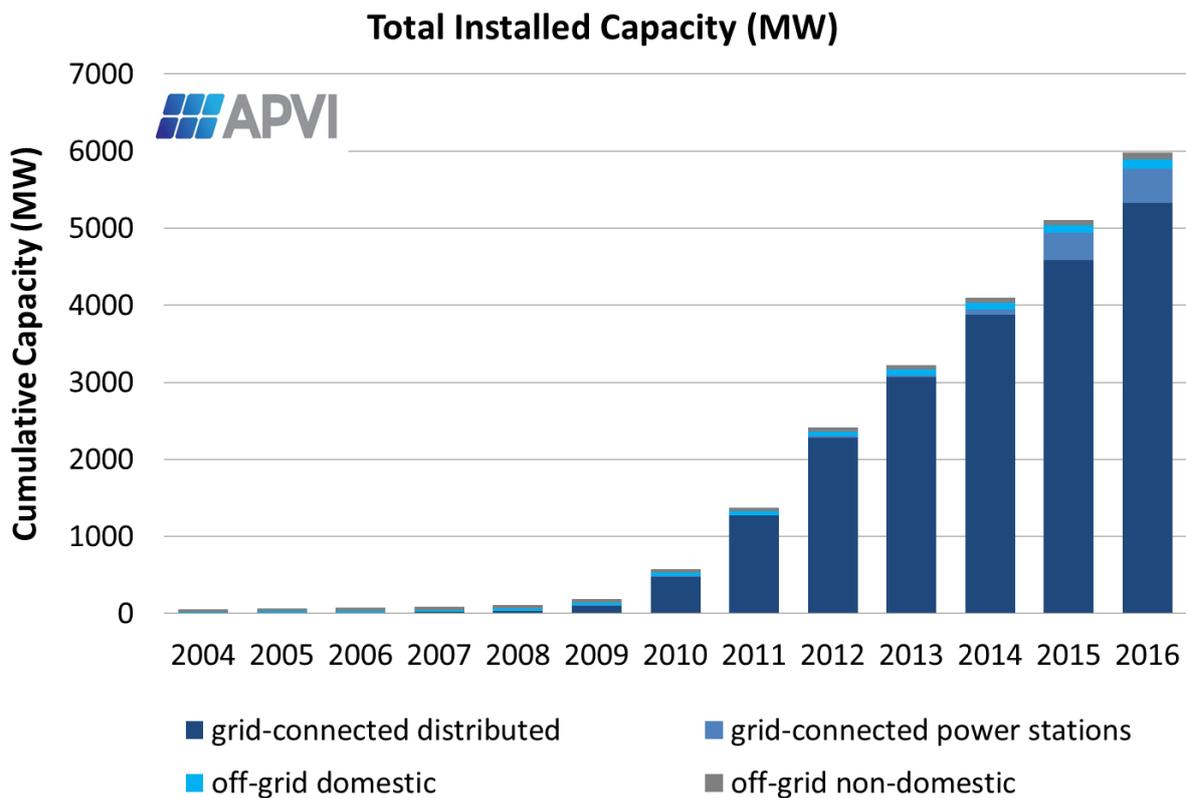


Australian PV installs continue their strong growth trajectory and will reach 10-12GW by 2020

Renate Egan and Warwick Johnson

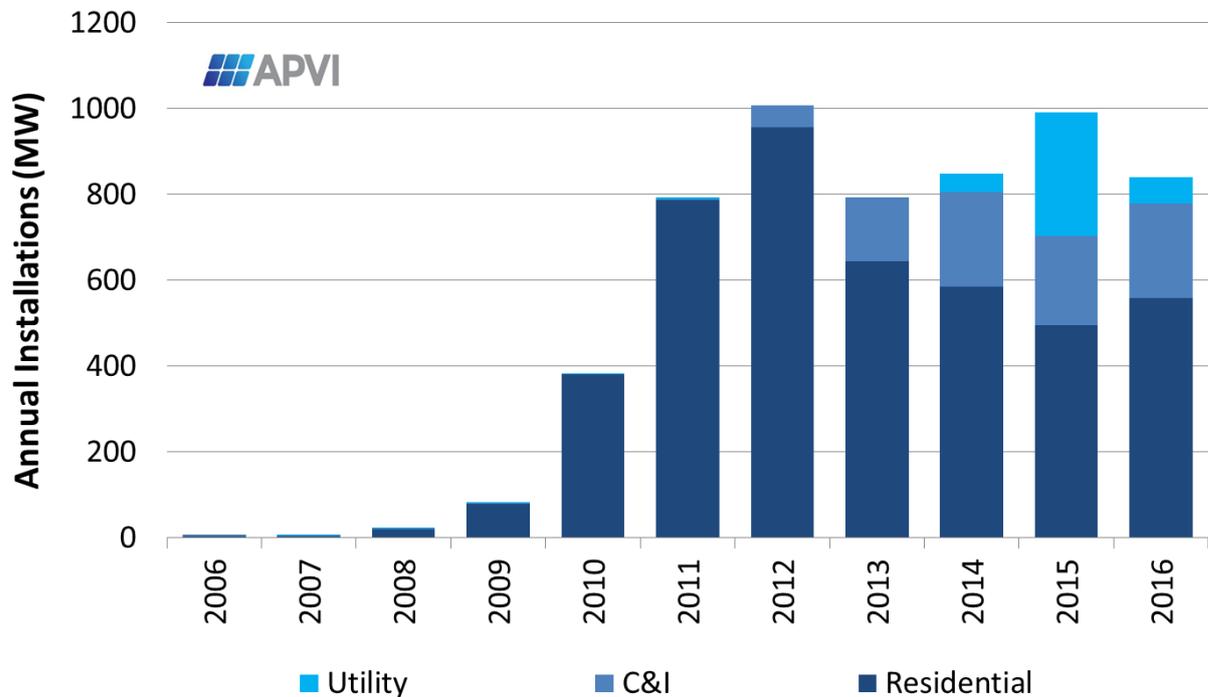
The Australian market for PV installations grew to over 6 GW in 2016 and is on track for over 10 - 12 GW by 2020 according to a [report](#) to the IEA, released by the [Australian PV Institute](#) (APVI). The report by the APVI is the latest annual update to the IEA on Australian market statistics and shows solar energy generation to be meeting 3.3% of Australia's electricity demand.



Underlying data in annual market data for 2016 shows a contraction in the annual installs, after a spike in activity in utility scale solar in 2015. The rooftop systems remain the leading market segment with over 540MW installed on 120,000 households. In addition, there was significant growth in commercial systems in the 30-100kW size range and a growing volume of industrial rooftop systems in the 101-5,000kW range. The average system size has continued to

grow steadily as residential system sizes increase and as a growing number of businesses purchase PV.

Annual PV Installations by Sector (MW)



While 2016 was a quiet year for utility scale solar, a large number of solar farms are expected to commence deployment in 2017, and as much as 2.3GW of utility-scale PV is expected to be deployed over the period of 2017-2020 as a result of increasing competitiveness of solar and initiatives by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

Some key findings from the report include

- Installed PV capacity approached was over 5.8 GW, with the 6GW threshold exceeded in Q1 2017
- New generating capacity additions in Australia were 100% from renewables in 2016.
- PV now accounts for 11% of national electricity generation capacity and 3.3% of total electrical energy demand
- The value of the solar industry to Australia was 2.1 Billion dollars, creating 7,210 direct jobs.
- Panel prices continued to decline, and system prices reached record lows
- Average unsupported small systems prices are \$1.95/Wp, with STCs reducing this to \$1.15/Wp.
- 123,000 new PV installations took the total number of PV installations to over 1.6 million by the end of 2016

- Residential penetration levels exceed 20% and are over 65% in some areas.
- The residential market is expected to grow in 2017 as electricity prices surge across the nation

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 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