

Rise in solar and wind energy



By

AAP

Solar and wind energy generation soared in 2015 while hydroelectricity dipped because of historically low rainfall in Tasmania.

A new report card from the Clean Energy Council has found renewable power sources delivered 14.6 per cent of Australia's electricity last year, up from 13.5 per cent the previous year.

Wind and solar power is up by 20 per cent each.

Council chief executive Kane Thornton said it had been a tough year for the sector following uncertainty over the renewable energy target but the industry was now more optimistic about the future.

The federal parliament passed legislation to slash the target from 41,000 gigawatt hours to 33,000 last June.

"The good news is that investment confidence continues to grow in 2016," Mr Thornton said.

Australia is just under half way towards achieving its 2020 target, the report says.

The continued reduction of state feed-in tariff levels has led to lower but more sustainable sales of rooftop solar power in 2015.

Solar panels were most popular with Queensland households, with the state claiming eight spots in the top ten solar postcodes list.

TOP TEN SOLAR POSTCODES

- * Bundaberg Qld 4670
- * Mandurah WA 6210
- * Hervey Bay Qld 4655
- * Caloundra Qld 4551
- * Toowoomba Qld 4350
- * Ipswich Qld 4305
- * Nerang and Carrara Qld 4211
- * Wanneroo WA 6065
- * Mackay Qld 4740
- * Beenleigh Qld 4207

Read more at <http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/05/31/03/36/rise-in-solar-and-wind-energy#2bL6hdX66Td52h8H.99>