



Denise Wilton



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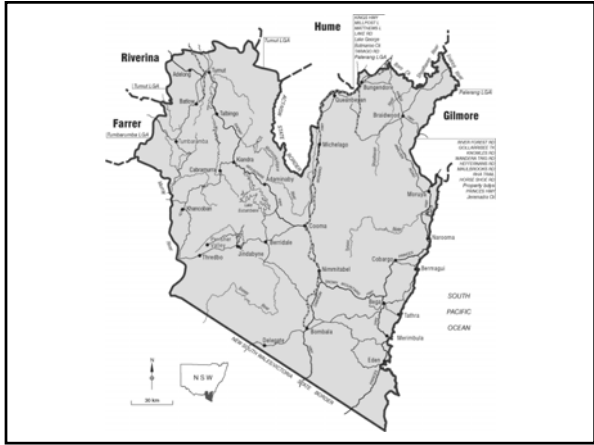
United for Australia





A ladder!





MEDIA RELEASE
Senator Chris Evans
 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
 Shadow Minister for National Development, Resources and Energy

Mike Kelly
 Labor candidate for Eden Monaro

LABOR BACKS SOLAR FARM FOR SOUTH COAST

A Rudd Labor Government will provide up to \$100,000 towards the establishment of a Solar Farm on the New South Wales South Coast as part of Federal Labor's Green Precincts program.

"A ten hectare solar farm on the South Coast could provide 2 megawatts of power - enough to power up to 1000 homes - and provide a positive working example for regional communities across Australia," said Senator Chris Evans, Shadow Minister for Resources and Energy.

"Solar power is one of the cleanest forms of energy, capable of significantly reducing greenhouse pollution and providing low-cost renewable energy to power our homes and heat our water."

"A Rudd Labor government will provide the funding to the South Coast community group *Clean Energy for Eternity* towards a detailed scoping study into a South Coast Solar Farm", said Mike Kelly, Labor candidate for Eden Monaro.

"This funding is a tribute to the hard work of Clean Energy for Eternity, which has galvanised public support throughout the South Coast and beyond for real action on climate change and clean, renewable energy."

CEFE formed February 2006

Mosman meeting October 2007

Election promise October 2007
(\$100,000 to do feasibility study)

Election Promise November 2007
(\$1 million towards farm if feasibility study shows viable)

Intensive research and networking by CEFE solar team

September 2008 CEFE submits application for \$100,000

November 2008 \$100,000 provided. CEFE sets up project team

Robert Pieterse	Accounting/Finance
Deborah Burt	Insurance/HR
Mei-Ling Ho	Marketing
Peter Gorton	Engineering Consulting
Bill Southwood	IT Consulting
Lee Hilton	Governance
Philippa Rowland	Government Liaison
Jeremy Cavangh	Solar Technology
Andrew Bond	Project Management
Warren Yates	Engineering

Mosman Bega


www.ontario-sea.org

www.hepburnwind.com.au

Australian PV farms: Riverland SA (private), Bendigo (solar cities)

Initial conclusions

In Bega, PV better option than solar thermal
 At present PV is not cost competitive with wind
 Easiest way to achieve MRET is via wind.
 Not viable to build a solar farm via shares in a co-op
 Where PV has taken off, it has been via subsidies
 Germany/Spain are impressive examples
Hence only way it can work is by tapping into subsidies



NSW Solar Feed-in Tariff Scheme
 The NSW Government recently announced its intention to introduce a Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme for small scale, grid connected, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and establish a taskforce to determine an appropriate design for the FIT.

[Submissions](#)
[Terms of reference](#)

A FIT provides payments for electricity produced by small scale distributed sources like rooftop PV panels when their output is fed back into the electricity grid.

Feed-in Tariff taskforce
 The NSW Solar FIT Taskforce has now been assembled and comprises representatives from the Department of Water and Energy, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Treasury.

The Taskforce is scheduled to finalise its recommendations for a NSW feed-in tariff scheme in early 2009 and the scheme is expected to commence in mid-2009.

NSW Government objectives for the scheme


- Encourage and support people who want to act on climate change by generating renewable energy locally
- Build the State's green collar jobs sector, by helping solar technology compete with non-renewable energy sources
- Expand the visibility of renewable energy technologies to help motivate the whole community in responding to climate change

Existing arrangements affecting solar photovoltaic (pv) systems
 Solar PV panels currently attract subsidies, including Renewable Energy Certificates and Commonwealth Government rebates. For more information go to: <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/newcastle/pv/index.html>

NSW electricity retailers also currently operate a variety of electricity buy back schemes on a voluntary basis.

It is envisaged that a NSW FIT scheme will form an additional incentive for those wishing to install Solar PV systems and will formalise current arrangements in NSW.

Ladder!






Ladder!

Solar Credits will apply to new installations of household scale renewable energy generators eligible under the scheme. The number of additional credits will be based on the multiple as set out in the following table.

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	From 2015-16 onwards
Multiplier	5	5	5	4	3	2	No multiplier (1)

The credits will commence from 1 July 2009 and will be phased out by 2015-16. This recognises that technology costs are going down and the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will also be providing incentives for renewable technologies.
 The timing of the phase means that Solar Credits will not adversely affect reaching the 20 per cent target by 2020.

Solar Credits will apply to the first 1.5 kilowatts of capacity installed. Generation from capacity above 1.5 kW will still be eligible for the standard 1:1 rate of RECs creation. The credits will only apply to the first small scale generation system installed at an address.

Tackling climate change – Green Precincts Fund

The Green Precincts Fund was announced in the 2006-07 Federal Budget, with funding of \$10 million over four years to support at least 10 high-profile demonstration projects that deliver water and energy savings while educating the community about water and energy efficiency.

The Green Precincts Fund supports both the Government's 10-year \$2.9 billion Water for the Future plan to secure the long-term water supply for all Australians and the Solar Homes and Communities plan to encourage local communities to better manage their water and energy use for current and future generations.


What are the objectives of the Green Precincts Fund?



- Raise community awareness about water and energy savings
- Encourage the take-up of water and energy saving measures including the use of wholesale energy in the home and in community facilities
- Demonstrate environmental benefits from water and energy efficiency measures at Green Precincts pilot sites, and
- Encourage and demonstrate innovation in design and use of water and energy efficiency technology

What types of projects may be funded?

Green Precincts demonstration projects must deliver the following components:

- demonstrate and deliver significant water savings relative to benchmark facilities through water efficiency measures such as high efficiency shower nozzles, low capacity showers, greywater use, rainwater and stormwater harvesting systems, efficient outdoor water use and water-saving devices for other watering
- deliver substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency measures such as high capacity generation, heat hot water services, smart metering, energy efficient appliances and lighting, and generation and functional green building design
- be used at facilities that are for public use by a large number of people for example, public libraries, shopping centres, community centres, local sporting centres, other public buildings and facilities, and
- include a significant community education component



Ladder!

Mosman council agrees to partner with CEFE
Water component stormwater re-use to irrigate Balmoral forshore

The Concept

We build a 50 kW solar farm on leased space in Bega

We then sell 1.5 kW parcels of grid connected panels to subscribers

Subscribers get the solar credits rebate

Subscribers get NSW FiT for its full term

A small fraction of the FiT income funds maintenance

The Challenge – meeting the eligibility criteria

FiT eligibility – which State will NSW emulate?

- Maximum peak connected power per account
- Can an account be shared?
- Must panels be at residence?
- Cash or only credit for electricity?

Solar credits eligibility

- Must panels be at residence
- Can more than one owners panels be mounted at same site

Is it financially viable?

How does it stack up against own-roof installations?

Farm has these benefits

- Lower cost panels (bulk buy)
- Lower cost installation (single site)
- FIT paid on all power generated even if Net
- Less risk (of overshadowing, moving house)
- Hassle free

Farm has these extra costs

- An extra meter (but may be able to be shared)
- An extra connection charge (but may be able to be shared)
- Roof lease charges
- Insurance charges
- Less sense of ownership

Governance?

What do we mean by a community solar farm?

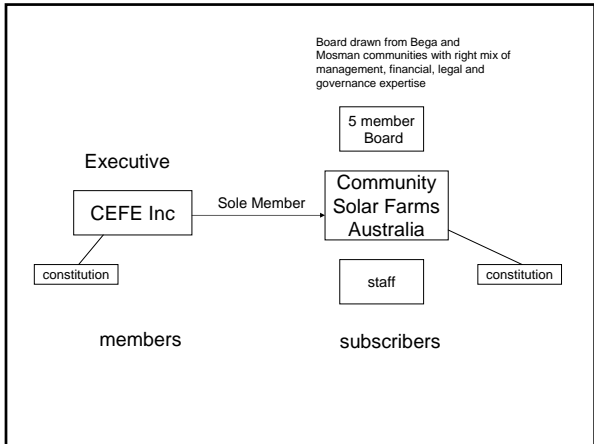
- Control by a group of people – the members
- A member based collaborative enterprise has a dual relationship with its members
- A customer relationship – paid service provision
- An owner relationship – profit and control in exchange for capital

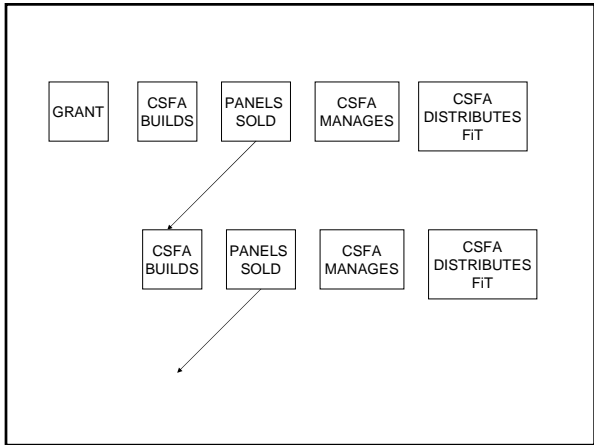
Company options are:

- ~~Proprietary company - Limited by share~~
- ~~Proprietary company - Unlimited with share capital~~
- ~~Public company - Limited by shares~~
- ~~Public company - Limited by guarantee~~
- ~~Public company - Unlimited with share capital~~

Co-operative options are:

- ~~Trading co-operative - With shares~~
- ~~Non-trading co-operative - Without shares~~















Is there a market?

In Sydney 40% of households in multi unit dwellings

"A committed way to help." (Early Adopter)

"Large scale operation to make a difference." (Early Adopter)

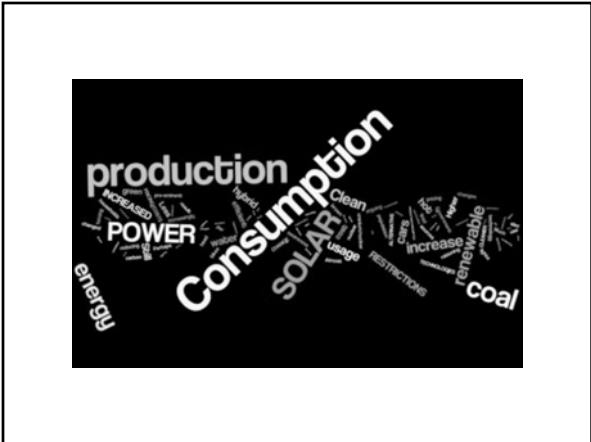
"No admin required, no personal building required...it's a simple way to get involved and contribute" (Broad Resident)

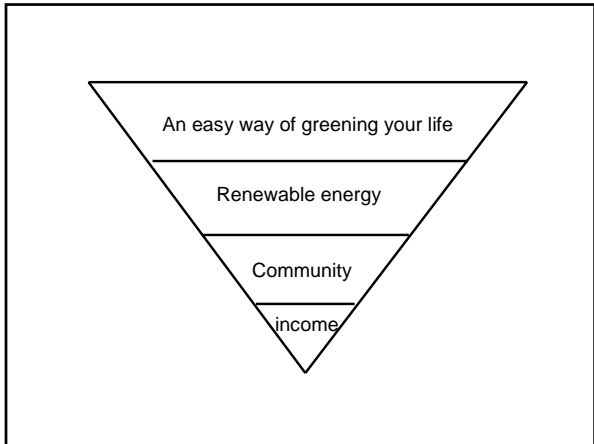
"Where do I sign?" (Broad Resident)

"It's a way to save the planet because we can't all install solar panels ourselves, now you can get help from the government" (Early Adopter)

"Subscribing to create renewable energy." (Broad Resident)

"Contributing to reducing emissions with no long term cost, it's a small upfront fee with a return." (Early Adopter)






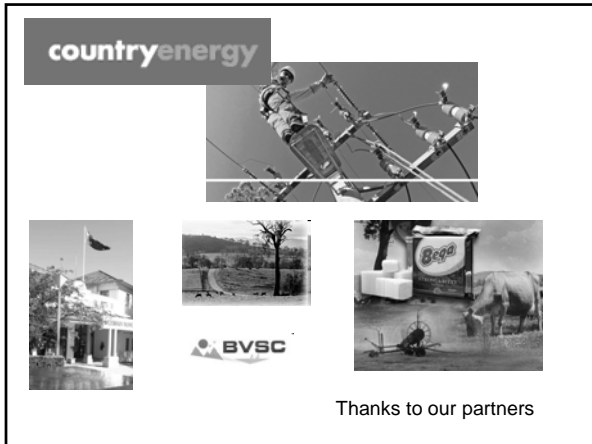
Some conclusions

- Councils + Community – a powerful combination
- Urban and rural communities – an excellent partnership
- Agility is needed in face of continually evolving legislation
- Community energy sector has considerable potential
- Combination of panels and on-site storage is a winner

What now?



- We wait for NSW FiT and Green Precincts announcements
- Spread the word about project
- Once financial parameters clear, set up website
- Enlist potential subscribers



Southern Councils Group

"Conduct a high level preliminary investigation of a community wind power generation scheme on the South Coast.

Short term objectives

- take local steps to address climate change by providing a more sustainable power source for South Coast residents
- provide regional employment opportunities
- boost local economies through infrastructure support and tourism

Long term objectives

- Make the South Coast self sufficient in energy production and provide Illawarra industry a diversified and sustainable manufacturing base for wind towers and turbines
