



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

 AUSTRALIAN
WIND ALLIANCE



PHOTO (COVER):

Cape Bridgewater Wind Farm in south-west Victoria.

PHOTO (THIS PAGE):

Ararat Wind Farm in Victoria. Construction was completed in 2016, and the project is now generating clean energy.

CONTENTS

Note from the National Coordinator	2
Member Snapshots	3
Community Organising	4
Policy and Politics	5
The Year that Was: By the Numbers	6
Communicating	7
In the News	7
Social Media	8
Personnel	11
Staff	11
Board	12
Financial	14
Profit and Loss Statement	14
Balance Sheet	14

NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR



Every year, the place of wind and renewable energy in Australia's power sector becomes that much stronger.

In September 2017, for the first time, wind and solar power provided

more electricity to the grid than all of Australia's gas-fired power stations and over the last five years 5,158 MW of coal-fired power has been retired. In its place, we've seen a massive surge in wind farm construction, with 2,000 megawatts across 16 projects commenced in just the last two years.

Bipartisan support for the Renewable Energy Target and a variety of positive state and territory targets and programs, underpinned by solid public support for renewable energy, has been critical to the momentum of this historic shift.

Organising this public support for wind has been a big part of AWA's work this year, especially at the local level. As new wind farms are built, financial benefits flow to the farmers and businesses in regional Australia. We have been busy advocating for effective community engagement and equitable benefit sharing to bed down community and political support.

Of course, some pockets of political resistance to this transformation remain and threaten the long term prospects for wind energy and a transition to a clean power sector. This is a space we will continue to put work into, building momentum for positive long term renewable energy policy.

As wind farms increase their presence throughout regional Australia and in our energy system, we've played a role in communicating this historic change. Through traditional and social media we've sought to tell the stories of the locals gaining wind farm jobs, wind's ability to lower power prices and the satisfaction of being involved in generating clean energy.

The next two years are going to be huge for the wind industry and the hundreds of communities that will benefit from projects. A strong future for wind energy, however, is reliant on long term certainty and solid renewable energy policy. We will continue to champion the cause and promote the environmental, social and economic benefits of a 100% renewable energy future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Bray". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Bray, National Coordinator

“...FOR THE FIRST TIME, WIND AND SOLAR POWER PROVIDED MORE ELECTRICITY TO THE GRID THAN ALL OF AUSTRALIA'S GAS-FIRED POWER STATIONS...”

PHOTO (BACKGROUND):
Coonoor Bridge Wind
Farm in central Victoria.
© Windlab Asset Management

MEMBER SNAPSHOTS

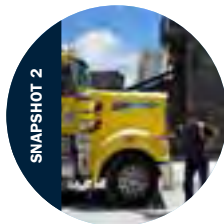
 **743** INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS

30 
ORGANISATIONAL
MEMBERS



David Osmond, Wind Engineer, Windlab

David is a Senior Wind Engineer with Windlab in Canberra. He spends a lot of time planning new wind farms, and estimating how much electricity they'll produce. He's very proud of the ACT's 100% renewable electricity target, and Windlab's role in helping achieve it.



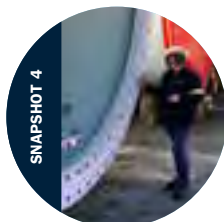
Troy Beaston, General Manager, Eureka Concrete

Troy is the General Manager and a second-generation operator of Eureka Concrete. Eureka has experience in the production of quality concrete to wind turbine projects for over five years. Each project creates work directly and indirectly to over 1000 people while construction build is in process."



Linda Cavanagh, Rye Park landholder

Linda is a local grazier and host of the prospective Rye Park Wind Farm. She has worked hard to rally supporters and encourage them to speak up in support of the project and is excited about the boost to the local economy. Linda is passionate about renewable energy and can't wait for the turbines to spin at Rye Park to progress the region as a stable clean energy contributor in NSW.



Trinidad Diaz, Coating Inspector, Keppel Prince

Trini is a Coatings Inspector with Keppel Prince Engineering, an Australian Manufacturer of Wind Tower Sections, managing the quality requirements of Surface Treatment to completion. She has a strong belief that wind towers play an essential role in a cleaner future.



Sandy McNaughton, Sapphire Wind Farm

Sandy is the Community Project Officer at Sapphire Wind Farm. She is inspired by the ground-breaking approach being taken towards community engagement at the project, including pioneering the opportunity for community investment into a large-scale commercial wind farm being offered for the first time in Australia, ensuring further economic benefits flowing back into the local community.

COMMUNITY ORGANISING

For the Australian Wind Alliance, this was a year of community organising, both on the ground and online.

We ran an intensive campaign in the Southern Tablelands of NSW building solid support for a number of wind farms being developed in the region, and encouraging strong community engagement with the local community. That part of the world had previously seen a high level of opposition to local projects, and we wanted to work with local supporters to turn that public perception around. We worked closely with local supporters to rally an unprecedented show of support for the Rye Park Wind Farm, through submissions and speakers at the project's planning assessment commission hearing. This work ultimately led to fewer turbines being removed from the project than what had been recommended by the Department of Planning and Environment.

We have made similar inroads in the Central Tablelands and Northern Tablelands regions of NSW, meeting with communities, host landowners, developers and small businesses to discuss how to support wind development in regional NSW and ensure it delivers for regional communities.

We have been an equally strong presence online this year. We have engaged with online supporters to push back hard against repeated attempts to water down Australia's renewable energy initiatives. We came out strongly against the Prime Minister's proposal to open up the Clean Energy Finance Commissions aims to include funding "clean coal" and, later in the year, the proposal to include coal funding in a future Clean Energy Target.



PHOTO (ABOVE): Residents examining plans for new wind farms between Inverell and Glen Innes in NSW.

PHOTO (RIGHT): A post about our rapid response to the proposal from Malcolm Turnbull to broaden the funding remit for the CEFC to include "clean coal."

PHOTO (BACKGROUND): Rye Park supporters meeting.



POLICY & POLITICS

We continued to engage with both politicians and public policy, at State and Federal levels.

We consulted extensively with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment as they developed new guidelines for wind energy development in NSW. This has resulted in significant improvements on the previous guidelines which were onerous and complex. We also provided input into twelve other inquiries and plans at state and federal levels, involving climate change policy, community energy and other specific developments.

We firmly believe that good community engagement is vital to maintain a strong social licence for wind in regional

communities. To this end, we took the unusual step of writing a submission opposing the development application for the Jupiter Wind Farm in NSW on the grounds that community engagement to date had not been adequate. We hope this will ultimately lead to a better outcome for the local community in this area.

Throughout the year, we worked with farmers and small business owners to arrange meetings with local politicians to highlight the benefits of wind farms and ask for genuine renewable energy policy beyond 2020.



Community Energy Stories from Denmark

Søren Hermansen is a community energy expert from the small Danish island of Samsø, which kicked its fossil-fuel dependency and became a 100% renewable energy island in just 10 years. AWA partnered with the Coalition for Community Energy to host Mr Hermansen in information events and meetings at Parliament House in Canberra, injecting much-needed optimism into the debate around energy transition and explaining how to bring the community along for the ride. In Inverell, NSW, with laconic humour, he sparked the locals' appetite for community investment in renewable energy projects, which is now seeing progress towards community investment in the nearby Sapphire Wind Farm.

PHOTO (RIGHT): Søren Hermansen visiting Parliament House in Canberra for one of the information events and meetings.

PHOTO (BACKGROUND): Samsø island in Denmark was transformed into a green powerhouse with onshore and offshore wind turbines, biomass boilers and solar. © Birger Jensen / Samsø Tourism

THE YEAR THAT WAS

BY THE NUMBERS



We attended **community consultative committees** for **4 WIND FARMS**



12 SUBMISSIONS OR INQUIRY APPEARANCES



1 SHORT-TERM **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** STAFFER EMPLOYED



21 who spoke at the Rye Park Wind Farm PAC in support of the wind farm.



4 WIND FARM **PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION (PAC)** HEARINGS we attended and spoke at.

ATTENDED AND SPOKE AT



4 **PLANNING INFORMATION NIGHTS** held by the Department of Planning and Environment.



MORE THAN

2,000 SIGNATURES against funding “clean coal!”



22 with **State and Federal politicians** to highlight support for wind energy.



18 **COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS & EVENTS** we attended, organised or spoke at.



108 in support of Rye Park Wind Farm.



3,250 **MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS**

PHOTO: The Capital Wind Farm near Bungendore is the largest wind farm in New South Wales. Construction began in early 2008, and the wind farm became fully operational in October 2009.

COMMUNICATING



In the news

While turbines were being installed around the country in what was a huge year for construction, wind energy found itself in the media spotlight frequently.

From the blackouts in South Australia in 2016, to the farcical nature of the energy debate through most of 2017, renewables have become somewhat of a political football despite continually proving themselves in the real world.

At each turn, from announcements and new reports to thought bubbles and provocative comments, the Australian Wind Alliance has

sought to dispel myths, highlight the huge benefits of wind projects and argue for policy certainty. This year, in particular, we have worked hard to cut through the energy system complexity and show how wind and solar, together with storage can create a reliable, affordable and secure energy system.



COMMUNITY FEEL SHORT-CHANGED BY PLANNED CUTS TO RYE PARK WIND FARM

Georgina Connery,
30 Mar 2017

The Sydney Morning Herald

THE HEROIC FARMER STICKING IT TO THE GOVERNMENT, ONE WIND TURBINE AT A TIME

Anthony Sharwood,
28 Aug 2017

HUFFPOST

SOLAR AND WIND POWER CAN REPLACE LIDDELL POWER STATION, ALLIANCE SAYS

Damon Cronshaw,
13 Sep 2017

HERALD

PHOTO (ABOVE): Video still from an ABC 7.30 episode which featured our National Coordinator, Andrew Bray.

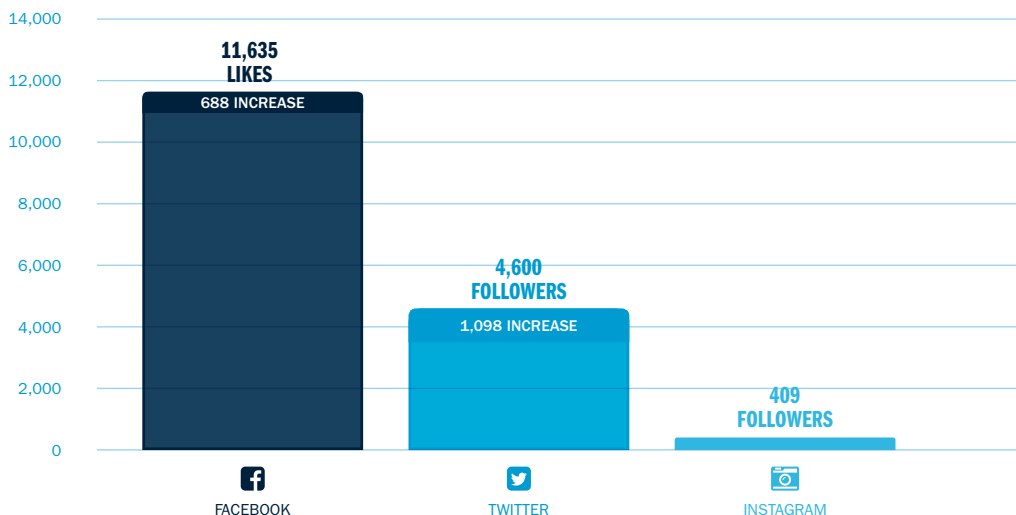
PHOTO (BACKGROUND): Ararat Wind Farm in Victoria.

Social media

As well as engaging with traditional media and directly with our supporters, we used social media to generate rapid responses to breaking news, inspire engagement from our supporters at key moments and to push back on anti-renewables messaging.

The South Australian blackouts in September 2016, Malcolm Turnbull's attack on the Clean Energy Finance Corporation in February 2017 and the release of the Finkel report in June 2017 were peak engagement moments for us, while our reach has also steadily increased over the year.

Social media growth



Catching the Breeze

We collaborated with Ketan Joshi to tell the story of wind's development in Australia through a video combining energy market statistics and interviews with people who live and work with wind farms sharing what wind energy means to them. We shared this across our social media platforms, reaching 30,000 people across twitter, facebook and instagram.



PHOTO (ABOVE): Video stills from the Catching the Breeze video that we created with the help of Ketan Joshi.

f Facebook reach
(over a 28 day period)

t Twitter impressions

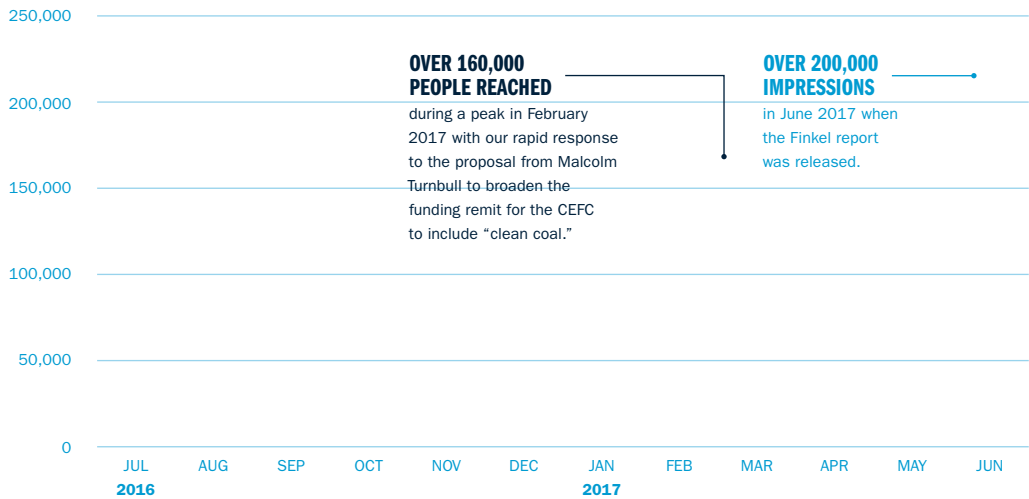


PHOTO (BACKGROUND):
Clements Gap Wind Farm in South Australia.
© Dave Clarke

Popular Posts/Tweets



CHARLIE IS A FOURTH GENERATION FAMILY FARMER FROM CROOKWELL IN NSW. HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT FARMING AND HAS EXPANDED THIS PASSION TO INCLUDE WIND FARMS.

PHOTO: The Australian Wind Alliance's Andrew Bray and Charlie Prell at Sapphire Wind Farm, currently under construction near Glen Innes in New South Wales.



PERSONNEL

Staff



Andrew Bray, National Coordinator

Andrew joined AWA in February 2013 after spending two years on the 100% Renewable Campaign, building skills and leadership in local communities to help them speak out in support for renewable energy. Andrew moved from one of Victoria's prime wind districts in Ballarat to one of NSW's in Bungendore.



Charlie Prell, Organiser NSW

Charlie is a fourth generation family farmer from Crookwell in NSW. He is passionate about farming and has expanded this passion to include wind farms. Since the construction of the Crookwell I wind farm next to his family property in 1998, Charlie has been aware of the potential to erect turbines on his own farm. He is a committed member of the Crookwell community, and actively contributes to many local causes. Charlie has been championing wind farms and the potential benefits they can bring to regional communities for many years.



Graham Williams, Communications Coordinator (September 2016 – March 2017)

Graeme joined the Australian Wind Alliance as Communications Coordinator to assist the organisation with communicating strong pro-wind stories. Graeme comes from a background in renewable energy advocacy through his work in local government and political engagement and community organising through his work for politicians in both the Victorian and NSW Parliament.



Siobhan Isherwood, Communications Coordinator (March 2017 – Present)

Siobhan joined the Wind Alliance team to help shape messaging and communications with all of our stakeholders. Siobhan previously worked in the wind industry, developing large scale wind farms and managing community engagement across a number of projects, as well as engaging in political advocacy.

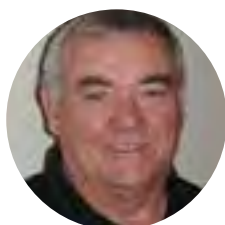
PHOTO (BACKGROUND):
"Let me tell you how to go 100% renewables." Søren Hermansen speaks at a forum in Armidale.

Board



Peter Dreher

Peter is a corporate and projects Partner at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers. His expertise is in corporate, commercial and construction law, with particular emphasis in infrastructure and energy projects, business structures, sales acquisitions and the commercialisation of product. Peter is a market leader for legal expertise in the renewable energy sector, having advised in relation to more than 25 renewable energy projects in Australia, New Zealand and Thailand.



Steve Garner

Steve is General Manager at Keppel Prince Engineering, a Portland-based engineering firm which specialises in the construction, fabrication and maintenance of industrial structures and equipment, including wind farms. He is responsible for over 400 employees and offered his time as a Director of AWA because he wants to see more Victorians employed in the emerging renewables energy sector.



Felicity Millner

Felicity is Director of Litigation for Environmental Justice Australia, a citizen funded, not-for-profit, public interest legal practice, using the law to protect and restore Australia's environment. Felicity has worked in environmental and planning law throughout her career and been involved in a several significant public interest environmental law cases.



Taryn Lane

Taryn is Community Officer at Hepburn Wind, Australia's first community owned wind farm, which has delivered industry-best standards in community engagement. She also works for Embark Australia. She has extensive local and international community development experience.

PHOTO (BACKGROUND):
Wattle Point Wind Farm
in South Australia.
© Dave Clarke



Richard Mackie

Richard is one of the most experienced people in the Australian wind industry. He has been involved since 1994, as a project and business development manager. Richard agreed to give his time to be Treasurer of AWA because he believes Australia is missing out on great benefits in regional areas.



Luke Osborne

Luke has been a leading voice in the wind energy industry for over a decade. He entered the industry as a landholder and subsequently played a pioneering role in the growth of Canberra-based wind energy company Windlab, now one of Australia's most successful renewable energy companies with operations in Australia, North America and Africa. He is currently with Canberra start-up, Reposit Power.



Jonathan Upson

Jonathan is a senior manager with over 14 years experience in the renewable energy industry. He has worked in a variety of roles, including Project Development, Government Affairs and Energy Markets.



Phil Burn

Phil has spent over five years working in the wind energy sector, leading the development and planning for a number of wind energy projects. Phil has also worked for State and local government and is currently a consultant working on a range of renewable energy projects. Phil's skills and experiences are supported by formal qualifications in business, environment and land use planning.

FINANCIALS

Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2017

Income	2017	2016
Donations	\$197,495	\$168,130
Membership Fees	\$8,488	\$7,283
Other Income	\$4,216	\$7,192
Total income	\$210,199	\$182,605

Expenditure	2017	2016
Campaign Expenses	\$171,216	\$147,626
Networking Expenses	\$4,667	\$498
Management and Administration	\$22,638	\$15,021
Total expenditure	\$198,521	\$163,147

Net Operating Profit	\$11,678	\$19,455
Retained Profits at the start of the financial year	\$22,223	\$2,767
Total Available For Appropriation	\$33,900	\$22,223

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2017	2017	2016
Current Assets	\$64,406	\$62,957
Current Liabilities	\$30,505	\$40,735
Net Assets	\$33,900	\$22,223
Retained Profits	\$33,900	\$22,223
Total Equity	\$33,900	\$22,223




PHOTO (BACKGROUND):
Ararat Wind Farm in Victoria.



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