



Australia' s Mandatory Renewable Energy Target

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1. INTRODUCTION

Australia is blessed with energy resources. This abundance extends beyond petroleum, natural gas, coal and uranium to renewable energy resources. The majority of Australia receives 1600kWh per square metre per year of solar radiation, with some areas receiving up to 2500kWh per square metre per year. This amounts to only 10% less solar radiation than that received by the most solar radiation rich place on earth, the Sahara Desert. The potential to exploit wind energy is similarly high in Australia. Indeed, the wind in the southwest corner of the State of Western Australia is said to have the potential to generate Australia' s electricity consumption 45 times over. A new renewable energy "prospect" in Australia, known as "hot dry rock" energy, also holds great promise for Australia. This technology involves pumping water into the earth where it is superheated by hot granite rocks, with the heat extracted at the surface to create electricity. Australia' s hot dry rock resources are so plentiful that, if fully exploited, they possess the potential to sustain the country' s electricity generation for hundreds if not thousands of years.

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