

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

# TECHNO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

*Prof Pierluigi Mancarella, FIEEE*

Chair of Electrical Power Systems

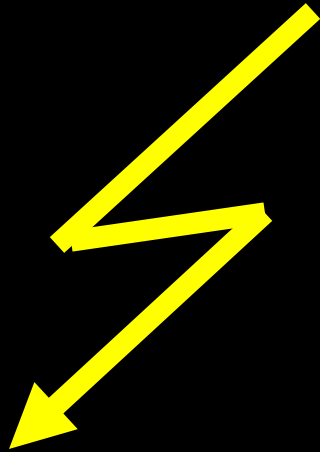
The University of Melbourne

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10-11 December 2024 • Chennai, India

# Classical power system drivers: the *energy dilemma*

*Then something else came up...*



*Fear*

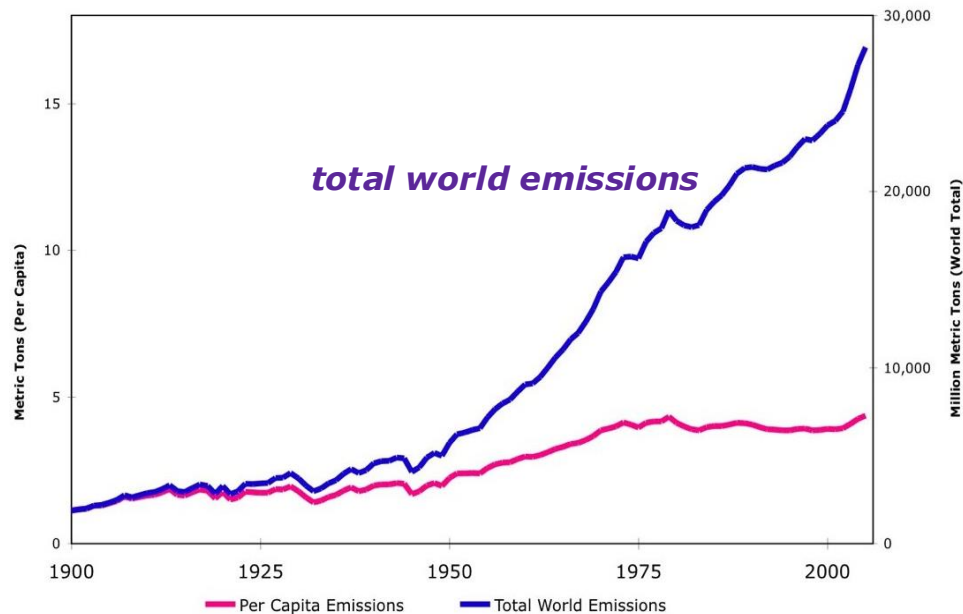
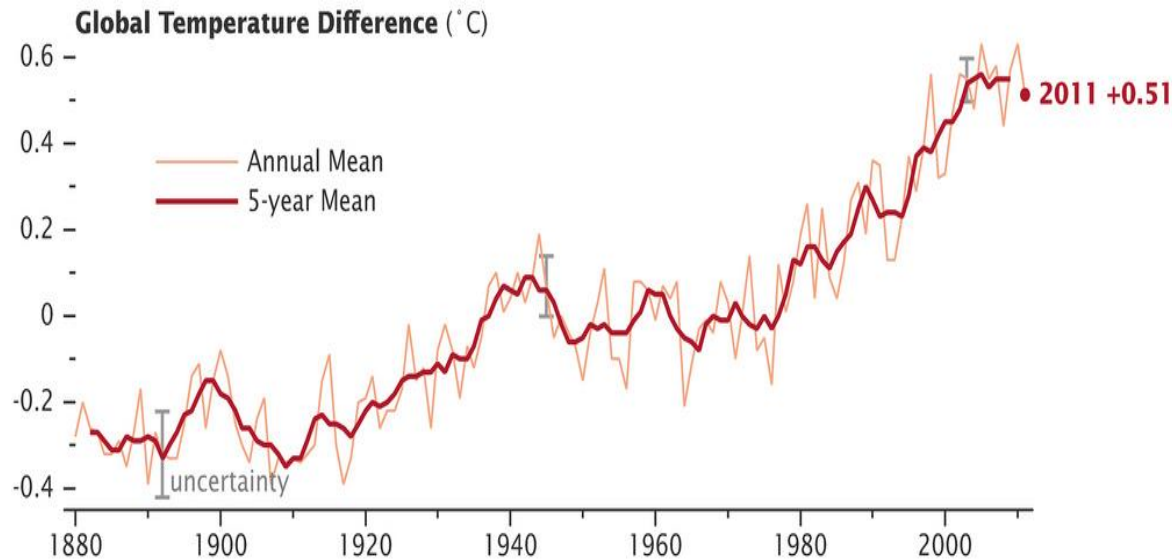
- Keep the Lights On
- Security



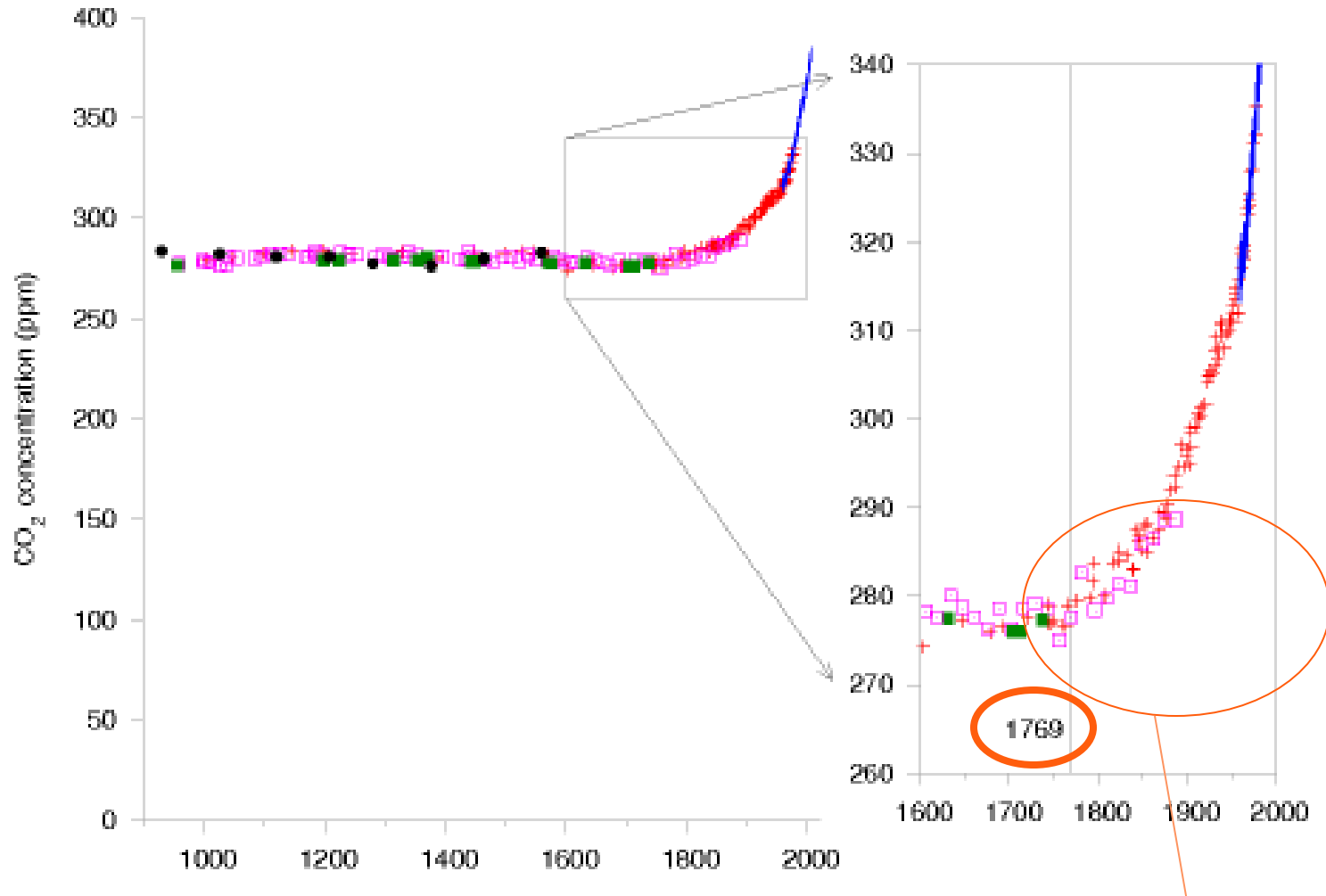
*Greed*

- Minimise Costs
- Economics

# Global temperature trends and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the last century



# CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations for the last 1000 years

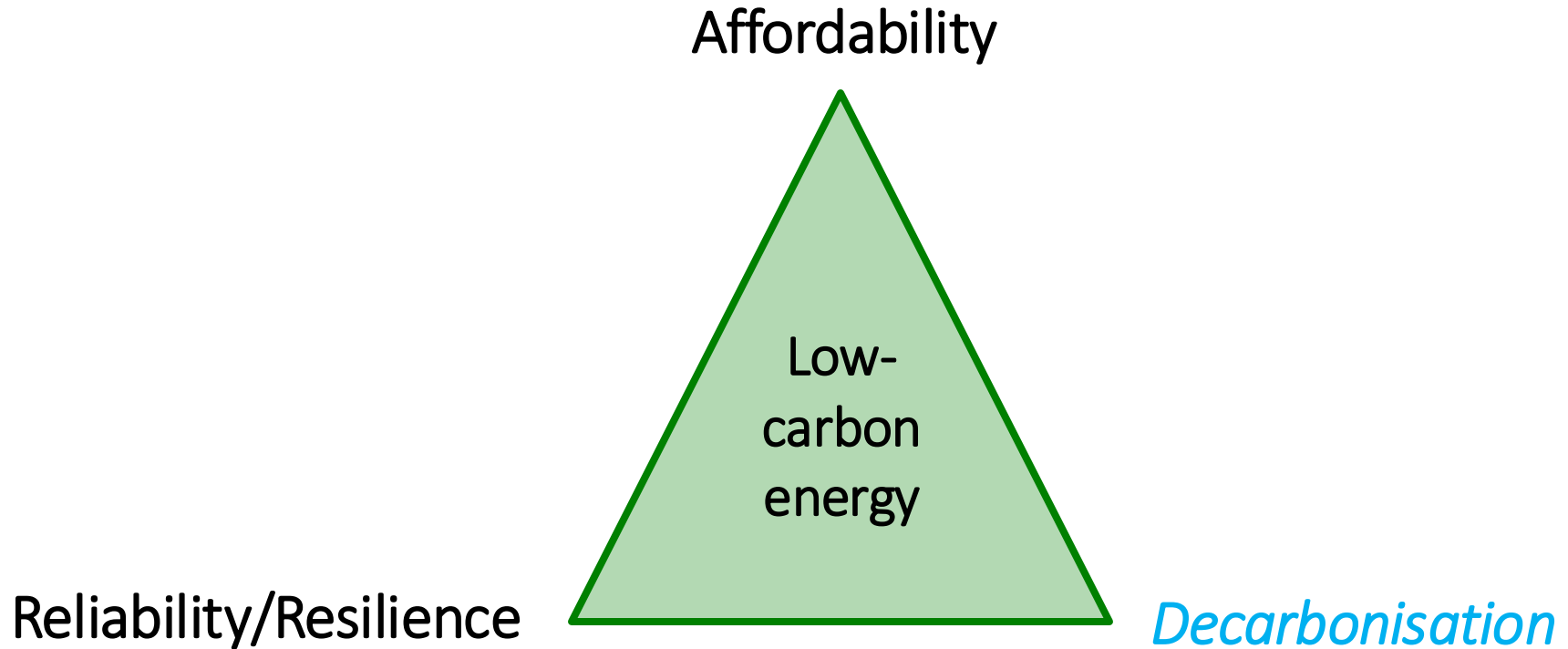


Do you think that something **new** may have happened between 1800 and 2000?

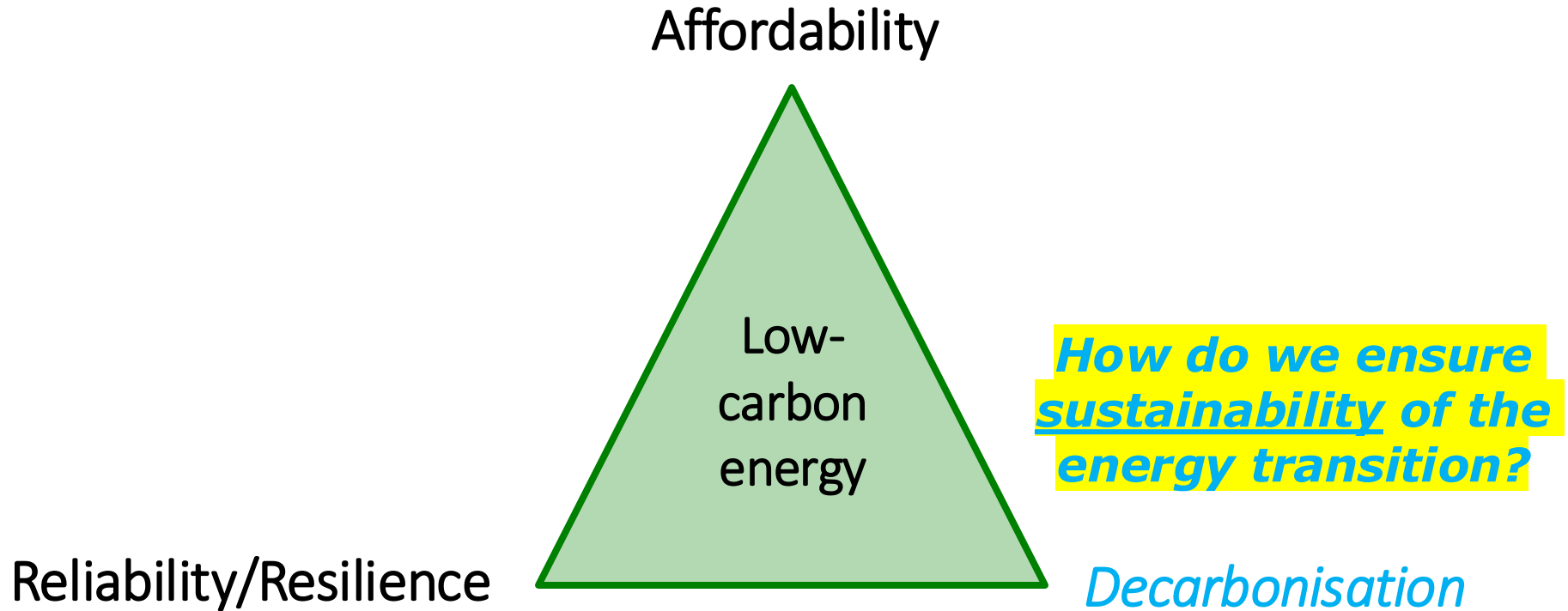
Source: D. MacKay, "Sustainable energy - without the Hot Air"



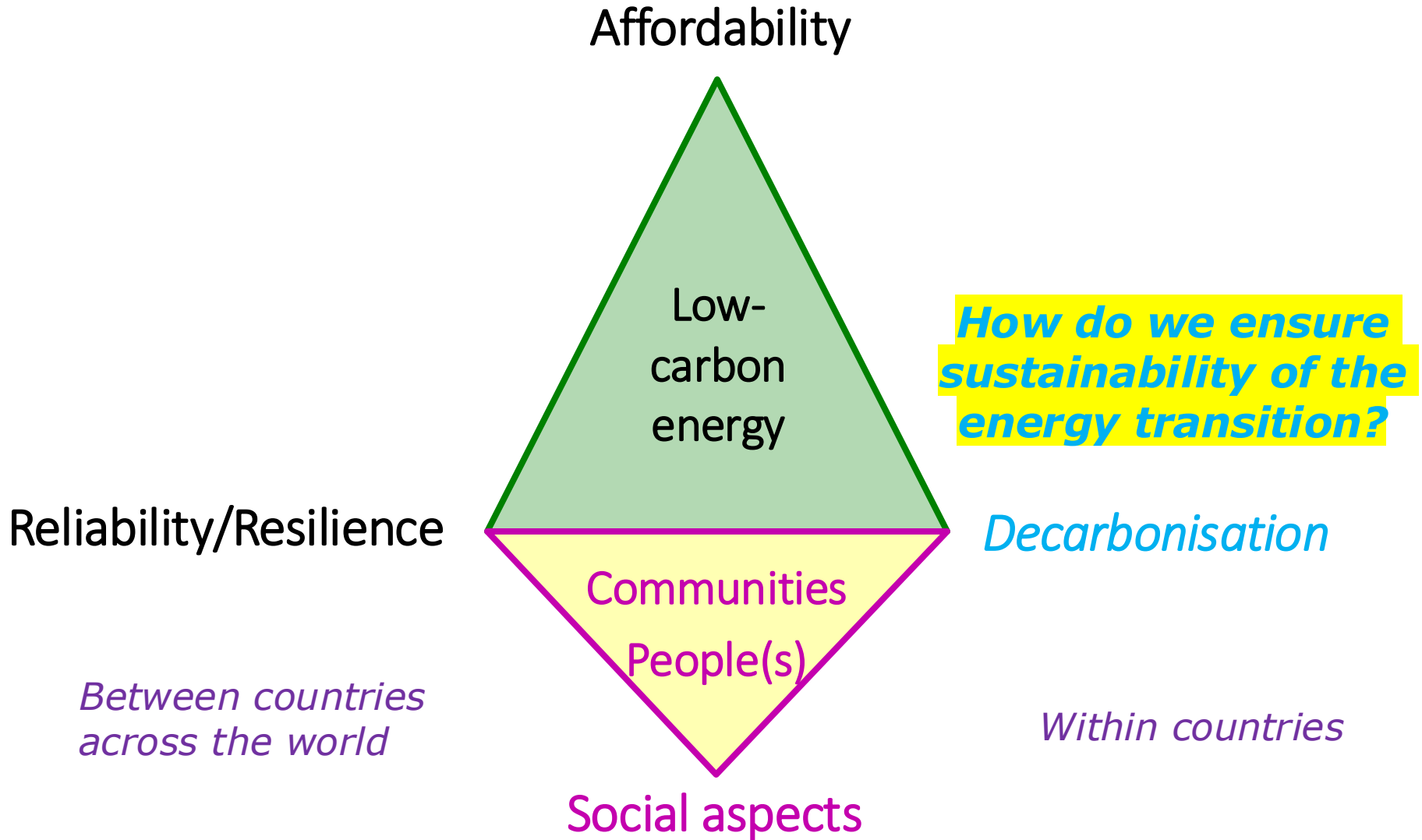
# The *energy trilemma*



# The *energy trilemma*

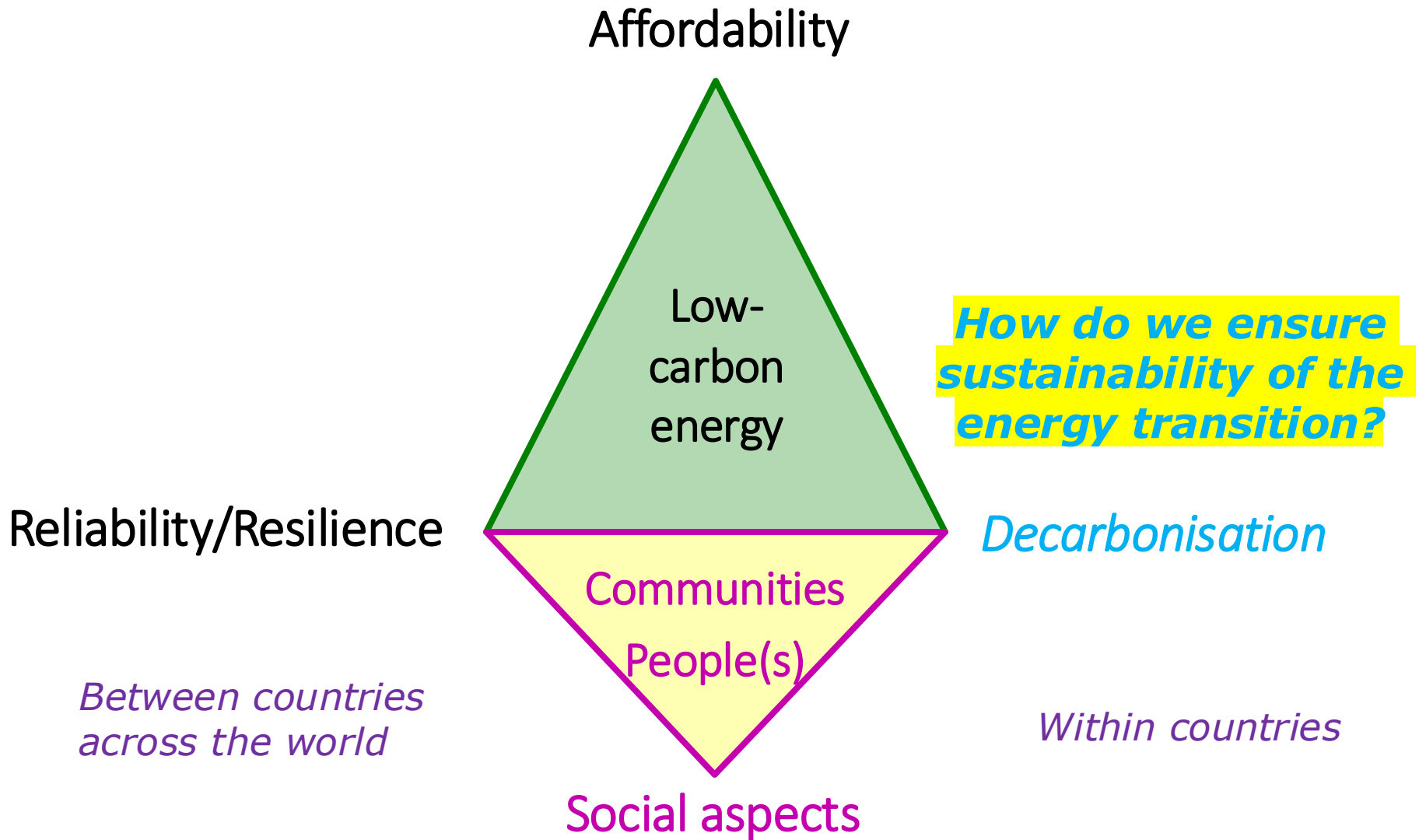


# The energy *trilemma*

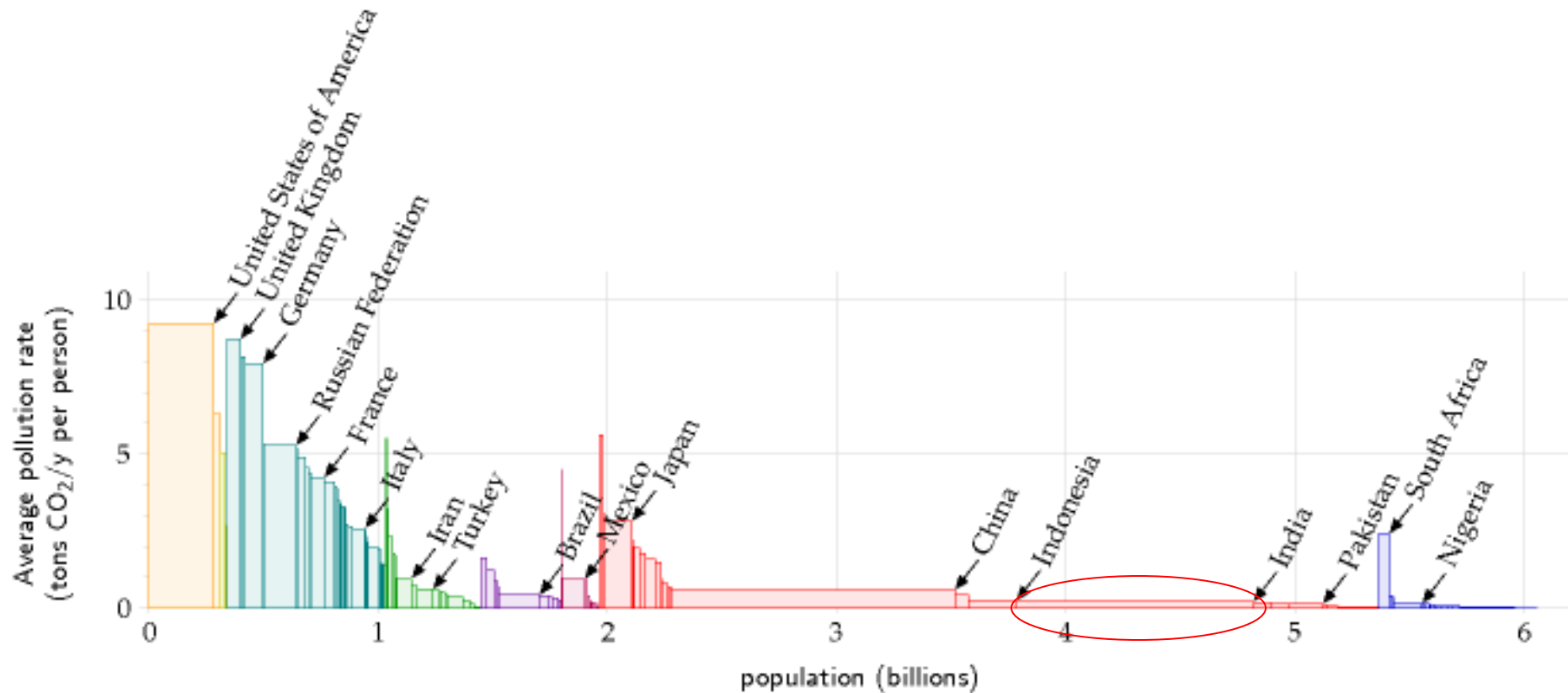




# Or rather a *quadrilemma!*



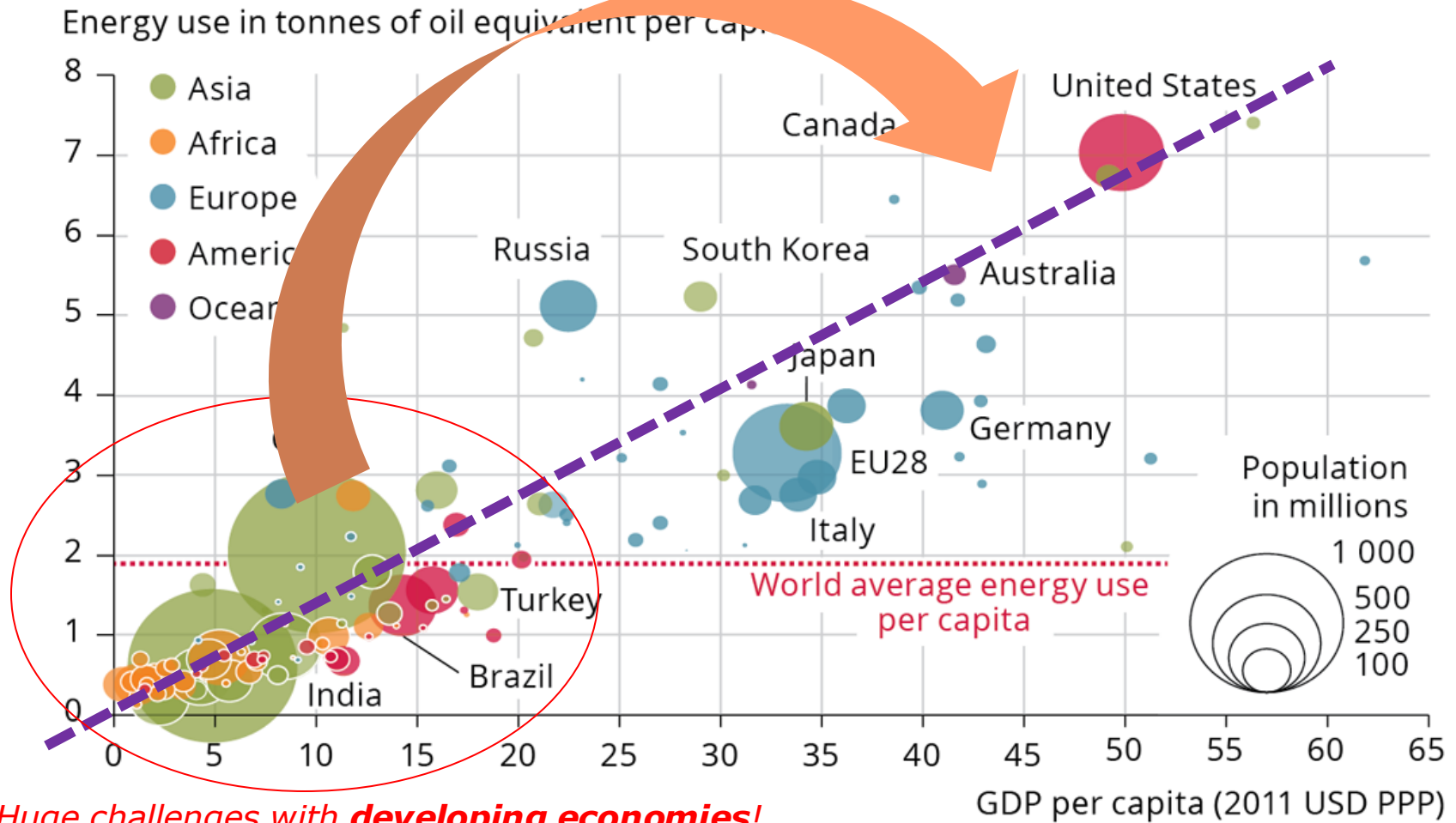
# A fair transition across countries: historical perspectives



Source: D. MacKay, "Sustainable energy - without the Hot Air"

# Electricity as humanity's socio-economic engine

## Correlation of energy consumption and GDP per person



Source: European Commission, European Environment Agency, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/correlation-of-per-capita-energy>

# Decoupling growth from emissions

- **Limiting growth?**
  - **Politically untenable** and/or **unfair proposition**
- How to **decouple growth from energy (and emissions)?**
  - **Energy conservation, energy efficiency, zero-carbon energy**
- Fortunately, we are on the **right direction** in many countries...
 

*"Between 1990 and 2016 the European Union's economy grew by more than 50%, while CO2 emissions fell by 25%" \**
- ... but there's still **a long way to go**, especially for developing economies
 

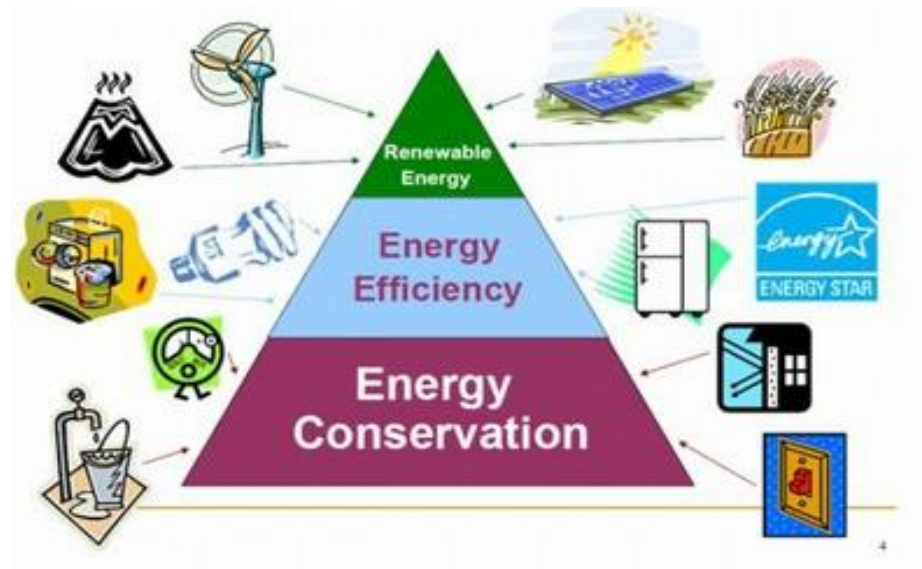
IEA: *"Global energy-related CO2 emissions rose to record high in 2021"*<sup>x</sup>

\* Source: <https://academic.oup.com/ooenergy/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ooenergy/oiaa005/6550337?login=false>

<sup>x</sup> Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/global-energy-related-carbon-emissions-rose-6-2021-new-record-high-iea-2022-03-08/>

# “Classical” view on sustainability:

## *Decouple growth from energy consumption*



- **Energy conservation**

- Reduce demand (“nega-watts”)

- **Energy efficiency**

***“Fabric first”***

- Reduce losses, improve transformation efficiency, integrate systems

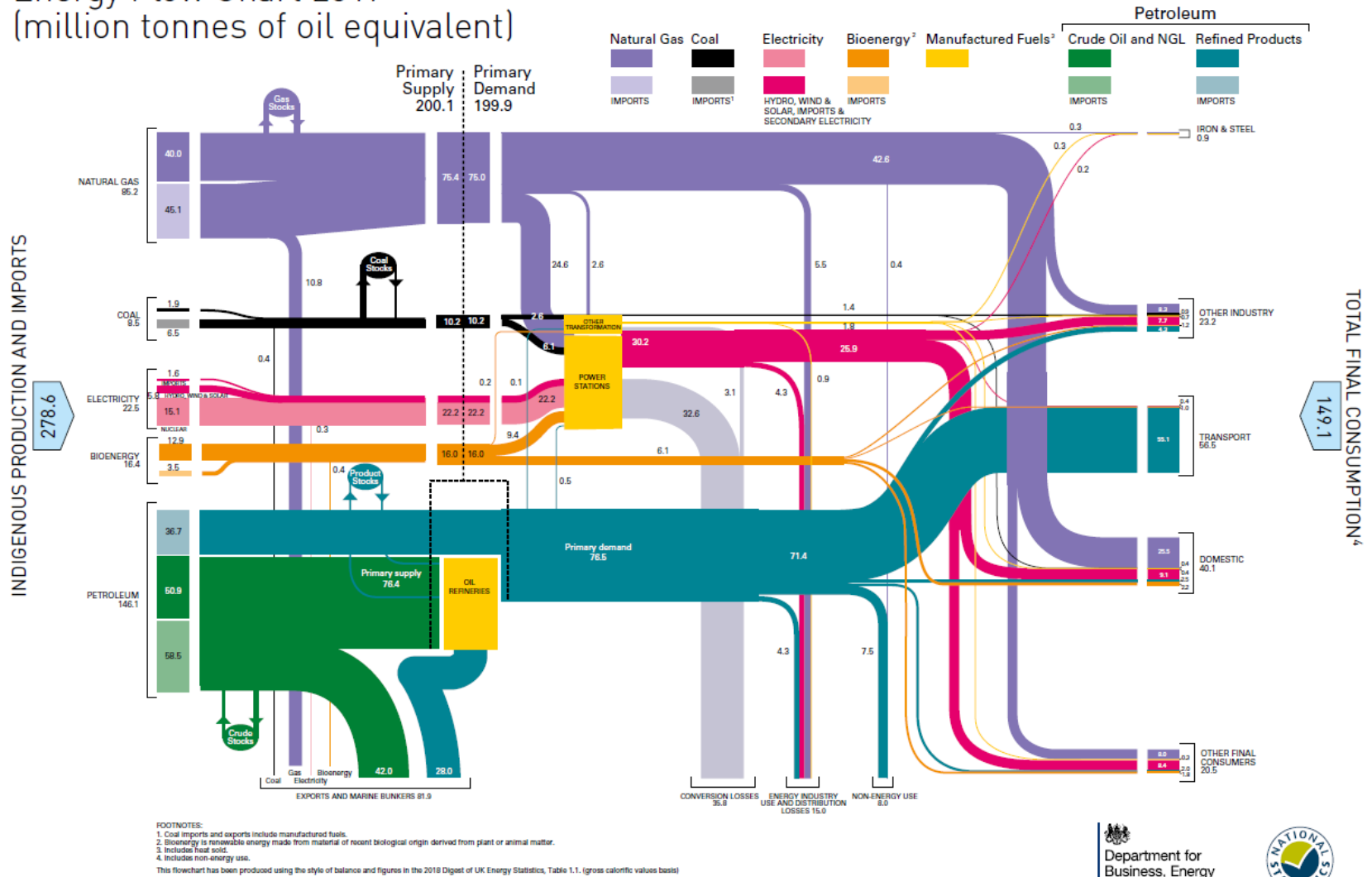
- **Zero-carbon electricity**

- Wind, solar, hydro, nuclear, etc.

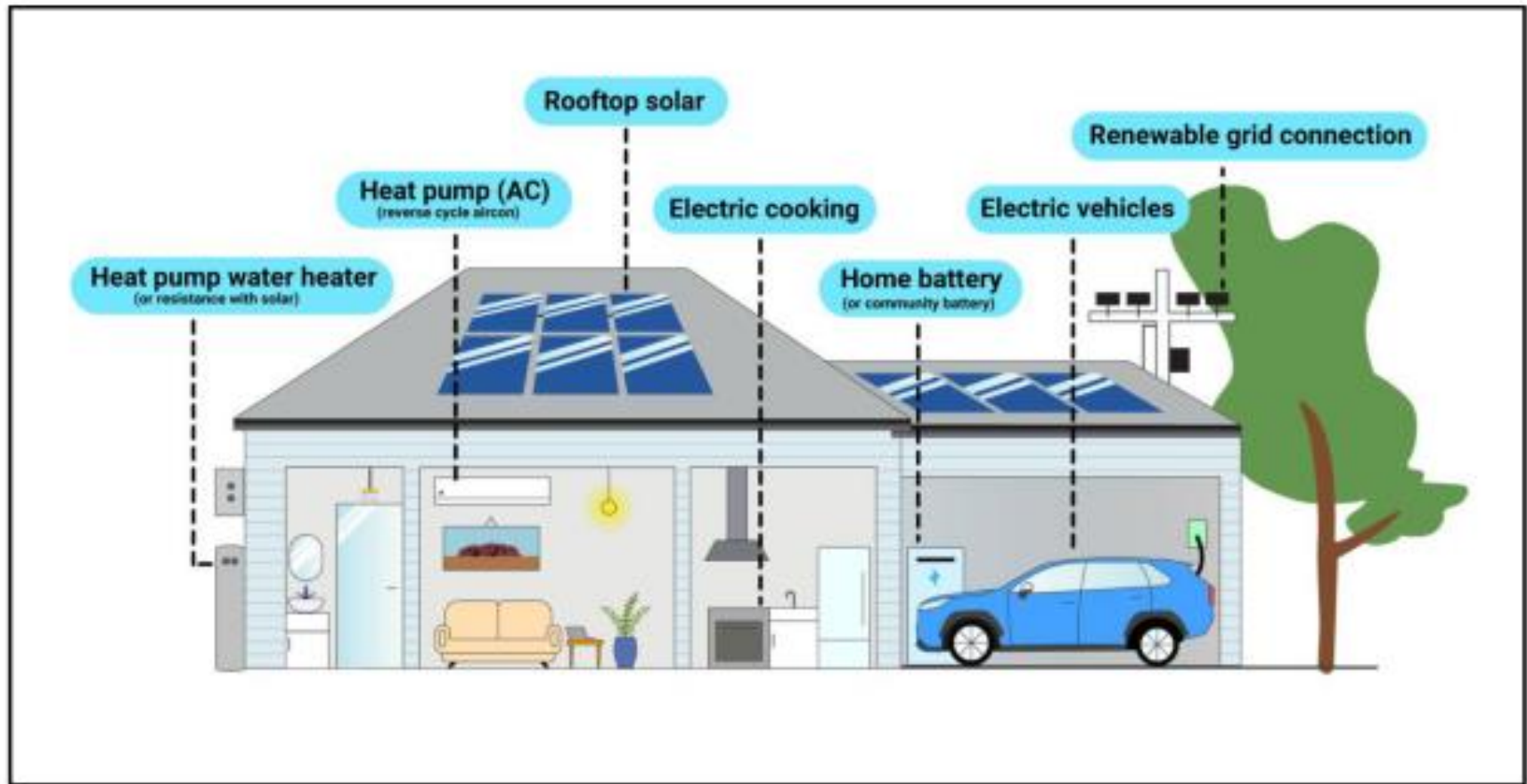
# Not only electricity!

**Solution: Electrify EVERYTHING you can!**

Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



# Tomorrow's all-electric homes

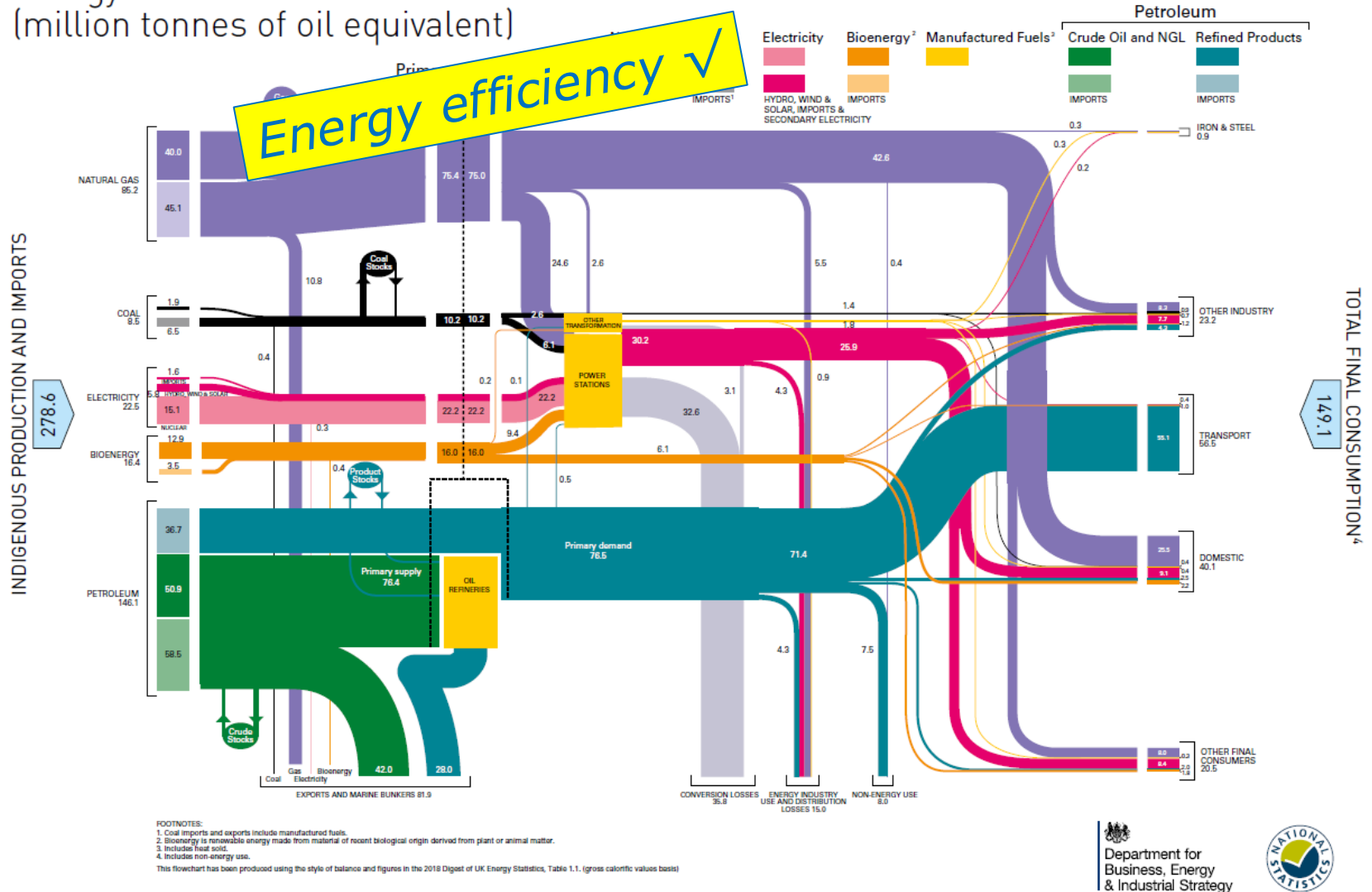


Source: Rewiring Australia, Submission to the Senate Inquiry on Residential Electrification 2023

# Not only electricity!

## Electrify everything!

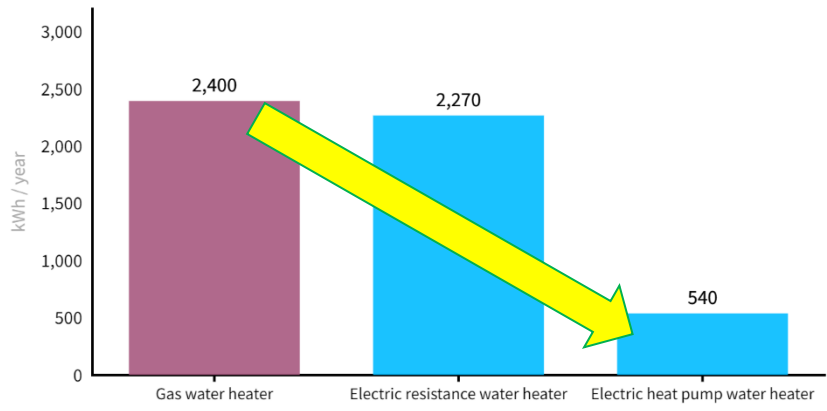
Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)





# Energy efficiency gains in all-electric households and businesses

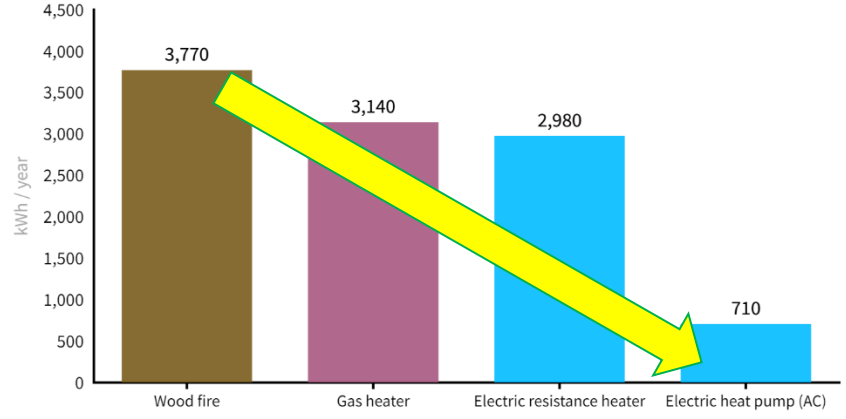
Water heaters | Average yearly energy use in kWh



Based on average Australian water heating energy needs of 2156 kWh per year. Solar capacity factor of 17.14%. Heat pump COP 4.0. Electric resistance COP 0.95. Gas COP 0.9.



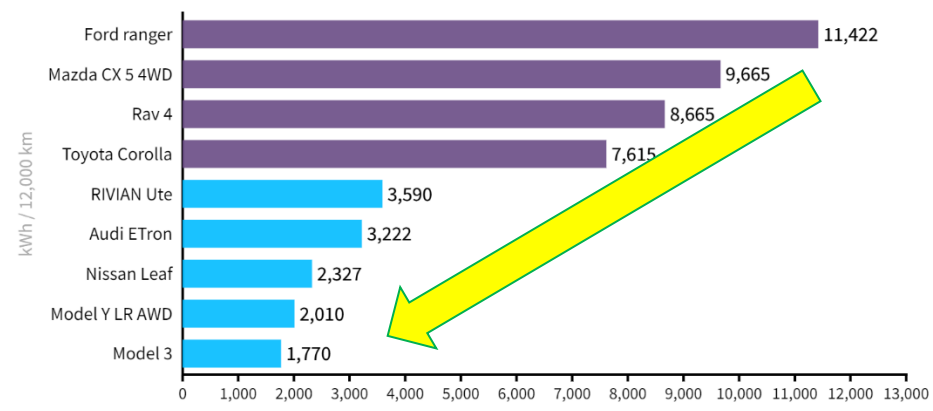
Space heaters | Average yearly energy use in kWh



Based on average Australian water heating energy needs of 2828 kWh per year. Solar capacity factor of 17.14%. Heat pump COP 4.0. Electric resistance COP 0.95. Gas COP 0.9. Wood COP 0.75.



Vehicles | Yearly energy use comparison in kWh



Based on average driving of 12,000 Km per year. EPA MPG comparison of vehicles.

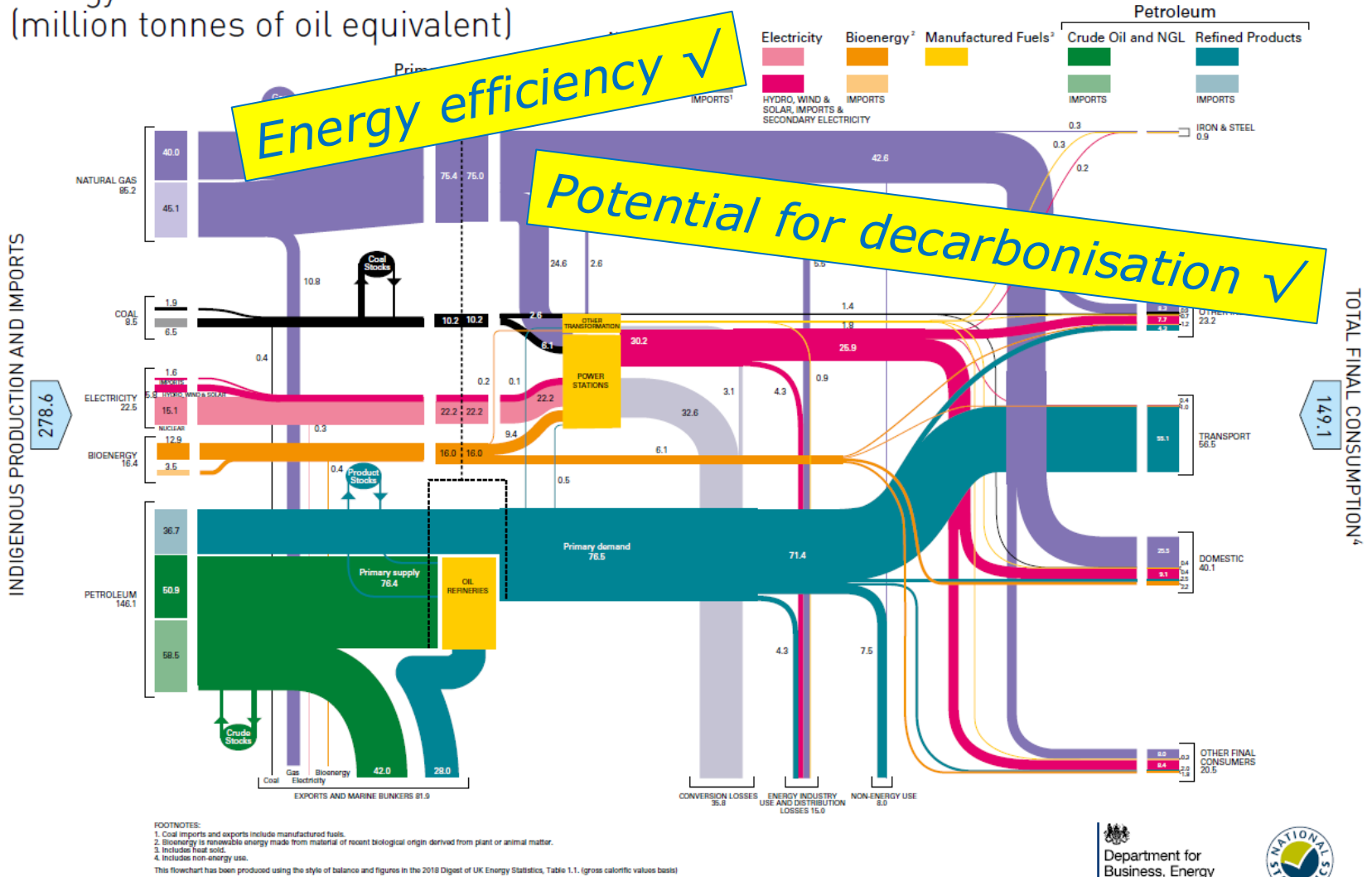


**Energy efficiency comes from electrification!**

# Not only electricity!

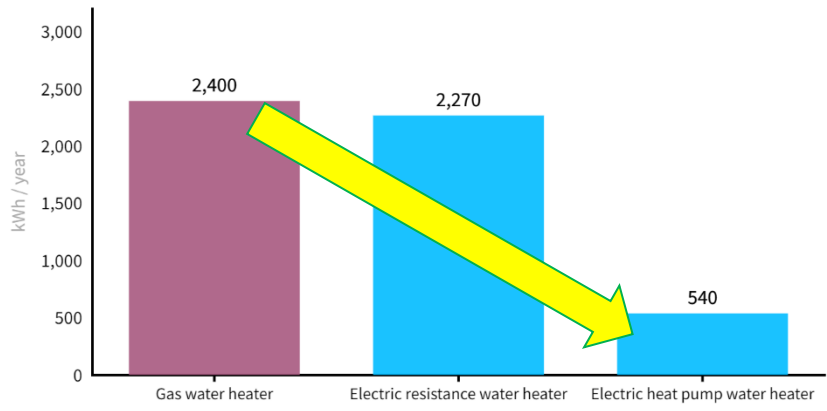
## Electrify everything!

Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



# Energy efficiency gains in all-electric households and businesses

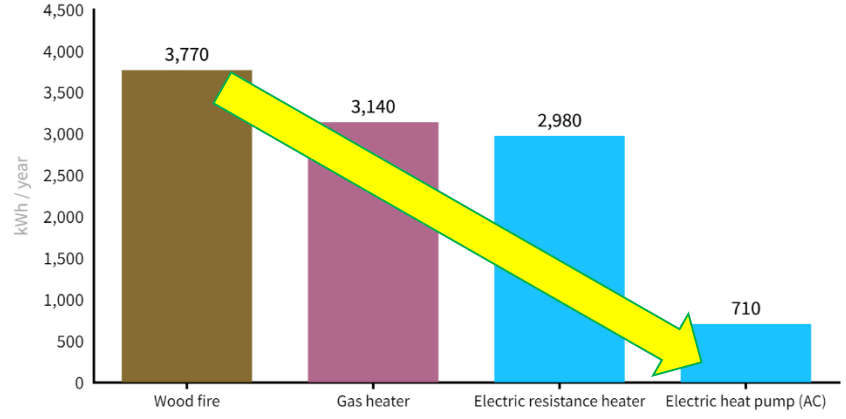
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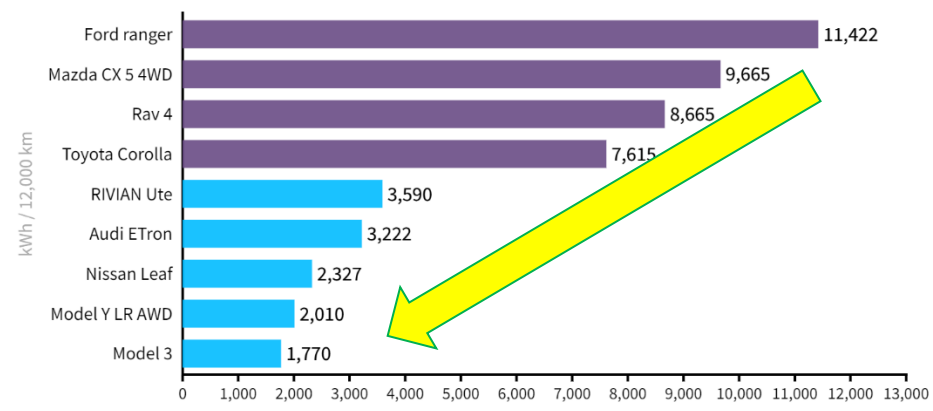
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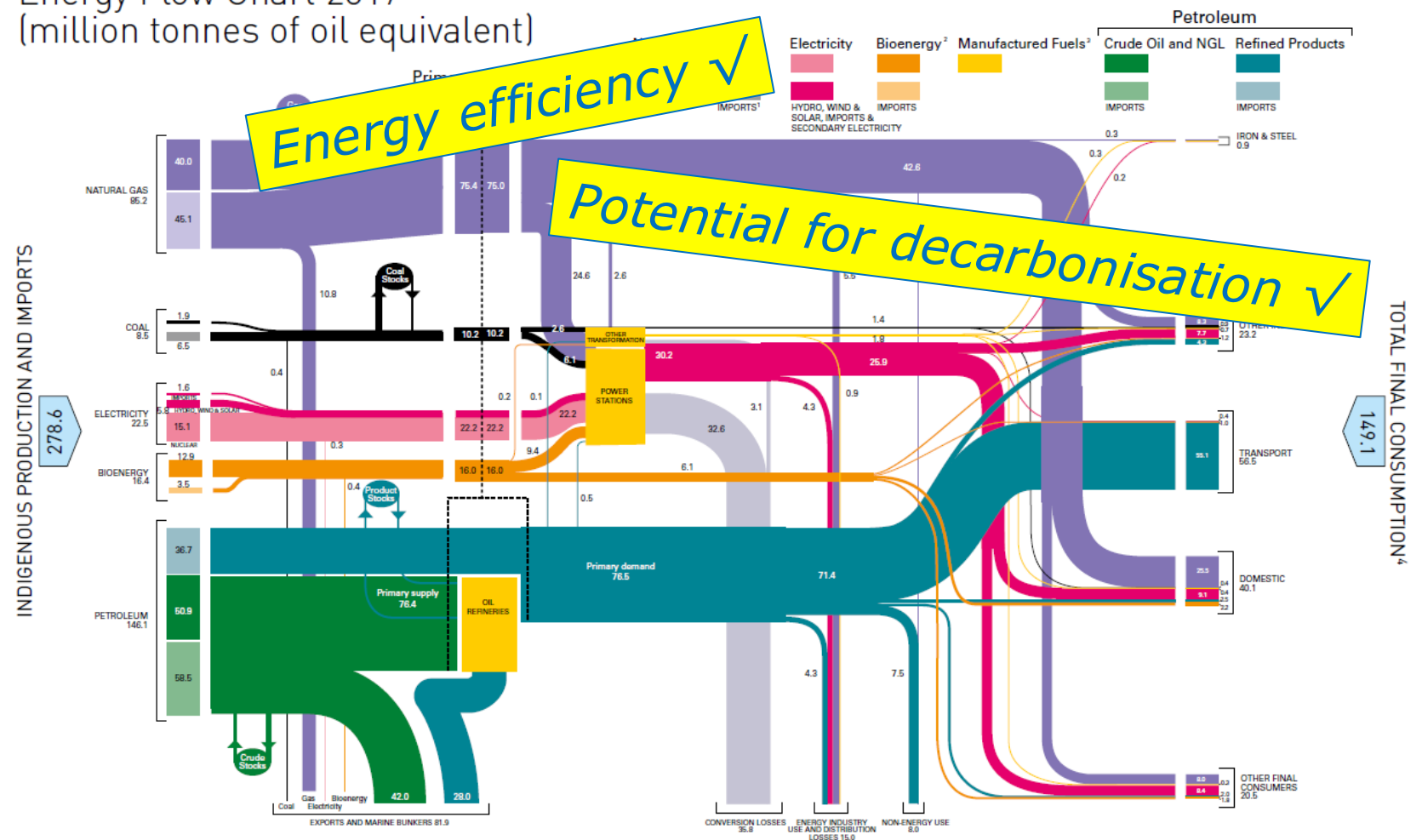
**Energy efficiency comes from electrification!**

**Electrification may also eventually mean decarbonisation!**

**... regardless of whether it is based on renewables or nuclear ☺**

# Electrify! Electrify! Electrify!

Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



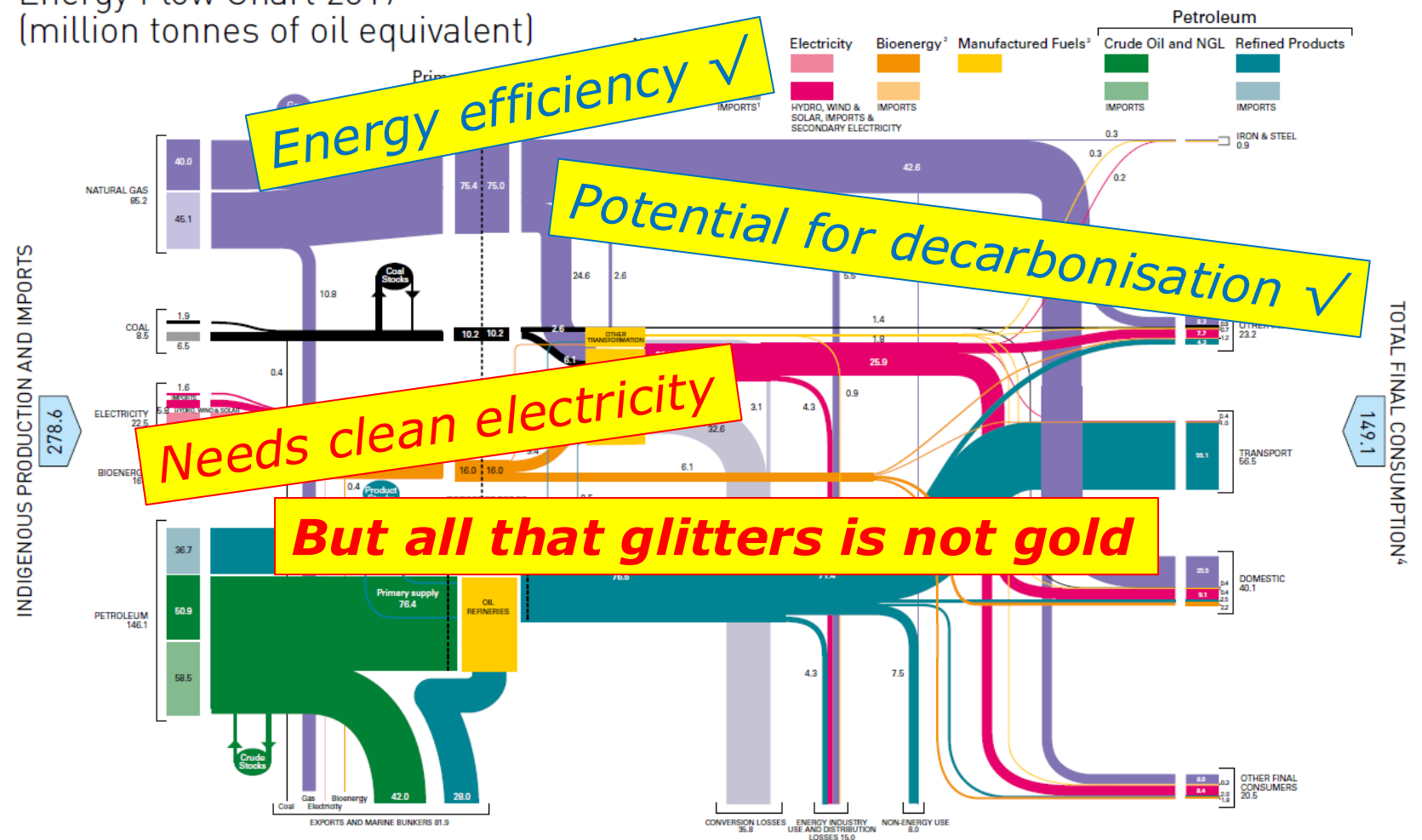
Energy efficiency ✓

Potential for decarbonisation ✓

FOOTNOTES:  
 1. Coal imports and exports include manufactured fuels.  
 2. Bioenergy is renewable energy made from material of recent biological origin derived from plant or animal matter.  
 3. Includes heat sold.  
 4. Includes non-energy use.  
 This flowchart has been produced using the style of balance and figures in the 2018 Digest of UK Energy Statistics, Table 1.1. (Gross calorific values basis)

# Electrify! Electrify! Electrify!

Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)

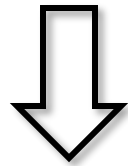
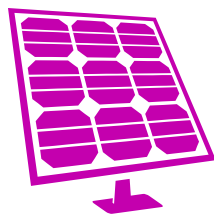


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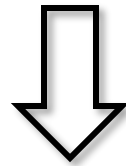
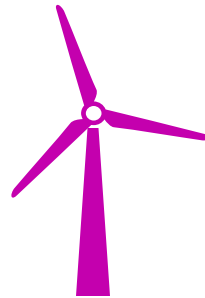
# What technologies?



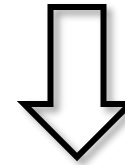
# Technology cost decline since 2010



**85%**

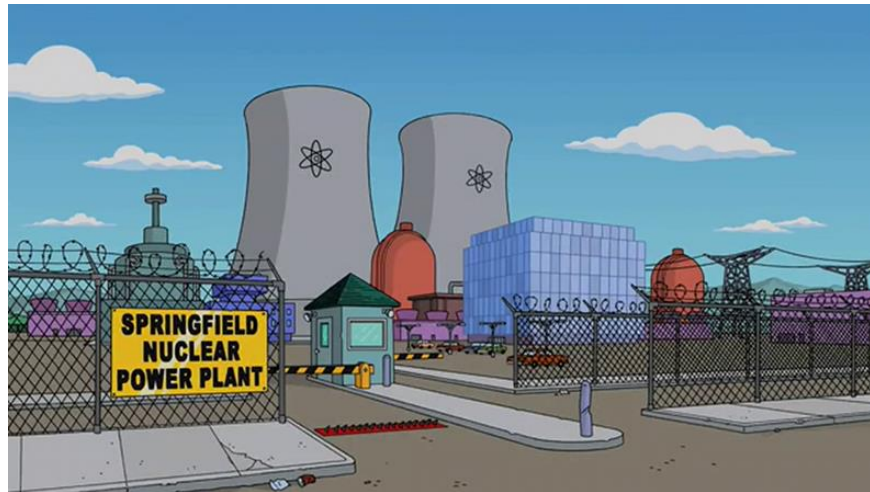


**49%**



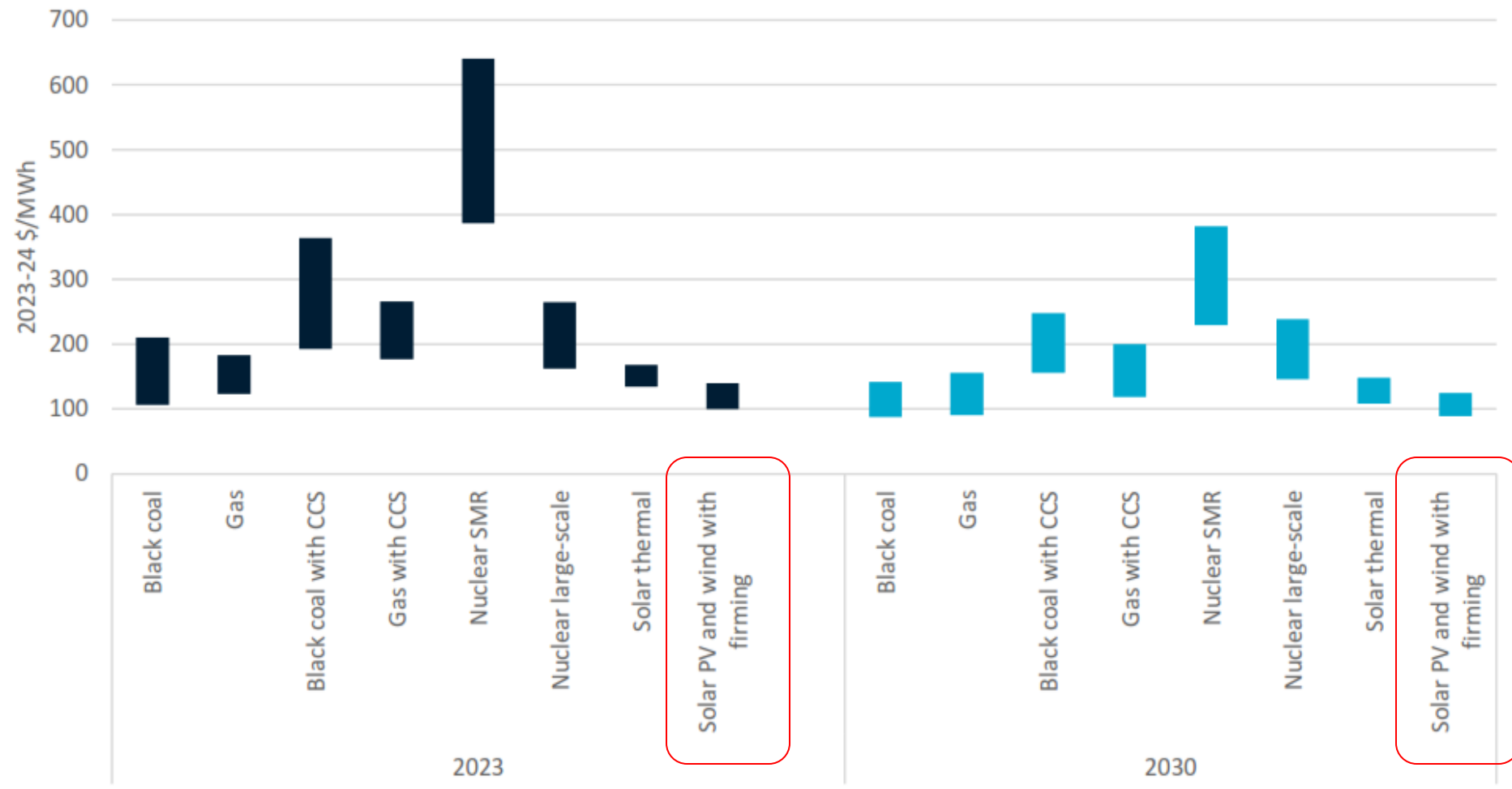
**85%**

# What technologies?

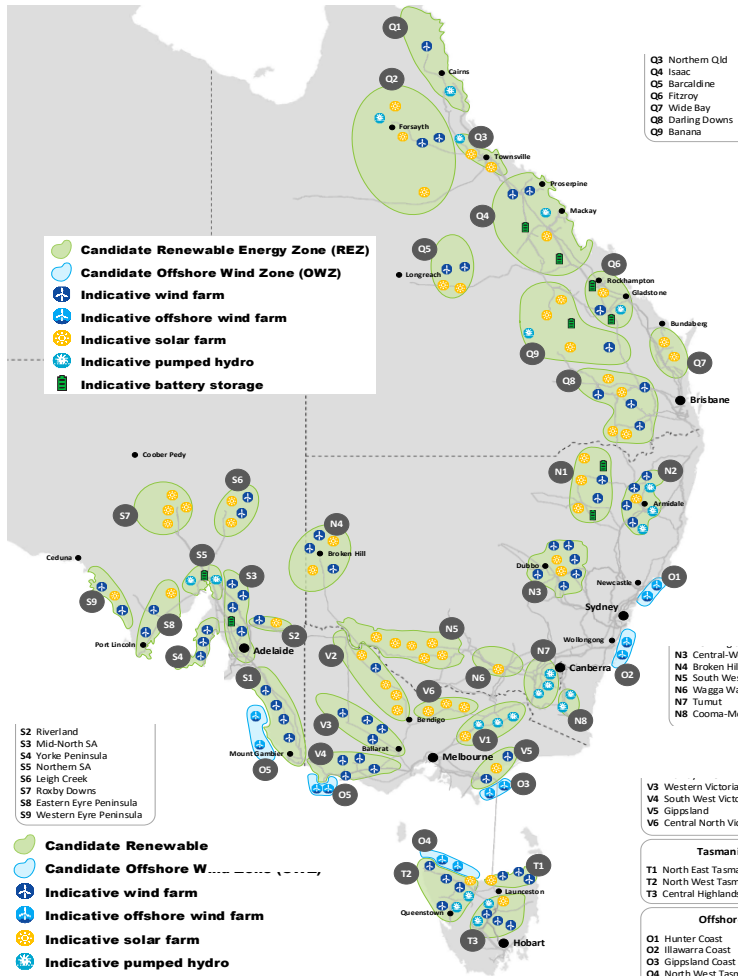




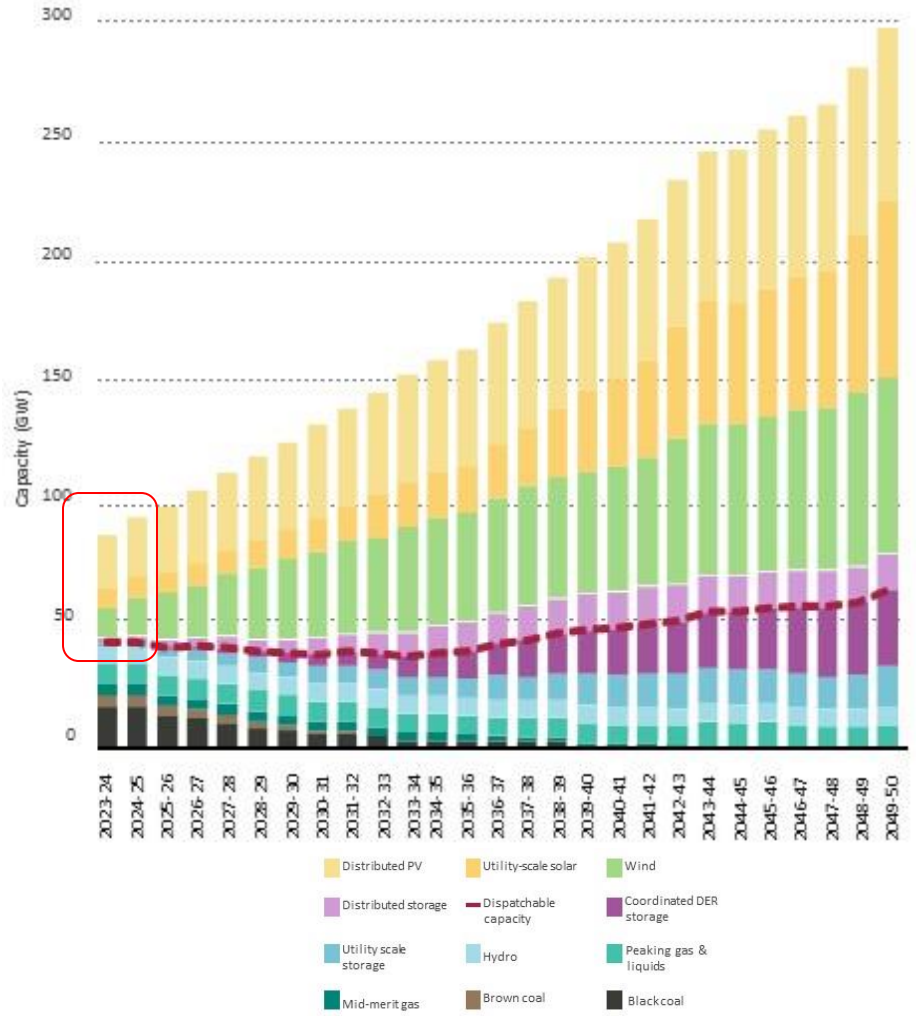
# CSIRO's GenCost report



# Future power system in Australia



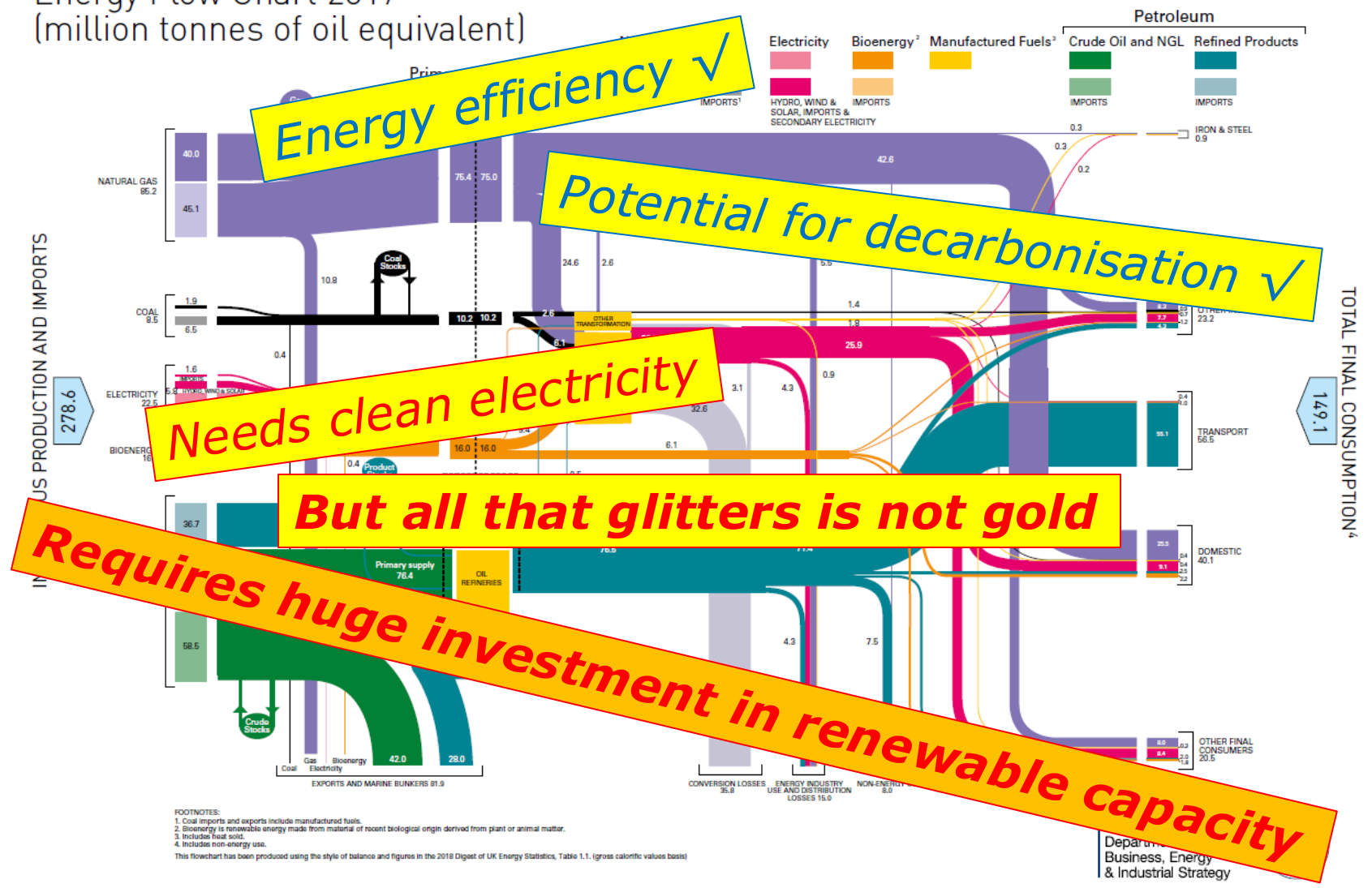
Installed capacity in ISP 2022 "step" scenario



**Closure of coal fleet anticipated before 2033**

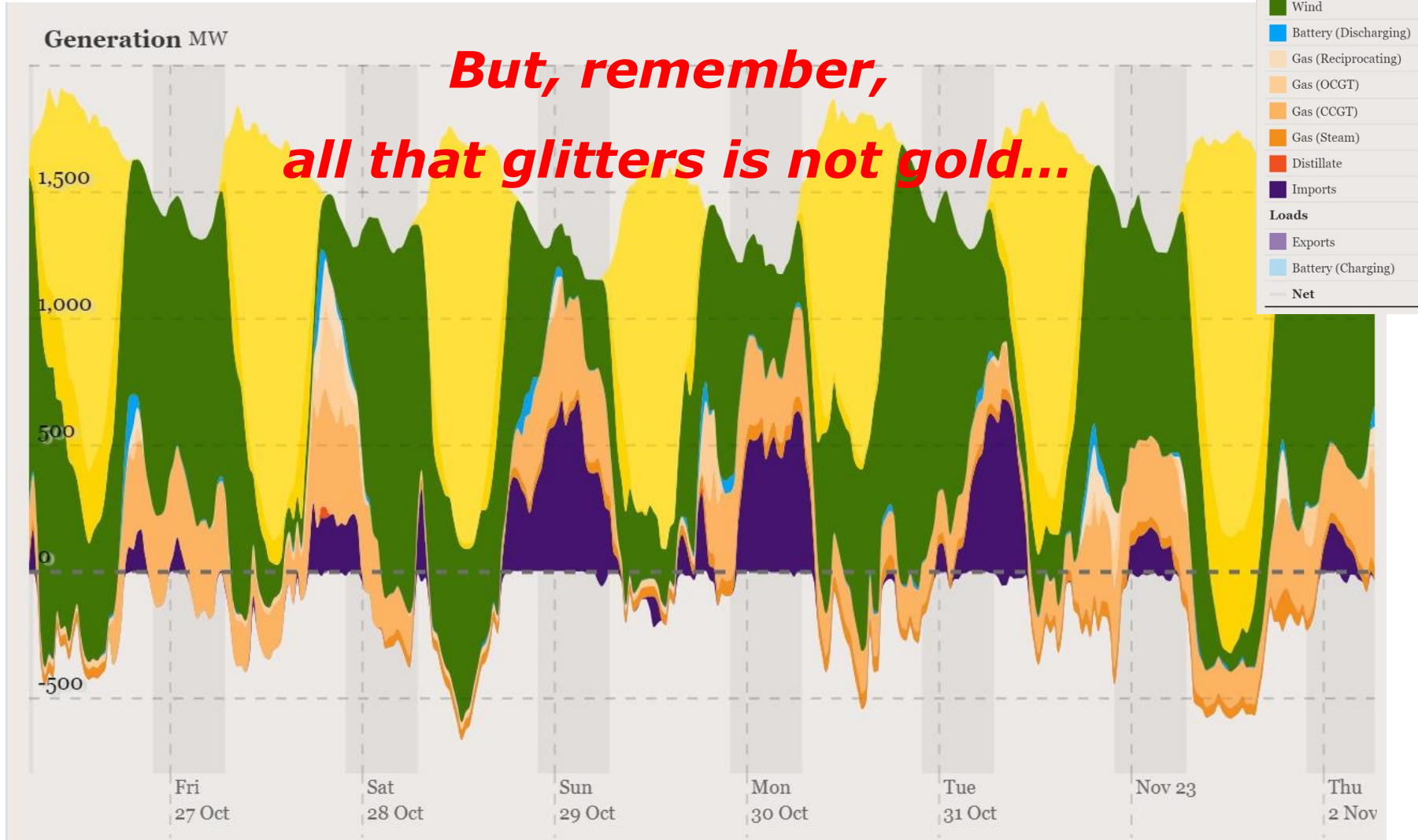
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Energy Flow Chart 2017  
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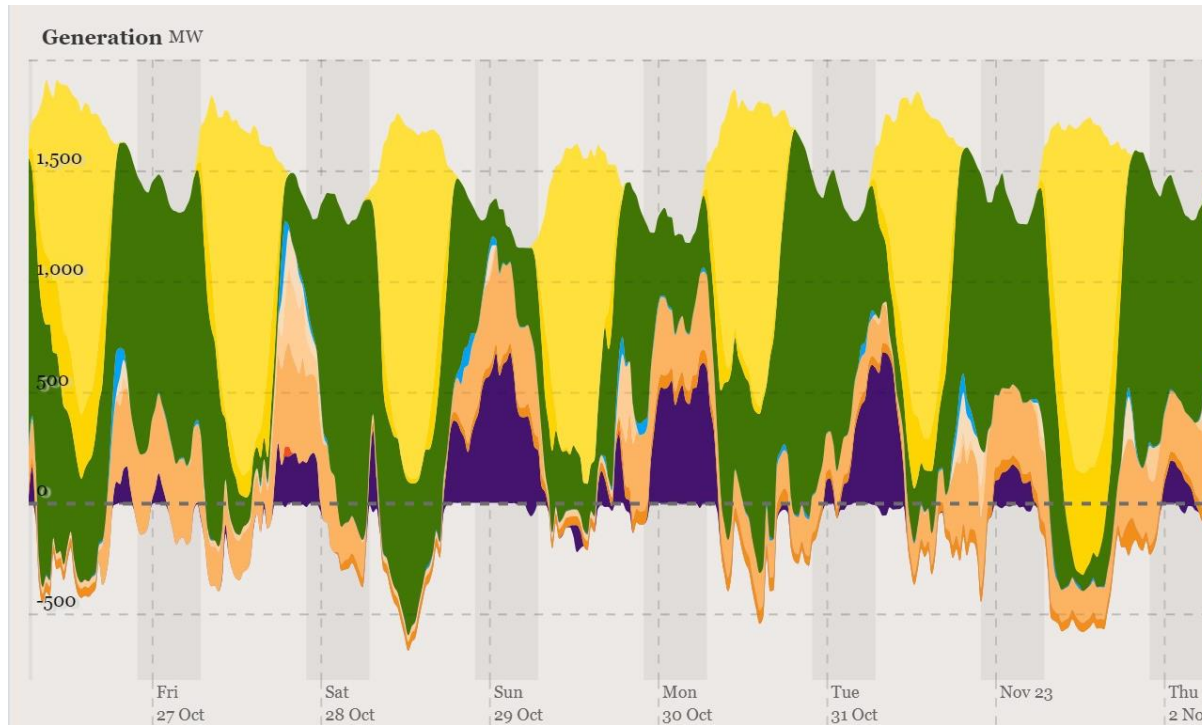
# A typical week in South Australia...

*Sun down, wind up... like magic!*



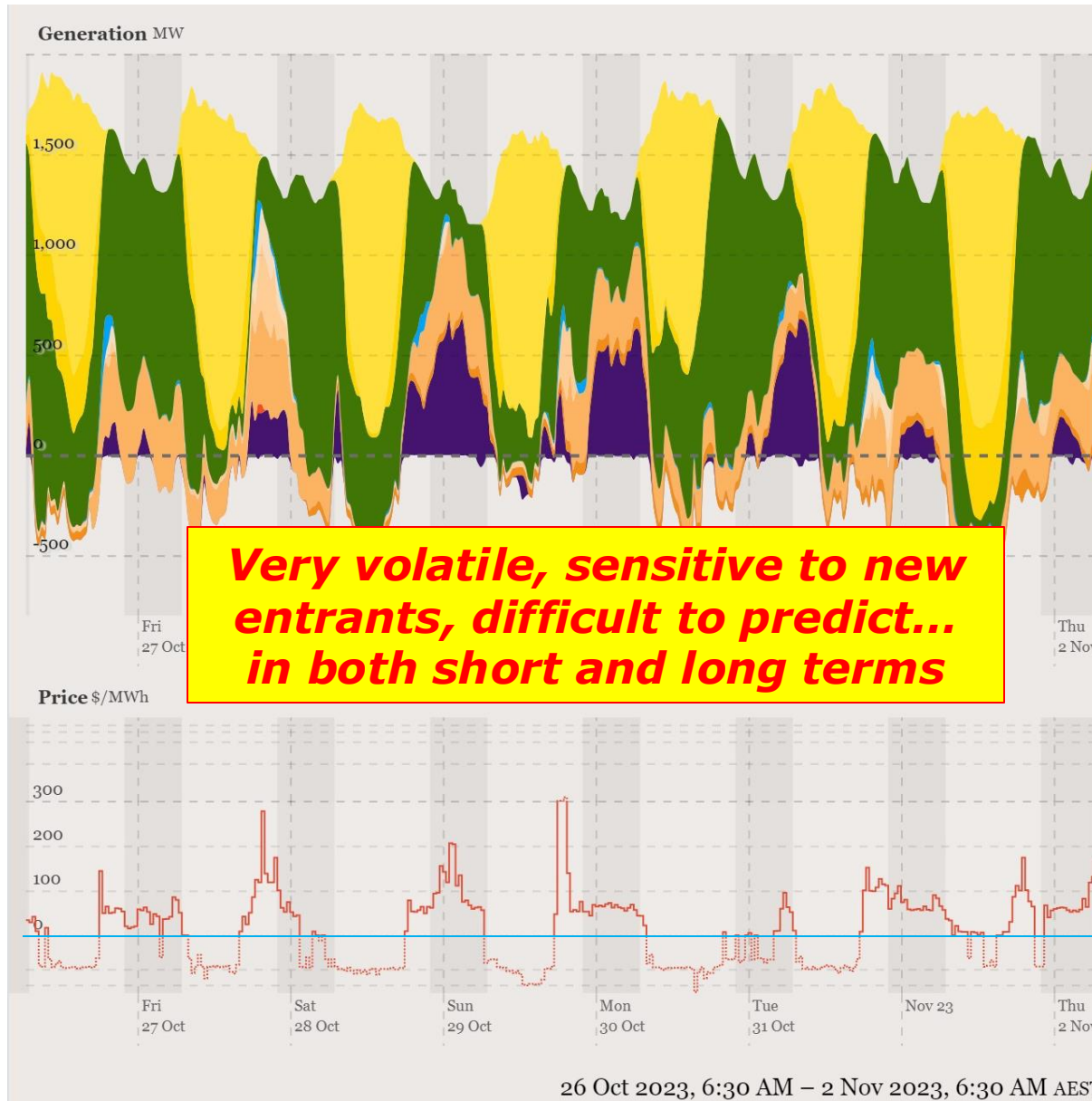
Source: AEMO and OpenNEM

# System balancing...

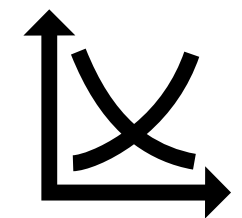


Sources	
Yellow	Solar (Rooftop)
Light Yellow	Solar (Utility)
Green	Wind
Blue	Battery (Discharging)
Light Orange	Gas (Reciprocating)
Orange	Gas (OCGT)
Dark Orange	Gas (CCGT)
Red-Orange	Gas (Steam)
Red	Distillate
Purple	Imports
Loads	
Light Purple	Exports
Light Blue	Battery (Charging)
Grey	Net

# ... and electricity prices...


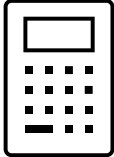
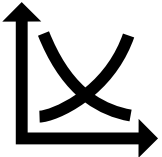


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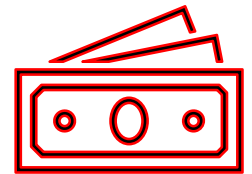
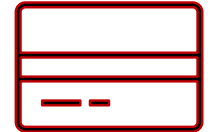
Source: AEMO and OpenNEM

# Techno-economic issues with renewables

- **Lower cost of production doesn't mean higher profit!**
  - Electricity generation is a very competitive space
  - Very low barriers to entry
  - Savings eventually passed over to customers
  
- **Uncertainty in revenues and profits** is significant
  - Variable and volatile prices mean variable and volatile profits!
  - Higher hedging costs, premiums, and desired returns
  - **Financing riskier and more complicated**
  
- **Governments** worldwide seem to have **passed** the ball to **the private sector**
  - Either because of competitive markets
  - Or because unable to pick up the check!

# From economy of operation to economy of investment

- ***Investment cost dominating means cost of capital dominating***
- Access to cheap and stable financing essential!
- But **who is going to finance** these new power plants and the required infrastructure?



Noting that **nuclear** suffers from high cost, financing issues, and finally socially acceptability too



# Resource inadequacy may be catastrophic!



**A mix of technical and economic factors caused unprecedented adequacy issues ... and, by the way, not really to do with renewables!**

Prices typically average around \$A80/MWh (per megawatt hour), but can vary between -\$1000/MWh (where generators actually pay to stay online) and \$15,100/MWh.

Over the past week, wholesale prices surged due to two main factors: high coal and gas prices (driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine) and roughly 25% of coal power stations being out of action because of maintenance as well as the sudden exit of 3,000 MW of power due to breakdowns (unplanned outages).

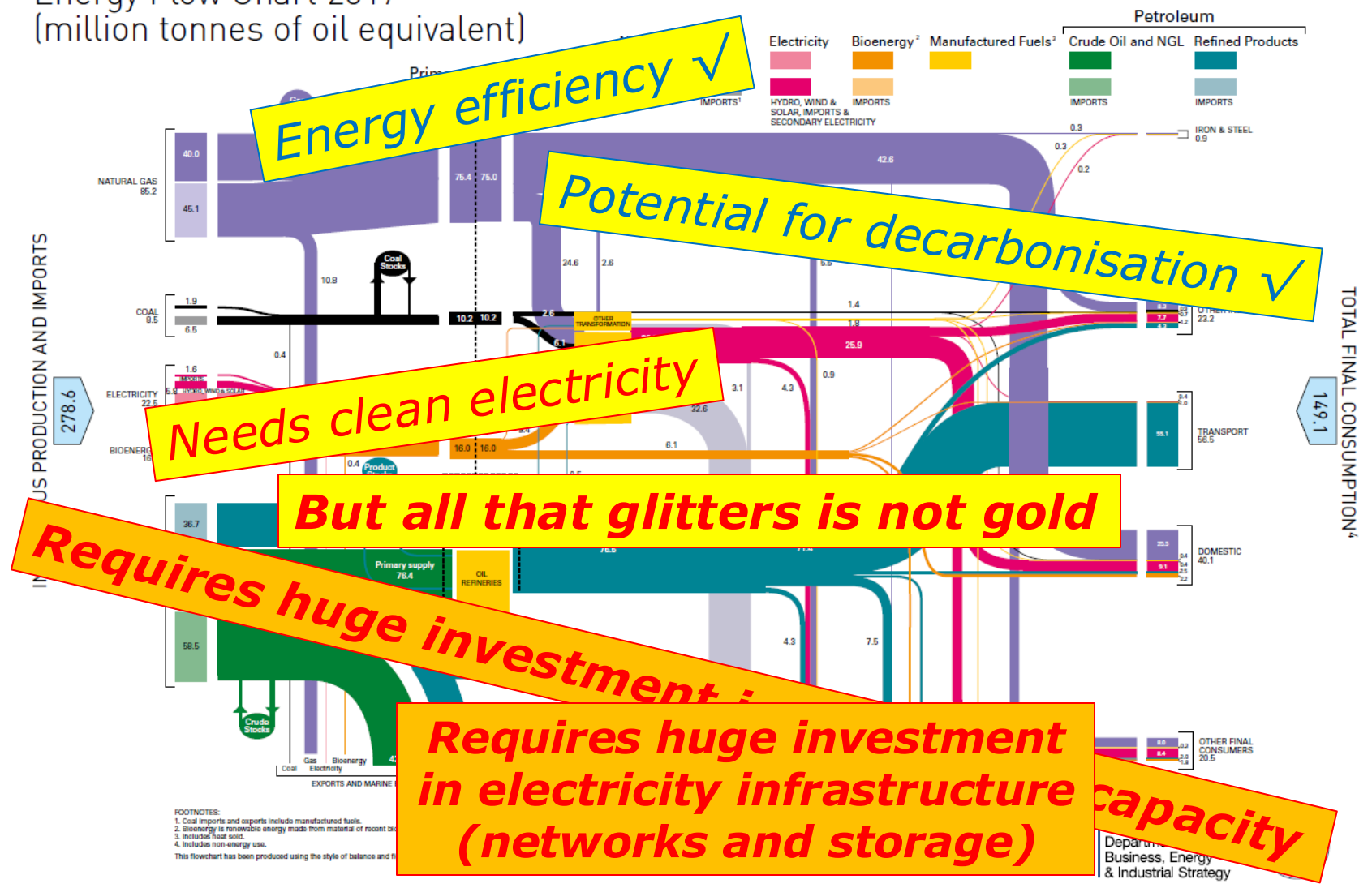
This led AEMO to trigger a pricing “safety net” and capping prices at \$300/MWh (much less than the normal cap of \$15,100/MWh).

Unfortunately, \$300/MWh is currently less than the cost of generating power from gas power stations and possibly even some coal power stations. Some generators subsequently withdrew their availability from the market, leading to further shortfalls.

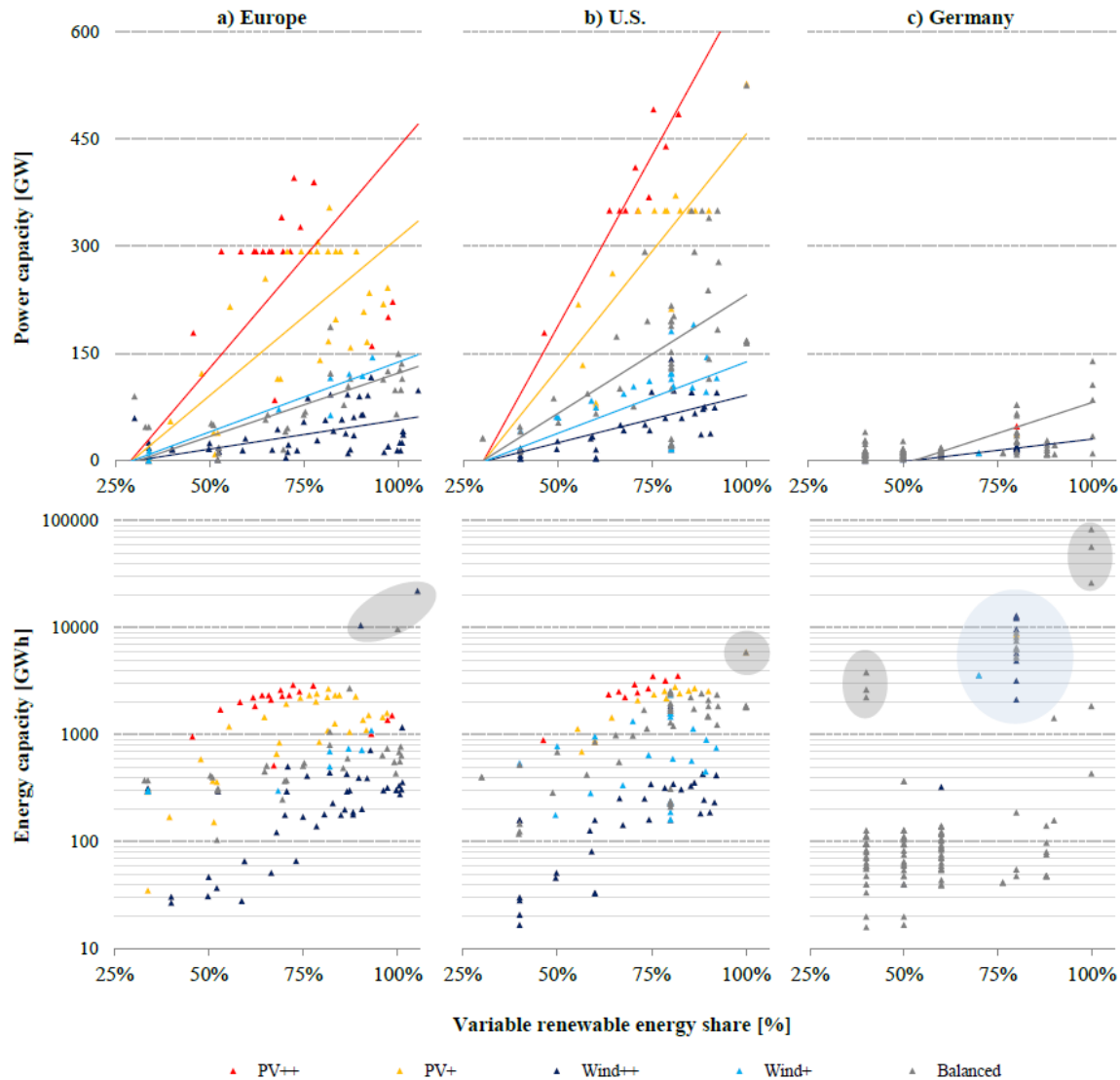
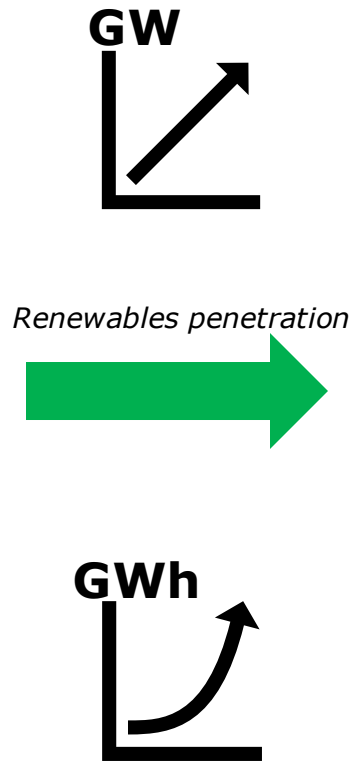
The low price cap also meant there were weaker price signals as to when power stations with limited “fuel” should use it. This includes some diesel generators as well as batteries and hydro.

# Electrify! Electrify! Electrify!

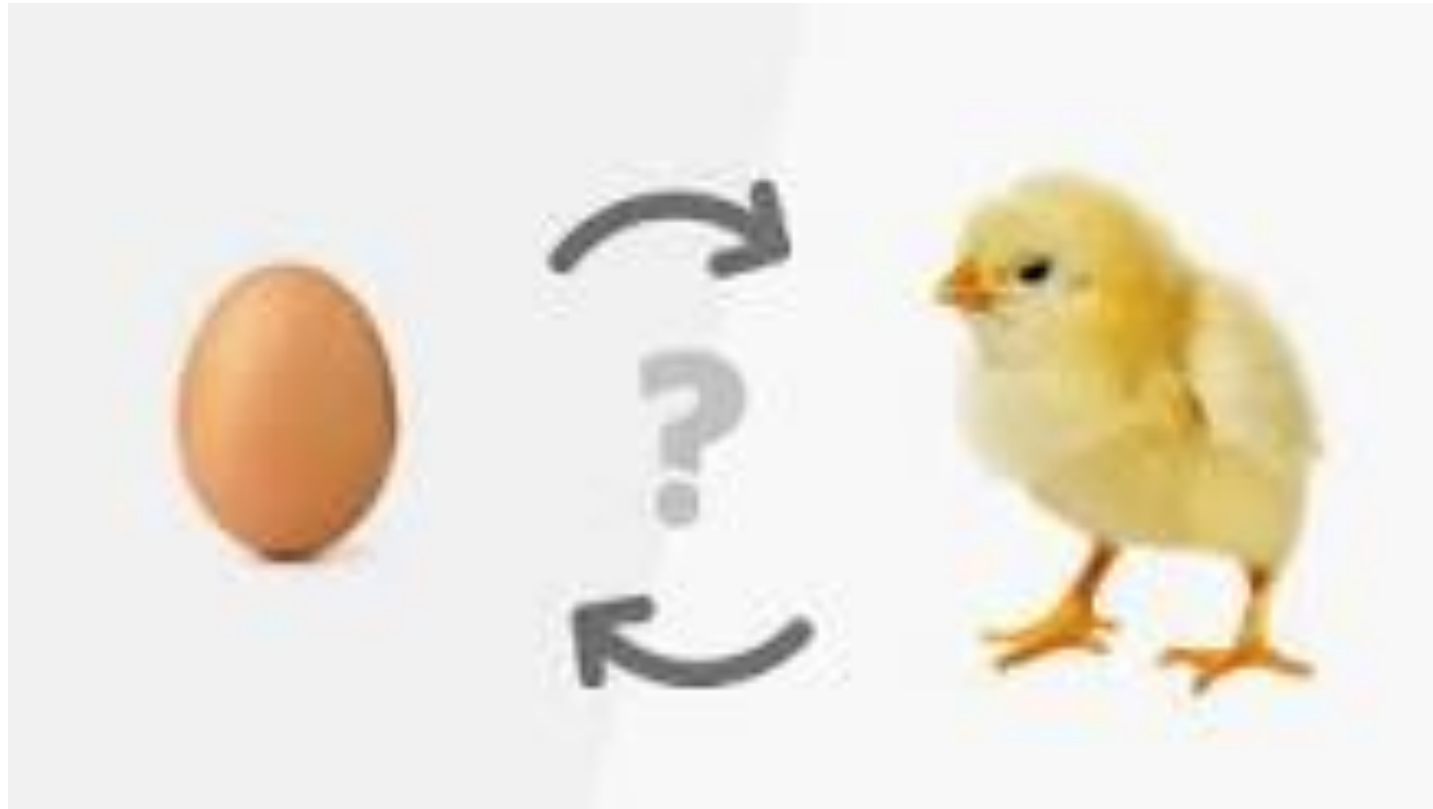
Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



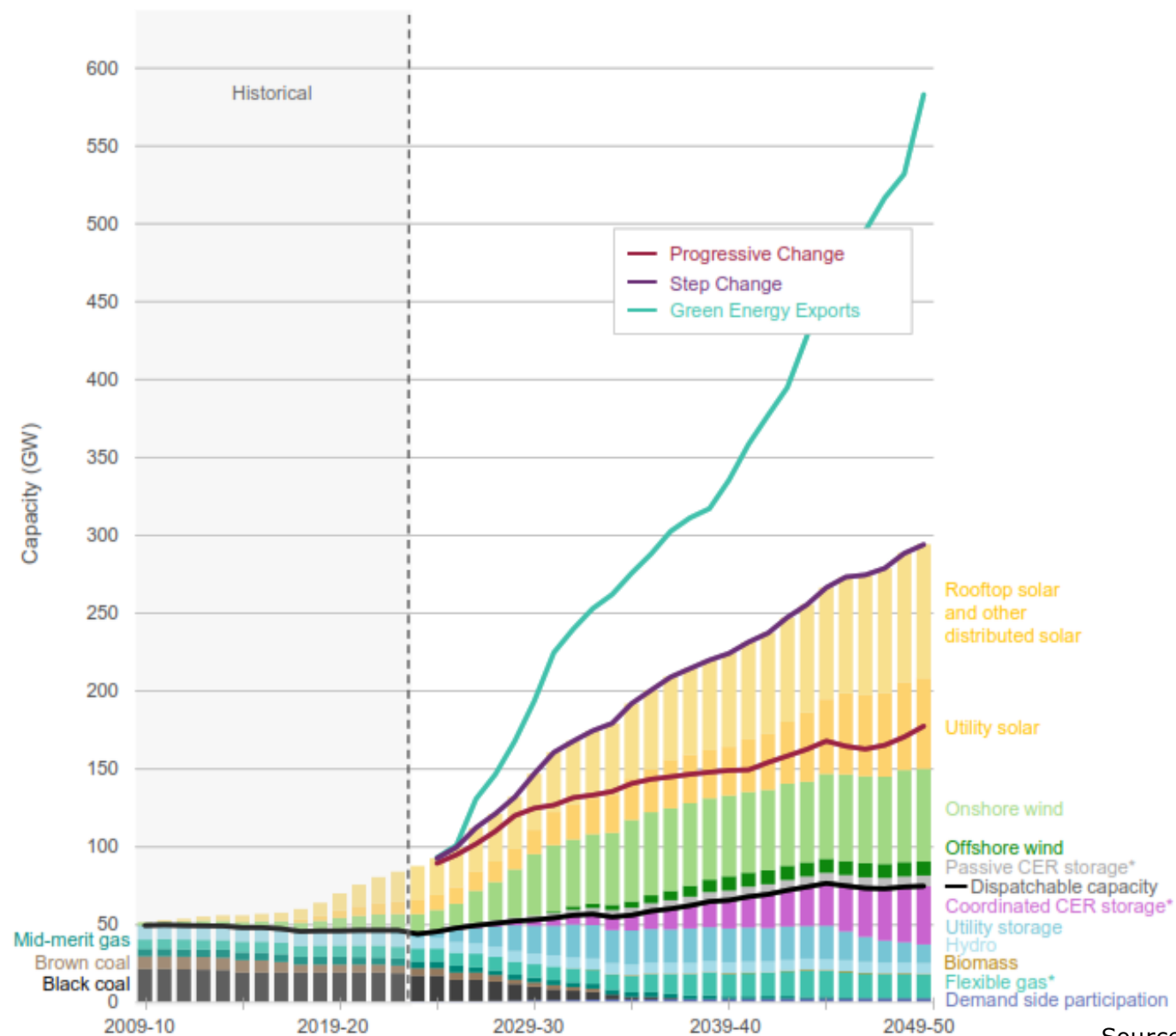
# How much and what storage do we need?



# Modern planning challenges...

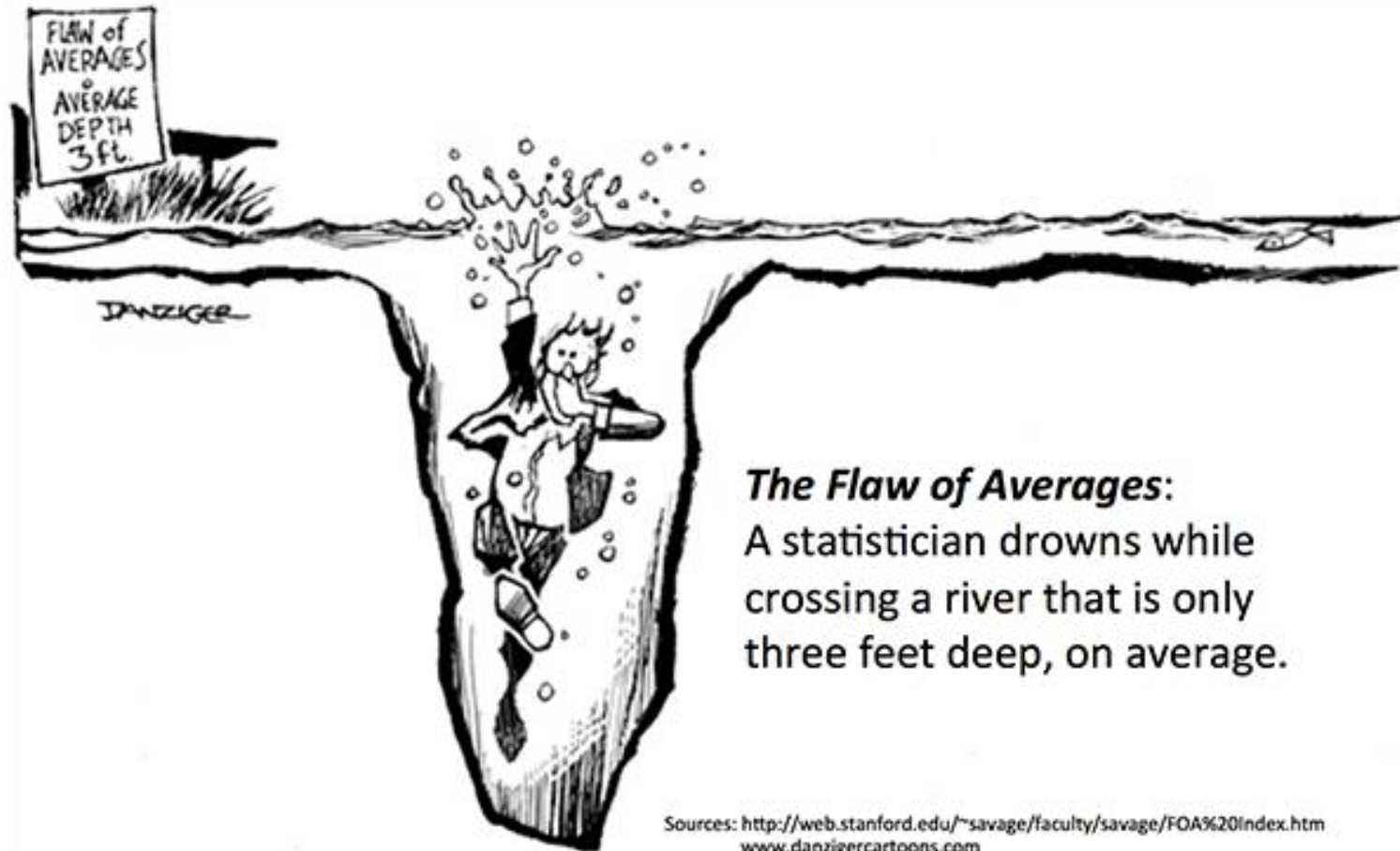


# What future do we plan for?

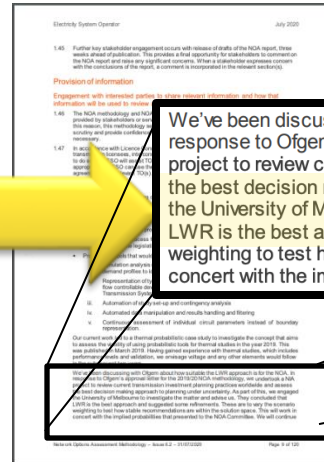
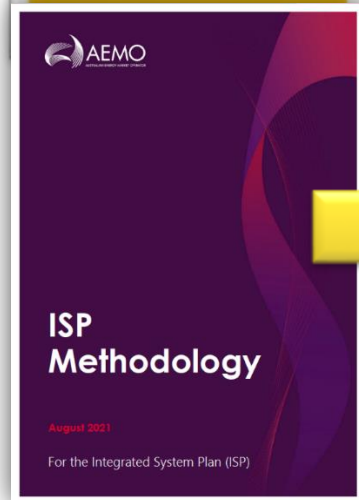
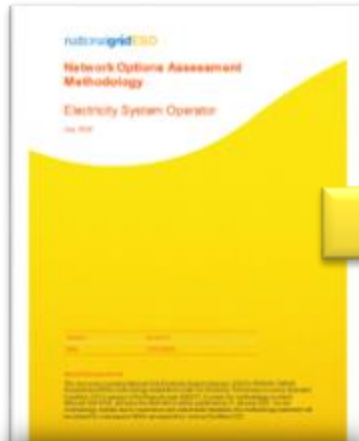


Source: AEMO, ISP 2024

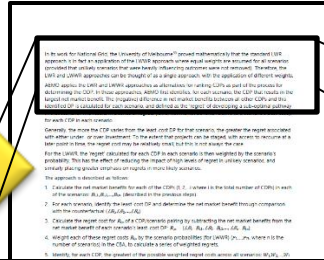
# Shall we plan for the *expected* future?



# Risk-aware panning under uncertainty



We've been discussing with Ofgem about how suitable the LWR approach is for the NOA. In response to Ofgem's approval letter for the 2019/20 NOA methodology, we undertook a NIA project to review current transmission investment planning practices worldwide and assess the best decision making approach to planning under uncertainty. As part of this, we engaged the University of Melbourne to investigate the matter and advise us. They concluded that LWR is the best approach and suggested some refinements. These are to vary the scenario weighting to test how stable recommendations are within the solution space. This will work in concert with the implied probabilities that presented to the NOA Committee. We will continue



**Least-Worst Weighted Regret (LWWR) analysis**

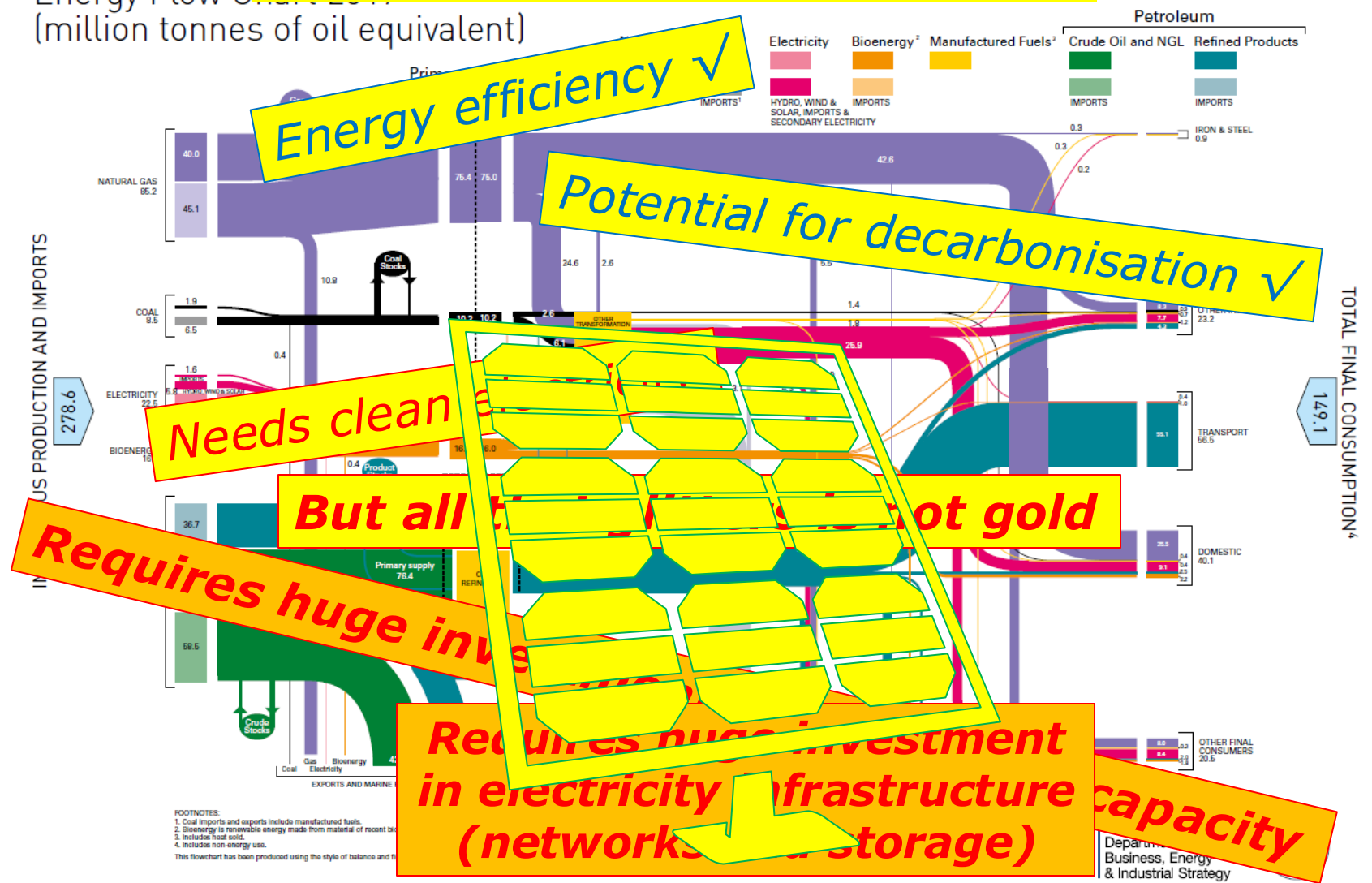
In its work for National Grid, the University of Melbourne<sup>59</sup> proved mathematically that the standard LWR approach is in fact an application of the LWWR approach where equal weights are assumed for all scenarios (provided that unlikely scenarios that were heavily influencing outcomes were not removed). Therefore, the LWR and LWWR approaches can be thought of as a single approach, with the application of different weights.



# Electrify! Electrify! Electrify!

## The super-hero of our story

Energy Flow Chart 2017  
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)

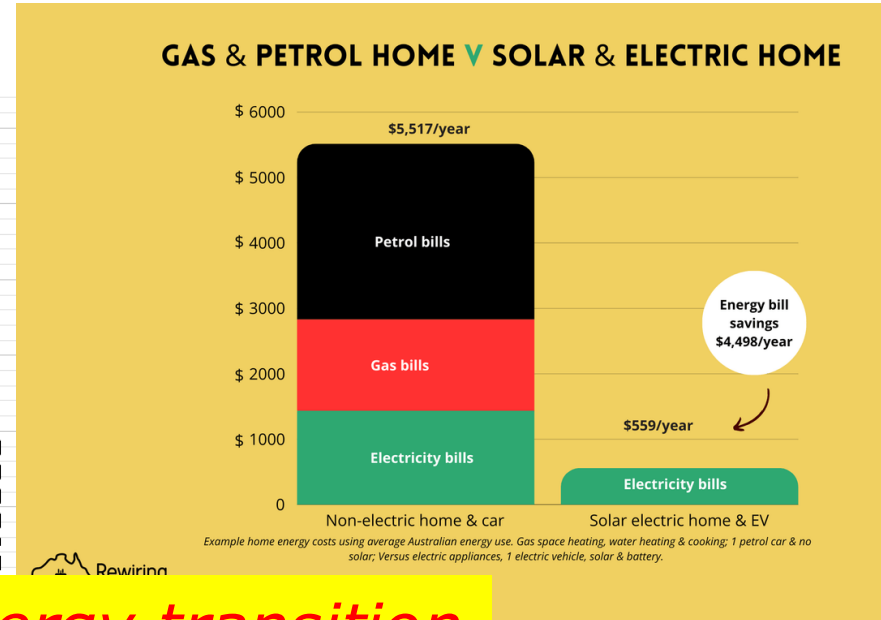
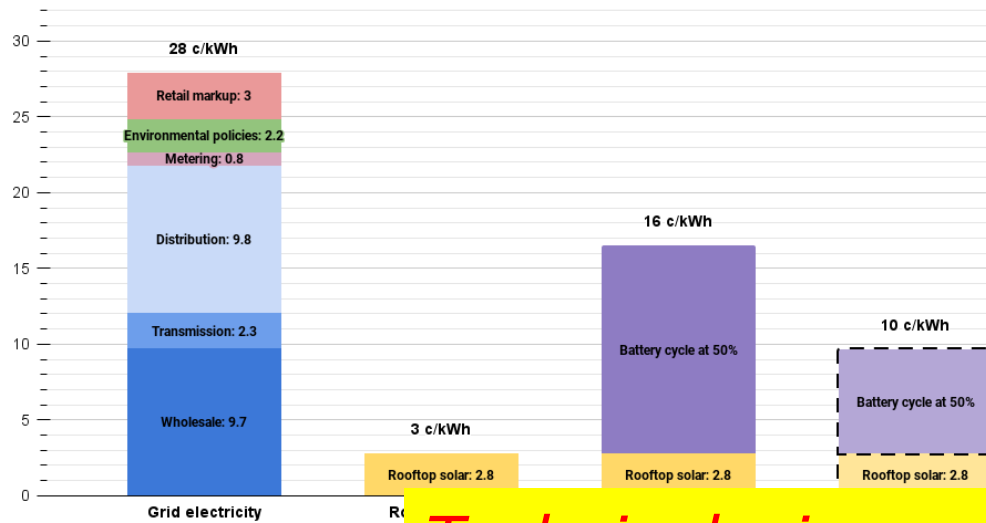




# A back of the envelop analysis of what could be...

Long distance fossil fuel grid electricity versus solar and batteries

Source: AEMC Price Trends 2021, SolarChoice, SolarAnalytics, Capacity Factor 17.1%



*Truly inclusive energy transition*

*Huge, historical wealth transfer to consumers and local communities!*

*Distributed energy may be more resilient and anti-inflationary*

*Our zero-emission and intelligent homes should be treated and financed like (public) energy infrastructure!*

*Calls for socio-techno-economic integrated planning of transmission and distribution systems*

Source: <https://www.rewiringaustralia.org/>; S. Griffith, "The Big Switch"

# New view on sustainability: *Decouple growth from emissions*

***Electrify EVERYTHING you can!***

***Build renewables, especially distributed ones!***



- **Energy conservation**

- Reduce energy demand (e.g., "Energy Saver" programs)

- **Energy efficiency**

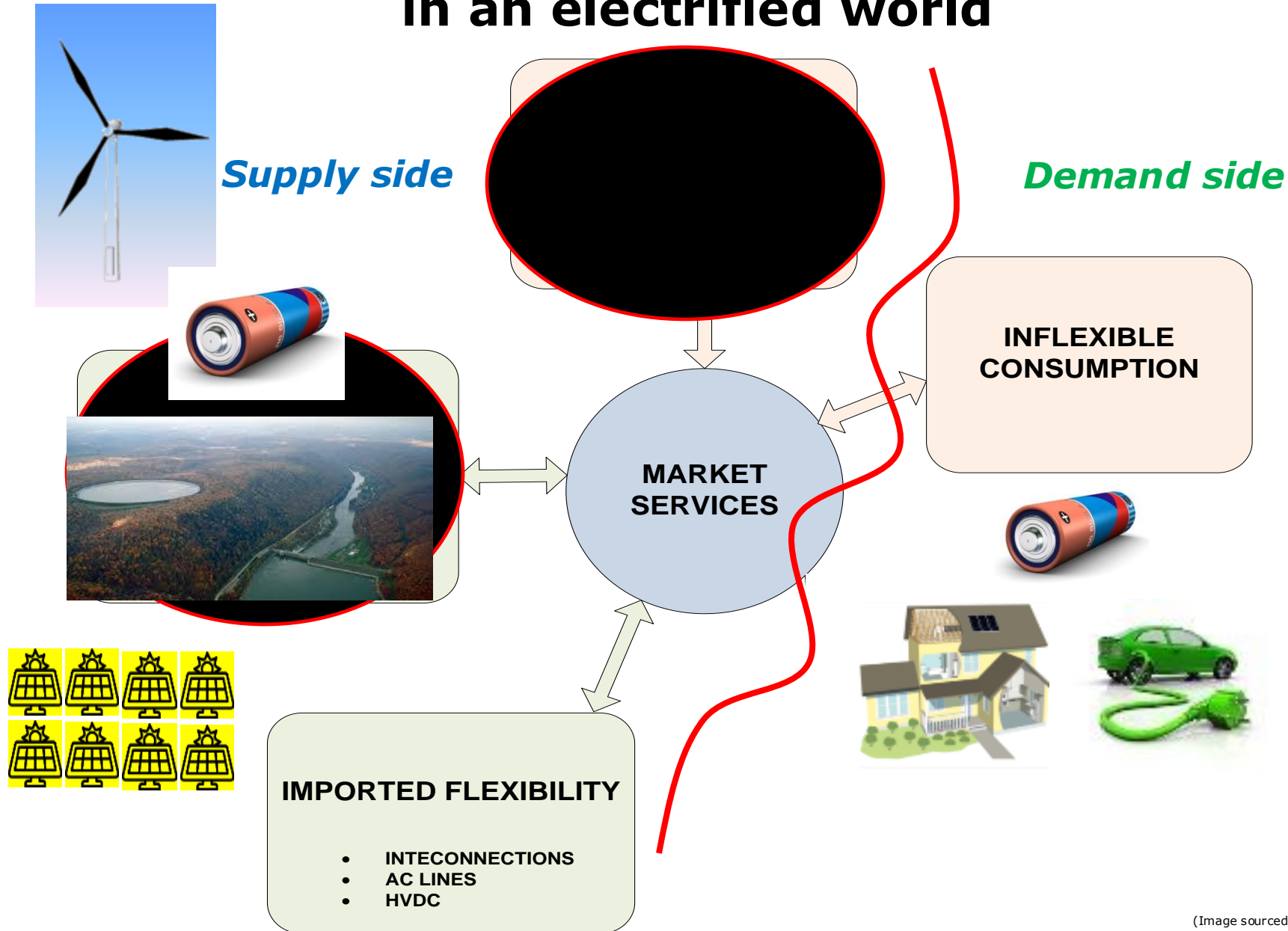
- Reduce losses (e.g., energy audits, smart meters, integrate systems)

- **Zero-carbon energy**

- Wind, solar, hydro, nuclear, etc.

***"Electric first"***

# Integrated energy systems in an electrified world



(Image sourced from the internet)

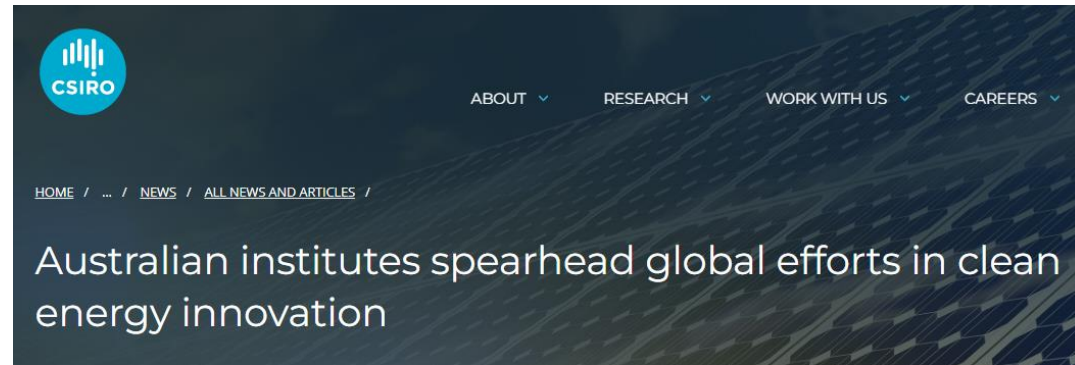
# Global Centre on Climate Change and Clean Energy

## *Electric Power Innovation for a Carbon-free Society (EPICS)*

New Global Research Centre to provide EPIC  
clean energy boost



*The new Electric Power Innovation for a Carbon-Free Society (EPICS) Centre will address challenges in clean energy production and storage.*





NATIONAL CONFERENCE

# TECHNO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

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Chair of Electrical Power Systems

The University of Melbourne

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10-11 December 2024 • Chennai, India

