

Renewable Energy in Regional Australia: Creating Local Economic Development Opportunities

Scale of Renewable Energy

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Why a focus on scale?

- In planning this conference:
 - We got lots of “you oughta”
 - We found “good ideas in action”
 - Yet heard nothing from the energy industry
- What were our outcomes?
- Who were we marketing to?
- This revealed many layers of activity associated with renewables.

What scale?

- Of Policy
 - Individual
 - community
 - State
 - Federal
 - Global
- Of Time
 - Now
 - Tomorrow
 - Future generations
- Of Energy Source
 - \$Mill Solar farms
 - Town size wind farms
 - Home-based focus
- Of Ownership
 - Government
 - Companies (pub/priv)
 - Home owners

So how does a local/regional community develop a plan?

- Take a whole systems view
- Understand our local geography
- Have we done the risk assessment?
- Which adaptation strategies work for us?
- What is our renewable energy mitigation strategy?
- How do we develop the business case?
- Who do we engage to help in this process?
- How do we fund it, over time?

Start where people are at

- “Audit, Behaviour, Challenge” (thanks Gaz)
- Acknowledge instability, uncertainty and ambiguity in the policy response
- It will build community resilience
- Distributed systems (al Chris Ryan) build redundancy/backup/support
- Monitor and report wherever you can
- GHG reduction strategies inherently wicked
- Lead the global/local challenge

Thankyou!

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