

YARRA ENERGY FOUNDATION

Annual Report
— 2024-2025

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From the Chair

Collaborating for an electrified future



I am proud to reflect on a year that has seen our organisation truly come into its own as a community battery innovator and key enabler for local electrification. In 2024–25, we demonstrated the strength of our role as a bridge between complex technical solutions and the communities that benefit most from them.

Our impact this year has been defined by our close collaboration with local governments, retailers, network companies and communities to deliver battery projects that are both technically robust and locally meaningful. Through front-of-meter (FOM) and behind-the-meter (BTM) initiatives, we've helped design and enable systems that go beyond energy storage and aim to build resilience, trust and shared understanding of our future energy system.

Equally important has been our work to drive local government ambition and capacity. Through recognised leadership in electrification programs, we've helped councils navigate the clean energy transition with confidence. We're especially proud to see one of our electrification programs recognised with a national award.

YEF also stepped into a more vocal role this year - publishing insights, hosting delegations and contributing to national conversations. What we've learned is of value to many, and we're committed to ensuring those learnings continue to be shared to shape the sector at large.

I'm inspired by the groundwork we've laid to explore emerging opportunities, while deepening our capacity in what we do best. I'm very much look forward to seeing YEF's continued progress over the year ahead.

David Anstee
Chair, Yarra Energy Foundation

From the CEO

Driving electrification at the heart of the transition

In the past twelve months, Yarra Energy Foundation has taken bold steps to grow our influence, sharpen our expertise, and deliver measurable value to communities navigating the energy transition.



Our community battery work has gained momentum. This year, we were thrilled to win funding for three new batteries in Torquay, Manor Lakes and Altona through a Federal Government program. We have partnered with one of Australia's greenest energy retailers, Diamond Energy, to deliver local benefits to local communities.

We've also expanded our work on behind-the-meter and microgrid models, delivering feasibility studies to councils and community groups aiming to boost energy resilience and cut emissions.

We've led the charge on electrification, with the *Hume Home Energy Upgrades* program, run by YEF with Hume City Council, earning national recognition at the 2025 Energy Efficiency Council Awards. We are optimistic that these programs can be scaled up to deliver health and cost of living benefits to more people.

Co-benefits of electrification that aid our collective transition while delivering sometimes transformative benefits to households by reducing energy bills and improving thermal comfort is at the heart of Australia's transition.

Looking ahead, we will continue our focus on delivering local projects that create local value to accelerate the speed and integrity of the energy transition.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DK', followed by a horizontal line.

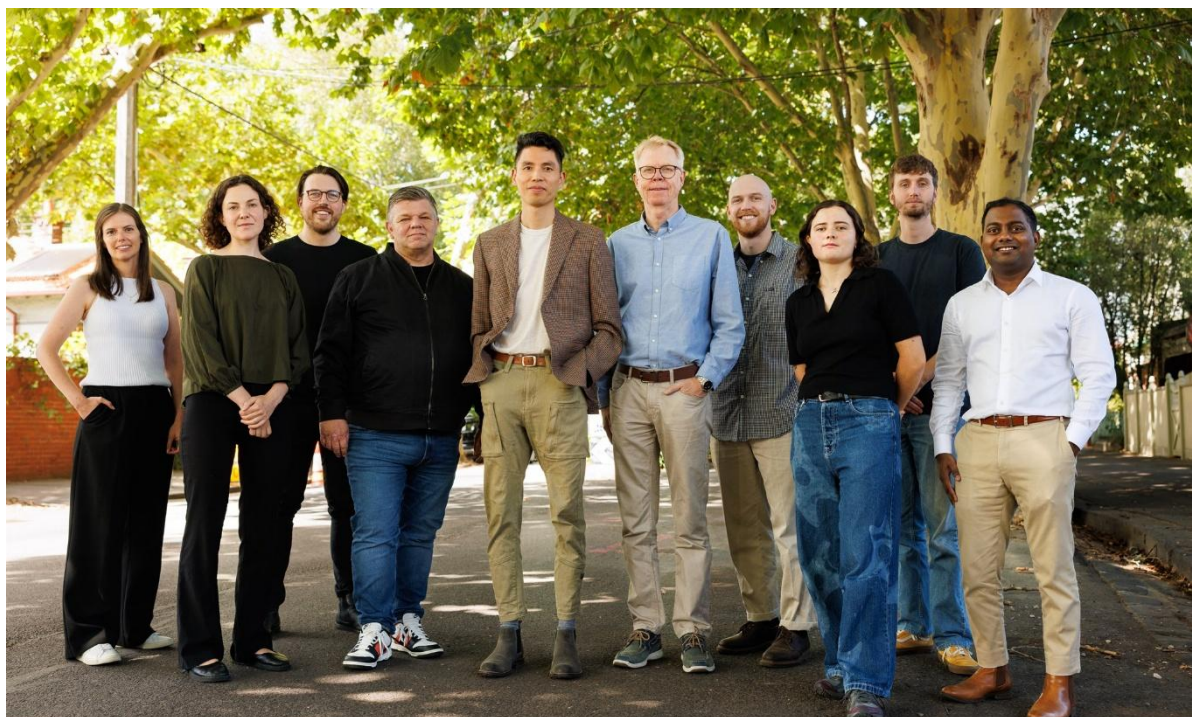
Dean Kline
CEO, Yarra Energy Foundation

About YEF

Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) is an independent not-for-profit organisation with a huge ambition - to build a cleaner energy system to address a changing climate.

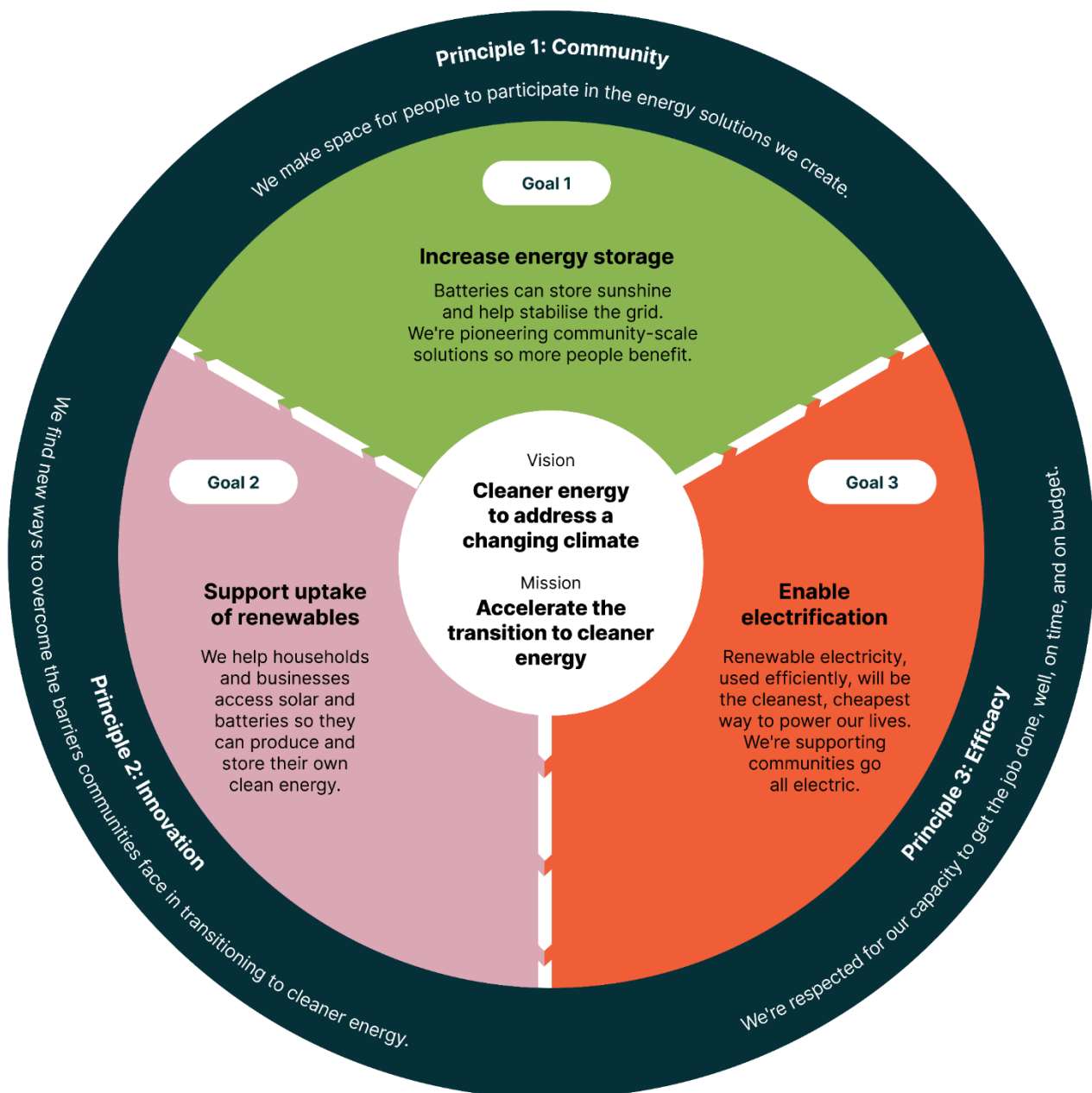
YEF exists to connect people to better energy. We do it by bringing government, industry, and community together to deliver innovative solutions for energy emissions reductions.

Established by Yarra City Council in 2010, this financial year YEF received support from Yarra City Council. The organisation is governed by an independent and highly experienced Board of Directors.



Our strategic approach: 2023-2028

To achieve our vision and mission we focus on our goals, backed by our principles. Through delivering projects we're exploring new ways to achieve our goals while adapting to changes in the market, policies, and technology, to ensure our impact is felt where it's needed most.



Our Goals



Increase energy storage

- Supported design and delivery of 6 community battery projects.
- Won funding for 3 community batteries.
- Continued the delivery of 2 YEF-owned community batteries.
- Delivered Victoria's first neighbourhood battery training courses with the Victorian Government to build industry capacity.
- Advocated for rule changes and processes that make installing and connecting community batteries easier.

Support uptake of renewables

- Facilitated deployment of 330 kW of rooftop solar through local government programmes.
- Reduced bill pressure for households with solar while reducing emissions.
- Supported operation of 8 batteries, enabling more homes and businesses to install solar and export cleaner energy.

Enable electrification

- Delivered two local government electrification programs.
- Won a national award for the leading local government program for the *Hume Home Energy Upgrades* program.
- Program impact
 - Set to abate 12,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually (including solar)
 - Facilitated investment of \$1.28m into solar & electrification upgrades
 - Engaged 2,300+ people on electrification
 - Facilitated installation of
 - 110 heating and cooling systems
 - 103 electric heat pumps
 - 17 induction cooktops
 - 45 household insulation upgrades



Our Impact

By the numbers

- **3 community batteries** – awarded Federal Government funding for delivery.
- **5 neighbourhood battery** feasibility studies delivered, including **1 for a microgrid**.
- **155 hours** of free training delivered through our free, capacity building, neighbourhood battery video series.
- **50 participants** completed YEF's neighbourhood battery training days, scoring the quality of their experience **9/10** on average.
- **12,051 tCO²-e** annual emissions reductions through our programs.
- **\$1.28m** invested by community and government subsidies through our programs with: **330kW of solar**, **110 heating and cooling systems**, **103 heat pumps**, **17 induction cooktops**, installed, as well as supporting **45 households to add insulation**.
- **2,300+** people engaged through community energy activities.
- **5 community batteries** supported by our project delivery services.
- **10 community energy events** and conferences hosted or contributed to.



This Year in Review

Batteries and back-up power

Key points

- Federal funding for three more YEF community batteries
- Success of behind-the-meter back-up batteries
- Flinders and Jemena community batteries delivered
- Training course success

Three More Community Batteries

YEF hit another community battery milestone this year, succeeding in a second round of the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar program. With this funding, we'll work with Diamond Energy, to install three front-of-meter batteries in Altona, Manor Lakes and Torquay.

An exciting feature of this project will be the development of a special retail offer to provide tangible benefits back to local households. Community consultation is a top priority and we'll be engaging with nearby communities in each suburb, working closely with prospective landholders, Hobsons Bay City Council (Altona), Wyndham City Council (Manor Lakes), and Barwon Water (Torquay).

Figure 1: YEF CEO, Dean Kline, with Libby Coker MP and representatives from Diamond Energy announcing the community battery grant award in Torquay.



Microgrid and Back-up Power

In 2024, YEF supported Monash City Council and the Borough of Queenscliffe with business cases for the *100 Neighbourhood Batteries* program Round 2. These projects sought to build local resilience and strengthen emergency responses during outages. Both sites were awarded funding in 2025.

YEF also produced a technical feasibility study for a microgrid located at the heart of Trentham for Trentham Sustainability Group. The project generated valuable insights into the complexities of microgrids, which has been shared publicly to help others considering microgrid energy resilience solutions.

Battery Training Course

Building on our first trainings, YEF delivered another two highly acclaimed sessions of our *Advanced Neighbourhood Battery Training Course*.

We welcomed over 50 participants from a variety of government, community and corporate sectors. The advanced course taught more complex concepts and tools, supporting attendees to apply for the *100 Neighbourhood Batteries* Program.

"Fantastic learning experience and very privileged to learn from the best in the industry. One of the best facilitated courses I've ever done and, as a battery novice, the learning was presented in a highly informative, relevant and respectful way."

– Kim Sullivan, Social Impact and Grants Specialist, AusNet (Energy Resilience Community Fund Manager)



50 participants
2 training sessions
4 days

How did they rate our training on average?

9/10

Quality of
experience

9/10

How
engaging

9/10

Quality of
presenters



Flinders Community Battery

Over 2023 and 2024 YEF worked with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Acacia Energy and Flinders Zero Carbon Community (FZCC), to deliver the first Council-owned community battery.

A key success of this project was the collaborative effort between project partners and the Community Reference Group. This responsive approach deepened local outcomes, including finding a suitable home for the battery.

After much hard work, the battery was launched in October 2024 outside the Flinders Community Hub with the Assistant Minister for Climate Change & Energy, the Hon. Josh Wilson MP. The project is a showcase for how local governments and community groups can work together to deliver tangible community energy solutions.



Figure 2: Launch event for the Flinders community battery in October 2024.

Community Engagement for Community Batteries

In 2023, Jemena, one of Victoria's Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP), engaged YEF to support the delivery of four battery projects funded by the Australian Government. As part of this project, YEF delivered community engagement services.

Four community batteries were delivered in Bellfield, Coburg, Alphington and Flemington to support the grid and household solar, helping

to accelerate the evolution of the local grid.

Sector leadership

In the battery space, YEF also had a range of opportunities to share and grow our expertise including:

- Attending the Future of Neighbourhood Batteries Conference at ANU.
- Hosting international delegations from Vietnam and Malaysia.
- Publishing blogs, on topics including engagement and emissions accounting.

Follow us on
LinkedIn to stay
up to date!

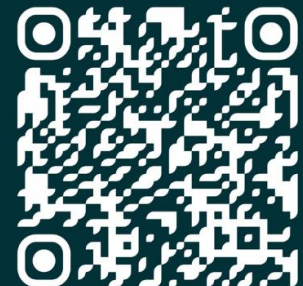


Figure 3: Tim Shue and Marie Lakey (YEF) at Jemena's first community battery launch in Bellfield, 2025.



Enabling electrification

Hume Home Energy Upgrades program

After the successful completion of the Home Solar Rollout in August 2024, YEF worked with Hume City Council to deliver an award-winning electrification program.

This expanded program offered heating and cooling systems, hot water heat pumps, induction cooktops, insulation and draft proofing through a simple streamlined process to improve comfort, reduce bills and emissions.

As a trusted advisor, YEF's role was to support customers through their installation journey and make the complex parts simple for residents to understand. Our presence provides assurance to the local government partner that installers and products are reliable and of high quality.

The program made huge strides, with 208 upgrades completed (as of June 2025) and 123 council concession rebates delivered, helping more household access this program and become more energy efficient.

In June 2025 the program received the *Leading Energy Management Government Program* award from the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) Awards. This program is delivered with Hume City council, All Electric Homes and Enviroflex Insulation.

Love Bayside, Electrify Everything

Developed in partnership with Bayside City Council, this program supported residents to replace gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives, including reverse-cycle air conditioners, heat pump hot water systems, and induction cooktops. Through the project, YEF helped break down common barriers such as confusion, costs, and uncertainty about installers. The program received over 400 registrations, resulting in 106 appliances installed.

The program was launched in mid-2023 and has twice been extended by Council. The most recent extension will expand the offering to include insulation, rooftop solar, batteries and EV chargers, with these additional upgrades available later in 2025.

Wired for Tomorrow

In January 2025, YEF launched *Wired for Tomorrow*, a vision of an all-electric precinct in Fitzroy and Clifton Hill. Working with the design firm Little Sketches, this vision considers past, current and future trajectories in the energy transition and pathways that could achieve an all-electric precinct. This project was funded by Yarra City Council and delivered in collaboration with Electrify Yarra. You can see the [vision here](#).

Sector leadership:

In the electrification space, YEF also participated in several events and forums including:

- Presenting at All-Energy Australia, on Wired for Tomorrow and electrification efforts on the ground.
- Hosting Rewiring Australia and Rewiring America with local electrification groups from across Melbourne to host a delegation.
- Engaging with industry and research leaders at Australian Clean Energy Summit.



Sharing knowledge to accelerate the transition

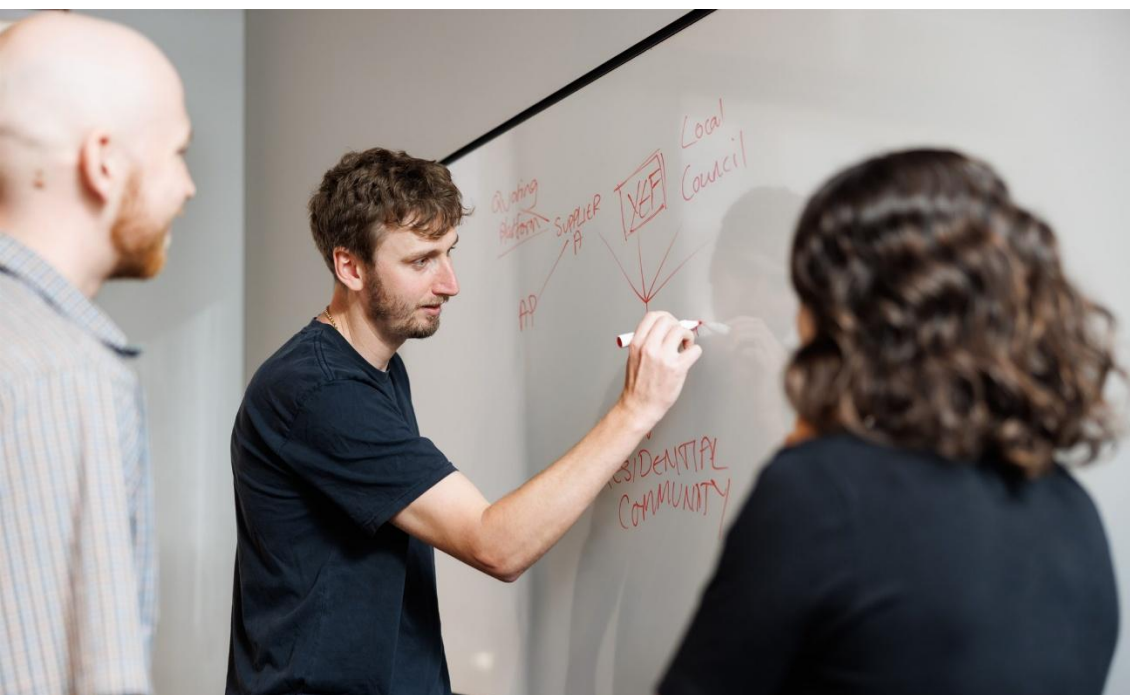
This year, YEF shared our knowledge and insights with our community and the wider sector through various events, publications and social media. Capacity building with households, businesses and the industry provides an additional means through which our work is accelerating the energy transition, by sharing expertise we've gained through delivering unique and innovative projects.



A key piece of work was the Fitzroy North Community Battery Year 2 Performance Report. The report reflected our learnings from two years of operating a battery to help others with deploying storage. We heard positive feedback from the industry for the report's detail about the real challenges with battery operations.

Importantly, we sought to share these and other learnings across our social media and widely read online publications. A highlight, Energy and Storage Project Lead, Lachlan Hensey was interviewed for the SwitchedOn podcast, discussing our experience of installing and operating a community battery.

YEF also published several great articles in our new LinkedIn newsletter, which received over 4,000 article views and 806 new subscribers. Topics included a deep dive on batteries and emissions, electrifying apartments, engagement on batteries, school solar and battery projects and much more.



Culture at YEF

At YEF we engage in ground-breaking projects with others who show up because of a shared passion for a clean energy future.

We are lucky to have a team that values diversity and supports each other's unique contributions. We have a flexible working environment, supporting our team as people, to enable them to balance personal and professional worlds.

Our team is continuing to grow and if you are interested in working with us, please email your CV and expression of interest to information@yef.org.au, we'd love to hear from you.



Celebrating time at YEF

This year we said farewell to our colleague Lachlan Hensey, who joined YEF in 2021. Originally coming from the disability sector, Lachlan was new to the energy sector. Cutting his teeth on a Community Power Hub project, he applied a deep curiosity and willingness to learn.

From household energy consultations to supporting community energy initiatives, his early efforts reflected a talent translating complex ideas into meaningful, practical guidance for residents, councils and groups alike.

Early at YEF, Lachlan got involved in the Fitzroy North community battery and development of battery business cases, which helped YEF grow into a leader in this space, ensuring technology served real community needs.

Just a few years on, he became a well-known speaker on neighbourhood batteries, delivering Neighbourhood Battery Training Courses. One of Lachlan's favourite achievements during his time at YEF was a research project on energy vulnerability in regional Victoria, and several policy submissions that pushed for a more equitable transition.

Lachlan wrote an article, *Do batteries reduce greenhouse gas emissions?* which challenges our perceptions of how emissions are reduced from energy.



Lachlan has embarked on a PhD exploring how the energy transition is shaped by the interactions between government, communities and the energy sector. We thank him for his dedication, intellect and friendship and we look forward to continued collaboration and wish him every success in this next chapter.



This year we also said farewell Marie Lakey, Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Officer, who joined YEF in 2023. Marie led community and stakeholder consultation across many projects, including the delivery of four community batteries. From all the team at YEF we wish her all the very best with her new role at the Community Power Agency!

Looking Forward

As Australia decarbonises, the energy system must adapt to a new era defined by decentralising infrastructure, bidirectional energy flows, and evolving community needs. At Yarra Energy Foundation, we are focusing our attention on the strategic challenges and opportunities that come with integrating more Consumer Energy Resources (CER) - not just rooftop solar and home batteries - but increasingly electric vehicles and smart appliances.

An exciting frontier is the intersection of electric vehicles (EVs) and battery storage. With the rapid growth of EV ownership, Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology presents a unique opportunity to unlock more storage to support the grid.

Think EV fleets at schools, depots and community hubs as community battery systems capable of supporting the grid, delivering backup power during outages, and contributing to local emissions reductions.

We're also exploring how the success of our electrification programs with local governments can inform broader, scalable approaches while still delivering bill savings and improved health outcomes. How do we leverage what's working to scale-up models that boost community participation and take up of such programs?

We see a need to elevate how Australia manages the emerging complexity of a distributed energy future. With more smart devices, flexible demand, and variable generation entering the grid, the need for trusted community partners like YEF to support coordination, education and advocacy is also set to grow.

We will continue working with DNSPs, regulators, and governments to ensure communities are equipped to participate meaningfully in the new energy landscape and we look forward to sharing our insights and reflections after another year of impactful and innovative work.



Our People

Staff

Dean Kline, CEO
Sasha Mayorov, CFO
Timothy Shue, COO
Glenn Drover, Company Secretary
Chris Wallin, Energy & Storage Programs Manager
Nicole Lonergan, Project Officer - Stakeholder Engagement
Finn Buchhorn, Energy & Storage Project Officer, Emerging Business
Phani Harsha Yeggina, Energy & Storage Project Officer
Lloyd Heathfield, Project Officer
Marie Lakey, Communications & Engagement Officer (until June 2025)
Lachlan Hensey, Energy & Storage Lead (until April 2025)
Margaux Durack, Student Intern (February 2025-April 2025)

Advisors

Mitch O'Neil, Principal Consultant, Grids
Lachlan Hensey, Energy & Storage Consultant

Board of Directors

Current Board of Directors

David Anstee, Chair
Kirstin Schneider, Vice Chair
Melinda Scaringi, Non-executive Director
Arunesh Choubey, Non-executive Director
Gavin Lewis, Non-executive Director
Cara Spencer, Non-executive Director
Amanda Stone, Non-executive Director (appointed December 2024)



Learn more about YEF

Website: <https://www.yef.org.au/about-us/our-people/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/yarra-energy-foundation/mycompany>

Popular services

Solar and electrification programs

Lloyd Heathfield, lloyd.heathfield@yef.org.au

Neighbourhood battery support services

Chris Wallin, chris.wallin@yef.org.au

Community engagement strategy and implementation

Tim Shue, tim.shue@yef.org.au



Yarra Energy Foundation Limited
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Revenue	3	1,130	1,720
Total revenue		<u>1,130</u>	<u>1,720</u>
Expenses			
Auditor Remuneration		(8)	(5)
Occupancy Expense		(39)	(34)
Employee benefits expense		(963)	(877)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(42)	(28)
Project Costs		(166)	(425)
Administration		(139)	(147)
Total expenses		<u>(1,357)</u>	<u>(1,516)</u>
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) for the year attributable to the members of Yarra Energy Foundation Limited		<u><u>(227)</u></u>	<u><u>204</u></u>

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the
accompanying notes*

Yarra Energy Foundation Limited
Statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,572	1,207
Trade and other receivables	5	81	68
Total current assets		<u>1,653</u>	<u>1,275</u>
Non-Current assets			
Property, plant & equipment		<u>546</u>	<u>232</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>546</u>	<u>232</u>
Total assets		<u>2,199</u>	<u>1,507</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		136	132
Employee benefits	6	91	95
Income received in advance		<u>1,180</u>	<u>261</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>1,407</u>	<u>488</u>
Total liabilities		<u>1,407</u>	<u>488</u>
Net assets		<u>792</u>	<u>1,019</u>
Equity			
Retained surpluses	7	<u>792</u>	<u>1,019</u>
Total equity		<u>792</u>	<u>1,019</u>

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Yarra Energy Foundation Limited
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Retained profits \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2023	815	815
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	204	204
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	204	204
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>1,019</u>	<u>1,019</u>

	Retained profits \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2024	1,019	1,019
Deficit after income tax expense for the year	(227)	(227)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(227)	(227)
Balance at 30 June 2025	<u>792</u>	<u>792</u>

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Yarra Energy Foundation Limited
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		2,225	2,225
Payments to suppliers		(1,514)	(1,801)
Interest Received		10	9
Net cash from operating activities		721	433
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(356)	(8)
Net cash used in investing activities		(356)	(8)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		365	425
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,207	782
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	4	1,572	1,207

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

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**YARRA
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