



ENERGY INNOVATION CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 15th Nov. 2014, 2pm Korumburra meeting rooms

Agenda : In accordance with Rule 29

Opened: 2pm **Members Present:** Maryanne Van Ballekom, David Rasmus, Aileen Vening, Helen Searle, Bruce Hydon, Peter Wonfor, Dave Sutton, Louise Wilson, Noel Gregg, Laurie Gregg, Gil Freeman, Brad Kilstra-Shone, Robbie Gray, Susan Davies

Apologies: Maddy Harford, Nicky Miller, John Mumford, Neil Rankine

1. Welcome by Chair. Acknowledgement of traditional owners Bunurong and Gunai Kurnai. Introduction to “Community Energy” focus of effort from EICo-op for coming year.

Susan described Co-op activities over the last year and gave an update on investment opportunities.

2. Keynote Speaker: Chandra Sundaeswaran Moreland Energy Foundation, on Moreland’s partnership with Darebin Council to deliver the Positive Charge program, which aided low income home owners to put on roof-top solar pv on their homes. He will also discuss MEFL’s “Moreland Community Solar” project.

Chandra gave an overview of MEFL, how it started up and what MEFL has been involved in, including work outside of the Darebin municipality.

Announcement about taking action on climate change from US and China a breath of fresh air. State opposition will support wind and community energy (\$100 000 grant to Woodend and wind generation in Macedon Ranges). MEFL’s approach is the community takes charge, don’t depend of Gov to dictate how we create and use energy. Currently 8 community projects in development, MEFL constantly liaise with 4.

1. Moreland Community Solar – similar to Hepburn wind model. Picked co-op over company structure as can have unlimited members, and cost of set up is much cheaper. It was set up a couple of months ago. Key focus is how they can make the entity self-sustaining. 2 key costs – infrastructure and operational costs. It is difficult and time consuming to develop and manage a co-op that is delivering service more than just information. People invest in this fund (target \$200-250K for 100kW, infrastructure is about \$150-180k, rest is operation and ongoing maintenance costs). Don’t want high maintenance and operational costs, so rely on volunteers with a technical and financial management background. Have to be a member to buy shares – membership is fee with a \$10 annual fee, share from \$10 and can’t own more than 20% of any given project.

Target \$ reached and roof identified (for solar, 1000m² for 100kW, and on a roof of a business that uses all production). Need to be a licenced retailer if you want to sell across lines. Sign contracts with a duration of 5 – 7 years. Not sure if they need a retailers licence to manage power purchase agreement. Or charge them a fixed fee irrespective of energy used. Or purely financial instrument – you are loaning them \$ and they pay it back, but you need a financial services licence. Overall MEFL though retailers licence would be much easier to secure.

Need quality infrastructure that will last 20-25 years, and funds to cover upgrades (inverters every 10yrs), maintenance requirements. Then operational costs, comes from membership fees, and \$1 annual fee from shareholders, because can't cover all costs through volunteerism. Return on investment is about 5% - rely on people's good will to invest in a social enterprise as they can get 5% elsewhere. Build the fund before installing infrastructure.

Susan Davies gave a description on the Co-op community model – loan (do we need financial services licence). Q's from member on high risk and insurances needed. Chandra talked about risk mitigation (quality materials and supplier guarantee), mentioned how common PPA are in the USA. In response to risk Peter Wonfer mentioned the higher reliability of PV systems, they are still grid connected... Susan Davies mentioned Co-op is looking at public buildings to minimise risk of a business going under.

SG railway has 1600m2 of roof space, but they don't use a lot of power – could distribute from there. Chandra said council pay 5 to 7cents per Kwh, so model isn't viable.

Darebin project – through positive charge service. Darebin had a budget of a one million dollars for a sustainable project – to buy 300 PV system and install on pensioner roofs to be bought back through rates. No up-front costs for the pensioners, and councils are GST exempt. Only project that Council recouped 100% of capital costs (will lose a bit on interest). MEFL are working on model without the \$1M cash up front. Darebin is the only council that has legislation that allows this model, and all councillors need to pass a special rates mechanism (6-7 months). BCSC might be interested – sustainable Melbourne fund might be able to help with up front capital. Expecting a state government bill that allows every council in Vic to have same legislation to pass in next parliament, but for the moment it is only for businesses.

3. Discussion/ Questions/ feedback.

4. Chair Susan Davies: Energy Innovation Co-op and Community Solar: seeking ideas and feedback (discussion & requesting survey fill-in)

5. Noel Gregg.....to take over as Chair for the AGM.

6. Minutes of 2013 AGM:

Discussion/ Questions:

Move to accept 2013 AGM minutes: Dave Sutton **Sec.** Bruce Hydon **Vote:** Carried

7. Business arising from 2013 AGM:

Susan Davies: The special postal ballot proposing to change the rules of the Energy Innovation Co-op to a non-trading Co-operative was held early in November 2013, and passed by more than a 2/3 majority of the active financial members who voted. The final amended rules were accepted by Consumer Affairs Vic in early 2014. The new rules are available on the website or on request. The main change specifies that in the event of the Co-op being wound up, any assets are to be distributed to a not-for-profit group with similar objectives.

Discussion:

8. Chair's report 2013-14. (see attached) Includes progress made against Co-op's 2013-2016 strategic plan, plus Chair to step down as per rule 49 (5 & 6) (5) The Chair and deputy Chair shall be elected at the first meeting after the AGM which has appointed Directors for the coming year. (6) "The Chair shall not be elected for any continuous period exceeding 5 years": **Susan D**

Discussion/ Questions

9. Presentation of financial statements for year ended 30th June 2014. (see attached)
Bruce H.

The EI Co-op is able to continue, still have money in the bank to operate. As a response to share certificate mail out we have a lot of membership renewal.

Discussion/ Questions:

Motion: to accept the financial statement 2013-2014 accepted: Bruce Hydon **Sec** Lawrie
Greg **Vote** - carried

10. Election of directors. [Rule 38 (1): Minimum of 5 directors but no more than 9]

1. Three directors [1/2 of board] to retire (annual occurrence as per Co-op rule 40);

Susan Davies, Gil Freeman, Bruce Hydon

Those retiring directors offer themselves for re-election. Rule 40 [1&2]

2. Brad Kijlstra-Shone has stepped down as a Director due to work commitments and will not be re-nominating at this time.

Moved Susan Davies: To thank Brad and express our appreciation for his very high level skills, experience and participation in Co-op activities and the work of the board.

Sec: Rob Gray **Vote:** Carried

3. Peter Wonfor,(Inverloch) who has been a very active participant in Co-op activities over the last few years was appointed to the board during 2014, and is now nominating for election.

No other nominations have been received prior to this AGM.

Motion: to re-elect Susan Davies to the board

Moved: Peter Wonfor **2nd:** Brad Kijlstra Shone **Vote:** carried

Motion: to re-elect Gil Freeman to the board

Moved: Susan Davies **2nd:** Peter Wonfor **Vote:** carried

Motion: to re-elect Bruce Hydon to the board

Moved: Brad Kijlstra Shone **2nd:** Susan Davies **Vote:** carried

Motion: to elect Peter Wonfor to the board

Moved: Gil Freeman **2nd:** Susan Davies **Vote:** carried

Any additional directors will be appointed by the board, to nominate for election in 2015.

11. Appointment of auditor. Bruce Hydon to move motion of appointment.

Coster Galgut Pty Ltd. audited the Co-op's financial statements for the 12-13 and will do the 13- 14 financial year.

Moved: Bruce H. **2nd:** Laurie Gregg **Vote:** Carried

12. Any other business?

Move to thank Susan Davies: DS, **2nd:** Pf **Vote-** carried with acclamation!

GF – Notices: Nov 30 SGSC holding a vision roundtable 2035, Italian social club. Be great to get a group there supporting the environment and community energy

Meeting Closed: 415pm

All members and friends invited to share afternoon tea and chat. Please ensure you have filled in survey form and attendance list.