



16 MAY, 2025
SOLAR BUGS

Daily Telegraph, Sydney

Rogue devices found in China’s green energy inverters

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EXCLUSIVE
James Willis

Rogue spying equipment discovered in Chinese-made solar and battery products in the United States have prompted calls for the Albanese Government to conduct an urgent national security review.

Energy Minister Chris Bowen was quick to address the reports last night, trying to assure Australians they were protected from cybersecurity threats, while also confirming more renewable

energy products needed to be manufactured locally. On Thursday global news agency Reuters revealed US energy officials had discovered “undocumented communication devices”, including “cellular radios” in new Chinese batteries and power inverters.

The mysterious bugs had the potential to skirt computer firewalls and switch off the inverters remotely, potentially destabilising power grids or

triggering a widespread blackout.

Power inverters convert energy from solar and wind. They are also used in household heat pumps, electric vehicle chargers and batteries.

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There’s bugs in your solar

Warning on Chinese-made renewables after US finds devices able to crash systems

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Fears of rogue spying equipment discovered in Chinese-made solar and battery products in the United States have prompted calls for the Albanese government to conduct an urgent national security review.

Energy Minister Chris Bowen declared Australians were protected from cyber security threats, while also confirming more renewable energy products needed to be manufactured locally.

On Thursday a story from global news agency Reuters revealed US energy officials had discovered “undocumented communication devices”, including “cellular radios” in new Chinese batteries and power inverters. The bugs reportedly

had the potential to skirt computer firewalls and switch off the inverters remotely, potentially destabilising power grids or triggering a widespread blackout.

Power inverters convert energy from solar and wind into the main electricity grid. They are also used in household heat pumps, electric vehicle charges and batteries.

Australia is overwhelmingly reliant on renewable energy infrastructure that is either made in China or owned by Chinese companies, while it pushes ahead with a legislated 43 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030.

Former senior defence and intelligence officer Michael Shoebridge, from Strategic Analysis Australia told The

Daily Telegraph the reports out of the US were “bound to happen”.

“The risks are obvious,” Mr Shoebridge said. “The Communist government of China can direct its companies to put things like extra communication and software systems into solar panel and battery networks, they can then control those systems regardless of what the owner/operator in a foreign country was.”

Mr Shoebridge added this was a “massive national security issue” that required “forensic technical investigation”, however it was more likely the government would “put its head in the sand, because it’s too big a problem to confront



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and resolve.”

When approached for comment, a spokeswoman for Mr Bowen said the government “takes cyber security very seriously and has a range of rules and standards to protect all Australians using any internet connected product importer into Australia”.

Mr Bowen’s office went on to reference Labor’s \$22.7 billion Future Made in Australia fund, which will “support local businesses making solar technology in Australia”.

The Albanese government wants 82 per cent of the na-

tion’s energy grid to be powered by renewables by the end of the decade. Mr Bowen has previously confirmed this requires the delivery of 22,000 new solar panels a day.

A representative at one of the country’s leading renewable energy suppliers, warned: “We have been flooded by cheap Chinese renewables. Remember, an inverter is effectively a computer. It has to be updated remotely. But that means it can also be shut down remotely. I’m telling you – this is a train wreck”.

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