

### SHOCKING DISCOVERY

Almost all solar panels on the Australian market are built with slavery. It began mid-last decade. The comprehensive 'In Broad Daylight' report exposed Uyghur forced labour by the global industry and supply chains, specifically in Western China. (Report authored by Laura T. Murphy and Nyrola Elima, Sheffield Hallam University - Helena Centre for International Justice).<sup>1</sup>

Western China's Xinjiang region seeks to (a) control the Uyghur minority population (a UNHCR report<sup>2</sup> has labelled it genocide) and (b) utilise the forced labour as a global price economic competitive advantage.

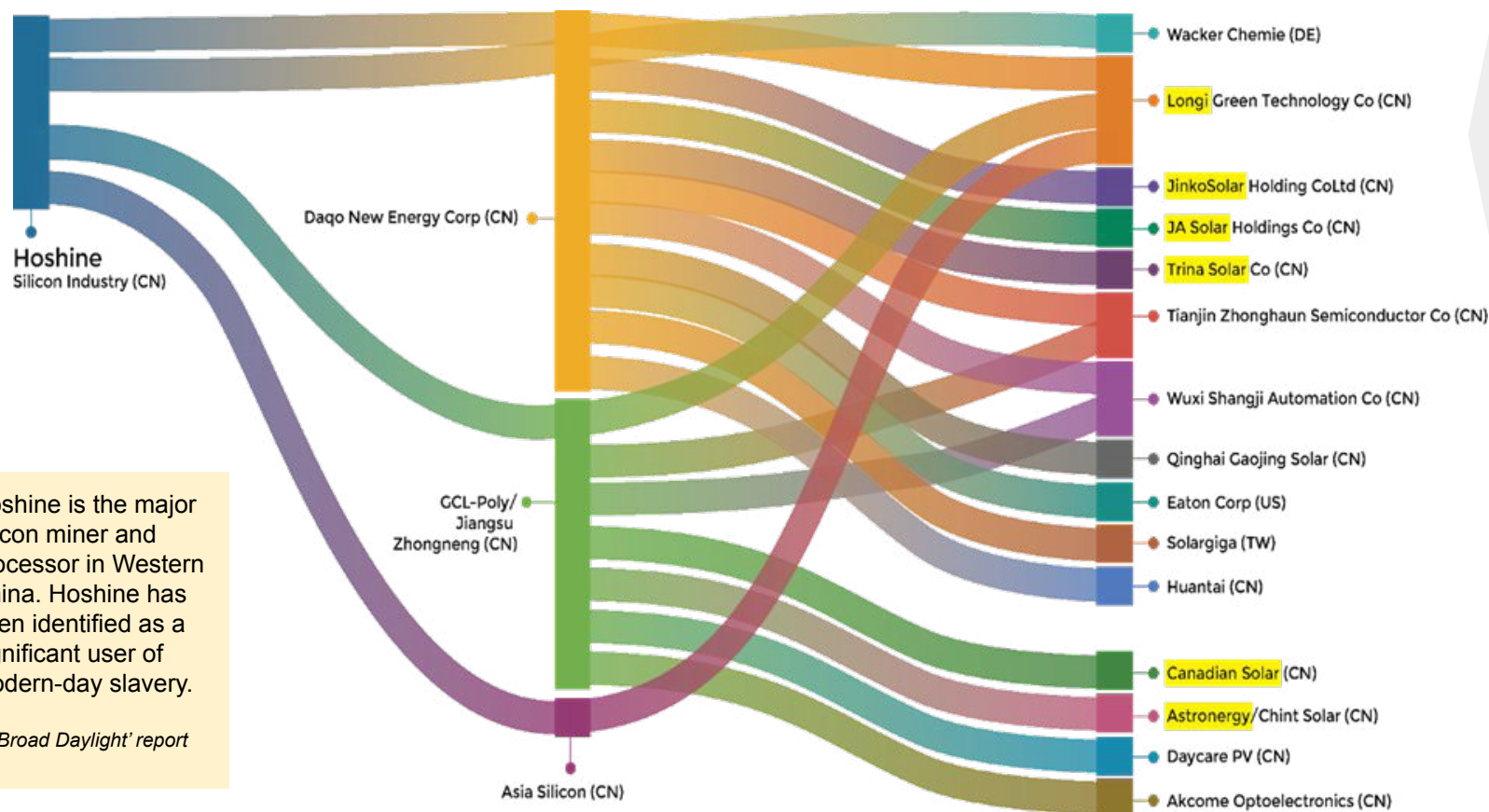
Solar panel manufacture, particularly the early phase of silicon mining and processing, is labour intensive. Western China's free labour has helped them dominate the solar panel industry over the last 12 years - see Graph 2 on the following page.

A large range of information exists re slavery and the solar panel industry:

- In Broad Daylight
- UNHCR report on western China
- Uyghurs for Sale - from the Australian Strategic Policy Unit
- Federal Labour's Tackling Modern Slavery Policy
- Almost 50 slavery and solar panel articles from major news media outlets.

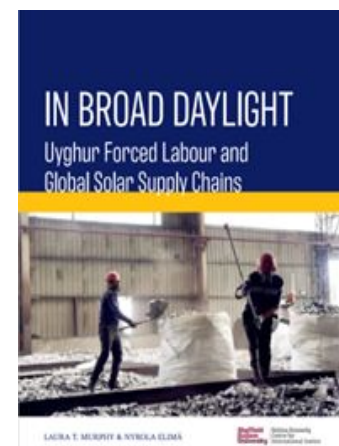
All of the above are available in Energy Buster's website Information Centre

## HOSHINE SILICON INDUSTRY DOWNSTREAM CUSTOMERS GRAPH 1



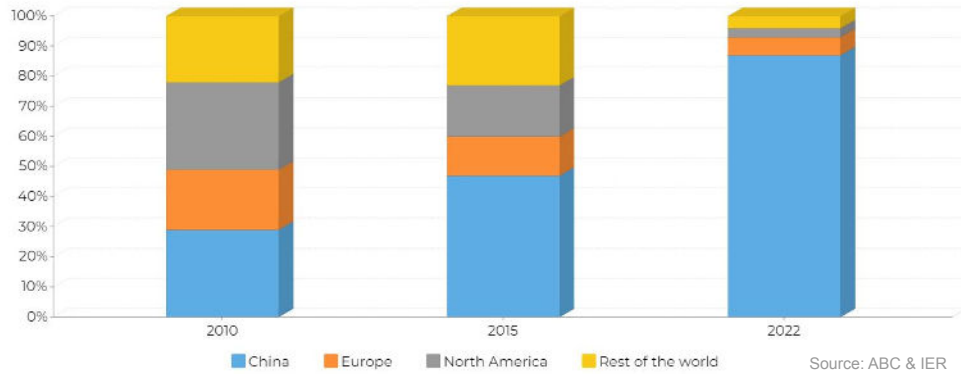
Hoshine is the major silicon miner and processor in Western China. Hoshine has been identified as a significant user of modern-day slavery.

*'In Broad Daylight' report*



1. In Broad Daylight - report on slavery in panels 2. United Nations OHCHR- Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

## Polysilicon manufacturing capacity by region GRAPH 2



## FUTURE WARRANTY THREAT

The Australian Government may follow other Western countries and eventually ban slave built solar panels. (Read Federal Labour's Modern Slavery Policy at Energy Buster's website Information Centre). The US Government now embargoes slave panels (since June 2021). Canada, EU and UK have also, or are on the way to, doing so as well. The Australian Government has taken a number of steps towards meeting its election promise to tackle modern slavery:

- A. 2023 May Federal Budget announced funding for an Anti-slavery Commission
- B. Recent appointment of Anti-slavery Commissioner

Once operational, all products identified as having been built with slave labour, will be listed. Once listed they will be import-blocked by Australian Border Force.

Slavery within the solar panel industry is clearly a social injustice; and of further concern for homeowners and businesses is the fact that most conventional panels won't last their product warranty term. Low price strategies mean that most are built cheaply, likely to see problems between the 8 to 12 year mark. (A range of industry studies and research indicate that conventional panels have an effective life of around 12-years).<sup>3</sup>

For conventional panels, product warranty is a critical part of the package. If panels are embargoed due to slavery then their product warranties disappear - an alarming thought for most consumers.

## SOLUTION

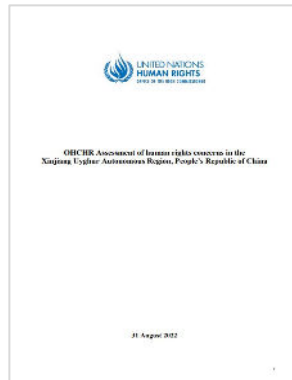
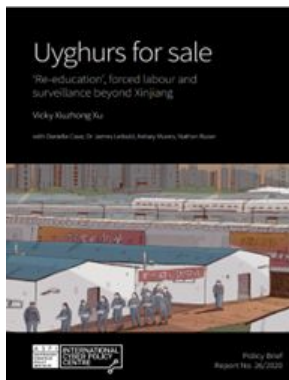
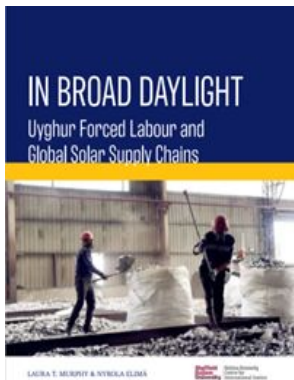
Don't believe any solar panel manufacturer's internal Anti-slavery Policy. With some, this is simply a trick with words - 'We don't use slavery in Australia'. Of course not, because the panels aren't built in Australia.

The only sure way to be confident of absolutely no slavery within the solar panel build is to rely on external independent supply chain audit results. One of the best known and most reliable sources of independent supply chain audits is SEDEX. This lists over 75,000 organisations' supply chain audit results for 'responsible and ethical' sourcing. Major retailers and other companies sourcing products heavily rely on SEDEX when purchasing.

Speak to Energy Buster to find out more.



GRAPH 1



# SLAVERY AND SOLAR PANELS

DEEPER LOOK

3. Wohlgemuth J. "Reliability of PV systems," proceedings of SPIE