

## RENEWABLE NEWSTEAD

Report to Newstead 2021. 22/2/13

Having successfully completed the Home Energy Assessment program in conjunction with CVSC ( now SRA) , RN is looking at the next steps in our ambition to solve the worlds energy worries.

We have – spoken to other communities on the same journey ( Kyabram and Murchison)

presented at a Community Power conference in Bendigo

received funding from SRA to employ Karly part time to keep the ball rolling

conducted a couple of discussion events ( PV, smart meters etc)

constantly monitored the 'vibe' of the community, aware that the social context of our work is the most important evaluation tool.

had meetings with many interested experts ( Tosh , ABB, SRA etc)

### The Next Steps

Tosh Szatow ( Energy For The People) is planning to do a trial of 4 or 5 households of his model of intensive interaction around HEAs to reduce the amount of energy used.

Discussion with ABB re a plan for a PV park with battery smoothing and possible gas turbine generation. They have done some initial 'back of the envelop' modelling and are keen to progress. The first sticking point is our desire ( and need, if the business model is to stack up) to 'ring fence' the town to mitigate the distribution costs for any energy produced. ABB are keen to accompany us in an approach to Powercor ( with SRA – Ross Eggleton) to get in principal agreement about a ring fence. We bring the social benefit, ABB the technical expertise to alleviate any concerns about power surges etc and SRA the proven track record in these sort of projects.

If we are successful with this approach to Powercor then a public meeting

might be called with ABB to open up discussion broadly and plot the path forward. We could make an application for funding to proceed with a detailed cost plan , technical study, social impact and Newstead Power business plan.

ABB did indicate that once this stage is reached they felt fairly confident that some capital funding would be available from ARENA to enable the project to proceed.

Issues for our community down the track in this - Philosophical – the desire for maximum carbon abatement, financial viability, greenhouse gas reduction, fully renewable etc are not mutually inclusive. At some time soon compromises will need to be made and awkward decisions reached. We need to ensure that we do little or no damage to the social fabric during this process.

Financial – this will cost money! How or where we raise this will be important. How do we keep those unable to contribute involved? How are decisions made? Is Newstead Power a business or a not for profit? How or where are the benefits / profits ( if any ) spread?

Don Culvenor