



Augusta Margaret River
Clean Community Energy

**2020/21
ANNUAL
REPORT**

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FROM THE CHAIR



2020-2021 has been a challenging but exciting year for AMRCCE. I was elected Chair in late 2020 and our initial meetings were held virtually due to shutdowns and my absence from Western Australia until immediately after Christmas. However, despite the impacts of Covid-19, AMRCCE has achieved much in the last twelve months including:

- signing an Energy Marketing and Management Agreement (EMMA) with Clear Energy to implement our Community Energy Project to provide retail electricity to customers who opt to have solar panels installed on their roofs at no cost to them and with a saving in electricity costs;
- reviewing the high-level feasibility study and financial model that confirmed the business case for continuing with the proposed wind farm detailed feasibility study particularly in light of changes in the access to the grid introduced by the Western Australian Government;

FROM THE CHAIR

- advancing regenerative agriculture in the Scott River region as a result of the Z-filter trial, supported by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Regional Estuaries Initiative the State Government's Royalties for Regions and conducted by AMRCCE and a local dairy farmer, to separate dairy waste into solid and liquid reducing the need for commercial fertilisers, providing recycled water for irrigation; enabling carbon sequestration in farm soils and farm efficiencies; and finally
- the development of Zero: The Revolving Fund that will enable the installation of energy saving devices such as solar panels, low energy lighting and heating through interest free loans repayable over up to five years. Zero will be applied initially to community, not- for-profit organisations but may be

extended to low-income households in the future. Zero is funded by a grant of up to \$50,000 from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River; for which we are very grateful, member donations and a pledge of \$25,000 donation from Clear Energy.

AMRCCE is justifiably proud of its achievements in 2021 as it approaches realisation of the programs originally agreed in 2017. We are also proud of our contribution to the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's commitment to achieve net Zero carbon emissions by 2030; a stellar exemplar of the great contributions regional Australia is making to a more sustainable future, a contribution supported by some industries and State Governments. One can only hope that, in this very week that the world seeks to reach agreement on reducing Green House gases, Australia might be united by this essential cause.

FROM THE CHAIR

AMRCCE's success is the product of a committed and ambitious Committee, which I have been proud to chair in 2020-21, its members, and a very supportive Shire and local community that has given generously to our cause. However, our need for support continues, particularly in funding Zero: the Revolving Fund which is such a great cause for our region; enabling installation of energy saving devices for groups that do not have adequate funds to install such devices.

I want to thank previous committee members Suzanne Hicks who stepped down at the last AGM, Ken Dyer who resigned early this year and Michael Carr who resigned recently to spend more time with family. We really appreciate your contribution.

Sadly, from my point of view, I will not stand for the position of Chair this year as Maria and I have chosen to follow our hearts to spend more time interstate to be closer to our family. I wish the incoming AMRCCE Committee and the region and its communities success in reaching our common goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; contributing to a cleaner, safer and more equitable world.

**Emeritus Professor David S Wood
PhD**

ABOUT US



OUR VISION

Our not-for-profit community action group based in Augusta Margaret River, seeks to protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean energy.

OUR MISSION

To protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through:

- facilitating the use and provision of renewable energy installations and devices, especially for those who would otherwise not have access to them;
- encouraging renewable and energy efficient facilities within the Shire by undertaking feasibility studies & business cases e.g. from a wind farm to an anaerobic digester;
- conducting research and development on the options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Augusta Margaret River Shire; and
- providing education on renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We are a community group that is outcomes focused, locals working locally on local issues, empowering people to contribute to reducing emissions while supporting environmental justice.

We aim to achieve our mission while buying local and improving the affordability of clean energy.

OUR PEOPLE



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Deputy Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

David Wood
Ian Williams
Laura Stocker
Beth Dowling

Members

Lyn Serventy
Jessica Worrall
Bruce Hamilton
David Hargreaves
Micahel Carr
Ken Dyer (until end Feb)

AMRCCE is managed by a Management Committee consisting of Chair; Deputy Chair; Secretary, Treasurer and Management Committee Members. From time to time sub-committees co-opt additional persons to assist its activities as required. Current Management Committee Members were elected at our last AGM and are listed above.

The organisation itself is entirely staffed by volunteers. As is usual in organisations such as ours, besides our regular volunteers many people have volunteered to make our activities possible throughout the year. We thank each and everyone of your valued contribution.

Torben Grell was our contractor for the Z-Filter Trial until the completion of the project and we congratulate him on him being offered a PhD with the University of Southern Queensland to continue the research he commenced with AMRCCE.

We welcome Rob McDonald, Community Energy Manager South West Region who is seconded to AMRCCE by energy retailer Clear Energy as part of our Energy Marketing & Management Agency Agreement.

OUR KEY PARTNERS



**TRANSITION
Margaret River**

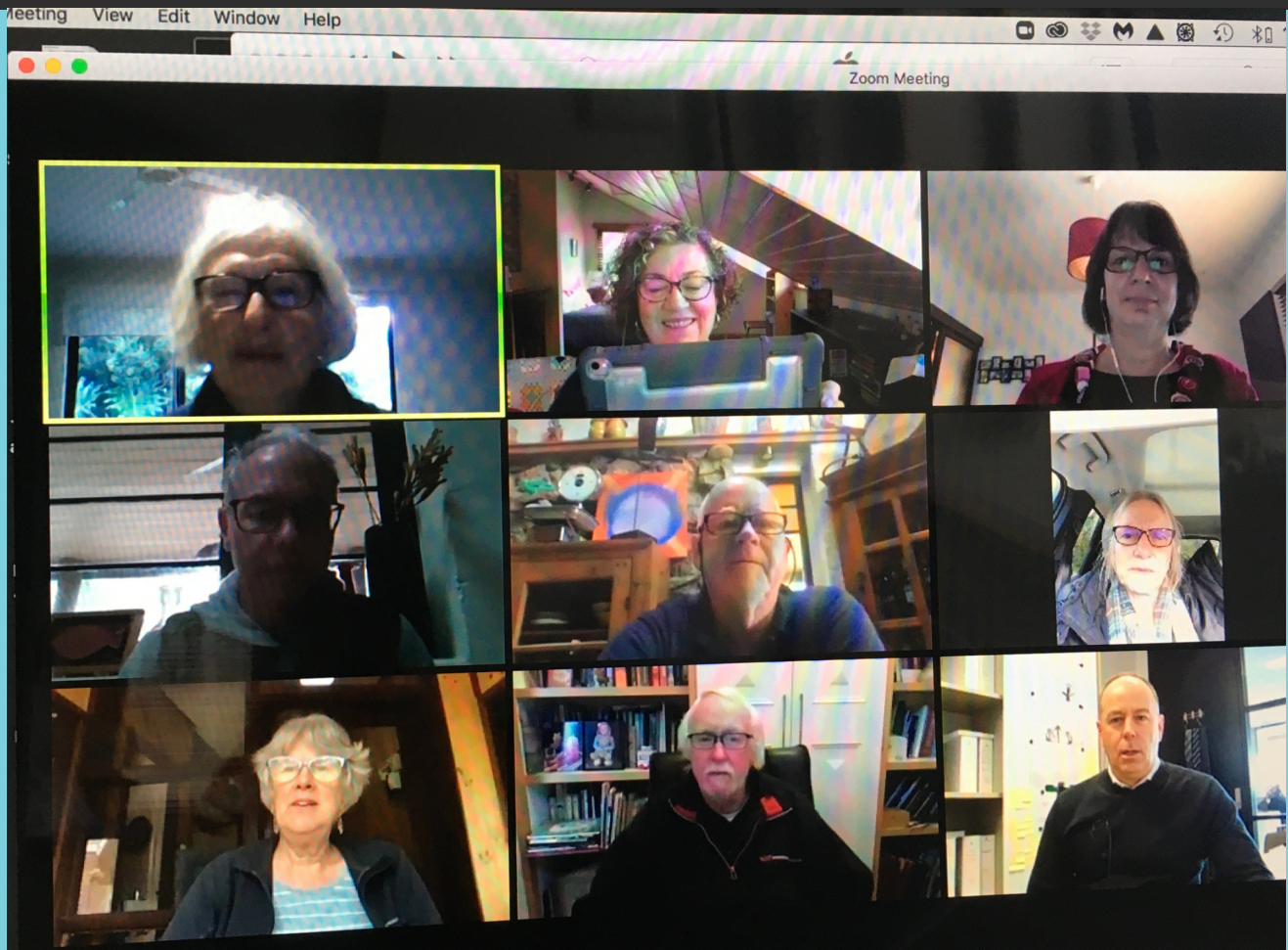


THANK YOU

We are very grateful for the support and assistance we receive from our key partners in achieving our vision and would like to acknowledge the assistance received from:

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River
Margaret River Rotary Club
Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
Transition Margaret River
Department of Water & Environmental Regulation
Regional Estuaries Initiative
The Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR)
University of Southern Queensland
University of Western Australia
Lotterywest

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



REVIEW & CONSOLIDATION

As reported previously AMRCCE's work has, over time, expanded to four projects. The four projects are in line with the priority actions identified at the Climate Summit (CAS) and support the actions identified in the Climate Action Plan to meet the agreed emission reduction targets of Net Zero emissions by 2030.

This financial year, like the rest of the community, AMRCCE found itself slowed down by the effects of the Pandemic and used the opportunity to review and confirm its projects. The outcome of each of these is reported separately.

One issue that has come to the fore is the increasing need for AMRCCE to find secure support for its educational and administrative activities. This is a challenge that we aim to address in the year to come and encourage anyone in the community with interest to join our volunteer group to do.

OUR PROJECTS - WIND



As previously indicated AMRCCE's goal has been to complete a feasibility study and gain approval for a 10MW Grid Connected windfarm in the Scott River and to find a suitable partner to develop the wind farm providing our community with a share holding to fund ongoing projects to reduce the emissions from energy consumption by the community.

Our work in this area will continue in the context of expected legislative, commercial and technical rule changes required to address Transmission Network Congestion not expected until 2022, the withdrawal of Enercon from the Southern hemisphere and the rapidly changing environment in the renewables sector.

This project is intended to result in a 10MW; Wind Powered facility to produce $\approx 40\%$ Energy consumed through the grid by AMR community and to reduce $\approx 23,000$ tonnes CO₂/year with an estimated total project value of $\approx \$25$ million.

To date:

- Location has been identified within 3 km of Beenup Substation
- The wind data has been quantified and analysed
- Access Application initiated
- Concept Planning Proposal submitted to AMRS February 2020

OUR PROJECTS - BIOGAS

THE Z FILTER TRIAL

AMRCCE complete its Z-Filter Trial supported by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Regional Estuaries Initiative funded through the State's Government Royalties for Regions.

The Trial was conducted to establish whether it was possible to separate fresh dairy effluent into stackable solids and liquid filtrate with a view to informing the feasibility study of establishing a 2MW aggregated anaerobic digester producing biogas from dairy effluent and the potential for water quality improvements by reducing run off and leaching into waterways.

The trial was conducted in a dairy farm in the Scott River and the outcomes include:

- Manure Separation Trial Completed and implemented in largest Dairy Farm in Shire
- Closed Loop Manure Management Model developed - with environmental (water quality and emissions reduction), regenerative agriculture and economic benefits - 365,000 m³ of water returned/yr; >500 tonnes CO₂/yr reduction in methane venting; 300 tonnes/yr of compost produced (equivalent to \$130,000)
- Waste Reuse/Environmental Benefits - reduction of emissions and of nutrients into waterway;
- Butane Methane Potential (BMP) of waste of grass-fed dairy cows measured – not previously available in scientific literature
- Insufficient energy for economic production of energy as sole fuel source– requires studies to find viable economic co-digestion with other waste as fuel sources
- AMRCCE sponsoring PhD student with University of Southern Queensland (USQ) to further study the agronomic benefit of dairy waste compost/digestate



OUR PROJECTS - COMMUNITY ENERGY



Clear Energy 



COMMUNITY ENERGY

In March 2021 Augusta Margaret River Clean Community Energy completed its due diligence process conducted over the last 18 months with Clear Energy and announced that it had entered into an Energy Marketing and Management Agreement (EMMA) with Clear Energy Pty Ltd a subsidiary of Tersum Energy Pty Ltd to deliver affordable and clean energy to the community of Augusta Margaret River similar to the arrangement that of Clear Energy has with Geraldton Community Energy.

This is an agreement to supply electricity to businesses and individuals without renewables through a combination of grid and renewable energy generation where Clear Energy installs, owns and maintains infrastructure such as a solar system and the customer pays less than before and emissions are reduced.

Key outcomes include:

- Marketing Agency Agreement with Clear Energy in place
- Two contestable customers signed up with expected reduction in emissions of 845,000 kg Co2/year and greater than 15% savings on average
- Commencing offering to Community - aims to deliver more than 20MW of renewable generation capacity within 5 years
- 1 local job at present, local contractors used to construct generation

OUR PROJECTS - ZERO: THE REVOLVING FUND

Community Funded Climate Projects

with support from:



Clear Energy

and local donations



AMRCCE has always intended to assist to reduce emissions by funding emission reduction projects in the community and facilitating the use and provision of renewable energy installations and devices especially for those who would otherwise not have access to them. We look to empower people to contribute to reducing emissions while supporting environmental justice - **locals working locally on local issues**.

After considerable work with the support of Corena (corenafund.org.au); a Resilience Grant from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River; and a donation pledge from Clear Energy, we are inching closer to launching Zero-the Revolving Fund. This fund will provide Zero-interest loans, initially to community groups, to fund climate beneficial projects such as installing solar panels, improving energy efficiency, switching away from fossil gas use or purchasing electric vehicles. The resultant savings on energy/fuel bills will cover the loan repayments into our revolving fund so that they can do their part to tackle the climate emergency by reducing their carbon footprint immediately without diverting any of their budget away from delivering services to the community. When the project has "paid for itself" they will have lower operating costs meaning more money available for their core purpose.

This project aims to:

- reach \$100,000 of seed funding 50% from AMR Shire and 50% community donations
- Fund ~100 kW of PV installations in our initial year (assuming \$1,000 per kW) – generating ~ 175,200 kwh with estimated carbon emissions reduction of 122,640 CO₂/yr
- fund a further 190kW of PV installations over 7 years with the re-lending of loan repayments of the original \$100,000 seed to provide loans of \$190,000.
- Raise \$30,000 of annual tax-deductible donations to increase pool to \$210,000 to fund another 210kW and over subsequent years to yield a total of 500kW over the initial 7 years.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC EVENTS



AMRCCE were not alone to have their community and public events hindered by the advent of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Many of our normal activities such as participation in the Margaret River Show and the Augusta River Festival did not eventuate as these events did not go ahead.

A planned Farmers Day at the Boley Farm to do a show & tell of the Z-Filter was also cancelled to be scheduled for a future date.

Nonetheless, we presented during the "**Local is More**" month a *Local Renewable Energy* seminar and had meetings in Augusta to explore whether a microgrid could give Augusta greater energy reliability together with more affordable and greener energy.

We were also able to go ahead with our Open Garden event where there were art, raffles, plants, music and a much appreciated session on soil and plant care.

Our appreciation go to all the volunteers that made this event possible and allowed AMRCCE replenish their coffers with proceeds close to \$6,000. Our thanks also go to the community of Augusta Margaret River who so generously supported the event.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR MEMBERS OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER CLEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY INC

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying statement of receipts and payments of Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

In my opinion, the accompanying statement of receipts and payments presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and payments of Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Charitable Collections Act 1946.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

It is not practical for Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc to maintain absolute control over all donations and fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, the audit in relation to fundraising activities and donations was limited to amounts recorded.

The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement of Receipts and Payments* section of the report. I am independent of Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) relevant to the audit of the statement of receipts and payments in Australia. Other ethical responsibilities have been fulfilled in accordance with that Code. The audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the basis of accounting under which the statement of receipts and payments has been prepared. The statement of receipts and payments is prepared to provide information to members of Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc Responsibilities for the Statement of Receipts and Payments

Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the statement of receipts and payments in accordance with the Charitable Collections Act 1946. The members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the statement of receipts and payments that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of receipts and payments, Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc is responsible for assessing the ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc either intends to liquidate or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

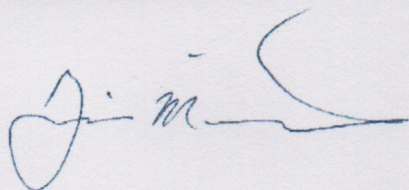
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement of Receipts and Payments

The objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of receipts and payments as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes an opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this statement of receipts and payments.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, professional judgement and professional scepticism are maintained throughout the audit. In addition the audit seeks to:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the statement of receipts and payments, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc ability to continue as a going concern. If it is concluded that a material uncertainty exists, it is a requirement to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the statement of receipts and payments or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. Conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by Augusta Clean Community Energy Inc.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the statement of receipts and payments, including the disclosures, and whether the statement of receipts and payments represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

If the need arose, I would communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit.



Brian Middleton CPA JP
Middletons Business Advisory

26 October 2021

Margaret River

AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER CLEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY INC

**AUDITED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	\$	\$
RECEIPTS		
Contributions towards expenses	5,622	351
Donations	5,409	12,752
Fundraising (net)	5,026	670
Grant - Shire of AMR	-	20,000
Grant - LotteryWest	-	15,519
Memberships	36	2,509
Sale of used equipment	-	400
Workers compensation claim proceeds	11,088	22,787
	<u>27,181</u>	<u>74,988</u>
PAYMENTS		
Computer equipment and supplies	2,003	-
Consultant fees	6,098	-
Grant expenditure		
- FRRR	2,520	1,840
- Lotterywest - computer equipment	113	14,802
- Z-Filter - DWER	19,574	118,656
Insurance	2,653	2,488
Miscellaneous expenses	1,658	1,193
Postage and stationery	292	199
Website and software	685	805
Workers compensation payment	11,088	24,106
GST movement	58	13,849
	<u>46,742</u>	<u>177,938</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(19,561)	(102,950)
OPENING FUNDS	<u>91,744</u>	<u>194,694</u>
CLOSING FUNDS	<u><u>72,182</u></u>	<u><u>91,744</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash on hand	47	47
Cheque account	64,149	91,697
Public fund account	7,986	-
	<u><u>72,182</u></u>	<u><u>91,744</u></u>