

# COMMUNITY ENERGY CONGRESS Fast Fair & Vital







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# Acknowledgement

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## **Big Renewables & Communities**



Chaired by Kath Elliott Squadron Energy





Kim Mallee Community Power Agency Andrew Bray Re-Alliance Sabiene Heindl The Energy Charter Community Benefit Sharing and Large Scale Renewables



# **Community Power Agency**



Capacity building Innovation Advocacy Research Working with: Community Government Industry

# Understanding Benefit Sharing



Having planned strategiesThe project being valued by communityCommunity willingness for changeRecognising the shared value of sunshine and wind

# Types of benefit sharing initiatives

Grant Funds	Neighbourhood Benefit Programs	Employee Volunteerism
Co-investment	Legacy	Innovative
& Co-ownership	initiatives	products

# Example: Meeting a community need

#### Woolnorth Renewables Mobile Dental Program





# Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm





# Coonooer Bridge Outcomes

- Unanimous approval at local council with no appeal
- Minimal objection
- 5-month assessment
- No negative press
- Letters of Support from all stakeholders
- Successful in the ACT RE tender



# Haystacks Solar Garden



- 1.5MW Solar array located at Grong Grong, NSW
- Australia's first large scale solar garden
- Construction complete & commencing commissioning
- Solar gardens purchase solar garden plots and receive credit directly to their electricity bill

# **Community Energy Collaboration Potential**

PV and SHW on Community Assets

Revolving Energy Funds

Solar Gardens

Bulk Buys

Community Owned Mid Scale Solar

Neighbourhood Batteries

**Community Electric Bus** 

Solar Park Lighting

Co-Investment /Co-Ownership



# Unpacking different levels of benefit sharing

#### Neighbourhood

Ensuring the neighbourhood that hosts the project benefits directly

#### **Close geographic communities**

Delivering value and positive connections in the communities that surround the project

#### Region

Delivering strategic projects that will deliver long lasting benefits at a regional scale Project level CBS

Regional level CBS

## **Contact Details**

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#doingrenewablesbetter

<u>Regional Benefit Sharing –</u> <u>Creating strategic impacts for regions</u> <u>that host multiple renewable energy</u> <u>projects</u>





## **Benefit Sharing and Co-ownership**

#### ANDREW BRAY, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, RE-ALLIANCE

## Who is the Renewable Energy Alliance?



Independent and not-for-profit



Advocate for an Energy transition that provides prosperity for regional Australia



Policy work to influence government E.g. landholder payments



Understanding community experiences, needs and aspirations



Collaborating to raise the bar on best practice for over 10 years



Building knowledge and understanding about Renewable Energy for councils and communities

## Who we are



Search

## "Big Renewables" - Benefit Sharing and Co-ownership



## Sapphire wind farm







# Sapphire

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DISCOVERY SESSION

#### **MON 4 SEPT**

INVERTIL INVERTIL RSM 20AM - 12:20AM 5:15PM - 6:30PM

WELLINGROVE WELLINGROVE HALL 200FM - 3:30FM

#### **TUES 5 SEPT**

MOREE TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB #15AM - 19/10AM

GLEN INNES

2:00PM - 3:30PM 5:15PM - 6:30PM

#### WED 6 SEPT

TAMWORTH TAMWOITH TOWN HALL PASSCHENDAELE ROOM 12:30PM - 1.30PM

ARMIDALE AIIMIDALE CITY BOWLING GLUB 5:15PM - 6:30PM

TO REGISTER ficase register your offendance of www.cop-investment-discovery, events/te-com.au

#### SAPPHIRE WIND FARM

Scaphire Wind Farm is located in the New England region of northern NSW. The site is 28km east of Inversit and 18km west of Given Innes to the north of

## Goulburn community solar

## 300 Goulburn residents have bought into a nearly \$5 million solar farm being built by a community organisation called Community Energy 4 Goulburn, on the town's outskirts to feed

power into the grid.

#### Goulburn community solar farm sees local investors take action against climate change and power bills

Landline / By Justin Huntsdale and Tim Fernandez Posted Sat 12 Aug 2023 at 7:32am, updated Sat 12 Aug 2023 at 10:47am



#### 66

I think people are just **excited that the community is owning it** and it's not some big foreign company.

We actually get to be owning this project and driving this project from our community and **being the change we** want to see happen.

- Dimity Taylor, sheep farmer and investor in Goulburn community solar farm

## How does it work?

- Investors can buy into the project for a flexible amount, purchasing one solar panel for just \$400
- All the energy produced will be sold into the grid (the site is conveniently located next to power lines)
- Investors estimated to receive a return on their investment of about 5% a year
- Project will operate as a cooperative where each investor receives one vote on matters concerning the project, no matter the size of their investment

## Hay Shire Council – Providing regional coordination





## CONTACT



#### **Andrew Bray**

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