

## *Drifting Back to Diesel Power*

The Carbon Sense Newsletter, April 2017.

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<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/diesel-in-shed.pdf>

*By Viv Forbes & Helpers*

### ***A Diesel in the Shed.***

You can have your solar panels  
and your turbines on the hills;  
You can use the warmth of sunshine  
to reduce your heating bills.

You can dream you're self-sufficient  
as you weed your vegie bed;  
As long as you make sure to keep  
***A diesel in the shed.***

When I was a kid on a dairy farm in Queensland, we relied on green energy - horses and human muscles provided motive power; fire-wood and beeswax candles supplied heat and light; windmills pumped water and the sun provided solar energy for growing crops, vegies and pastures. There were no refrigerators - things were kept cool by evaporation of water in a Coolgardie safe. Cold water for drinks came from a water bag hanging in the shade near the back steps. We had no hot water systems – we bathed one after another in warm water heated in a kettle on the wood stove. The only “non-green” energy used was a bit of kerosene for the kitchen lamp, and petrol for a small Ford utility. We were almost “sustainable” but there was little surplus for others. Labour was cheap and food was expensive.

Our life changed dramatically when we put a thumping diesel in the dairy shed. This single-cylinder engine drove the milking machines and an electricity generator which charged 16 lead-acid 2 volt batteries sitting on the veranda. This 32 volt DC system powered a modern marvel – bright light, at any time, in every room, at the touch of a switch. This system could also power Mum's new electric clothes iron as long as someone started the engine for a bit more power.

There were no electric self-starters for diesels in those days – just a heavy crank handle. Here is the exact model which saved us from a life of dairy drudgery, kerosene lights and Mother Potts irons:

See and listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itxY98A8wHQ>

But all that effort, noise and fumes were superseded when every house and dairy got connected to clean silent “coal power by wire”, and coal was used to produce coke for the new slow-combustion stoves. Suddenly the trusty “Southern Cross” diesel engines disappeared from Australian sheds and dairies, AGA coke-burning cookers displaced the old smoky wood-burning stoves in the kitchen, and clean-burning coal gas replaced wood stoves and dirty open fires in the cities.

In just one life-time, human energy, draft horses, wood, candles and kerosene were replaced by diesel, which was then replaced by coal via coal-gas, coke, and clean silent ever-ready electricity.

Today, after Aussies have enjoyed decades of abundant reliable cheap electricity from black coal, brown coal and hydro, green energy gambling has taken Australia back to the era which kept a diesel in the shed.

Tasmania is the greenest state in Australia. It once had a vibrant economy that created mines, saw-mills, farms, orchards, oil and metal refineries, dams, hydro-power and railways. It is now a green no-go land. Greens have stopped new hydro developments, opposed mining, crippled the timber industry, prevented new wood-chip developments and will probably celebrate when their last refinery closes.

Tasmanians get their electricity mainly from hydro assets created long ago by their more productive ancestors. But recently, a long drought caused a shortage of Tasmanian hydro-energy - they became reliant for up to 40% of their electricity needs on the Bass-link undersea cable bringing electricity from reliable coal-fired stations in Victoria and NSW. However the overloaded Bass Link cable failed, and an old gas-powered station was brought back into service (importing gas from Victoria) to keep the lights on. Subsequently their politicians hurriedly put 150 diesel generators in their shed (costing A\$11 million per month).

See: *Tasmania's Bass Link cable fails. Gas imports boom:*  
<http://www.smh.com.au/business/energy/hit-from-basslink-power-cable-failure-560m-and-rising-energyquest-20160602-gp9mxq.html>

*Tasmania puts some diesels in the shed:*  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-08/hydro-tasmania-to-decommission-diesel-generators-basslink-fixed/7492078>

South Australia is the next greenest state in Australia, hosting about 35% of Australia's wind turbines. These were force-fed into existence by mandatory green energy targets and tax benefits. In a burst of green destruction they also closed their gas-fired power stations and demolished their coal-fired station. However wind power failed recently and a storm tore down their life-line bringing reliable coal power from Victoria. Now Premier Weatherill is planning to install up to 200 megawatts of diesel generators in his shed. Many residents are following his lead.

*As some wag said:*

*Question: “What did South Australians have before candles?”*

*Answer: “Electricity”.*

See: South Australia demolishes their last coal power station:

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/04/10/south-australia-demolishes-their-last-coal-power-station/comment-page-1/#comment-2473296>

South Australia puts some diesels in the shed:

<http://www.danvhp.com.au/2017/03/jays-green-credentials-burned-by-diesel-generators/>

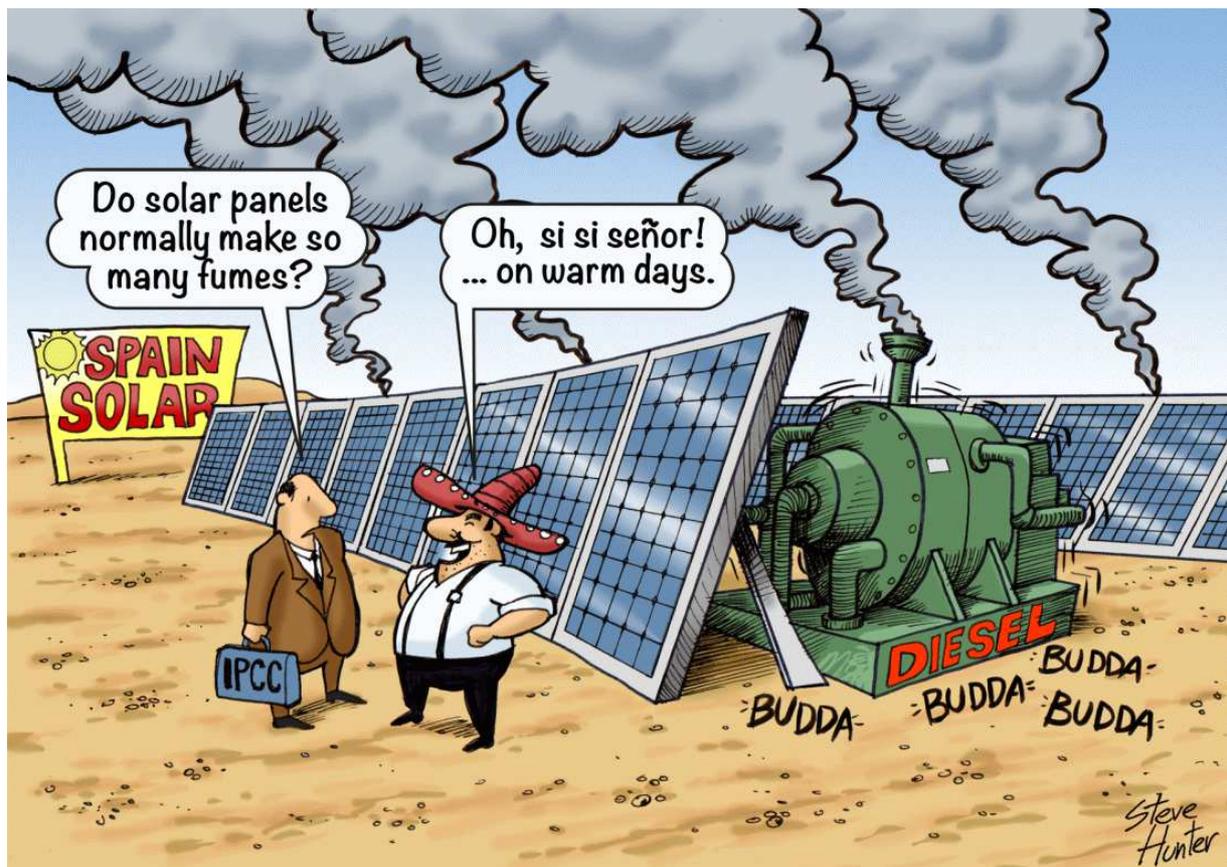
The UK has been badly infected by the green energy virus. Engineers warned that this intermittent and unpredictable supply had increased the risk of blackouts, so the UK government offered subsidies for emergency backup power. This subsidy, plus consumer concerns, put so many diesels in British sheds that they now provide a major backup capacity for UK electricity.

See: UK offers subsidies to put some diesels in the shed:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/06/uk-energy-bill-subsidies-driving-boom-in-polluting-diesel-farms>

Many Spaniards found a diesel in the shed was very profitable. Their government had been drinking green-ale and offered attractive subsidies for solar power produced.

The subsidy was very successful - so successful that someone eventually noticed that some suppliers were even producing "solar" power at night. It was coming from diesels in their sheds.



<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/solar-diesel-s.png> [885 KB]

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See: *The Sun in Spain shines better at night:*  
[http://www.theecologist.org/News/news\\_round\\_up/465409/spanish\\_nighttime\\_solar\\_energy\\_fraud\\_unlikely\\_in\\_uk.html](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_round_up/465409/spanish_nighttime_solar_energy_fraud_unlikely_in_uk.html)

Finally, our green media likes to feature some green energy enthusiast who is “off the grid”. But it usually emerges later in the show that there is a diesel in their shed too.

Those who remember the days of relying on a noisy smelly diesel in the shed and a smoky wood stove in the kitchen have no wish to be dragged back there by green zealots.

To comment on anything said in this article please go to our site – it is now open for comments: <http://carbon-sense.com/2017/04/20/diesel-in-shed/>

We get no help from the GreenBC’s, and little from the main stream media, so please also patronise the blogosphere (the media of tomorrow) especially the sites that help us. Here are some:

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2017/04/australias\\_green\\_delusions\\_a\\_diesel\\_in\\_the\\_shed.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2017/04/australias_green_delusions_a_diesel_in_the_shed.html)

<https://www.iceagenow.info/a-diesel-in-the-shed/#more-21068>

<https:// Cairnsnews.org/author/cairnsnews/>

<http://www.pickeringpost.com/story/a-diesel-in-the-shed-7047>

<http://canadafreepress.com/article/clean-green-batteries>

#### **Further Reading:**

*All about diesel back-up Generators:*  
[http://www.ajp.com.au/pdf/Diesel\\_fuel\\_Back-up\\_Generation.pdf](http://www.ajp.com.au/pdf/Diesel_fuel_Back-up_Generation.pdf)

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## **The Problem with Wind Power**

The problem with wind power is that electric utilities have to be prepared at any time for wind power production to stop on short notice. So they must keep fossil fuel plants on hot standby - burning fuel but not producing any power. Storage technologies and the use of relatively fast-start plants like gas turbines mitigates this problem but does not come close to eliminating it.

Using wind power to supply the electricity grid makes very little sense.

Read More:  
[http://www.coyoteblog.com/coyote\\_blog/2017/04/why-wind-power-does-not-greatly-reduce-fossil-fuel-use.html](http://www.coyoteblog.com/coyote_blog/2017/04/why-wind-power-does-not-greatly-reduce-fossil-fuel-use.html)

## **The Power Plan that Greens Built**

“We need batteries  
To drive the pumps  
To supply the water  
To smooth the bumps  
In the power plan  
That greens built.”

*Will the Turnbull Snowy Scheme Work?*

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/will-malcolm-turnbulls-snowy-hydro-scheme-work-20170315-quz7gm>

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## **Mr President: Stop the Paris Climate Treaty**

<https://cei.org/stopparisclimatetreaty>

## **All Go Green?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVJZdJZ6PwQ&sns=em>

## **Finally, Climate has always Changed:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEPW\\_P7GVB8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEPW_P7GVB8)

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