



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



AUSTRALIAN  
**WIND ALLIANCE**



**PHOTO (COVER):** Waubra Wind Farm. © Acciona Energy Australia.

**PHOTO (THIS PAGE):** Wind Farm Open Day visitors learn about wind energy at Bald Hills Wind Farm. © Infrastructure Capital Group.

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# NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR



A step change has happened for wind energy in Australia in the last 12 months. A huge construction boom is bringing a once-in-a-generation opportunity for regional Australian communities

to diversify their agricultural economies with clean energy. AWA's vision is to see these benefits flow widely throughout those communities, right across the 25 year lives of those wind farms.

Through our extensive networks in wind districts throughout the country we are promoting this clean technology and helping to paint the picture of this transformation.

This year saw the release of our landmark report, *Building Stronger Communities: Wind's growing role in regional Australia*, outlining the different ways in which wind farms are contributing to local communities and highlighting some of the many different arrangements communities and wind farm operators have made together. For the first time, we presented a survey of Wind Farm Community Enhancement Funds around the country. The report was widely publicised and is proving a valuable resource for communities.

We continued our work informing local communities and building support for projects in the New England and around Yass in New South Wales. We also continued to work with industry to see best practice community engagement and strong community outcomes.

Communication remains a key part of our work with projects including a Wind Farm Media Fact Sheet, an increased focus on video content and co-hosting of a Wind Farm Open Day with the Clean Energy Council.

Political support for wind remains important and we've continued to promote good policy outcomes at local, state and federal level.

I do want to thank the many people who have made our work possible, including our hundreds of members and supporters, volunteers, donors, as well as staff and board members.

As wind energy continues to grow, AWA will keep working to make sure communities remain at the centre of this growth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Bray".

Andrew Bray, National Coordinator

**“ THIS YEAR SAW THE RELEASE OF OUR LANDMARK REPORT, BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: WIND'S GROWING ROLE IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA... ”**

PHOTO (BACKGROUND):  
Bald Hills Wind Farm.  
© Infrastructure  
Capital Group.

# MEMBER SNAPSHOTS



## **Matthew Scargill, Student**

Matthew recently completed year 12 at Erindale College in the ACT. Matthew volunteers at AWA events promoting wind energy to the public and enjoys sharing his passion for an innovative and renewable future.



## **Angela Rozali, Senior Engineer, AECOM**

Angela is a senior engineer in AECOM's Renewable Generation team, working with developers from feasibility through to the construction, operation and maintenance of large-scale solar, wind and battery developments. "I love wind because it is a cost-effective form of electricity that will help Australia transition away from fossil fuels."



## **Jim Rathjen, farmer, Palmer Wind Farm landholder**

Jim is a fourth-generation farmer on the edge of the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia, on properties taken up by his great-grandfather in 1849. "I'm a committed fine wool producer. I'm looking forward to hosting wind turbines as I am convinced the future of energy production must be 'green' and Tilt has plans for the local communities to share the benefits."



## **Bruce Beatson, retired farmer, South Gippsland**

Bruce is a retired dairy farmer living in the South Gippsland region. An environmentalist, Bruce trained in 2006 with the Australian Conservation Foundation's Climate Project team with Al Gore. He has recently taken a position in community liaison with the Alberton Wind farm project.



## **Riika Heikkinen, Project Manager and PhD student**

Riikka worked in the wind power industry in Finland as a project manager and, before that, supervised environmental assessments of large-scale energy projects. She moved recently to Australia for her PhD project about energy policies and the social acceptability of renewable energy. Riikka is passionate about a just and rapid energy transition towards a more sustainable future for all of us.

# THE YEAR THAT WAS

## BY THE NUMBERS

 **1** INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION (IPC) MEETING ATTENDED AND ADDRESSED

 **16** PUBLIC, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED

 **9** SUPPORTER GROUP MEETINGS

 **9** PUBLIC EVENTS, CONFERENCES AND RALLIES ADDRESSED

 **4** SUBMISSIONS AND INQUIRY APPEARANCES

 **3,828** CONVERSATIONS

 **8** MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL AND STATE POLITICIANS to highlight support for wind energy

 **5** COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED

 **15** VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN PROMOTING WIND



PHOTO: BBQ lunch at Wind Farm Open Day, Mumbida Wind Farm. © Infrastructure Capital Group.

# FOCUSSING ON THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Our landmark report, *Building Stronger Communities: Wind's growing role in regional Australia*, brought together—for the first time—data and case studies to illustrate how wind farms are strengthening the economic fabric of regional Australia.



While the contribution that wind farms make to regional communities is growing dramatically, the extent of these benefits has slipped under the radar. We found around \$18 million is being paid directly to farmers for

hosting wind farms on their land and a total of 46 Community Enhancement Funds (CEF) were providing \$2.5 million every year to keep community groups and projects humming along.

Drawing on our extensive grassroots networks, AWA was able to present a range of interviews about the work that local communities were able to achieve with CEF assistance. While individual companies promote some of their work locally, we were able to survey and report on the total contribution the wind industry makes directly to communities.

Since its release, the report has become valued as a resource for local communities, farmers, councils and developers. We promoted the information widely to the public with more than 500 pieces of online and offline media coverage and 134 social media shares.



**RECENT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS OF WIND FARMS**

**Times**

**PHOTO (ABOVE):** Presenting *Building Stronger Communities* report to NSW Ministers Anthony Roberts and Adam Marshall, with AWA members, Robert Dulhunty and Terry Hartmann. © AWA. **PHOTO (BACKGROUND):** Salt Creek Wind Farm. © AWA.

# FORUMS IN THE REGIONS

Improvements in wind turbine technology mean that wind farms can now operate efficiently in places where wind speeds were previously considered too low. This means there are new parts of the country that are seeing wind farm development and construction for the first time.

To make sure communities have access to reliable information and to provide an avenue for ongoing communication, AWA visited a number of places to speak with locals.

We visited landholders and held two forums in the renewable energy growth area around Tamworth, with around 150 attendees in total. Speakers included the National Wind

Farm Commissioner and other subject experts. Discussions covered how landholders can work in partnership with developers, understanding and navigating the planning process and community lessons from successful wind farms around the country. Attendees reported increased confidence in navigating the energy transition happening in their region.



**WIND ALLIANCE TO HOST PUBLIC FORUM FOR LANDHOLDERS IN KENTUCKY TO BUST MYTHS ABOUT LIVING WITH TURBINES**

The Northern Daily  
**LEADER**

PHOTO (LEFT): Charlie Prell addresses public meeting. © AWA. PHOTO (RIGHT): Supper at the Kentucky Memorial Hall. © AWA. PHOTO (BACKGROUND): Salt Creek Wind Farm. © AWA.

# COMMUNICATING

 **52**  
PRINT

 **14**  
RADIO

 **64**  
ONLINE

**TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA  
CONTINUED TO BE VALUABLE CHANNELS  
FOR THE ALLIANCE TO COMMUNICATE  
THE BENEFITS OF WIND POWER TO  
COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.**



**PHOTO:** Andrew Bray  
addresses the media at  
Portland Wind Energy Project.  
© Adam Chandler.

## In the news

Two stories dominated the year in wind energy. The massive buildout of wind farms throughout regional Australia gathered pace and media was keen to talk about what it meant for the residents.

As a farmer with a wind farm being built on his property, our NSW Organiser, Charlie Prell featured prominently in a number of stories. This allowed us to tell the story on local radio and in the papers of the benefits flowing to farmers and communities. Charlie's testimony offered proof that farmers can live comfortably close to turbines. More widely, we supported other wind farm advocates to publicly endorse projects in their areas.

National media discussion was dominated by the Federal Government's ultimately unsuccessful attempt to legislate the National Energy Guarantee. The Federal Government's attacks on successful state government renewable energy schemes and on AGL's planned closure of the ageing and highly polluting Liddell power station presented AWA with opportunities to highlight positive policies and explain wind's critical role in a clean energy grid.

**ABBOTT'S WIND COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN A BOON FOR RENEWABLES, CLIMATE BODY SAYS**  
*The Guardian*

**RENEWABLE ENERGY: SWITCH OFF POLITICS IN NEW GENERATION OF POWER**  
*THE WEEKLY TIMES*

**END POLITICAL POINT SCORING ON ENERGY**

**MINING THE WIND PROVIDES DROUGHT INSURANCE FOR OUTBACK FARMERS IN SILVERTON AND BROKEN HILL**  
*The Sydney Morning Herald*

**WIND ENERGY STILL DIVIDING OPINION IN THE NSW SOUTHERN TABLELANDS**  
*Radio*

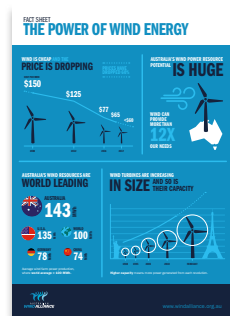
**BALLARAT WIND PROJECTS IN JEOPARDY**  
*The Courier*

PHOTO  
(BACKGROUND):

Wind Farm  
Open Day crowd,  
Mumbida Wind Farm.  
© Infrastructure  
Capital Group.

## Wind energy factsheet

While millions of Australians now have a personal relationship with solar panels via their rooftops, the growth of wind power has largely happened outside the public gaze. Media coverage of wind energy largely reflects this, with little detailed knowledge among journalists writing on the issue.



Working together with the Climate Media Centre, AWA commissioned the Institute of Sustainable Futures at University of Technology, Sydney to prepare a detailed research brief highlighting how much wind energy has to offer in Australia. A graphical fact sheet was distributed to journalists, with a focus on key regional outlets, to provide simple facts to inform coverage.

We launched the fact sheet at picturesque Cape Nelson in south-west Victoria on the 30th birthday of wind energy in Australia and received 56 media articles and radio interviews of the event.



PHOTO (ABOVE): Portland Wind Energy Project. © AWA.

## Don't be afraid—it's a wind turbine!

### Why have dirty coal, when you can have clean, cheap wind power?

When then Treasurer, Scott Morrison, brought a lump of coal into the Federal Parliament, it was a clear sign the government had lost the heart to deliver coherent energy policy. The image crystallised all that was wrong with energy politics—the adherence to an outdated technology and obsession with political point-scoring that had deprived Australia of policy stability for so many years.

What better way to tackle the issue than bring our own technology to Parliament! A quick video piece was shared widely on social media and helped highlight the foolishness of the stunt from the man who would go on to be Prime Minister.



PHOTO (LEFT): Then Treasurer, Scott Morrison with a lump of coal in Parliament. PHOTO (RIGHT): Wind turbine at Parliament House. © AWA.

## Social media

Illustrating the benefits that wind farm construction was delivering throughout regional Australia was a focus of our social media. A series of #windfarmoftheweek posts introduced our audiences to the people and stories of the nearly 20 exciting new wind farms that were under construction throughout the year.

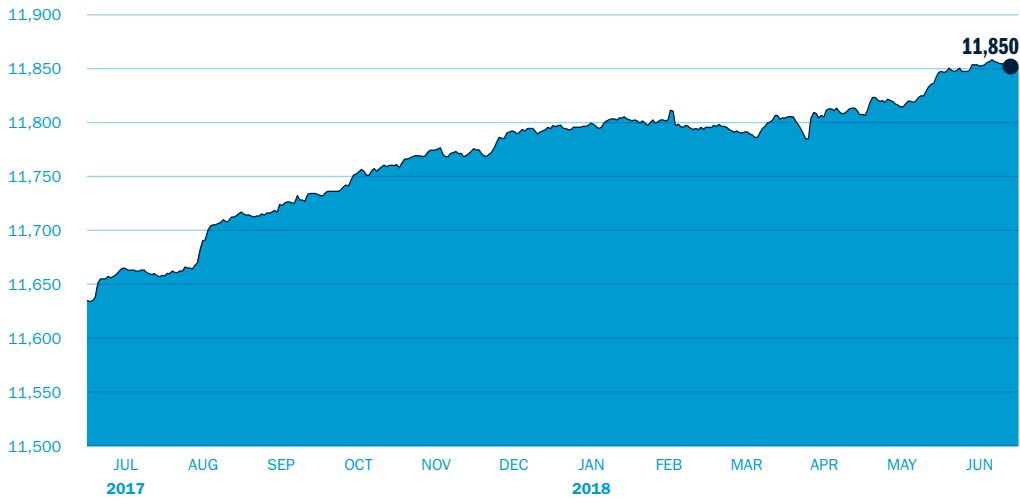
### Instagram popular posts



PHOTO (BACKGROUND):  
Portland Wind Energy Project.  
© AWA.



## Facebook growth



## Popular posts

**Australian Wind Alliance**  
September 26, 2017 · 🌐

Victoria set to host Australia's biggest wind farm, with local landowners and the community to benefit massively:

- 39 landowners to receive a collective "drought proof" income of \$3.5 million a year
- a \$235,000 community benefit fund
- a power offset and energy audit scheme
- a financial incentive program for neighbouring landowners

RENEWECONOMY.COM.AU

**Australian Wind Alliance**  
October 16, 2017 · 🌐

Now that is some precision driving!  
Watch this truck take a tight turn over a bridge while carrying a 200-foot wind turbine blade.

DAILYMAIL.CO.UK | BY DAILY MAIL

**Lorry carrying a 200-FOOT wind turbine manages to take a sharp turn**

Lindsay Soutar, Chris Turbull and 148 others · 10 Comments · 19 Shares

**Australian Wind Alliance**  
October 17, 2017 · 🌐

So it has happened. The Clean Energy Target is dead. To be replaced by a National Energy Guarantee.

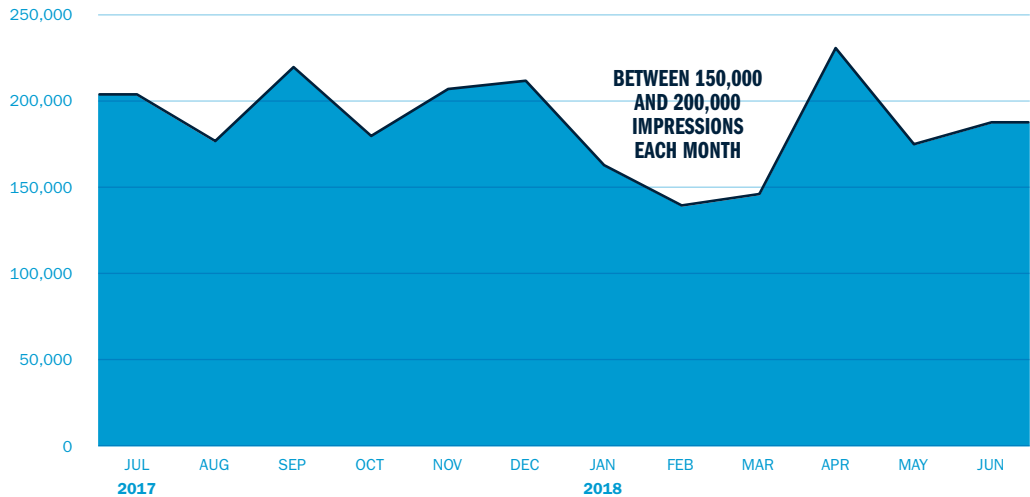
But what does it mean for carbon emissions and the renewable energy industry that provides thousands of jobs, many in rural areas of the country?

RENEWECONOMY.COM.AU

**Turnbull dumps clean energy target for coal "baseload" plan**

Breaking: Coalition set to unveil an energy policy that supports fossil fu...

## Twitter impressions



## Popular posts

**Australian Wind Alliance** @AusWindAll Follow

**NEW REPORT!** Rural communities receive windfalls from #wind farms.

Wind farm construction has delivered an economic boost of almost \$4 billion to regional Australia. #cleanenergy #community  
Read more here: [windalliance.org.au/rural\\_communit...](http://windalliance.org.au/rural_communit...)

**PHOTO (BACKGROUND):**  
Waubra Wind Farm.  
© Acciona Energy Australia.

**Australian Wind Alliance** @AusWindAll Follow

Happy #FridayWindPic  
We just couldn't not post this one today!

9:11 PM - 30 Nov 2017

168 Retweets 379 Likes

Jay Weatherill, Clean Energy Council, NEDEN and 5 others

**Australian Wind Alliance** @AusWindAll Follow

What are some politicians so afraid of? Renewables are driving an investment boom that will lead to lower prices, lower emissions and a better future for our kids. Retweet if you support a #cleanenergy future! 🌞

# PERSONNEL

## Staff



### **Andrew Bray, National Coordinator**

Andrew joined AWA in February 2013 after spending two years on the 100% Renewable Campaign, building skills and leadership in local communities to help them speak out in support for renewable energy. Andrew moved from one of Victoria's prime wind districts in Ballarat to one of NSW's in Bungendore.



### **Charlie Prell, Organiser NSW**

Charlie is a fourth generation family farmer from Crookwell in NSW. He is passionate about farming and has expanded this passion to include wind farms. Since the construction of the Crookwell I wind farm next to his family property in 1998, Charlie has been aware of the potential to erect turbines on his own farm. He is a committed member of the Crookwell community, and actively contributes to many local causes. Charlie has been championing wind farms and the potential benefits they can bring to regional communities for many years.



### **Dan Bromley, Communications Officer**

Dan is the Australian Wind Alliance Communications Officer, with a focus on social media platforms. Dan comes from a policy background and has a strong personal interest in renewable energy, climate change and politics.



### **Siobhan Isherwood, Communications Coordinator** (March 2017 – September 2018)

Siobhan joined the Wind Alliance team to help shape messaging and communications with all of our stakeholders. Siobhan previously worked in the wind industry, developing large scale wind farms and managing community engagement across a number of projects, as well as engaging in political advocacy.

PHOTO (BACKGROUND):  
Crookwell Wind Farm. © AWA.

## Board



### **Peter Dreher**

Peter is a corporate and projects Partner at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers and leads the firm's National Renewable Energy Group. Peter has been a lawyer in the renewables sector since 1999 and has advised on more than 50 renewable energy projects in Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. Most of these projects were in wind energy. His expertise is in corporate, commercial and construction and electricity law.



### **Taryn Lane**

Taryn is the Manager at Hepburn Wind, Australia's first community-owned wind farm and a director of the Coalition for Community Energy. She also undertakes research, policy development and advisory work for industry. She has extensive local and international community development experience.



### **Richard Mackie**

Richard is one of the most experienced people in the Australian wind industry. He has been involved since 1994, as a project and business development manager. Richard agreed to give his time to be Treasurer of AWA because he believes Australia is missing out on great benefits in regional areas.



### **Luke Osborne**

Luke has been a leading voice in the wind energy industry for over a decade. He entered the industry as a landholder and subsequently played a pioneering role in the growth of Canberra-based wind energy company Windlab, now one of Australia's most successful renewable energy companies with operations in Australia, North America and Africa. He is currently with Canberra start-up, Reposit Power.



### **Jonathan Upson**

Jonathan is a senior manager with over 14 years experience in the renewable energy industry. He has worked in a variety of roles, including Project Development, Government Affairs and Energy Markets.



### **Phil Burn**

Phil has spent over five years working in the wind energy sector, leading the development and planning for a number of wind energy projects. Phil has also worked for State and local government and is currently a consultant working on a range of renewable energy projects. Phil's skills and experiences are supported by formal qualifications in business, environment and land use planning.

# FINANCIALS

## Profit and loss statement for the year ended 30 June 2018

<b>Income</b>	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Gifts received		262,957	197,495
Membership Fees		7,342	8,488
Other Income		3,470	2,698
Sponsorships		7,250	1,000
Merchandise		55	518
<b>Total income</b>		<b>281,073</b>	<b>210,199</b>
<b>Less expenditure</b>		2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Accountancy fees		3,445	3,345
Advertising		92	1,020
Bank charges		221	325
Catering		1,200	—
Campaign Expenses		4,417	1,579
Conferences and exhibitions		2,362	3,647
Contract work		48,804	44,359
Design work		8,329	—
Employees entitlement	2	6,090	—
Entertainment expenses		124	69
Merchandise for re-sale		—	1,730
Motor vehicle expenses		2,011	2,994
Postage		166	290
Printing and stationery		928	379
Rent		6,708	8,240
Subscriptions		646	648
Superannuation contributions		12,990	10,043
Telephone and internet		1,878	1,588
Training and development		3,000	—
Travel and accomodation		10,256	8,171
Video production		7,409	—
Wages		136,732	106,687
Website expenses		5,388	3,010
Worker's insurance		2,363	399
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>265,558</b>	<b>198,521</b>
<b>Net operating profit</b>		<b>15,515</b>	<b>11,678</b>
Retained Profits at the start of the financial year		33,900	22,223
<b>Total available for appropriation</b>		<b>49,415</b>	<b>33,900</b>
<b>Retained profits at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>49,415</b>	<b>33,900</b>

## Balance sheet as at 30 June 2018

<b>Current assets</b>	Note	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Bendigo operating account		51,586	56,273
Paypal account		2,470	2,395
Bendigo DGR account		10	—
Good and services tax	3	1,685	1,110
Sundry debtor		—	178
Accounts receivable		11,286	4,450
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>67,037</b>	<b>64,406</b>

<b>Current liabilities</b>		2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Trade creditors		957	3,170
Loan account—S1		—	19,500
Withholding taxes payable	4	7,383	5,385
Provision for annual leave		6,090	—
Superannuation payable		3,192	2,450
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>17,622</b>	<b>30,505</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>49,415</b>	<b>33,900</b>

## Equity

Retained profits		49,415	33,900
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>49,415</b>	<b>33,900</b>

## Notes

### 1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are a special purpose report prepared for use by the director and the member. The director has determined that the company is not a reporting entity.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

No Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.

### 2 Employees entitlement:

Annual leave	6,090	—
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### 3 Good and services tax:


Bendigo operating account	1,685	1,110
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### 4 Withholding taxes payable:

Bendigo operating account	7,383	5,385
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 [www.windalliance.org.au](http://www.windalliance.org.au)