



RAW Energy update - September 2018

A message from RAW Energy's Vice - President

Our hard-working President, Bobbi McKibbin, is taking some well-earned leave so this message comes from our Vice-President, Michelle Wilkinson:

'The sun is shining the birds are singing, the grass is growing and the magpies are swooping. It must be spring. And I know we say it every time but a lot has been happening!'

Next general meeting

You are cordially invited to attend our next general meeting.

Date: Wednesday October 17th

Time: 5.30pm – 7pm

Venue: Robert Brown Room, AlburyCity Council building. Walk through the foyer to the end and the room is in front of you. Thanks to Albury City for hosting us once again.

RSVP: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

Solar and battery offer in Thurgoona

In exciting news for Thurgoona, we are launching a community energy solar and battery offer in October/November. Michelle Wilkinson and Katrina Passey have been working with Thurgoona Community Action Group to create an offering that will include future energy monitoring and management. These systems will be able to easily integrate with Indigo Power, the newly named community energy retailer.

We are excited to have an offering for the NSW side of the border. So stay tuned! We will send another email when we launch the offer and also keep an eye on our Facebook page.

Wodonga Community Solar Project

As you know, we were successful in receiving funding from the Victorian Government via the Climate Change Innovation Grant. We have now appointed Ben McGowan and Cambell Klose as the contractors who will facilitate this next phase of our project. Ben and Cam have immersed

themselves in community energy over the last 12 months, in particular the Community Energy Retailer project, and we look forward to working with them.

Community Energy Retailer

The Community Energy Retailer has been named! It was decided by the community that the name is to be **Indigo Power** so stay tuned as it gets ready to launch early 2019. Find out more at www.communityenergyretailer.com

Indigo Power unveiled as community energy retailer's name

<http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/indigo-power-unveiled-as-community-energy-retailers-name/>

Community Energy Forums

Seven Community Energy forums were held recently across NE Victoria, in Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Beechworth, Bright, Tallangatta and Rutherglen. In Wodonga, over 120 people attended the session at Huon Hill with another 10-20 apologies. People heard from an amazing array of speakers - Professor Kate Auty, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Nicky Ison, Co-founder of the Community Power Agency, Alison Rowe, Chief Executive Officer of Moreland Energy Foundation, Bobbi McKibbin and Ben McGowan.

The forums were hosted in conjunction with the Community Energy Retailer project, the Victorian Government and local energy groups including Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy, Wangaratta Sustainability Network, Benalla Sustainable Future Group, Totally Renewable Beechworth, Sustainable Upper Ovens, and Totally Sustainable Tallangatta.

Organiser Cam Klose thanked everyone for their work in hosting the community energy roadshow. There is huge enthusiasm for the work we are all doing.

[More than 600 sign up for a renewable future of community energy](#)

Hundreds of people attended forums in Wodonga, Wangaratta, Bright, Benalla, Beechworth and Tallangatta. Hundreds of North East homes are planning to get away from expensive electricity from the grid as much as possible, signing up to take part in the new Community Energy Retailer. [More >](#)

Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap update

Over the next 12 months Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) will work with individuals, communities and industries to develop a roadmap for renewable energy in Hume region. Funding of \$300 000 has been received for the project through the 2018/19 Victorian Budget, having been identified as a priority through the Ovens Murray and Goulburn Regional Partnerships. The Roadmap will seek to facilitate the uptake of renewable energy, guide investment, and maximise local community benefits from the transformation of our energy system.

Tom Brown (formerly Sustainability Victoria) has joined DELWP to lead the Renewable Energy Roadmap project. Tom will be leading engagement and consultation on the project throughout the region. For more details please contact Tom Brown (Project Manager) on 0436 611 935 or email: HumeRenewableEnergy.Roadmap@delwp.vic.gov.au

Cathy McGowan in Canberra

On September 12th, Cathy gave a speech in Parliament about community renewable energy across Indi and how we are a template for the rest of Australia. [Please see the speech and transcript here.](#) She also asked a question to the [Prime Minister about energy policy](#) and climate change. And she gave a follow up [90 second speech about](#) Indi residents **demanding action on climate policy!** Cathy was also on RN breakfast on September 13th talking firstly about women's representation and then [about renewable energy in our region.](#)

Totally Renewable Yackandandah Heroes building Australia's low-carbon economy

TRY has been recognised as the best small-scale community project in this report. Well done!
<https://350.org.au/heroes-building-australias-low-carbon-economy/>

A totally renewable future is within reach

An article by TRY's Matthew Charles-Jones

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5619107/a-totally-renewable-future-is-within-reach/>

New solar + battery round for Yackandandah, as 100% renewable plans take shape

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/new-solar-battery-round-launched-yackandandah-100-renewable-plans-take-shape/>

Regional energy news

[Plans for \\$80 million solar farm at Wodonga's Logic industrial hub revealed by man who has driven project since 2010](#)

There will be 80,000 panels, pointing north away from the Hume Freeway, at the City of Wodonga's first solar farm. Details of the development earmarked for the Logic industrial hub have been outlined.

[More >](#)

Victoria to support six wind and solar farms after overwhelming response to auction

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-to-support-six-wind-and-solar-farms-after-overwhelming-response-to-auction-43989/> One of the successful projects is Winton Solar Farm, about 25km south of Wangaratta: <http://wintonsolarfarm.com/about-us/>

NSW Clean Energy initiatives

Media release: https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/828982/Clean-energy-funding-to-reduce-power-bills.pdf

Visit the DPE website for more information:

<https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/clean-energy-initiatives-to-reduce-power-bills>

Membership

Our small membership fee supports volunteer work to promote renewable energy in our community. Becoming a member formalises your support for renewable energy projects locally and connects you with volunteers working to achieve our goals. Any community member can join Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy Inc (even if you don't live in Albury-Wodonga) \$5 per annum – payable each January. Our membership form is here [[download PDF](#)]

Stay in touch!

Contact us at: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

RAW website: www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rawenergyinc/>

Warm regards

RAW Energy Committee

President: Bobbi McKibbin

Vice President: Michelle Wilkinson

Secretary: Katrina Passey

Treasurer: Michelle Wilkinson

Committee Members: Jenny Davies (newsletter editor), Guy Rowson, Narelle Martin