

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FORUM 18TH FEB 2022

10.00AM | Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country – Ben McGowan (Indigo Power)

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10.05AM | The Hume Community Power Hub – GV Community Energy & Indigo Power

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## 10.15AM | Effective Advocacy

Former Member of the Australian Parliament, Cathy McGowan AO



Drawing on her experience in government, Cathy will present on how to effectively advocate for a project in your community.

Cathy came to national attention when she won the seat of Indi as an independent in 2013. The community backed her again in 2016. In 2019 Indi made Australian political history when Dr Helen Haines was elected as Indi's second, independent woman. During her time as a politician Cathy actively worked in Parliament to develop policy around regional development, constitutional change for first nations people and a solution to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers. In 2019 she was awarded The Accountability Round Table award for political integrity. She is an Officer in the Order of Australia, a Churchill fellow and lives very happily on her farm in the Indigo Valley in NE Victoria.

## 11.00AM | Morning Tea

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## 11.20AM | Case study: Electrify Everything & Community Batteries in Melbourne

Tim Shue (Yarra Energy Foundation, Metropolitan Melbourne Community Power Hub)

Tim will present on the Yarra Energy Foundation's work building a neighbourhood battery and their 'electrify everything' work.

Tim is the chief operating officer at the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF), a not-for-profit in Richmond with a mission to reduce emissions from energy to zero by 2030. YEF is leading a community battery pilot for which Tim leads the community engagement. He has worked for several years in communications and project management for local, national, and international NFPs with a strong interest in strategic communication and city-scale climate action. Tim is also a board member of NFP Our Future Cities, an ambassador for the University of Melbourne's sustainability student leadership program, and the host of a podcast called Talking In This Climate.

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## 12PM | Community Batteries in the Hume Region

### Dr Marnie Shaw (Australian National University)

Dr Shaw will present on the latest research on community-scale batteries and the potential benefits they may offer to the grid, the local community, and the climate.

Dr Marnie Shaw is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Engineering at the Australian National University and a Research Leader in the Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program. Her research focuses on how energy storage can best support the decarbonisation of our energy system.



## 1.00PM | Lunch

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## 2.00PM | The Changing Electricity Market & What it Means for Community Energy

### Michael Mazengarb (RenewEconomy)



Michael will present on the future of the electricity market in Australia and what new regulation changes will mean for community energy.

Michael specialises in climate and energy policy, with over a decade of experience working for government, not-for-profits and media organisations. Originally from Canberra, he completed a science degree at the Australian National University and has slowly added strong communication skills and a deep understanding of politics to find himself writing for RenewEconomy based in Sydney.

## 3.00PM | Afternoon Tea

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### 3.30PM | Case study: Pumped Hydro for our Region

#### Matthew Charles-Jones (Totally Renewable Yackandandah)

Totally Renewable Yackandandah has just completed a feasibility study into pumped hydro and Matthew will talk through the findings of the study.

Matthew is a passionate advocate for sustainability, community and community energy. An original founder of Totally Renewable Yackandandah, Matthew is currently working on a wide range of projects including microgrids, community batteries, virtual power plants, energy resilience and a two-way energy market trial, (Project EDGE). In 2020 Totally Renewable Yackandandah received two Premiers Sustainability Awards and Matthew was nominated as a Victorian Local Hero in the Australian of the Year Award.

### 4.00PM | Case study: EVs in our Region

#### Russell Klose (Kilowatt Cars)

Russell will present on options for electric vehicles and what the future of transport looks like, and how this will change household energy consumption.

Russell Klose is the founder of Kilowatt Cars, a local company selling second hand electric vehicles. Russell became interested in electric cars as a necessary solution to climate change. Transport contributes 17% of Australia's emissions and electric vehicles will reimagine how households interact with the grid and electricity. For more than 20 years he owned Jappo Donks.

## 4.20PM | Forum Wrap Up & Close

### Ben McGowan (Indigo Power)

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