom of the garden and that more debt is good and Malcolm Turnbull who doesn't seem to have any original ideas at all or any real vision for the future. Neither are worthy leaders in my view. The South Australian state wide black out was a golden opportunity for the government and opposition to sit down and nut out a result and a way forward for we the people. They didn't and in that, they failed us miserably.

Renewable energy covers a range of groups including solar panels, hydro power, wind generators, solar thermal power, ocean energy generators and geothermal. Renewables in this context really refers to sources where the energy is 'free' and practically unlimited and sustainable. So far most are not reliable if the wind does not blow, the sun doesn't shine or the rain doesn't fall and so we need a back up storage source or base load supply. At present, burning coal primarily supplies this. So just imagine if all politicians joined forces to come up with a master plan for Australia's energy future without squabbling about it. It's a complex issue and the first step is to have our own solar power on the roof with battery storage just like 4CRB and the price is coming down each year. It's the battery storage which is the key and well worth having but even this has been partially sabotaged by the Queensland government which increased the daily fixed charge and artificially reduced the cost per KW hour. That means if you stay on the grid you are penalised for having solar power. Many politicians are a wicked lot and make compromised decisions at all levels of government whether its pensions or power they are not on our side and dare I say, **the power goes to their head**. Wasn't it Premier Beattie who sold our publically owned electricity system and said it would **reduce prices**.....pull the other one Peter.

This electricity power failure is only exceeded by the political power failure in Canberra which yet again focuses on the wrong thing. The coalition brought a lump of coal into parliament for what theatrical reason we will never know, while Labor just want to fight and understate the matter. Well, I think this is a time to learn and take a positive leadership lesson from South Australia while at the same time realising its a time for measured reason. Why on earth does this issue instantly descend into argument and political chaos when all levels of government should come together to plan the future and not descend into simply pillorying Jay Weatherill the Premier of South Australia. Power.... failures.... indeed.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley