

## Pumped storage power plants australia

The world is undergoing a momentous transition from conventional ways to renewables sources of power generation. Australia is already facing serious repercussions as a result of climate change and this is expected to intensify into the future. Investment in renewables to reduce emissions and kick start renewable backed exports is underway and accelerating

Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH) is in the spotlight to generate renewable sources of energy and lead the transition to net-zero emissions. At the same time, PSH is a large-scale energy storage solution that will help manage power distribution effectively and act as a backup when Australia subdues a power outage situation.

By 2040, the bulk of Australia's coal-fired power plants will have ceased production and almost 85% of the country will be running on renewable energy.

The MVP in this transformation will be pumped hydropower!

Transition to net-zero emissions - Among other directives, The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has reported that 17 GW of battery storage must be increased in Australia to achieve the most cost-effective replacement of the nation's obsolete coal-fired power plants over the next 20 years.

Pumped Hydropower has a significant role to play in achieving this feat by 2040.

Aging Coal-fired power stations &#8211; The end of coal-fired generation is gradual but inevitable. The aging of coal-fired power plants is an ongoing process since the introduction of renewable sources of energy which are both cost-efficient and safe. Australia is toiling to suppress greenhouse gas emissions and coal-fired power stations impede the process.

The increasing uncertainty in coal supply makes it an unreliable option to generate power. According to a report by AEMO in 2019, it is predicted that 63% of the energy produced by coal-fired power plants in Australia will no longer contribute to Australia's National Electricity Market by 2040 - A massive 30 gigawatts!

However, the figures may dwindle quicker than expected, given that the price of coal is shaking Australia's economy according to the analysis by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

Public sentiment positive towards renewables &#8211; Professor Jamie Pittock from Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Electrical, Energy and Materials Engineering exclaims "PSH hydropower would help Australia to move to a totally renewable energy supply by storing surplus wind and solar power for distribution on demand."

It is expected to be more profitable because PSH generates cheap, surplus electricity and saves this resource for dispatch as demand increases.

Technology advances making renewables far more economical &#8211; The Australian government has made hydropower growth the focus as a priority agenda to help attain a more reliable and affordable energy system for the country.

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