

Australian PV installs a record 1.3GW of solar capacity in 2017, and is on target to eclipse that in 2018

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2017 was a record year for Australian PV installations, with 1.3 GW recorded according to a report to the [report](#) to the IEA, released by the [Australian PV Institute](#). 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 3.9% of Australia's electricity demand.

Australia boasts the highest per-capita number of PV systems internationally, with 20% of households hosting one of 1.8 million PV systems – over 160 000 of which were added in 2017. At the end of 2017, the cumulative installed capacity of Australian PV installations was 7.25GW, accounting for 13% of national electricity generation capacity and 3.9% of electrical energy generation.

The average PV system size continued to grow steadily as residential system sizes increased and as a growing number of businesses purchased PV. Panel prices continued to decline, and system prices reached record lows.

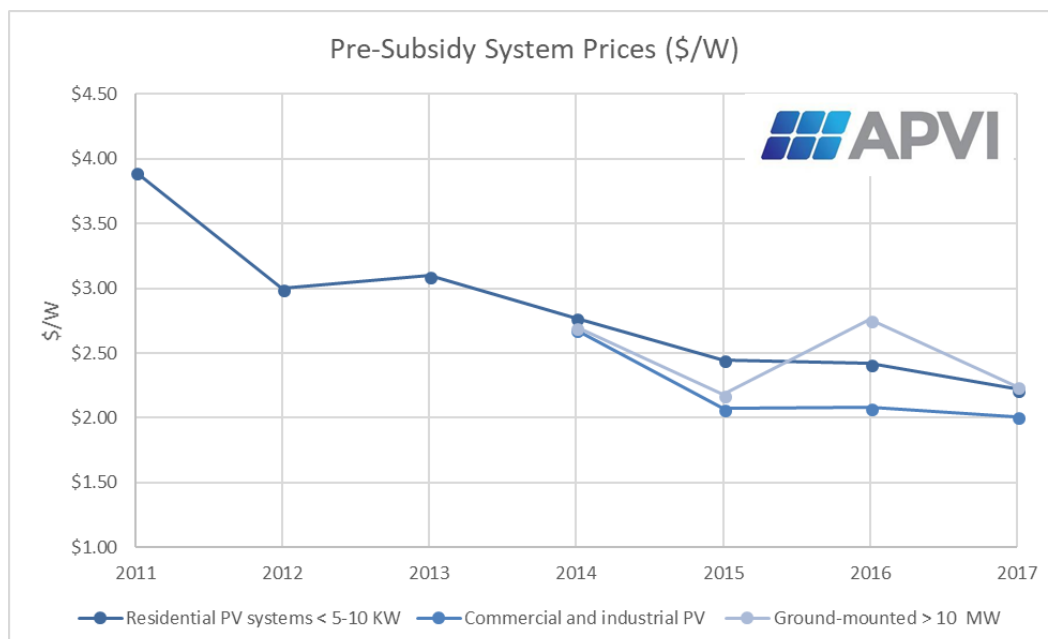


Figure 1: PV System prices

Residential installed capacity was declining year-on-year from 2012 until 2016 when it stabilised at 541MW. 2017 saw a marked turnaround in the residential market, growing 44% to 779MW. The small-commercial (10-100kW) segment grew by 60% to reach a record 331MW. The large commercial and industrial sized systems in the 100-5000kW range grew by 123% to a record 76MW. 114MW of solar farms were commissioned in 2017, though a far greater volume were under construction at the end of 2017.

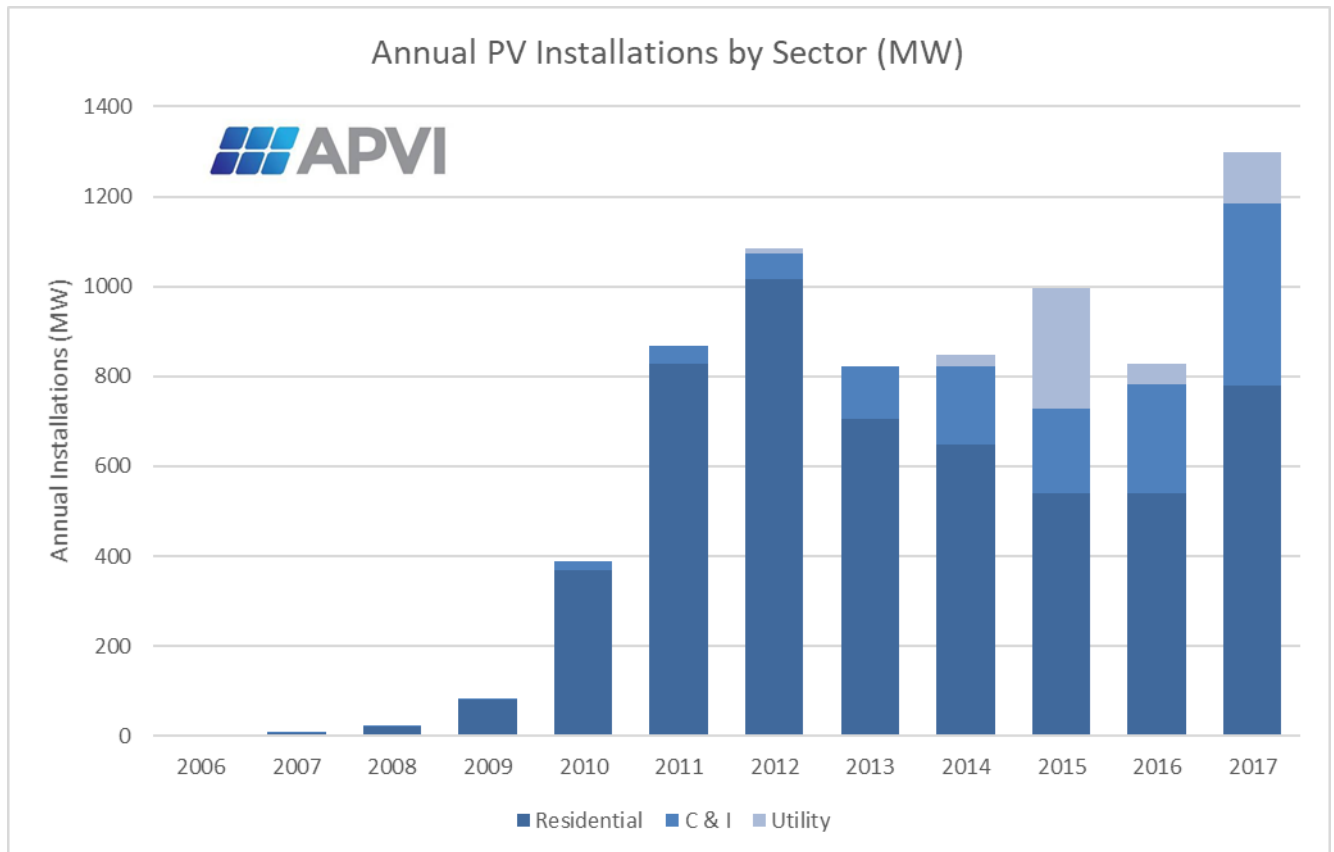


Figure 2: Australian PV had a record year in 2017

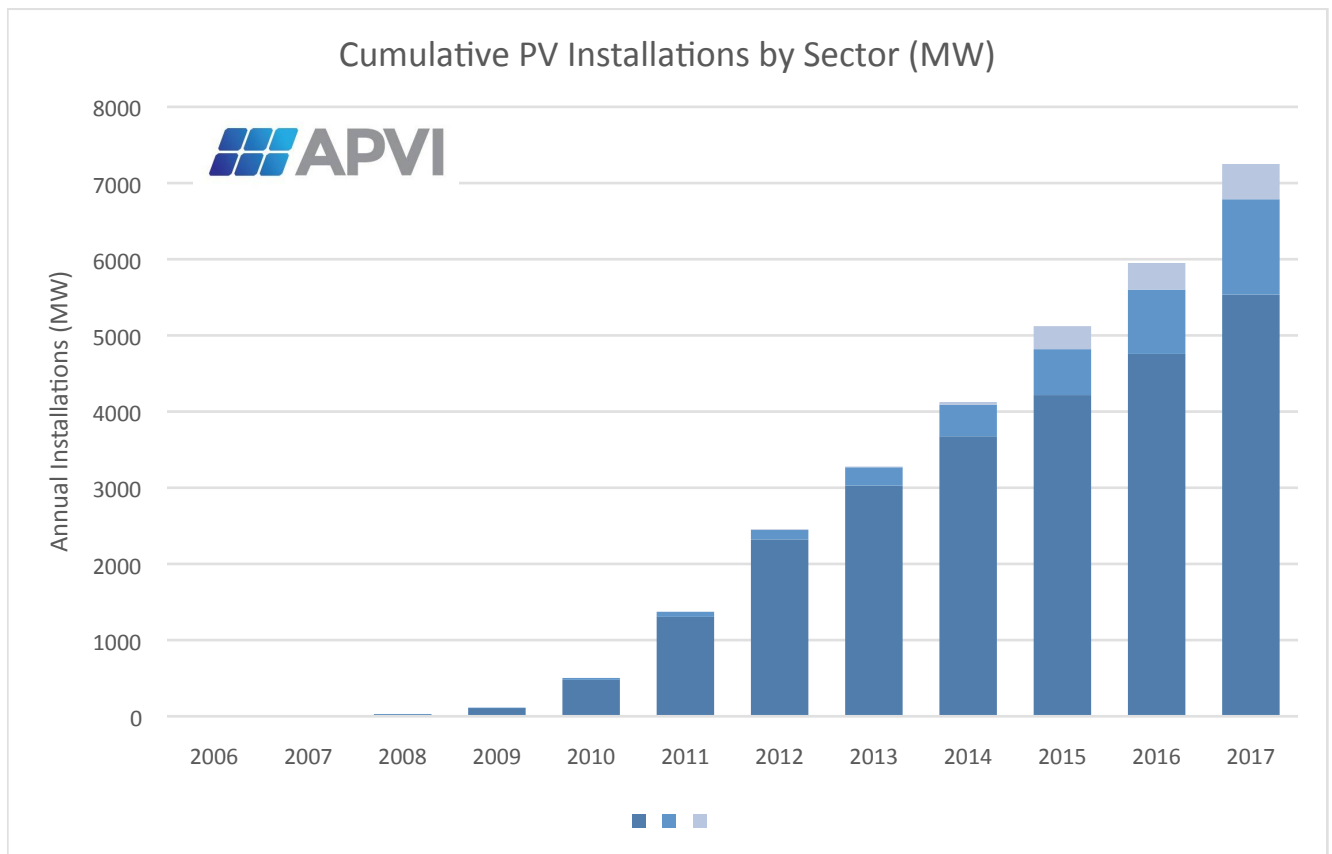


Figure 3: Cumulative Australian PV Installations by Category 2004-2017

Further growth in the Australian market is expected in 2018. Mid-way through 2017, 1.1GW of PV has been commissioned, including 560MW of solar farms. With over 1900MW of solar farms currently under construction and 35GW at various stages of development, 2018 looks certain to be another record year for Australian PV.

Some key findings from the report include

- Cumulative installed PV capacity was over 7.2 GW
- PV now accounts for 13% of national electricity generation capacity and 3.9% of total electrical energy demand
- The value of the solar industry to Australia was 1.6 Billion dollars, creating 8170 direct jobs.
- Panel prices continued to decline, and system prices reached record lows
- 160,000 new PV installations took the total number of PV installations to over 1.8 million by the end of 2017
- Residential penetration levels exceed 20% and are over 65% in some areas.
- The entire PV market and every market segment is expected to grow in 2018.

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