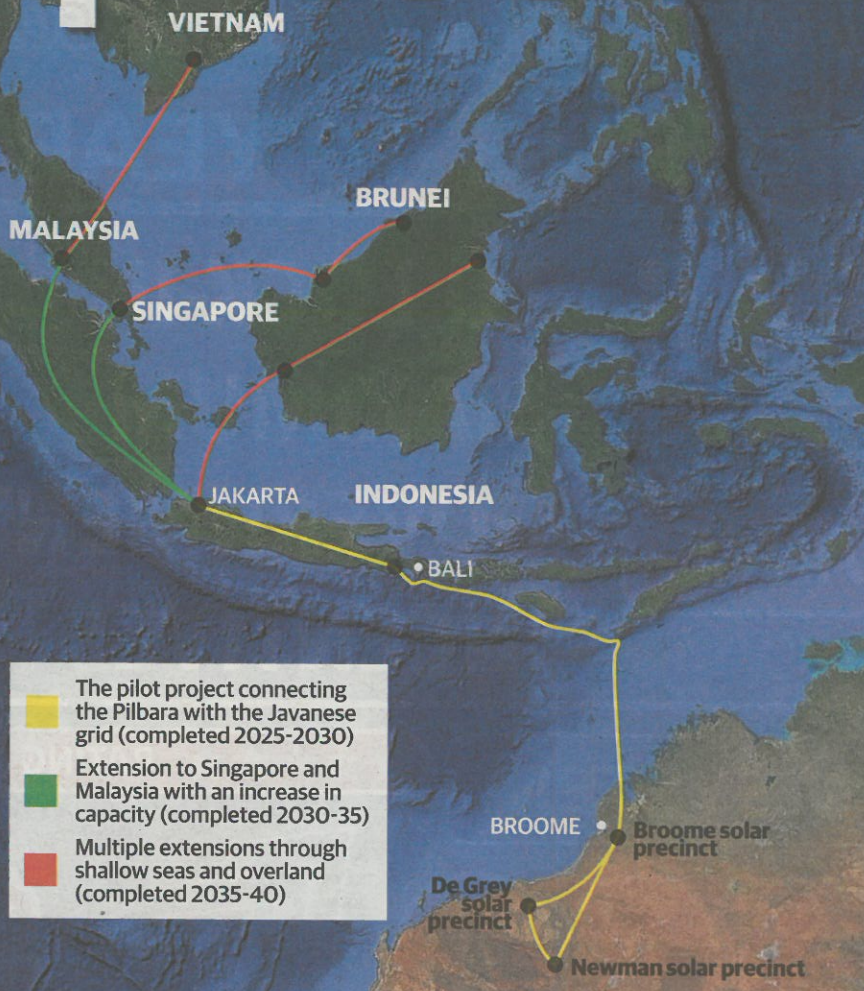


# Alannah's \$20b solar export bid



## Pratt vow to give away \$1b

AARON LANGMAID

AUSTRALIA'S richest man, Anthony Pratt, has vowed to give away \$1 billion in an act of generosity unmatched in the nation's history.

The paper and recycling magnate will follow in the footsteps of some of the world's wealthiest people by giving the cash to worthy charities.

Mr Pratt said he hoped the money would make a difference to thousands of Australians.

"My goal is to give away \$1 billion before I die," he said.

"I can afford to and it's a great honour and privilege to do so. I feel fortunate that I can give philanthropically."

The money will be funded from the cash flows of his businesses Visy Australia and Pratt USA, which support initiatives including the Global Food Forum of both countries.

He said he would focus on initiatives that offered social good and were event-driven.

Australian organisations set to benefit include the Royal Children's Hospital, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and the Prince of Wales charities trust.

WA Mining magnate Andrew Forrest, who donated \$400 million to charity in May, said: "The challenge we all face is to give with our hearts, mind and soul."

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**JOE SPAGNOLO**  
Political Editor

SOLAR power from WA's North West would be sold to Indonesia and our other neighbours in Asia under an ambitious \$20 billion vision.

Regional Development Minister Alanah MacTiernan has unveiled the findings of a pre-feasibility study which showed the scheme would create 12,000 jobs in WA.

The report suggests a commercial case for the project could be established within five to 10 years and solar could be WA's next big energy export.

Three one-gigawatt solar farms are proposed near Newman, De Grey and Broome.

The electricity would be delivered to Indonesia by a 1500km subsea cable from the Dampier Peninsula to east Java. The transmission network is estimated to cost \$9.5 billion.

Ms MacTiernan, who built her reputation by delivering the Perth to Mandurah rail line a decade ago, said the project would be privately funded and not something the State Government would have direct investment in.

In typical fashion, she scoffed at suggestions it couldn't be done and said selling solar power to Asia would start to become economically viable in five to seven years.

She said planning for a similar proposal to export solar power from Africa to Europe was already well-advanced.

"This is an idea we are absolutely open to," Ms MacTiernan said.

"We have had these (subsea) cables between Australia and Asia for telecommunications and now we are saying in this new 21st century we can send electrons up the line to transmit energy."

While it's very early stages, Ms MacTiernan said the study, commissioned by the Pilbara Development Commission, showed the idea "could be a goer".

"We have been looking around in what's happening in other parts of the world and saying, 'Gosh, we could be part of that,'" she said. "This would be another link, literally and metaphorically, with our nearest neighbour."

The 115-page report says the "proposed interconnector would be the longest and deepest to date" and would "traverse complex subsea terrain".

"The study finds that is an appropriate time to initiate a dialogue and seek Indonesian perspectives on diversifying its energy mix to include solar feed-in from Australia," it says.

"There is potential for Indonesian electricity generators to fully or partially own solar generation assets in the Pilbara."

Ms MacTiernan said a copy of the report had already been provided to the Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Perth, Ade Padmo Sarwono.

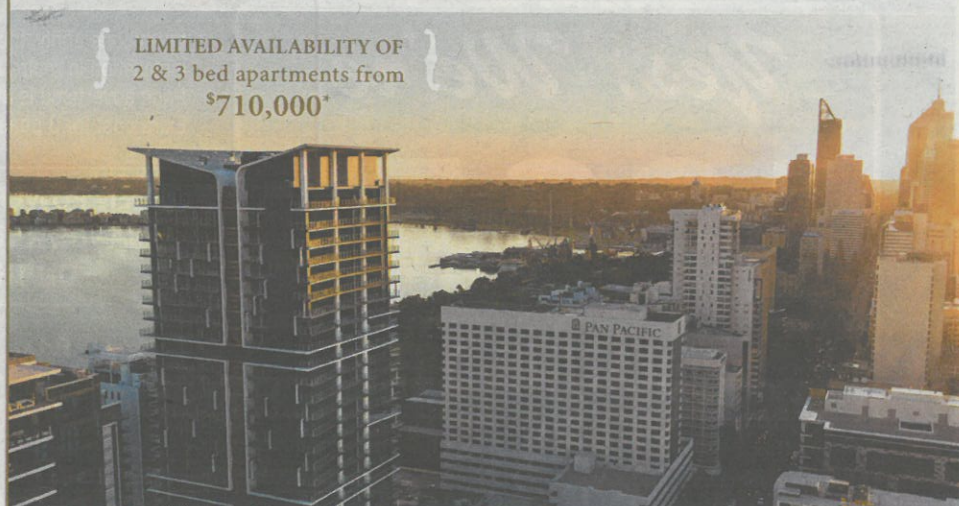
"We will get feedback from industry players to see what the interest might be and then to see what additional work there needs to be if there is genuine interest in this," she said.

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