



**Now operating under the Co-operatives National Law [Victoria] 2014
as a non-trading, small co-operative:
Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd.**

Directors' Report Nov 2016:

To the Members,

Your Directors submit their report, together with the audited financial statements of the Co-operative, for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

The Directors of the Co-operative in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year 15-16 and up to the date of this report (AGM 6th Nov 2016) are:

- Moragh Mackay: Chair (Elected 2015, Continuing)
- Peter Wonfor: Deputy Chair (Elected 2014. Retiring 2016. Renominating as Director Nov 2016)
- Bruce Hydon: Treasurer (Founding Director 2009. Retiring 2016. Re-nominating as Director Nov 2016)
- Susan Davies: Secretary (Founding Director 2009. Retiring 2016. Re-nominating as Director Nov 2016)
- Dave Sutton (founding Director 2009. Continuing)
- Melinda Glew (Elected 2015. Resigning November 2016)
- John Coulter (Elected 2015. Continuing)
- Sarah Van Stokrom (Appointed May 2016. Re-nominating as Director Nov 2016)
- Maddy Harford: (Elected 2013. Stepped down March 2016)
- Peter Maclean (Elected 2015. Stepped down May 2016)

Resignations were accepted from Maddy Harford, Peter Maclean and Mel Glew in 2016. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well with their new endeavours.

The principal activities of the Co-op as listed in the current constitution are:

1. To inform members plus the broader community about renewable energy systems and the emerging renewable energy market
2. To facilitate the establishment of renewable energy systems
3. To support community and business action towards a carbon- neutral future.

In line with these formal "principal activities", the 2013- 2016 strategic plan as developed by the Board for 2013-16 listed 3 main objectives for the Co-op. In February 2016 we reviewed the strategic plan and developed an annual action plan, which has guided much of our activity over the year. The detail follows:

1. Facilitate the uptake of renewable energy:

- a. We are proceeding with re-invigorating the preferred suppliers list of solar PV and hot-water companies (in process)
- b. Made a submission and attended a forum responding to the Essential Services Commission draft report on "the Value of Distributed Generation", including lobbying for a community renewable energy feed-in tariff. Copy on our website.
- c. Researched and developed the Southern CORE Fund – a perpetual revolving fund to provide community groups with donations and no interest loans to purchase renewable energy systems.

- d. Developed a partnership with Bass Coast Community Foundation which has resulted in a significant initial donation, and an involvement with the perpetual revolving fund.
- e. Participate as a member of the ComMET roundtable which is establishing a process for evaluating potential community energy sites.
- f. Initiated changes to our constitution to enable us to apply for DGR status.
- g. Are active members within the Victorian Community Solar Alliance, and participating partners in their successful NEJF project. The VCSA is a collaborative group of organisations like the Co-op which is proposing a joint target of 5MW of installed community solar by 2020.(target not finalised)
- h. The Co-op jointly hosted a forum in Leongatha addressing the issue of battery storage with over 180 people attending.

2. Strengthen the Co-op's capacity to influence environmental sustainability in south and west Gippsland communities:

- a. Planning and materials advice in the development of the Bass Valley Children's Hub
- b. Development of the Old Energy – New Energy Proposal and submission to the Victorian New Energy Jobs Fund. We were shortlisted but unsuccessful in the first round but have been encouraged to re-submit a refined application.
- c. The Co-op has finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub, auspiced by the Mirboo North Community Shed, setting out the two organisations' shared objectives and encouraging opportunities for joint activities.
- d. The Co-op formalised a partnership with South Gippsland Shire Council through an MOU which outlines how the two organisations will jointly present five events on energy efficiency and renewable energy over 12 months.
- e. The Co-op has formalised the Auspicing Agreement of the Communities Making Energy Together (ComMET) Roundtable and including a Terms of Reference for ComMET members.
- f. We made a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Community Energy – a copy can be found on our website. We have been invited to make a personal presentation to the committee in late November 2016.
- g. We surveyed members and the public at the South Gippsland Sustainability Festival to discover their knowledge and use of LED lighting and through our mail-out to ask members about their interests in various topics to enable us to plan activities in 2017.

3. Act as a conduit for information about reducing carbon emissions:

- a. Presented at the Bass Coast Shire Rural Advisory Group meeting on renewable energy and emissions reduction options for farmers
- b. The Co-op hosted an Active Hope Day, with over 40 people attending to explore ways of reducing greenhouse emissions through initiatives such as solar gardens, a perpetual revolving fund, increasing uptake of battery storage and reducing waste.
- c. Co-op members staffed a stall at the South Gippsland Sustainability Festival April 2016, the Poowong Festival in May 2016 and Board members continue to address community group events and gatherings (on request), including topics on reading & reducing energy bills.
- d. Co-op members also regularly respond to phone and email queries on unsolicited marketing approaches, concerns about their solar systems and other issues.
- e. The Co-op has published two newsletters during 2015-16 and promoted its activities on the Sustainability Gippsland website. We have also increased our Facebook and Twitter presence.

- f. Two Board members, Mel and Sarah, have been updating the Green Guide and hope to have the third edition out in early 2017.

Additional activities and information

As part of the review of our strategic plan in February 2016 we also looked back at all the activities of the EICo-op since inception in 2009. The full review is available on our website, but a summary follows:

- In six years of operation the Energy Innovation Co-operative has facilitated or participated in 116 activities involving over 2500 people. These have included:
 - Workshops - 19
 - Presentations and discussions - 26
 - Planning Days - 6
 - Site tours - 10
 - Festival attendances - 22
 - Training opportunities for Board & other members - 10
 - Project & partnership development and management, including monitoring & evaluation - 19
 - Donations to other groups - 2
 - Submissions to government policy reforms – 4

We are one of the 6 original participating partners of the Victorian Community Solar Alliance "Capacity Building and Implementation Tool Kit Project", which received Round 1 funding from New Energy Jobs Fund. The lead organisation is Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd., project leader Manny Pasqualini. They will be presenting at the Community Energy Conference (see below).

The Community Energy Congress will be held in Melbourne in February 2017. Bookings for five people wanting to attend will receive a 5% discount, 10 people = 20% discount. People wanting to book with us as a group booking should contact the Co-op ASAP.

We received donations from the Bass Coast Community Foundation of \$15,000 and from the Bass Coast Shire via ComMET of \$4,000 for the Southern CORE Fund.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank each of the Directors for their contributions, particularly Bruce, our unflappable Treasurer and Susan Davies, who is doing a sterling job of Secretary and to Peter, Dave, John, Mel and Sarah who have all contributed to our events, activities and Board business with enthusiasm and grace.

Financial Review and result for the year:

The Co-operative to 30 June 2016 made a loss of \$2,608 (\$3184 in 2015)

Account balance at 30 June 2016 was \$6043 (\$8651 in 2015)

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year:

Matters or circumstances arisen since the end of the financial year which may significantly affect the operations of the Co-operative, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Co-operative in the subsequent financial year? (See below)

Future Developments and Results:

The likely developments in the operations of the Co-operative in future financial years and the expected results of these developments are:

Once the process of applying for deductible gift recipient status is completed (if successful), the Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd will be able to offer tax deductibility for donations received, and be able to apply directly to philanthropic organisations for "public fund" grants.

The Co-op will continue to apply for grants and other donations, the success of which would allow a significant increase in activities and outcomes.

Environmental Regulation:

The operations of the Co-operative are not currently subject to environmental regulation.

Share options:

Each paid up member of the Co-operative has one voting share.

Directors and executives benefits and contracts:

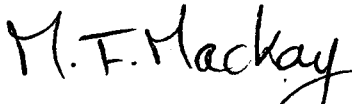
During or since the end of the previous financial year, Directors of the Co-operative have not received any benefits or contracts.

Indemnification and insurance of officers/auditor:

Insurance premiums have been paid for Director's liability insurance and public liability insurance during or since the end of the financial year.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Directors

Signed at Wonthaggi on 6th November 2016


Chair/ Director: **Moragh Mackay**


Treasurer/Director: **Bruce Thomas Hydon**

