

# Annual Report 2016–2017





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# 1 Introducing Community Power Agency

Community Power Agency's vision is for a faster and fairer transition to clean energy. We believe that democratically controlled, decentralised renewable and energy efficiency projects will bring social, environmental and economic benefits to communities across the country.

We know that putting communities first in the energy transition will ensure real benefits are achieved for all Australians and our environment. That's why we work to grow a vibrant Australian community energy sector.

As one of Australia's leading community energy support organisations, we specialise in supporting community groups navigate the complex process of developing their own clean energy projects. We focus on building the capacity within communities and fostering collaboration. We also work to address the systemic barriers facing the sector as a whole and play an active role in bringing socially responsible, community beneficial business models into the Australian energy market.

Community Power Agency has four key areas of work:

- Capacity building through training, resource development and mentoring,
- Fostering collaboration across the community energy sector, through our role as the Secretariat of the Coalition for Community Energy,
- Agenda setting through advocacy, policy development, media and public speaking, and
- Bringing new socially beneficial business models and practices to Australia such as better community engagement in the renewables industry and Social Access Solar Gardens.

Community Power Agency is a worker co-operative and a non-profit charity, registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. We have five directors who are also co-operative members and workers and we engage with contractors who share our vision and values. Our commitment to democratic principles extends to our organisational and governance structures.

From facilitating workshops to developing information resources, developing new energy business models, running strategic advocacy campaigns, to telling the story of community energy in the media, Community Power Agency is at the forefront of Australia's community energy sector - a sector that this year grew to more than 70 operating projects and 90 community energy groups.







## Letter from the Directors

Dear friends of Community Power Agency,

This year has been a tumultuous year for energy in Australia and our sector, community energy, has been feeling the ups and downs that this brings. Politically, and in the media, it's hard to think of a time when energy has had such prominence in Australia. Rising prices, the closure of Hazelwood as well as weather events stretching our energy system to its limits have contributed to a rising chorus of voices from businesses, communities and civil society that something must be done.

At Community Power Agency we've maintained for a long time that we stand at a cross-roads between outmoded fossil fuel generation and the many opportunities of clean energy. Right now we appear to be turning the corner and taking tentative but clear steps towards the path of renewables. The choice is no longer if we'll transition to clean energy, but how we'll make the transition.

This transition can be either messy and disruptive, or it can be fair and inclusive. To ensure that every Australian, no matter where they live or how much they earn, can equally benefit and participate, we have to put people at the heart of this energy transition. Empowering communities to make their own decisions about their energy future will ensure that change happens. Community Power Agency remains committed to a vision of the future where every community has a voice, and where a clean and democratic energy system is the new normal.

Our team of five directors continue to deliver the majority of our work, and over the last year we've also been pleased to add two short-term employees to our team. With an average of 2.5 full time equivalent staff over the year, we punch above our weight and are proud of the impact we are making.

At Community Power Agency we don't just talk about a faster and fairer energy transition, we make a real contribution towards making this a reality. In this, our second Annual Report we set out the highlights of our activities over the 2016/17 year, which include:

- Being the lead organiser of the second C4CE Community Energy Congress, attended by over 600 people;
- Seeing Victoria establish three Community Power Hubs, as a result of our advocacy with others;
- Launching the Voices of Community Energy podcast;
- Being at the forefront of building strong social outcomes from the renewable energy transition through our work with the Victorian Government and Clean Energy Council;
- Supporting local councils to embrace the concept of community energy with a Masterclass and our work with the Cities Power Partnership.

Collaboration is a huge part of our success as an organisation. We were saddened to learn in mid-2017 that Embark's funders have decided to wind up the organisation at a high-point. This leaves Community Power Agency as Australia's only support organisation who are 100% dedicated to community energy. We will honour the responsibility this brings by partnering with the remaining support organisations, community energy groups, profit and non-profit organisations who share our vision for a more democratic and just energy transition.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Alternative Technology Association, Moreland Energy Foundation, Starfish Initiatives, Akin Consulting and the Coalition for Community Energy.

Sincerely,

Nicky Ison, Tom Nockolds, Jarra Hicks, Franziska Mey and Manny Pasqualini  
Directors, Community Power Agency

[www.cpagency.org.au](http://www.cpagency.org.au)





## 2 Supporting Community Energy Groups

One of the pillars of Community Power Agency's mission is to build the capacity of communities to deliver clean energy projects. This year we continued to provide specialised training for new community energy groups, as well developing a focus on broad-scale capacity building. One example of this is our Life-After Feed-in Tariffs work, which involved creating resources for the hundreds of thousands of households coming off premium feed-in tariffs.

### Trainings and Community Support

Directly supporting communities by providing training and mentoring is a core competency of Community Power Agency and is key to our mission of building the capacity of community energy groups.

#### Voices of the Valley

Community Power Agency was invited to the Latrobe Valley by Voices of the Valley to help them evolve their plans for a just transition to clean energy. Building on the great work already done by the community, the one-day workshop supported Voices of the Valley to identify their main focus and develop a plan of action, which ultimately helped them to win the Victorian Health Community Challenge, a competitive grant which will help them develop a Transition Hub in the valley.

#### Solar Suburbs

Endorsed as an official Strategic Initiative of the Coalition for Community Energy, Solar Suburbs was a collaborative project between Moreland Energy Foundation, Alternative Technology Association, Community Power Agency and the Solar Suburbs Association, with funding provided by the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage. The project identified barriers and opportunities for increasing the rate of adoption of residential rooftop solar for a defined geographic area, such as a suburb. Three major streams in the project looked at specific areas which could have an impact on solar adoption: Local Government Capacity, Solar Products and Community Engagement.

#### Geelong Sustainability Group

Community Power Agency were invited by the Geelong Sustainability Group to run a training workshop on the financing models and legal structures for community solar projects. In this workshop we ran through the Behind the Meter Solar Decision tree and introduced a Common Legal Structure framework CPA has developed, showcasing case-studies of how different community solar groups are using combinations of different legal structures and legal agreements, and how the financing works as a result. The workshop was attended by 20 people and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

*The team at Community Power Agency ran a business models workshop for our committee and community energy task group, the workshop was instrumental in helping us navigate the maze of community energy models and legal structures and it gave our team a clear direction towards implementing our first community investment solar project. Thanks CPA!*

*– Dan Cowdell - Project Coordinator, Geelong Sustainability*



## Intro to the Energy System Trainings

Australia's electricity system is complicated, however having a base-level of understanding of how it works is critical for community energy groups and NGOs working on renewable energy. As such, in 2016-17 Community Power Agency ran two Introduction to the Energy System Trainings for over 80 people. This included a six-hour training for the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and a 1.5 hour version for Community Energy Congress participants. Both were very well received. The trainings covered how the electricity system works, who's who in the energy zoo, current trends and explaining recent events.

*Nicky's presentation "Intro to the Energy System" was fantastic and easy to understand regardless of people's levels of knowledge. I have some understanding of our energy network but I learnt so much more. I honestly believe that this presentation should be everyone's introduction into our energy market.*

– Bobbi McKibbin, Renewable Albury Wodonga

## Council Masterclass

There is growing excitement about council-community partnerships in renewable energy deployment. To address this interest, CPA developed and conducted a Council Masterclass as a side event of the Community Energy Congress in March 2017. The Masterclass shed light on the different roles of local governments to support their citizens in renewable energy generation. Seven experts in the field presented examples of community-council partnerships and operating models from across Australia. There was a particular focus on the Lismore Community Solar Farm model and its engagement, finance and governance structures. The event was well attended with more than 60+ representatives of councils and communities who were keen to learn more about the benefits local governments can derive from collaborating with their communities and what steps could be taken to engage the local community in renewable energy deployment.





## Resource Development

At Community Power Agency we recognise that not all communities can afford dedicated trainings, as such how to guides and reference materials play an essential role in increasing capacity. Whether used by households, community members directly or by organisations supporting them, these resources assist communities to deliver their own clean energy projects.

### Cities Power Partnership

Local governments are important actors in the energy transition in Australia. As the closest tier of government to the people, they have the opportunity to facilitate, advocate and demonstrate low carbon actions. The installation of energy efficient lighting or the solar PV systems in and on council buildings are low-hanging fruits promising environmental and economic benefits. CPA recognises this great potential of local councils in Australia and was excited to be able to contribute to the Climate Council's new initiative - the Cities Power Partnership (CPP). The CPP program seeks to encourage local governments and their communities to increase their actions to mitigate climate change. Our role comprised the compilation of a knowledge hub of resources about emission reduction options that councils can take. Ultimately, we delivered a data repository with more than 140 resources and materials that assist local governments on their way to become more sustainable. The data repository was very well received when the CPP program launched in mid-July.

*Community Power Agency produced a national knowledge hub for the Cities Power Partnership that pulled together practical resources, guides and case studies for local government covering energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport resources. Their research work was of an excellent standard and the CPA team were very responsive, receptive to feedback and great to work with.*

*–Alix Pearce, Strategic Projects Manager, Climate Council*





## Life-after Feed-in Tariffs

In the second half of 2016, solar households in three states - NSW, Vic and SA - lost their premium feed-in tariffs. This was identified by Total Environment Centre as a major consumer event in the National Energy Market, with at least 275,000 households facing significant bill-shock as a result. Community Power Agency were responsible for media and communications for the project - taking the comprehensive report written by Alternative Technology Association and turning this into concise messages for mass consumption.

Specifically, CPA oversaw the creation of an infographic, informational [web content](#) (hosted by Solar Citizens), helped get-up 15 mainstream media stories and managed a social media campaign. We also presented at 15 of the 30 Life After Feed-in Tariff presentations held across NSW, one of which was [professionally recorded](#).

### LIFE AFTER FEED-IN TARIFFS

Follow these five steps to make the most of your solar energy and keep your bills down when premium feed-in tariffs end this year.

- 1. Get the right meter (NSW only)**  
You should move to "net" metering. This will probably be a smart meter, giving you more information and options.  
Some network companies may offer to rewire your existing meter at low cost, but in the long run you may be better off with a new smart meter.  
⚠ Some retailers are offering free or cheap smart meters, but read the fine print on the contract.
- 2. Use more of your solar electricity**  
Use your appliances more during the day. The main appliances that use energy are for hot water and heating/cooling your home.  
Heat your hot water using solar electricity (e.g. using heat pumps or electric hot water systems).  
If you've got good insulation, pre-heat or cool your house before you get home (e.g. using reverse cycle air conditioners).
- 3. Think twice about gas**  
Using gas means you can't maximise the use of your solar electricity to run your appliances.  
Using your solar electricity for hot water or heating/cooling your home is cheaper than using bottled or even town gas.  
⚠ At this stage you just need to make a plan for getting off gas, even if it takes a few years to implement.
- 4. Get the best electricity deal**  
Some retailers are improving their offers for solar energy exported to the grid, so shop around.  
But also think about your total annual bill, including the fixed charges, energy rate, discounts and tariff type.  
⚠ Take your time finding the best deal and always make sure you know what you are signing up for.
- 5. Consider more solar or a battery**  
Down the line, as energy markets change and costs drop, consider a battery or west facing solar.  
⚠ Installing a small battery currently isn't cost-effective for most households, but as prices drop it may soon make sense.

Find out more at:  
[solarcitizens.org.au/life\\_after\\_fits](http://solarcitizens.org.au/life_after_fits)

This project was funded by Energy Consumers Australia ([www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au](http://www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au)) as part of its grants process for consumer advocacy projects and research projects for the benefit of consumers of electricity and natural gas. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of Energy Consumers Australia.

Total Environment Centre ATA community power agency SolarCitizens



## 3 Fostering collaboration

Since our foundation, Community Power Agency has held the belief that community energy organisations can collectively achieve more by collaborating. In 2016/17 organising the second Community Energy Congress was perhaps Community Power Agency's biggest achievement in fostering collaboration.

### Community Energy Congress

The second Community Energy Congress was held at Melbourne Town Hall on 27-28 February 2017. Community Power Agency were excited to lead the organising of Congress 2017, through the Coalition for Community Energy (C4CE). Congress 2017 brought 620 people from across the country together to discuss how to strengthen Australia's growing community energy sector and make the transition to clean energy faster and fairer for all.

Congress 2017 was an overwhelming success: 84% of respondents said they left the Congress feeling excited and inspired, with 92% reporting they felt better equipped to engage and progress community energy action. See the following page for an overview of the Congress outputs.

*Thank you to all involved. It's such an inspiring movement, for which I have nothing but respect. I can't wait to see where we get to in 5, 10, 20 years. I want my kids to live in a just society with a sense of community.*

– Community group representative





Community Power Agency lead project planning, sponsorship and fundraising, logistics and communications. Working with key members of C4CE we designed and implemented a program that had four main themes - Getting it Done, Energy Justice, Partnerships and Unlocking Opportunities. Community Power Agency team members led a number of Congress sessions including Models of Community Solar, Community and Political Engagement, Legals, Financing and Risk. Nicky Ison, as Congress lead, also opened and closed the Congress with engaging and inspiring addresses.

*From go to woe, I learnt about all the dos and don'ts for starting a community solar project.*  
-Industry representative

Some of our highlights of the Congress include:

- Supporting the Valley Centre to put Aboriginal community energy front and centre at the Congress, which led to the establishment of the First Nations Renewable Energy Alliance.
- Welcoming participants to Congress 2017 with the wonderful sounds of the Southern Hemisphere's largest instrument - the Melbourne Town Hall organ. As one participant said: "Boy did that set the mood!"
- Helping to bring inspiring and highly relevant international keynote speakers to the Congress including Candace Vahlsing a senior advisor to President Obama, Soren Hermansen from Samso Island in Denmark and Chief Gordon Planes and Melina Laboucan-Massimo - First Nations' leaders from Canada.
- Creating a platform which many organisations used to progress their initiatives for a faster and fairer transition to clean energy.
- Working with the Climate Media Centre to attract more than 150 media hits, including 5 TV stories - two of which were national ([SBS](#) and [ABC](#)), 16 unique radio interviews ([example](#)), 6 opinion pieces ([example](#)) and metro coverage on [News.com.au](#), [Age](#), [Guardian](#) and [Herald Sun](#).
- The buzz at the event itself was an amazing mix of conversations, ideas, connections, excitement and enthusiasm.

For more information about Community Energy Congress 2017 see the [website](#) and the [summary report](#).

*We got better understanding of community groups' focus and areas of concern so that we can better evolve our offer to meet their needs.*  
-Industry representative





## Congress by Numbers



*The Energy Justice plenary was extremely powerful and made me realise the true transformational possibilities of community energy in terms of empowerment and poverty alleviation.*

—State government representative



## C4CE Secretariat

In 2016/17, C4CE entered its third formal year of operation. Community Power Agency plays a secretariat role for C4CE. C4CE grew to more than 90 organisations and, through the Congress, welcomed more corporate and government members as well as a number of new community energy groups. As the C4CE Secretariat we had three main areas of focus, in addition to the Congress:

- Governance - Providing administrative services to the main governance body for C4CE (the Steering Group), including running the a Steering Group election process, as the two-year term of the founding Steering Group members came to an end.
- Information sharing - Leading C4CE's efforts to share information across the community energy sector and beyond continued. From newsletters, moderating the members-only Facebook page, to establishing a new community energy [photo-library](#) so that all community energy groups can access good graphics.
- Submissions - Coordinating shared advocacy in response to two main government processes was also a focus for C4CE. We helped pull together a key message document and a shared submission to the [Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Community Energy](#) and gave verbal testimony to the inquiry in conjunction with Taryn Lane (C4CE Chair). We also drafted a shared C4CE submission to the [NSW Draft Climate Change Fund Strategy](#) consultation process. Both have led to a substantial increase in understanding by Victorian and NSW policy makers about what policies could support the growth of community energy in those two states.

## Other collaborations

In addition to our involvement in the Coalition for Community Energy, Community Power Agency is pleased to be a member of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Climate Action Network Australia and the Australian Wind Alliance.





## 4 Agenda Setting - policy, advocacy and media

Community Power Agency plays a leadership role in helping to set the strategic direction of the community energy sector. Our work in this area is long term: for many years we have collaborated with organisations to fill gaps, remove barriers and capitalise on opportunities to grow the community energy sector. This year we continued to run the Smart Energy Communities campaign and expanded our policy work and reach. We are excited that a number of our ideas are being adopted by political parties and governments across Australia.

### Smart Energy Communities

Building on the success of the Smart Energy Communities Campaign last year, in early 2017 Community Power Agency launched phase-two of the campaign at the Community Energy Congress. The launch included hand-written letters from more than 100 community energy advocates to state energy ministers. The focus of the second phase of the campaign is winning support for the [Smart Energy Communities policy](#) from state governments. In particular, we have focused on NSW and Victoria, where they are in the midst of significant policy development. By the end of 2016/17, [Victoria had announced three pilot Community Power Hubs](#) and in NSW we await the outcomes of the NSW Climate Change Fund strategy process.

Through this campaign Community Power Agency has:

- Met with state policy makers and politicians in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland,
- Supported over 30 community energy groups to contact their politicians through letter writing, email actions and face-to-face meetings, and
- Engaged with traditional media outlets and supported community energy groups to achieve local media outcomes.

To help deliver the Smart Energy Communities Campaign, we were excited to welcome Lachlan Rule as a part-time campaigner and organiser to the Community Power Agency team.







## Policy

Off the back of the Homegrown Power Plan, Community Power Agency has continued to build a name for itself as experts in both community energy and clean energy policy more generally. In total we participated in nine government and regulatory consultation processes. These include:

- Our aforementioned work drafting submissions for C4CE,
- Being commissioned by a number of NGOs to provide expert advice on two submission processes - [Queensland's Pathways to 50% Renewables Expert Panel Draft Report](#) and the [South Australian Energy Security Target Consultation](#),
- Submissions to the [Victorian Community Renewable Energy Projects Discussion Paper](#), the [Victorian Renewable Energy Auctions Scheme Consultation](#) and [NSW Wind Planning Guidelines](#), all of which drew heavily on CPA's expertise in community engagement and defining community energy, and
- Submissions on [preserving funding for ARENA](#), the [AEMC's Local Generation Network Credit Draft Determination](#) and to the [Federal Senate Inquiry into Coal Closure](#).

In addition, we were invited to participate in a national policy roundtable on climate change and vulnerable households, convened by ACOSS and the Federal Department of Environment and Energy. Community Power Agency also continues to play an active role in shaping policy priorities for a range of organisations through its involvement in Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)

## Media

We were excited to continue our relationship with the [Climate Media Centre](#). Not including our work with the Climate Media Centre around the Community Energy Congress, Community Power Agency received over 80 media hits about Community Power Agency alone. Together with the Climate Media Centre we were involved in securing hundreds of media hits about community energy more broadly.

Our media work has ranged from promoting specific projects such as Life After Feed-in Tariffs, to celebrating campaign wins, commenting on the ever-changing nature of the energy debate, to promoting community energy projects. As a result, stories were picked up by media outlets as diverse as The Project, the Weekly Times, the Herald Sun, news.com.au, The Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Radio, ABC News, RenewEconomy, Ecogeneration and many more.

### Voices of Community Energy Podcast Launch

In early 2017, Community Power Agency launched Voices of Community Energy - a podcast that brings to life the human stories of determination, success and inspiration from community energy in Australia and further afield.

Communities have a depth and richness that cannot be captured alone by words on a page and graphs and numbers. While the existing body of case studies and research into community energy is extremely valuable, Voices of Community Energy has been setup to complement and extend our understanding of community energy and to inspire and draw new people into the movement. Phase one of Voices of Community Energy focuses on audio storytelling (podcasts), in 2017/18 we will be on the lookout for opportunities to expand Voices of Community energy to include video content.

[www.voce.net.au](http://www.voce.net.au)



## Public speaking

The opportunity to speak about community energy and a faster and fairer transition to clean energy is one important method for our agenda-setting work. In 2016/17 Community Power Agency team members spoke, presented or facilitated at 21 events. These were in addition to the 15 talks we did through the Life After FiTs project.

We spoke at conferences including giving a keynote address at the Regional Development Australia Conference and speaking at the Progress 2017, Crowdfunding Institute, the North Coast Energy Forum, Mooreland Energy Foundations's Spark Conference and the Clean Energy Council's Clean Energy Week. We continued to participate in public events about the Homegrown Power Plan. Community energy groups from Geelong to Gloucester, Natimuk to Nerrandra also invited us to speak. We were also pleased to be invited to participate in WWF's inaugural Hackathon looking at sustainable energy and food solutions. Finally, we also include webinars in our public speaking, such as one on our Renewables for All work for CANA members.





## 5 Increasing community engagement

Having positive and beneficial ways for communities to engage with the renewable energy transition is key to its success. Renewable energy has the opportunity to offer a range of social (as well as environmental) benefits when delivered in a way that is closely engaged with local communities. Community Power Agency plays a role in increasing community engagement and community benefit from renewable energy development through working with communities, developers and regulators.

### Research: Enhancing Social Outcomes from Wind Development

Delivering positive social outcomes from wind development is a value proposition for communities, industry and governments alike, but can be challenging to facilitate. The purpose of this research is to benchmark and evaluate current community engagement and benefit sharing practices in wind development in Australia and to encourage pathways for achieving positive social outcomes. By using a collaborative and iterative research process involving a range of stakeholders including wind developers, NGOs, regulators and community, this research will generate understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of existing models of engagement and benefit sharing. Ultimately, this project seeks to contribute an evidence base for improving outcomes from wind development for communities, regulators and wind farm companies, and informing advancements in policy and development practice. This research is the most comprehensive and in-depth done on this topic in Australia to date.

The research is being delivered in partnership with Embark, the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and Nina Hall from the University of Queensland. It is funded through members of the Wind Energy Directorate of the CEC. In addition, the Federal Wind Commissioner, Andrew Dyer, is a Strategic Advisor. The research is now nearing completion, having completed a survey of Wind Developer practices, done a review of wind farm Community Engagement Plans, compiled an international literature review on public attitudes to wind development and conducted 23 interviews. The final research report and recommendations are being finalised with the input of 20 panelists representing a diverse range of stakeholders. We look forward to launching the research outcomes later in 2017.





# Victorian Government's Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development – A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers

This Guide, released by the Victorian Government and co-authored by Community Power Agency co-founder Jarra Hicks in partnership with Taryn Lane (Akin Consulting/ Hepburn Wind) provides world-leading practice, thorough information, practical tools, templates and case-studies for how renewable energy developers (covering all technologies) can conduct more meaningful and effective community engagement and benefit sharing processes. The Guide is based on an extensive review of the latest national and international research and aimed at encouraging quality relationships between communities and renewable energy development. While it is directed at large-scale renewable energy developers in Victoria, it is relevant to other states and community projects also.

Community Power Agency was excited to be invited by the Victorian Government to contribute our expertise to the [Victorian Renewable Energy Target \(VRET\)](#) auction process through authoring the Guide. The Victorian Government is committed to strengthening community support for renewable energy projects, and as such is including community engagement and benefit sharing as a criteria for applications to the VRET auction process.

## Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development

A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers





## 6 Meet the Community Power Agency Team

Nicky Ison, Founding Director  
*B. Eng (Environ) Hons; BA Env'tl Studies*



Nicky Ison is one of the Founding Directors of Community Power Agency. She is an expert in the field of energy policy, energy market reform and community renewable energy and has worked with and visited over 50 community energy groups in Australia, Europe and the US. She was co-author of the [Homegrown Power Plan](#), the lead author on the National Electricity Market Report Card and [National Community Energy Strategy](#). Nicky is also one of the founders and coordinators of the Coalition for Community Energy, which is working to address the barriers to the development of Australia's community energy sector. Nicky is an experienced facilitator, having designed and run workshops for government agencies, community groups and private sector organisations in both Australia and the UK. As well her work at Community Power Agency, Nicky is a Senior Research Consultant at the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures (UTS:ISF) and was a founding member of the board of the Solar Citizens Community Campaign. Nicky holds a double degree in Environmental Engineering and Arts (Environmental Studies). In 2014, Nicky was recognised on the Australian Financial Review's and Westpac's 100 Women of Influence list.

Jarra Hicks, Founding Director  
*B. Development Studies Hons I*



Jarra has a professional background in community development, campaigning and renewable energy. She studied Development Studies at the University of Newcastle and in 2009 completed Honours research that focused on grassroots renewable energy projects as effective responses to climate change using innovative economic practices. Jarra spent two years as the Project Coordinator of Mount Alexander Community Wind in Central Victoria. She has also co-founded and worked for a range of community organisations and social enterprises, from food to energy, advocacy to banking. In 2010 and again in 2012 Jarra completed study tours of community renewable energy initiatives in North America and Europe and spent time as a volunteer renewable energy policy advisor in Delhi, India. Jarra is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of New South Wales, researching the potential for community-owned wind energy projects to contribute positive social, economic and environmental outcomes for regional communities in Australia. Her research focuses on the community engagement practices, social enterprise models and diverse economic arrangements that community energy projects use.



Manny Pasqualini, Director  
*BA Soc.Sc Hons; BA Environment; Cert IV SBM*



Manny is an experienced and passionate sustainability strategist and change maker, specialising in community-owned renewable energy, which he sees as a perfect blend of community building, social enterprise and clean energy development. Over the past 10 years Manny has worked on diverse projects across the sustainability field; namely conservation, climate, water and environmental management projects in Europe, Latin America and Australia. Upon returning to Melbourne in 2009, he attained bachelor degrees in Environment (Soc.Sc), Social Science (Hons 1), and Cert IV in Small Business Management, all at RMIT University. Manny has over the past 12 months played a leading role in advocating for strong and innovative State and Federal government policy support for community energy, most recently through the Renewables For All project and the Federal Smart Energy Communities Campaign. From mid 2016, Manny's work sees him focus strongly on developing community energy in his home state of Victoria and is currently working with several Melbourne metro and Victorian regional communities to help develop and implement their community energy vision, while continuing to collaborate with a wide range of key innovators and industry stakeholders to help pave the way for these projects to be realised.

Franziska Mey, Director  
*Dipl. Political Science, MA Sustainable Regional Development*



Franziska has a double degree in Political Science and Regional Development from German Universities. She gained extensive work experience while working at WWF Germany coordinating European and international projects on sustainable regional development. Franziska is an experienced project manager and has successfully organised numerous workshops and events. In her current role at CPA she has delivered a range of projects and community workshops such as providing policy recommendations and conducting research into international financing policies for community energy. Besides her work at CPA, Franziska is currently a PhD candidate at UNSW at the Institute of Environmental Studies. She is writing her thesis on the institutional factors driving and constraining community renewable energy in Germany and Australia.



### Tom Nockolds, Director



Tom has a vision of a future where people share the benefits and the burdens of the world more fairly. He left his corporate career in 2012 to pursue this vision in the community energy sector. Tom has an extensive work history and a strong track record of success in various roles and, prior to his career change, Tom held positions as diverse as business development manager, project manager and operations manager and has university qualifications in project management and a background in engineering. As one of the founding members of Sydney group, Pingala, Tom has helped oversee the continued commitment of a core group of volunteers working to bring community energy projects to the wider Sydney community. Tom has a strong knowledge of the different business models being adopted or considered by community energy groups in Australia and has helped groups navigate their way through the complex technical and regulatory environment. Tom fundamentally believes in sharing and collaboration and has become an enthusiastic participant in the Coalition for Community Energy - the sector-wide collaboration for the community energy sector in Australia.

### Steve Turnock, Congress Organiser



With a passion for environmental and social sustainability, Steve's interests encompass technical processes, social dynamics and artistic creation, making him the perfect organiser for the Community Energy Congress. Tertiary studies at two of Australia's finest universities have fostered important intellectual and vocational pursuits, while a strong drive to enhance the ever-expanding sustainability sector remains a key guiding force. Inherently conscious of the environment and the mechanisms of social cohesion, Steve has a strong history staging corporate events, as well as extensive knowledge and experience in the renewable energy sector.



## 7 Upcoming Work

Community Power Agency has developed five areas of strategic priority for 2017/18 that build on the momentum from this year:

1. Winning the Smart Energy Communities Campaign, with a particular focus on South Australia, Queensland, creating federal community energy champions and broadening the number of allies and organisations advocating for similar policy outcomes.
2. Working to establish Social Access Solar Gardens, a new model of community energy to Australia (though one that is prevalent in the US) that would sidestep market barriers like split incentives and open up the benefits of solar to renters, apartment dwellers and even low-income households.
3. Increasing the quality of community engagement and benefit sharing within the large-scale renewables industry and working to establish viable models of community-developer partnerships e.g. communities owning a stake in a larger developer-led wind and solar farms.
4. Becoming one of the leading organisations that progressive voices turn to for policy advice for how to deliver a faster and fairer transition to clean energy.
5. Expanding the work we do with Councils in support of the movement for local government action on climate change solutions, renewables and engaging their communities.







## 8 Thankyou

Strong partnerships and collaborations are important ingredients to our success and the impact we have. We are extremely grateful to work alongside like-minded organisations and individuals in the mutual pursuit of realising a vibrant community energy sector in Australia.

We would like to thank our long-term collaborators the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) at the University of Technology Sydney, The Alternative Technology Association, Moreland Energy Foundation, Embark and Starfish Initiatives in helping us realise the 2nd Community Energy Congress and making it a huge milestone for the sector. In particular, we want to acknowledge the role of ISF in physically hosting the C4CE Secretariat. We also want to acknowledge and thank all the organisations involved in the Coalition for Community Energy.

The policy work of Community Power Agency is made possible by numerous environmental NGOs. We would like to thank Solar Citizens, GetUp, Nature Conservation Council, Friends of the Earth, Climate Council, Climate Action Network Australia and the Victorian Community Solar Alliance for their collaboration in making our advocacy campaigns a success. We would also like to thank the Climate Media Centre for amplifying our work and the stories of community energy groups through the media.

The Life after Feed-in Tariffs project was a collaborative effort, led by Total Environment Centre. It was a privilege to work with TEC, Solar Citizens and Alternative Technology Association. Special mention is Mark Byrne, consumer advocate at TEC for co-ordinating the project and his tireless work managing the series of presentations. We'd also like to thank the NSW Government for extending the Life after FiTs presentations across Sydney and the regions.

Many thanks for the Clean Energy Council and members of its Wind Directorate for supporting our ongoing research into Enhancing Social Outcomes from Wind Development. Special thanks to Taryn Lane, Emily Wood, Nina Hall and Alicia Webb with whom we have done this work. And, of course, the Federal Wind Commissioner, Andrew Dyer for his strategic advice.

Special thanks goes to Diversicon Foundation and The Sunrise Project and a number of individual donors for providing us with grant funding and donations that supported our work in 2016/17.

Finally we would like to recognise the huge work and commitment of the more than 90 community energy groups across the country - we are inspired every day by their work to keep doing what we do. We hope what we do at Community Power Agency makes the work of these amazing organisations and volunteers easier.



# 9 Financials

## Balance Sheet

Statement of financial position for the year ended 30 June 2016.

### Current Assets

Cash at bank	84,700.09
Accounts receivable	10,952.60
Staff expense paid in advance	414.25
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>96,066.94</b>

### Non-current assets

Shares owned (unlisted entities)	1,000.00
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>

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<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>97,066.94</b>
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### Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	5,440.32
GST	11,620.32
PAYG IAS Withholdings	6,914.00
Rounding	(2.97)
Superannuation payable	8,194.89

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<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>32,166.74</b>
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### Non-current liabilities

NSW Fair Trading Annual Return	(71.28)
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(71.28)</b>

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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>32,095.46</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>64,971.48</b>

### Equity

Current year earnings	19,559.48
Retained earnings	45,412.00

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<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>64,971.48</b>
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