

28th April 2020

Angus Place Extension Project

Recommendations

This coal mine extension should not go ahead.

Background – Energy and the Environment

Renewable sources of electricity and energy are taking over from coal, oil and gas. The Figure below shows the extraordinary install rates of wind and solar photovoltaics – in 2019, these represented two thirds of new electricity generation capacity (and Australia is installing new renewables at 10 times the global average rate) [1]. Shell has announced it is aiming to have net zero operational emissions in 2050, a goal that will be achieved in part through investment in renewables [2]. Emissions due to coal use in 2019 fell by 1.3% from 2018 levels [3]. New renewables are already cheaper than existing fossil-fuel plants in some markets – a recent report predicts that “it could be cheaper to build renewables than run coal *in all major markets* [emphasis added] by 2030” [4]. Even setting aside the negative impacts to land, water, public health and emissions, there are many indications that coal mining will not play a large role in our economy going forward.

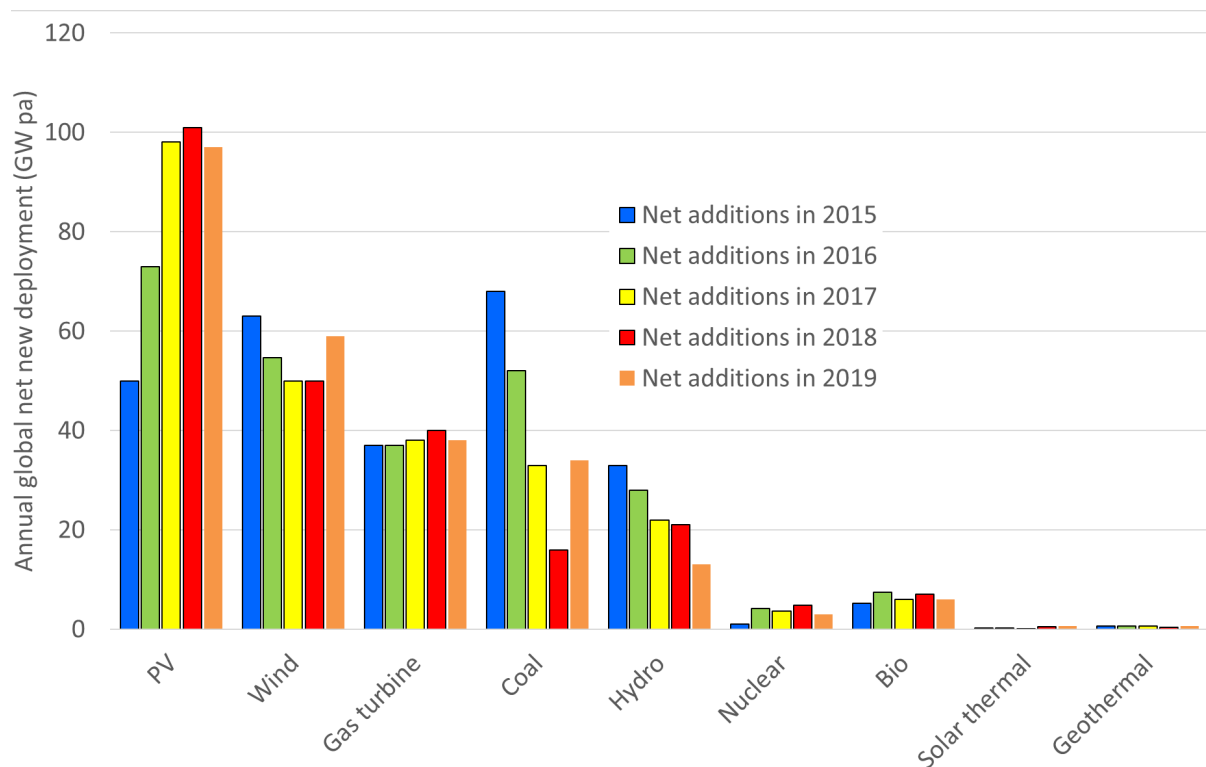


Figure 1: Net global annual generation capacity additions [5]–[8]

References

- [1] A. Blakers and M. Stocks, "Australia deploying new renewables at ten times global average," *Renew Economy*, 16-Apr-2020.
- [2] Shell, "SHELL'S AMBITION TO BE A NET-ZERO EMISSIONS ENERGY BUSINESS," 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.shell.com/energy-and-innovation/the-energy-future/shells-ambition-to-be-a-net-zero-emissions-energy-business.html>.
- [3] IEA, "Global CO2 emissions in 2019," 11-Feb-2020.
- [4] Carbon Tracker, "How to Waste Over Half a Trillion Dollars," no. March, 2020.
- [5] International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), "Statistics," 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.irena.org/Statistics>.
- [6] C. Shearer *et al.*, "Boom and Bust 2020: Tracking the Global Coal Plant Pipeline," 2020.
- [7] World Nuclear Association, "World Nuclear Power Reactors & Uranium Requirements," Apr-2020. [Online]. Available: <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/facts-and-figures/world-nuclear-power-reactors-and-uranium-requireme.aspx>.
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