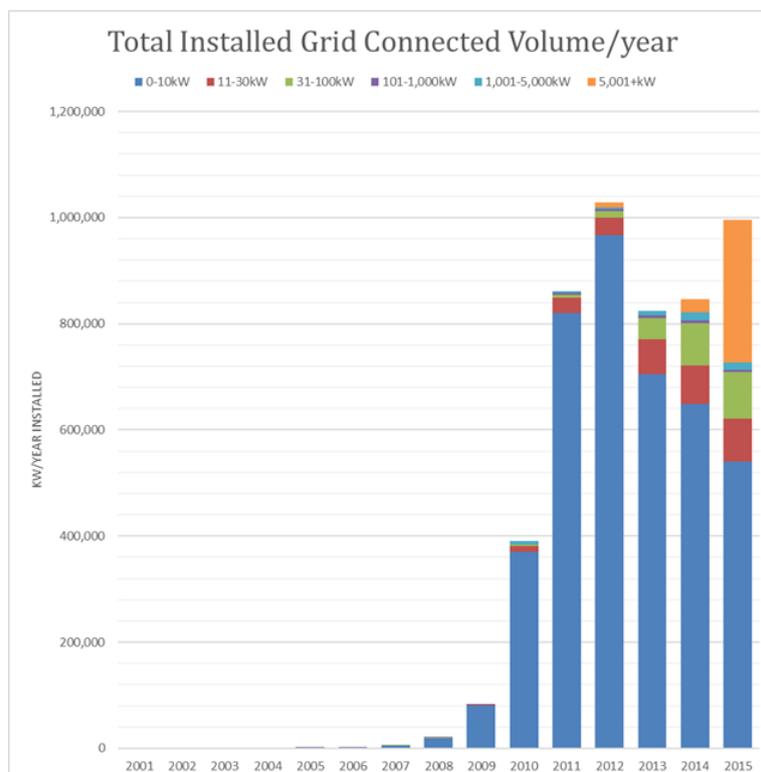


Australian PV installs show 19% year-on-year growth for 2015 resulting in solar energy meeting 2.8% of electricity demand

Renate Egan and Warwick Johnson

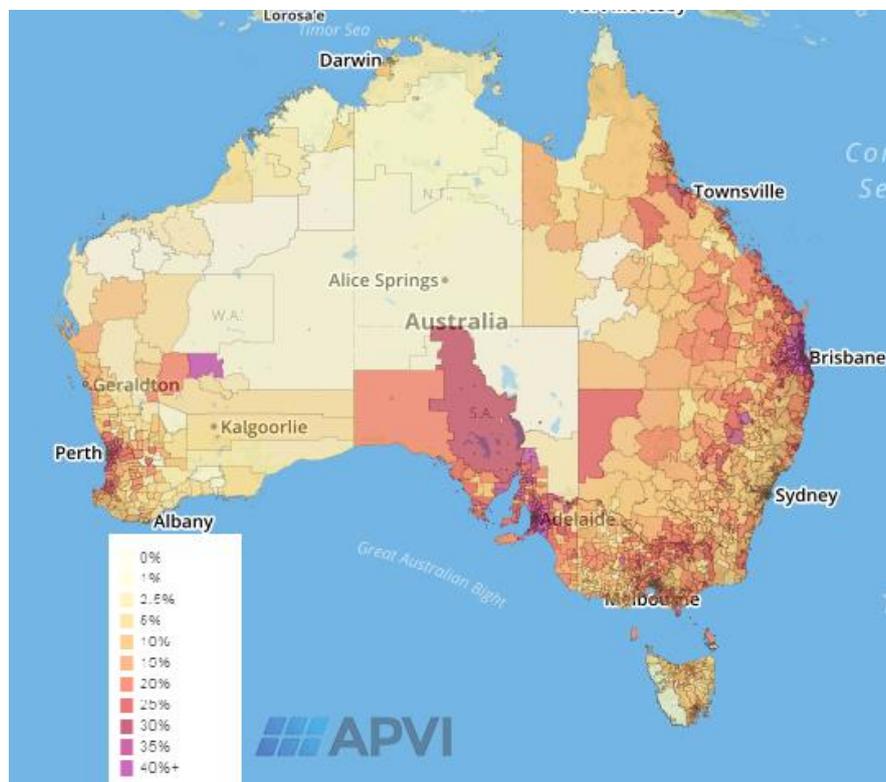
The Australian market for PV installations experienced significant growth in 2015 according to a [new report](#) released by the [Australian PV Institute](#) (APVI). With over 1GW installed, new installations in 2015 came close to matching the record year of 2011 and delivered a milestone of 5GW of cumulative installed capacity.

The report by the APVI is the latest annual update to the IEA on Australian market statistics and shows solar energy generation to be meeting 2.8% of Australia's electricity demand.



Underlying data in installed capacity show a significant increase in utility scale solar, reflecting the installation of the Nyngan, Broken Hill and Moree power stations, a modest growth in commercial systems (10-100kW) and declining volumes in residential rooftop installations.

Rooftop installations remain the largest single market for installed capacity. The average system size is increasing however, so the fall in installed capacity reflects an even greater contraction in the number of individual installations.



The report highlights the high uptake of PV on residential rooftops in areas around Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, in some areas as much as 50% of households are meeting their needs directly from their own rooftop.

Some key findings from the report include

- Australia installed 1.016 GW of solar, a 19% increase on 2014 numbers
- New generating capacity additions in Australia were 100% from renewables in 2015, with 60% from the 1 GW of new solar installs.
- At the end of 2015, Australia had 5GW of installed capacity, keeping it in the top ten nations for installed solar capacity.
- 90,000 new PV installations brings the total number of PV installations to over 1.5 million.
- Residential penetration levels average 19% and are over 50% in some areas.
- 2015 was Australia's biggest ever year for deployment of utility-scale solar with the connection of 280 MW of power station solar.
- The value of the solar industry to Australia was 2.47 Billion dollars, creating 8310 direct and 4100 indirect jobs.

- Panel prices were steady in the local currency despite deterioration in the strength of the Australian dollar.
- Average unsupported small systems prices are \$2.30/Wp, with STCs reducing this to \$1.50/Wp.
- Average utility scale price was \$2.34/Wp.

The report also provides an overview of policy mechanisms and incentives as well as a summary of research activities related to photovoltaics carried out at many institutes and companies around Australia.

This comprehensive report, prepared for the IEA, is known locally as the PV in Australia report and is available from the APVI website www.apvi.org.au. The report is produced annually providing a record of Australian trends in markets, policy and pricing. A Snapshot Report is produced each March to give early insights into the state of the market, with the full analysis released later in the year.

Over the last 20 years, the team at the Australian PV Institute has contributed to the Market and Trends Reports produced by the International Energy Agency. In doing so, consistent, quality data is captured on the transition of PV technologies from the early and expensive niche market developments in the 1990s to the recent large scale global deployment and increased competitiveness.

The APVI is supported in preparing the National Trends Report by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

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About the APVI

The Australian PV Institute is a not-for-profit, member based organisation which focuses on data analysis, independent and balanced information, and collaborative research, both nationally and internationally. Our objective is to *support the increased development and use of PV via research, analysis and information*. In addition to Australian activities, the APVI provides the structure through which Australia participates in two International Energy Agency (IEA) programs – PVPS (Photovoltaic Power Systems), made up of a number of activities concerning various aspects of PV, and SHC (Solar Heating and Cooling), concerned with new solar thermal products and services