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Carnegie Clean Energy says grid batteries to go mass scale

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John Davidson, Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg and Michael Ottaviano at Carnegie Clean Energy in Belmont, WA. **Supplied**



by [Ben Potter](#)

Carnegie Clean Energy chief executive Mike Ottaviano said grid scale batteries are on the verge of mass adoption in Australia as he confirmed the Fremantle-based company is a bidder in the Victorian government's tender for 100 megawatts of battery storage.

The Victorian call for 100MW of batteries with 100MWh of storage capacity comes on top of South Australia's tender for a similar amount and Dr Ottaviano said the storage technology is set to undergo the same adoption cycle as residential solar rooftop panels.

Grid-scale batteries are being sought to provide emergency backup to the national grid after [South Australia](#), Victoria and [NSW all suffered blackouts and power shortages over the summer](#). Without such measures the situation is expected to be even tighter next summer after the closure of Victoria's 1600MW Hazelwood brown coal power station.

Solar rooftop started slowly but accelerated as prices fell and are now seen on more than 1.6 million homes, providing total capacity of more than 5000MW of solar power.

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SA Premier Jay Weatherill (left) and Lyon Group partner David Green announce Lyon's giant \$1 billion solar and battery farm **Supplied**

"Over the next 12-24 months you'll see a similar effect happening in storage," Dr Ottaviano said.

Hundreds of MWs

"They are the first 200MWs of batteries that will be built in Australia and this is really the start of the adoption of a new technology in Australia. We'll see hundreds of MWs of battery storage systems installed in Australia in the coming two or three years."

Other bidders for the Victorian battery tender include ZEN Energy, chaired by energy expert Ross Garnaut. Tesla, software billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes and AGL Energy are also thought to be eyeing the Victoria and South Australian tenders.

But the first company with a large-scale battery system on the ground could be [Lyon Group](#), which last week unveiled plans to build a \$1 billion solar farm and battery storage system in South Australia's Riverland irrigation region comprising a 330MW solar farm and a 100MW battery with 400MWh capacity.



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Dr Ottaviano unveiled a 2.6MWh battery at Carnegie's Belmont facility in Perth's eastern suburbs that is the largest battery storage system to be assembled in Australia. After testing it will be sent to CSIRO's Square Kilometre Array telescope project near Murchison where it will be installed alongside the 2.6MW solar plant and about 2MW of diesel generators to provide a secure off-grid energy supply.

Energy minister Josh Frydenberg was on hand for the unveiling and said the Square Kilometre Array project was "at the cutting edge of a wave of innovation in the renewable energy space".

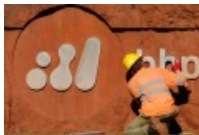
Dr Ottaviano said Australia could not realistically expect to manufacture batteries competitively with Asia or the US. But he said we can build an industry around the "smart bit" of designing, integrating, testing and installing batteries with the electronics that are needed to make them work efficiently and export the service to the region.



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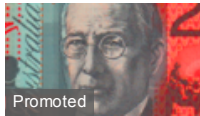


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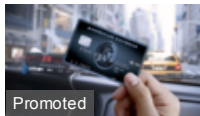
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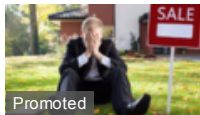
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