

Bill

Well done! Did the Ed make any substantive changes?

Des

An energy wreck

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Australia's electricity infrastructure is a wreck. The seeds of destruction were the government-imposed renewable energy targets introduced to a market that was previously operating efficiently to deliver reliable, low-cost power.

The result of the RET policy has met planners' expectations — an increase in electricity prices to ensure that wind and solar generation became viable while removing lower-cost coal and gas from the market. What the architects of the RET policy failed to understand was that the electricity infrastructure would become increasingly fragile because of the vagaries of weather. The Turnbull government is now planning to compound this error and expand reliance to another volatile weather element — water.

Hydro capacity will diminish as dams empty in the next drought but more electricity will be required to run desal plants. The scene is being set for water and electricity scarcity that could be avoided by investment in weather-independent infrastructure.

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