











Toxic smoke warning for community

Chris McLennan

CFA crews have brought a fire at a Raywood solar farm under control.

Ten Country Fire Authority units responded to a fire at the solar farm about 28km north of Bendigo at 5.50pm on Thursday.

The solar farm was located in McQualters Road, Raywood.

While near Cohuna, one of Victoria's biggest solar farms has been out of action for almost a year. Built at a cost of around \$67 million in 2019, the Cohuna solar farm is still undergoing a refit after a fire in late 2023.

Meanwhile on Thursday, 10 CFA units from Bridgewater, Campbells Forest, Eaglehawk, Golden Square, Raywood and Woodvale attended the Raywood solar farm fire.

Police and Powercor were

also on the scene. A transformer caught fire on the "moderately sized commercial solar farm" and crews used foam to extinguish it, the CFA said in a statement.

A warning was issued to the Raywood community because of the black toxic smoke drifting over the township.

"Access was difficult for crews because of the density of the smoke," the CFA said.

The scene was under control about 8.30pm.

Energy Safe Victoria is investigating the cause of the fire.

There was a small fire at a solar farm at Walla Walla, just north of Albury, back in early January as well.

Local farmers blamed the owner of the solar farm for failing to adequately maintain the grass around the farm.

■ Toobrac fire - page 10



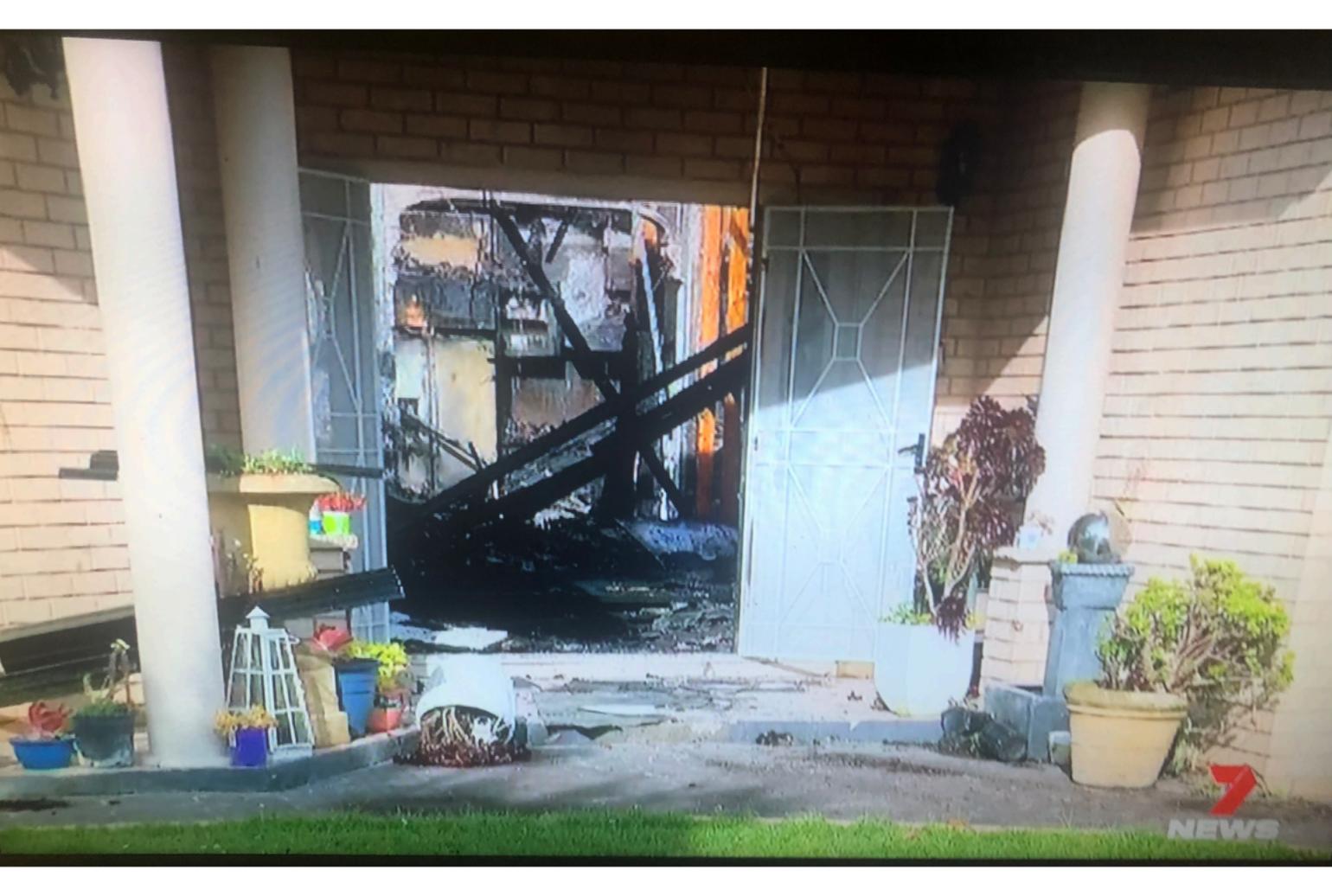
A transformer at a central Victorian solar farm caught fire late on Thursday. Picture CFA.















Advisory Note AN-004

Extinguishment of Li-Ion Battery Fires

This advisory note provides important information regarding the evaluation and verification of evidence of conformity for the extinguishment of Li-Ion batteries under the CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme.

With increasing usage of Li-Ion batteries in our daily lives, there has been an increase in documented fires, both in Australia and globally, caused by failure of Li-Ion batteries. Some of these fires have caused serious damage to properties in Australia, while fatalities have occurred overseas, throwing a spotlight onto the safety of Li-Ion batteries.

While a number of Li-Ion battery fire extinguishment solutions have been proposed globally, no Australian Standard has been published to provide performance requirements for the extinguishment of fires related to Li-Ion batteries.

In Australia, the Australia Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) sets out a list of mandatory standards to make particular safety or information features on products compulsory for legal supply of the product into the Australian market. This includes portable aerosol fire extinguishers and portable non-aerosol fire extinguishers. More information can be found here: <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/product-safety-laws/safety-standards-bans/mandatory-standards>.

Accordingly, CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme advises its stakeholders that it *has not and will not* certify, and thus provide a Certificate of Conformity, that any fire extinguisher can effectively extinguish a Li-Ion battery fire.

CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme supports the development of an Australian Standard and/or acceptance of an internationally recognised Standard that includes performance requirements for the extinguishments of Li-Ion battery fires and will continue to work with key stakeholders in the development of such a Standard.

Please contact your local fire brigade in the case of a Li-Ion battery fire.

Issuing Authorities

Kai Loh, Executive Office, ActivFire scheme – CSIRO Verification Services

Tracey Gramlick, Deputy Director – Growth and Strategy, Infrastructure Technologies

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COMMONWEALTH PFAS BAN

Solar Panels + the Electrical Wiring sourced from China are both coated in PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate or Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid) listed as a Toxic Contaminant in the updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Lithium-ion Batteries are also a Toxic PFAS Contaminant.

Due to these 'Forever Chemicals' being linked to cancer, birth defects, liver disease, thyroid disease, plummeting sperm counts and a range of other serious health problems the Commonwealth Government has effectively banned the import, use and manufacture of some of the more prominent types of PFAS (PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS) from 1 July 2025.

(21 Feb 2024)













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URANQUINTY SOLAR FARM



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NO UNAUTHORISED ACCESS BEYOND THIS POINT

**ALL PERSONNEL MUST REPORT TO SITE OFFICE.
ALL PERSONNEL MUST BE SITE INDUCTED BEFORE
STARTING WORK ON THIS PROJECT SITE.**



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FOOT PROTECTION



HIGH VISIBILITY JACKET

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MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.**



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DIAL 000**

DANGER

**CONSTRUCTION
SITE**

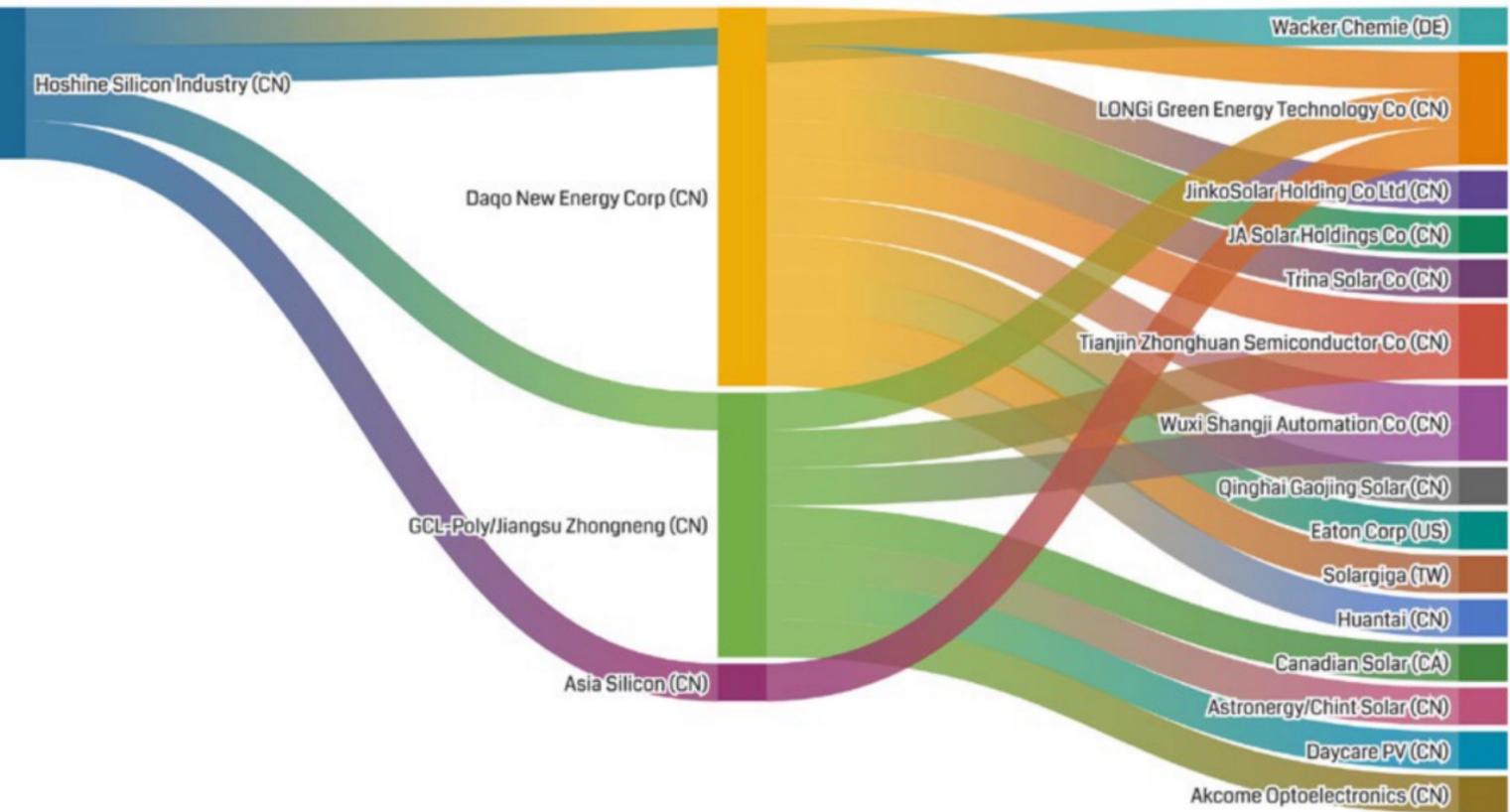


**ALL VISITORS MUST
REPORT TO THE
SITE OFFICE**



**AUTHORISED
PERSONS ONLY**

Project Name:	URANQUINTY Solar Farm
Site Address:	1268 Oxley Bridge Road URANQUINTY, N.S.W. 2652
Site Contact:	Heiner Guenze / CPE Project Manager
Project Emergency Contact:	0474 748 925 / 04248 180 71 / 0453 400 678
	Project Admin: 0400 450 190



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