



President's Report: CE4G AGM 6/07/17

CE4G Inc was incorporated in May, 2016, having previously operated as a sub committee of The Goulburn Group.

Prior to that, in April 2016 the feasibility study was launched by John Hewson at a special event at the Workers Club.

Since incorporation we have continued to pursue our strategy to facilitate the development of community renewable energy projects in the Goulburn region.

The Committee has met at least fortnightly, most often weekly, to progress the first stage, the development of a community owned Solar Farm on the Bridge St site.

Here are some of the highlights:

May:

- Meetings with Laterals and Divalls regarding the DA
- Meeting with SERREE to seek seed funding from ARENA

June:

- Council asked to waive the DA fee, which was rejected. Some press coverage of this refusal.
- ARENA rejects application for funding

July:

- Meeting with Minister Anthony Roberts and Pru Goward to seek seed funding.
- Development Application submitted to Council
- Meeting with Geoff Kettle and Warwick Bennett to elicit support for the project
- Meeting with bureaucrats from Dept Resources and Energy seeking seed funding

August:

- Submission to the NSW Government Dept Planning on the SE Regional Plan, jointly with TGG
- Candidates for Federal Election sent questionnaire on their position on climate change
- On-going negotiations with Council re the DA

September:

- Discussions with Regional Chamber of Commerce regarding seed funding.
- Partnered with Suncrowd to plan and run the solar bulk buy project
- Contracted a consultant, Daniel McDonald to peer review the original Feasibility Study.

October:

- Commissioned Video animation
- Pru Goward indicates that some seed funding may be available (but wasn't)
- Meeting with Goldwind CEO John Titchen regarding possible assistance
- Discussions with several experts questioning some of the feasibility study's assumptions, particularly the sale price of energy at \$145 /Mwh
- Daniel McDonald presented his review questioning some of the study's findings.
- We received correspondence from Anthony Roberts indicating no specific funding available
- Discussions with several retailers: Diamond Energy, Energy Locals, Enova

November:

- Most of the month taken up with the Solar Bulk Buy project.
- Approximately 40 - 45 sign-ups for various sizes of solar installations

December:

- Letter to GMC pointing out their lack of attendance at regional meeting to discuss the NSW Govt's Climate Change Fund despite other SE region councils sending representatives.
- Discussion with OE&H re attending Community Energy conference in Melbourne

January:

- Teleconference with Enova regarding a white label agreement and other matters
- Powershop and Energy Locals also promising white label discussions

February:

- Continuing discussions and meetings to progress the DA
- Discussions with accountants regarding setting up a private company
- Peter and Ed attend the Community Energy Conference in Melbourne and met several companies wanting to be involved with the project:
 - Energy Locals (retailer)
 - Powerchop (retailer)
 - Enova (retailer)
 - Yingli Solar (panel supplier)
 - Norton Rose Fullbright (lawyers)
- Goulburn Community Energy Pty Ltd incorporated as a vehicle to develop the solar farm
- Presentation from EPC Solar regarding connection study, tendering, design, etc

March:

- Continuing discussions and meetings to progress the DA
- Contact with Essential Energy to re-start connection application
- Contact with Suncrowd to ascertain progress on bulk buy installations
- Discussions with UTS academic regarding seed funding and PPA agreement
- Connection Inquiry with Essential Energy submitted
- Meeting with CEO of Yingli, Mark Kebby, regarding seed funding and panel supply

April:

- Met with Steve Harris from Enova to discuss a possible retail partnership
- Met with Norton Rose Fullbright to discuss legal assistance
- Met with CANWin to discuss taking over their OE&H grant
- Draft DA received from Council
- Met with Divalls to progress lease negotiations for the Bridge St site.

May:

- Met with Tristan Mercer from Energy Locals to discuss possible retail partnership
- Attended regional meeting with SERREE and met with Ben Franklin (Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy)
- Divalls began negotiating with ARTC re small parcel of land
- Finalised transfer of OE&H grant from CANWin

June:

- Contacted Tesla regarding a battery facility for the project
- Finalised agreement with Norton Rose Fullbright regarding legal work
- Final approval from Council for DA
- Met with Rob and Emma Mailler, solar engineers and builders, regarding possible revised design that would increase the output of the farm.

Where to from here:

1. Secure Connection information from Essential Energy
2. Contract with a design company to complete design work and connection and flow studies to satisfy Essential Energy and submit connection application
3. Commission NRF to compile contract documents, tender documents, and design an Offer Information Statement
4. Commission financial consultant to review feasibility study, review document and current costings and complete a business case to be incorporated into the Offer Information Statement
5. Design and implement a marketing plan to locate and sign up prospective investors.

What do we need?

1. Seed funding to be able to move much further along this path. This is the biggest challenge.
2. A stable investment environment, with a consistent and equitable policy framework
3. Either a cessation of subsidies to fossil fuel generation, or comparative support for renewable energy,
4. A price on carbon, preferably through a market based system,
5. A commitment to extend the RET to 2030 at a rate that contributes to a reduction in CO2 emissions commensurate with Australia's current per capita emissions,
6. Support for Community Energy through structured financial support that fades out over time as the cost of renewables decreases,
7. Reform of the NEM to improve the efficiency and financial stability of the system, that enables renewable energy to compete with fossil fuels on a level playing field.

Thanks

I want to thank:

1. The members of the committee for their:
Skills
Knowledge
Wisdom
Commitment
2. Mark Fleming from OE&H for his support
3. Caleb Fisher from Divalls, for his ongoing assistance, and Andy Divall for his patience