



## RAW Energy update January 2018

### Happy New Year!

Another Christmas has come and gone and we hope you had an enjoyable time. 2018 promises to be as busy as 2017.

On the Victorian side of the border we will be following up the business case for the Wodonga Community Solar Project as we eagerly discuss the prospect of a solar farm. We are continuing to create partnerships with some interested parties so that together we can explore our options.

On the NSW side of the border, after the successful Thurogona community energy forum in November, topics to be explored include community retailing plus bulk buy of solar and possibly batteries. Conversations will continue about a potential large-scale installation.

We are grateful to those who have joined our committee in the past year and we will be forming an incorporated association very soon. However, with potential projects on both sides of the border, we would welcome more active members. If you are interested please send an email to [renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com)

### Please complete our survey....

We need your help! An important part of the proposed Wodonga solar farm is community support. We need to know your views to help us shape the project to your needs and maximise the outcomes for our community. If you haven't already done so, we would really appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to complete the survey. Here's the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SYC2MCJ>

### Community Forum on Renewable Energy for Thurogona

The forum, organised by the Thurogona Community Action Group with the support of RAW and AlburyCity, was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 72 members of the Thurogona community attended and was facilitated by Tammy Atkins and Sue Gold. Speakers Bobbi, Matthew Charles-Jones and Mark Judd provided excellent content and food for thought and the audience was actively engaged with the subject matter. Listening to the questions and discussion afterwards indicated a desire by the community to move forward on this project.

Here's an e-newsletter where you'll find links to the forum's presentations: <https://goo.gl/bV79iE> plus a message from Arthur Latta and Bridget O'Connor, Co-chairs, Thургона Community Action Group:

'We're buoyed by the interest in community-owned clean energy projects and we'll now report back to the event's sponsor, Albury City Council. There is a need for further information - your questions and feedback from the forum have shown that we have a lot to do! We'll also continue to be part of the conversation about a cross-border energy project that the Renewable Albury Wodonga (RAW) team is spearheading. We hope those of you who live in Thургона will consider joining our [Facebook group](#). Or contact us at [thurgoonacag@gmail.com](mailto:thurgoonacag@gmail.com)'

### **Forum to gauge interest in potential Thургона solar project**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5078421/forum-to-gauge-interest-in-potential-thurgoona-solar-project/?cs=11>

## **Wodonga Community Solar Project**

### **Wodonga Community Solar Project business case presentation**

This session on 13<sup>th</sup> December was the culmination of the Wodonga community solar business case project. Over the course of the last year, council staff have been working, with the community group RAW Energy and consultants Moreland Energy Foundation Limited, to develop a feasibility study and business case for a solar farm in Wodonga that delivers benefits back to the community. In this session, the consultants presented and explained the business case to stakeholders, and were available to answer questions and take feedback for final revision.

### **DELWP Climate Change Innovation Grant**

An application for a DELWP Climate Change Innovation Grant was submitted on November 30<sup>th</sup> with the title 'Putting the Wodonga community solar project business case into Action'

The lead organisation is Wodonga council with Renewable Albury Wodonga, AusNet Services, North East Water, Border Trust and WAW as partners. If successful, this will allow a project officer to be employed part time over an 18-month period to advance the business case. Big thanks to Jill Croome for putting this application together. We will keep you posted as to whether we have been successful.

### **Farewell and thanks**

Jill Croome has been appointed Sustainability Coordinator and Natural Resource Manager at Indigo Shire starting in January 2018 and consequently has left her position at Wodonga council. We thank Jill for her help during the past year and feel that without her we wouldn't have made the progress that we have re the Wodonga Community Solar Project. We wish Jill all the best in her new role and look forward to catching up again during 2018.

## **Community energy retailer**

### **Community Energy Retailer North East Strategy**

Representatives from Totally Renewable Yackandandah, Indigo Shire, North East Water and Cathy McGowan's office met last week to discuss development of a business case for the establishment of a Community Energy Retailer via New Energy Jobs Fund (Vic Govt) that will assist in the transition to the generation and use of renewable electricity in Australia, and especially North East Victoria.

### **Would you join a local community energy retailer? Survey**

The focus of this survey is Yackandandah but TRY is especially keen to have RAW folks add their comments: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HBVRJHL>

### **Community energy retailer the next step for Yackandandah**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5094689/community-energy-retailer-the-next-step-for-yackandandah/?cs=11>

## **News from TRY – Totally Renewable Yackandandah**

### **Yack Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Members of Totally Renewable Yackandandah convened this timely forum to discuss and share knowledge of developments and opportunities for community renewable energy. Leading keynote speakers included Member for Indi Cathy McGowan, Dr Kate Auty, past Victorian Government Environment Commissioner and current Commissioner in the ACT, Dan Cass, The Australia Institute's energy expert and Simon Corbell, Victoria's Renewable Energy Advocate.

### **The very best solar innovation and community engagement**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5093094/the-very-best-solar-innovation-and-community-engagement/?cs=11>

### **Yack minigrid video**

<https://mondopower.com.au/yack/>

## **Cathy McGowan and Indi energy working group**

At a meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> Cathy provided an update on key parliamentary activity for 2017, notably ensuring community energy is a part of the mainstream debate, culminating with the introduction of the Renewable Energy Legislation amendment (Supporting Renewable Communities Bill 2017).

Representatives from around Indi provided updates on key priorities and issues. This was followed by a presentation and Q and A with Alison Wiltshire from ARENA who provided an overview of ARENA's functions and focus.

A submission has been lodged for Climate Change Innovation Grant funding for a Regional Renewable Energy Toolkit Project. The project proposes to deliver a 'Toolkit', to help councils and communities respond to climate change and develop renewable energy solutions across our region which are fit for purpose and maximise regional community benefit.

## **Community engagement**

### **Sustainable Living Fair, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Wodonga Junction Square**

Bobbi and Michelle manned the RAW stall along with Gavin Ashley, Manny Pasqualini and Taryn Lane from Moreland Energy Foundation MEFL. Around 50 people signed up to be kept in the loop.

### **UN Sustainable Development Goals breakfast, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Huon Hill, Wodonga**

Bobbi was invited to be a guest speaker at this event organised by La Trobe University Business School and Charles Sturt University. It was an opportunity to network with local organisations from both sides of the border. La Trobe's Tim Clune will be sending around links and a report on the findings.

### **Community engagement and benefit sharing in renewable energy development**

Here's a new publication from DELWP – Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning:

[https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0041/89897/Community-Engagement-and-Benefit-Sharing-in-Renewable-Energy-Development-Guide.pdf](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0041/89897/Community-Engagement-and-Benefit-Sharing-in-Renewable-Energy-Development-Guide.pdf)

## **Stay in touch!**

**Contact us at:** [renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com)

**RAW website:** [www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au](http://www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au)

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