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Welcome to the latest edition of the Meralli Solar newsletter, a summary of everything happening at Meralli, with our partners, and the latest in Australian renewables.

Meralli reached a minor, but significant, milestone this month with the arrival of the first of the hybrid EVs into the fleet. Around 18 months ago we made the decision we would move to EVs as soon as practically possible and while a hybrid is not 100% where we'd like to be, it presents a logical first step in our transition away from internal combustion engines (ICE).

The next step will be to start to replace all our onsite equipment with their EV equivalents while we eagerly await a ute that gives us enough range and towing power (we think the Ford F150 lightning, when it finally arrives down under, might be a real game changer).

We wonder what the capability of vehicles that Max (son of Business Development Lead Ed pictured) and his generation might be driving by the time he's our age.

- Ed, Business Development Lead.



Ed, Business Development Lead, and son Max

Industry Trends



Commodity

Aluminium
Steel
Euro
PV
Freight



Current \$

2,397.10
4,160.80
1.0849
-
-



Trend

↓
↓
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- Aluminum futures were trading around 2,300 USD/T, well below a seven-month peak of 2,660 USD/T touched on January 25th, as fears of a global economic slowdown and rising output from China prompted investors to unwind some long positions. China's annual aluminum production in 2022 increased by 4.5% from a year earlier to a record high of 40.21 million tonnes thanks to newly launched capacity and softened power supply constraints.
- Steel rebar futures sank to below the CNY 4,035 level in early April, the lowest since mid-February amid underwhelming demand in China's peak construction season. Data from the broad Caixin Manufacturing PMI showed that Chinese factory activity stalled in March, missing projections that the country's reopening would support further growth.
- Currently, freight rates are around 10x what they were two years ago, making it critical to secure both capacity and pricing quickly and

simply. High demand, low availability, and ongoing volatility and disruptions have driven ocean freight prices to unprecedented highs.

- Anyone who has followed the solar market for more than a decade is experiencing déjà vu thanks to a shortage of inverters. While small, 10 kW hybrid products typically used with energy storage in small systems are again available, larger, 60 kW to 100 kW units are sufficiently scarce to prompt project developers and engineering, procurement, and construction service providers to desperately comb the market.

Sources:

[Trading Economics](#) | [Freightos.com](#) | [PVXchange Price Index](#)

Trends reflect data available end March 2023

Industry News

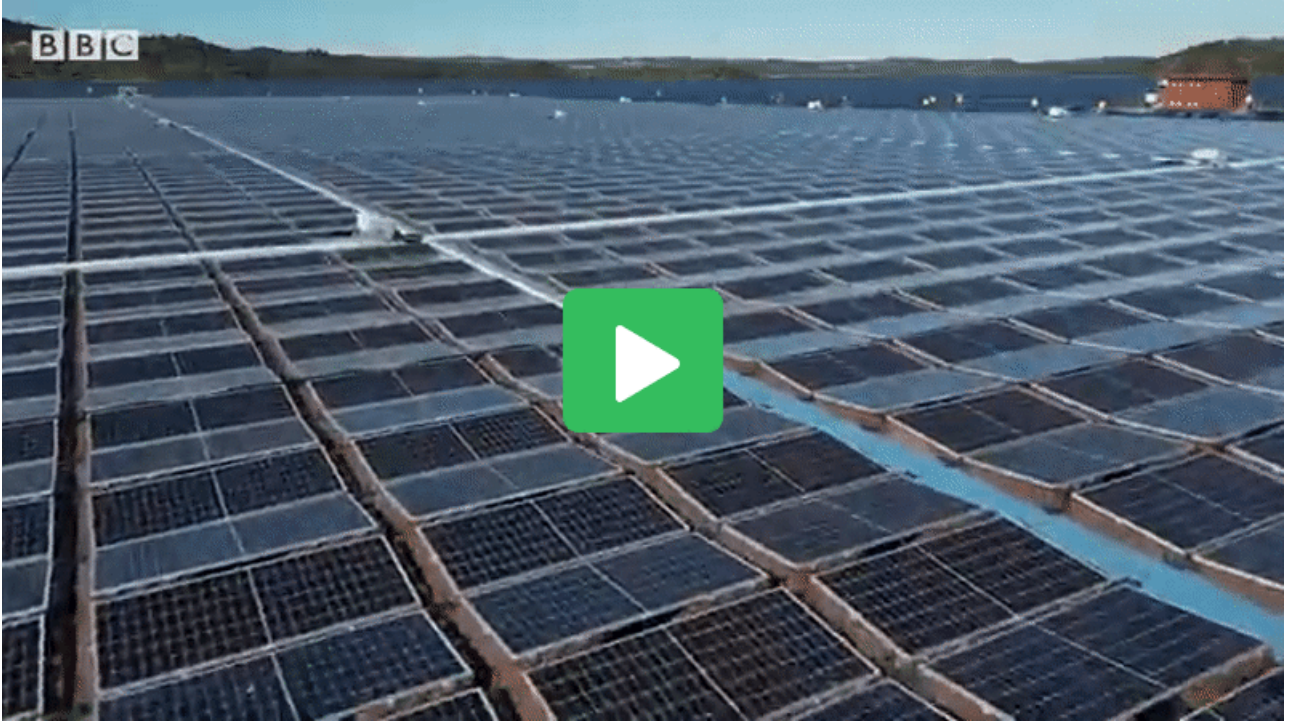
Here is some of the industry news we've been reading this month:

- Could the Queensland government's [Energy and Jobs Plan](#) to evolve the Queensland energy sector have a wider impact on Australia's energy sector? Premier Palaszczuk discusses what the initial meetings and discussions for the plan and how the ideas evolved over the past eight years. (Energy Magazine)
- Watch the UN chief, António Guterres, deliver a [video message](#) urging G20 to sign a pact to reach net zero emissions by 2040 for the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's sixth major [report](#). In it, he discusses phasing out coal power by 2030 and blocking the extraction of any new oil or gas. (Renew Economy)
- Utility-scale solar-powered February, NSW crowned [top renewable generator](#) (PV Magazine)
- Australia's [critical minerals pipeline](#) valued at \$10 billion (PV Magazine)
- New Federal energy [apprenticeships](#) to help reach emission targets (Energy Magazine)
- Another 18 government schools go solar, join [smart energy pilot](#) (One Step Off The Grid)
- Australian tech helps drive [Mack Trucks'](#) electric transition (PV Magazine)

Moving wind and solar through time and space
- Energy Insiders Podcast

Listen

Are floating solar farms the future of clean energy?



Join Our Team!

Applications are open for Administrative Assistant

This is a new role reporting to the Business Development Lead and supports the Executive Directors, Financial Controller, and on-the-ground teams. It is an exciting opportunity to learn the business from the ground up in the rapidly growing renewables sector.

[Read more](#)

See you again next month!

The Meralli Solar Team

Do you like our newsletter? We'd love you to share it!



Reenergising Regional Australia

Our mission is to change the energy landscape across regional Australia by installing high-quality, cost-effective, compact utility-scale solar farms that sit comfortably side by side with agriculture while empowering rural and regional economic development and sustainability.

Meralli Solar is Australia's leading provider of PEG frame solar solutions at the distribution level in rural and regional Australia. We see the opportunities associated with increased generation capacity in a decentralised grid, which shares energy within the local regional community, ultimately providing more affordable and reliable power than the current centralised system. We see that this approach will build economic capacity in our regional communities.

[Find out more](#)

Meralli Solar

55 Bridge St, Uralla
Australia



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