



RAW Energy update – July 2017

Firstly, we must apologise for the length of time between updates. This year seems to be hurtling along at the speed of light. There has been an enormous amount of work going on behind the scenes. Our next meeting will provide an opportunity for you to hear all about it firsthand. We will also be discussing the future role of RAW Energy and the launch of our website!

Next meeting

You are cordially invited to attend our next general meeting:

Time: 5.30pm, Tuesday 15th August, 2017

Venue: Meeting room 2, AlburyCity Council (first floor)

Thanks to AlburyCity for their continued support and for allowing us to use their meeting room.

RSVP: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

Wodonga Community Solar Project

We are halfway through the project which will wrap up at the end of the year and the feasibility study by MEFL (Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd) is now complete. MEFL has been appointed to develop a business case for a 1.5 to 2MW solar project. Another workshop was held on 31st May in order to progress a potential community developer partnership opportunity with North East Water. More details will be provided at the August meeting.

State Parliamentary Committee

Michelle Wilkinson represented RAW Energy at a State Parliamentary Committee public hearing in Shepparton regarding the Wodonga Community Solar Project. Thanks to Michelle for representing us in this way!

Inquiry into Community Energy Projects

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/eejsc/inquiries/article/3075>

Our new website!

Many of our supporters will know we have been working with Fiona Fell (Leads to Clients) who has done a wonderful job building our webpage www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au. Thanks so much for all your hard work Fiona! We will be able to post information about projects, upcoming events and links to other renewable energy news.

More importantly, the website will act as a platform to provide information about how our energy network operates and will hopefully encourage the community to become involved in local renewable energy projects. Even though our website is live we are still working on uploading more information and modifying it. So please feel free to contact us if you spot anything that needs editing and updating.

We are also fortunate to have the support of the team at Tier One and the Business Centre in Wodonga who are sponsoring RAW through hosting our website. The Tier One team is very interested in renewable energy and supporting the local community. We look forward to working with Guy, Trevor and the team in the future.

Community engagement

Our primary role continues to be community engagement. Consequently, we are frequently asked to speak to various community groups. These presentations are an opportunity to introduce RAW Energy to the various communities and to explain the concept of community energy.

Recent presentations

- **Splitters Creek**
Bobbi attended Splitters Creek Community AGM in May. We have offered to assist with any projects that they may wish to pursue in the future.
- **Australian Property Institute**
Bobbi addressed a group of 150-200 property valuers as part of the Australian Property Institute's annual conference in Wodonga on Friday 21st July.

Coming up in August

These two presentations will be an opportunity to introduce RAW Energy to different communities and to the concept of community energy:

- **Rotary Club of Belvoir-Wodonga, Wednesday August 2nd, 7pm**
Venue - Elgins's Steak Pit Restaurant, Elgin Boulevard, Wodonga
- **Thurgoona Community Action Group, Tuesday August 8th, 7pm**
Thurgoona Community Centre, Kosciusko Drive. The meeting will be in the building on the left as you drive in. TCAG is planning a community forum later in the year to gauge support for a solar project. A small sub-committee has been set up to further progress this concept. RAW Energy looks forward to working with TCAG and offering our support.

Meeting with Simon Corbell, Victoria's Renewable Energy Advocate

Simon Corbell was appointed as the first Victorian Renewable Energy Advocate in December 2016 to promote the state's renewable energy sector, provide independent advice to the Victorian Government and assist the state in meeting its renewable energy targets. For more information about Simon please visit <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/vrea>

Simon is currently visiting every region in Victoria, providing an opportunity for local groups to discuss any perceived barriers to the establishment and operation of renewable energy facilities. Simon will be visiting the Hume Region on the 9th and 10th of August. A meeting with Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy and key stakeholders is currently being planned.

Totally Renewable Yackandandah TRY

Congratulations to our neighbours TRY, who together with Indigo Council have been successful in New Energy Jobs Fund application for exploring a community owned energy retailer. This is an exciting area and we will be interested in their findings.

TRY have also been running a bulk buy campaign in partnership with Mondo Power a subsidiary of Ausnet Services commercial arm. We don't know official numbers but we do know the town is abuzz with energy – pun intended. Installations haven't started but shouldn't be too far away.

TRY continues to have some strong engagement with a wide diversity of startup community energy groups, along with North East Water, AusNet Services and various levels of Government.

Future of solar energy

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4717535/future-of-solar-energy/?cs=11>

TRY website link: <http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=totally%20renewable%20yackandandah>

Cross benchers join in call for sensible energy policy

Independent Member for Indi Cathy McGowan has led a charge in Parliament by cross-benchers to push the government on sensible, community-focused energy policy. In a terrific speech, Cathy mentioned the work done by community energy groups including Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY), Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy (RAW Energy) and Benalla Sustainable Future Group: http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/cross_benchers_join_in_call_for_sensible_energy_policy

This is the first time all five cross benchers have joined together to speak on a Matter of Public Importance in the last two terms of Parliament.

Georgina Curtis from Cathy's office sent a thankyou message to RAW and other community energy groups who had attended meetings. *'Your assistance over the last few months has given us really clear snapshot of the community activity happening across the electorate and this has acted as our driver to progress an agenda that will see community energy become part of the mainstream energy policy discussion'*.

Stay in touch!

Contact us at: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

RAW website: www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy-1628745107358278/>

Warm regards

Bobbi McKibbin, Michelle Wilkinson and Jenny Davies