

Media Release, 22/2/21

Tabling of the Australian Local Power Agency Bill

Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) was present at Parliament House yesterday when independent federal member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines MP, tabled the Australian Local Power Agency (ALPA) bill.

This bill will set up ALPA to enact the Local Power Plan, developed last year by Helen Haines' office and an expert panel of community energy groups from around Australia, including TRY. Community representatives from NSW and Victoria watched the introduction of the bill.

The bill represents the culmination of a years consultation with the expert panel and almost 100 submissions from organisations and individuals around Australia. It aims to fill a gap in Australia's renewable energy landscape, encouraging mid-scale renewable energy projects that directly benefit local communities.

TRY president Dr Juliette Milbank said "TRY is deeply supportive of the bill with its strategy to encourage community energy groups to build knowledge, stimulate mid-scale renewable projects and facilitate community investment in large-scale projects."

"Already in Yackandandah we have three microgrids, a 200-property minigrid, and with Indigo Power we are excited to be installing a 274 kWh community retail battery with Victorian government support."

Yackandandah and Beechworth are also about to be the launchpad for project EDGE, a \$30 million funded two-way energy marketplace trial by ARENA, Mondo and private investors.

These initiatives are reflective of the dedication of community energy groups within north-east Victoria and which the Local Power Plan will amplify.

The Local Power Plan is a roadmap to ensure that regional Australia will participate in and benefit from the boom underway in renewable energy.

With the best renewable resources in the world, Australia has a once in a lifetime opportunity to ensure that the benefits reinvigorate rural and regional Australia, bringing economic opportunities, reliability in energy supply and resilience to prepare for the future.

ENDS

Photo:

Matthew Charles-Jones from TRY speaking at the press conference with Helen Haines MP, Zali Steggall MP, and other community representatives at Parliament House yesterday. Credit: Emily Jones

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