



Co-operatives Act 1996

Directors' Report: Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd

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 2013

The Directors of the Co-operative in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year 12-13 and up to the date of this report (AGM 10th Nov 2013) are:

- Susan Davies- Chair (founding Director 2009-continuing)
- Gil Freeman- Deputy Chair (founding Director 2009-continuing)
- Rob Gray- Secretary (2010-continuing)
- Bruce Hydon- Treasurer (founding Director 2009-continuing)
- Dave Sutton (founding Director 2009 continuing)
- Maddy Harford (elected AGM 2012- continuing)
- Brad Shone (elected AGM 2012- continuing)

Principal Activities:

The primary activities of the Co-operative in the course of the financial year were:

1. Actively developing the Co-operative as a working organisation by-

- a. Continuing to develop networks with a range of community organisations, councils and others in our region
- b. Developing further projects and applying for funding for those projects, including:
 - i. Low Income Energy Efficiency Program (federal government program aimed at delivering energy efficiency information to low income households across Gippsland (application 1) (not successful) and then re-applied as similar project across South Gippsland/ Bass Coast (application 2) (not successful)
 - ii. Energy Efficiency Information Program (Federal government program aimed at delivering energy efficiency advice and information to business (not successful)
- c. Continuing to develop the capacity of the board to deliver good governance via;
 - i. Developing a 2013-2016 strategic plan
 - ii. Developing a range of board policies to guide governance
 - iii. Beginning the formation of board subcommittees/ working groups to guide project development on wind power generation, community owned solar, and partnerships.

2. Informing members and our community about energy efficiency and renewable energy by:

- a. holding solar and energy efficiency information sessions for:
 - i. Members of a range of community groups who invited the Co-op to speak at their meetings. Sessions were held at Wonthaggi (3), Venus Bay, Poowong, Korumburra, Orbost
- b. Attending community & business meetings (Leongatha, Korumburra, Wonthaggi, Cowes, Newhaven, Toora), holding Co-op activity days (Dumbalk, Kardella) and participating at a range of community



festivals (San Remo, Inverloch, Korumburra, KooWeeRup) within Bass Coast, South Gippsland and Cardinia Shires

- c. Publishing and disseminating a newsletter (3 editions in 12-13 financial year)
- d. Disseminating the green guide of local businesses which provide goods and services relevant to energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Green Guide also contains information about the Co-op, handy hints for energy efficiency, useful web links and links to relevant community organisations. This Green Guide is provided to all members, at various information centres, and at all events attended by the Co-op

3. **Facilitating the establishment of renewable energy systems** by:

- a. Continuing the roll-out of the Southern Solar Hub, with two local businesses as our partners. In practice, after the reduction of the feed-in tariff to 8c/Kwh, this has moved very slowly in the last year, but referrals are continuing.
- b. Planning, researching and seeking funding for a range of other potential projects including establishing trial renewable energy generation and energy efficiency promoting infrastructure or businesses (work is ongoing).

Significant Changes:

(Significant changes in the nature of those primary activities or the Co-operative's state of affairs during the year)

There were no significant changes in the primary activities of the Co-operative during the year.

The Co-op Board has been undertaking a period of review and planning to adapt to changing political circumstances and government policies. The incoming state Coalition government 2012, ceased projects promoting renewable energy, with Sustainability Vic now focussed on waste management.

Current staff include a part-time (contracted) book-keeper Michelle Tenace, and part-time (contracted) Admin support, Deb Lopez-Freeman. Both continue to be funded from Co-op business activities and membership subscriptions.

Review and result for the year:

A review of the operation of the Co-operative and the net amount of its profit for the financial year was \$9,816 (*cf* \$ 5,160 in 2010-11)

Dividends:

No dividends were paid during the year and none are recommended.

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.



Under the previous Federal government the Co-Op's Trading Co-operative registration was a hindrance to us receiving funding, as our rules did not specifically preclude payment of dividends to members.

The incoming Federal government's policies appear to end programs encouraging renewable energy, and include the cessation of previous government programs for which we have applied. Actions are proposed below to assist with adapting to the new state and federal government requirements for funding.

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:

A significant change proposed by the Board in 2013, which will be voted on by active members of the Co-operative at a special ballot, is to change the Co-op's registration from a Trading Co-operative, to that of a non-trading Co-operative with shares. This change will ensure our eligibility for state and government funding programs in the future, and more appropriately reflects the actuality of our not-for-profit functioning.

Environmental Regulation:

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

Share options:

The Co-operative has not during the course of the year or since the end thereof granted a person a formal option to have issued to him/ her shares in the Co-operative.

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 Inverloch Oct 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair/ Director : **Susan Margaret Davies**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Hydon", written in a cursive style.

Treasurer/Director: **Bruce Thomas Hydon**