



**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 2015:

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 2015

The Directors of the Co-operative in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year 14-15 and up to the date of this report (AGM 7th Nov 2015) are:

- Maddy Harford: Chair (retiring as Director and Chair; renominating as Director Nov 2015)
- Peter Wonfor: Deputy Chair (appointed 2013- continuing as elected Director 2015 and beyond)
- Susan Davies: (founding Director 2009- continuing)
- Rob Gray: Secretary (appointed 2010-stepping down as Director)
- Bruce Hydon: Treasurer (founding Director 2009-continuing)
- Gil Freeman: (founding Director 2009-retired April 2015)
- Dave Sutton: (founding Director 2009- renominating as Director Nov 2015)

Gil's resignation, due to new other responsibilities, was accepted in April 2015. The members of the board would like to register their appreciation for the significant time, expertise, experience and wisdom he contributed as a Director.

The principal activities of the Co-op as listed in the revised 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 in 2013-14 listed 3 main objectives for the Co-op:

1. Facilitate the uptake of renewable energy:

- a. The Co-op has continued to establish and maintain links with several "preferred" **local solar PV installers**, who have a track record of satisfactory dealings with the public. We **provide supplier contact details** to members of the public making enquiries, and answer queries about energy efficiency and other related issues.
- b. **Following on from a community energy forum** held in September 2014, the Co-op has been instrumental in gaining support from South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils to establish a community-based group to explore possibilities for a community energy project in southern

Gippsland (i.e. South Gippsland and Bass Coast LGAs). Preliminary development work in the first half of 2015 resulted in establishment of a community-based committee in July 2015. This committee comprises representatives from both Councils and Westernport Water and, of course, the Co-op itself, together with a number of residents from each Shire. The committee has developed strategic objectives and an implementation plan for the establishment of one or more community energy projects.

- c. **The Co-op hosted a forum in August** addressing the issue of battery storage. The forum drew considerable interest, with over 30 people in attendance, and prompted a follow up information panel at this meeting.

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

- a. **The Co-op has commenced the process of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding** with the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub, setting out the two organisations' shared objectives and encouraging opportunities for joint activities.
- b. **The Co-op has recently established links with the Victorian Solar Alliance**, a very dynamic, active group promoting community energy projects as legitimate players in the retail energy market. As the Co-op's representative, Susan Davies has contributed to the development of submissions by the Alliance, to two state government reviews of Victorian energy regulations. The submissions addressed the need for regulations to recognise a role for small community energy projects in the wider energy market.
- c. **The Co-op donated \$2,000 towards the cost of PV panels** on the recently established Eco House at the Koo Wee Rup Health Service. The Co-op has a presence at the Eco House; on their interactive kiosk and through our brochures.
- d. **The Co-op has committed a further \$1,000** towards the cost of a PV and battery storage system at the Grow Lightly Food and Sustainability Hub. The Co-op has close links with Grow Lightly and is benefitting from the use of the facility for various activities. The PV and storage system are designed to be a demonstration system for members of the community to learn more about the practicalities and benefits of renewable energy.

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

- a. **A Co-op Activity Day** was held in May, at an innovative housing project in Wonthaggi (SuperPod), which has built applying a European passive building theory and an Australian award-winning design, which prompted much interest and questions on the day.
- b. **Co-op members staffed a stall at the Bass Coast Sustainability Festival** April 2015 and Board members continue to address many community group events and gatherings (on request).
- c. **The Co-op has published three newsletters** during 2015 and promoted its activities on the Sustainability Gippsland website. Our Facebook page and Twitter account have been in hibernation this year and are desperately seeking a champion from among our membership!

Financial Review and result for the year:

The Co-operative has made a loss of \$3,184 for this financial year (compared to 2013-14 loss of \$8,079). This has been covered by reserves. The limited income has been from members – new members plus renewals; payments for services provided. Account balance at 30 June 2015 was \$8,651.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year:

Some matters or circumstances have 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:

NIL

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:

The Energy Innovation Co-operative will make every effort to generate additional significant income. Community energy projects are the most likely source

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:

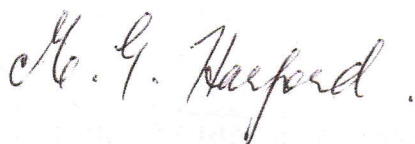
During or since the end of the previous financial year, Directors of the Co-operative have not received any benefits or contracts.

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 signed for and on behalf of the Directors

Signed at Inverloch on 7 Nov 2015



Chair: Madeleine Gay Harford



Treasurer: Bruce Thomas Hydon