



# Annual Report

2018-19



Australian  
Energy  
Foundation

“What you  
do makes a  
difference, you  
have to decide  
what kind of  
difference you  
want to make.”

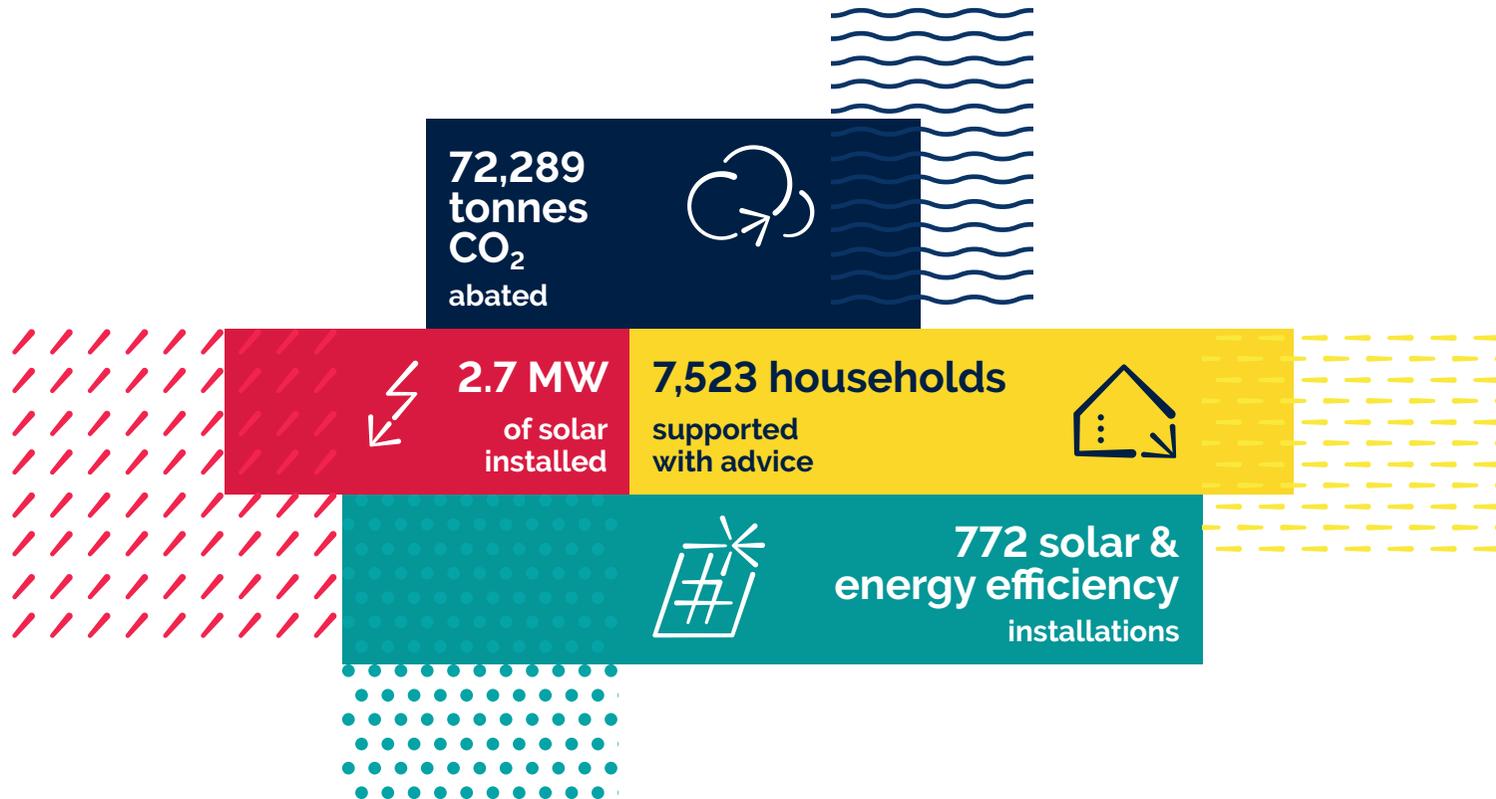
**Dame Jane Morris Goodall DBE,**  
Primatologist

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# At a Glance 2018-19

During 2018-19, across our activities and projects, we achieved:





# From the Chair

It's been a significant year, as we recognised our work across Australia by renaming from MEFL to the Australian Energy Foundation. Whilst it was a more challenging operating environment for us and many in the industry, at AEF we have been setting the foundations for us to shift and scale up for the future.

This year saw the industry face a more challenging operating environment.

With a federal election and consumer behaviours affected by State rebate programs, we found it a tougher year financially.

As an organisation we were prepared, our strategic plan helped to steady us against these issues, and whilst we did feel the financial loss, we recognise this has been a tough year, particularly in Victoria, for the industry in general.

Acknowledging this and aligning with our strategic focus to scale and expand to other states beyond VIC and NSW, we voted in February to rename the organisation to the Australian Energy Foundation. With a solid team behind us, we look forward to broadening our reach across the country, delivering energy advice and accelerating the energy transition.



**Travis Neal,**  
Chair

There were areas we celebrated this year, with our Energy Advice Services program (known as Positive Charge) turning 6 and our Spark! Conference brought together around 200 of our peers with very positive feedback.

I would like to say thank you to our longest serving Board Members, as Ian Thomas & Rosemary Bissett retired after being at the organisation since its formation - a total combined service of 36 years.

As we change our trajectory for the next year, I look forward to seeing the organisation scale up and try new innovative ways to reach our vision of an equitable zero carbon society.

**“We look forward to broadening our reach across the country, delivering energy advice and accelerating the energy transition.”**



# From the CEO

It's been a more challenging year for our organisation, but we have a lot to celebrate and recognise, putting us in good stead as we transition to the Australian Energy Foundation and begin the roll out of delivering our vision across the country.

This year has been more challenging, as we saw the operating environment in Victoria face significant changes. This further resolved our position to expand our role across Australia and we renamed to the Australian Energy Foundation earlier this year.

Our Major Project work delivered strong results, through the Energy Smart and Healthy Homes programs underway in Victoria. We also delivered the Power Saving Bonus program by helping hundreds of vulnerable and digitally excluded Victorians to get a better deal on their energy bills.

We have worked on some exciting new projects and trials over the year.

In partnership with Ovida and Allume Energy, we launched the Latrobe Valley Microgrid, which will become the largest renewable energy microgrid in Australia. The Re4Bre project in Brewarrina NSW, saw us working with The Valley Centre



**Alison Rowe,**  
CEO

and Pingala to set up a rolling fund of no-interest loans to install solar and batteries in Indigenous communities across Australia. And our Solar for Apartments and Solar for Renters trials for Moreland City Council saw us develop new solutions for those most often locked out of renewable energy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the team for their passion, dedication and amazing efforts. It's our people, our partners and all of you who make working at AEF an honour and privilege for all of us.

**"The renewed sense of passion and energy for the organisation as the new Australian Energy Foundation, will see us rise from this year stronger and ready to accelerate the energy transition nationally."**



# Strategic Goal 1

We create, demonstrate and share clear transition pathways to a zero carbon society.

This year we launched some exciting new projects and trials to demonstrate and share the pathways to a zero carbon society.

Some projects were completed within the financial year, others are ongoing and we look forward to reporting the results of these projects in the next financial year.

## Moreland Power

Our pilot program, launched in February 2019, is set to see 250kW of community-owned solar PV installed on buildings in Moreland. Renewable energy generated by these installs will be sold at low cost to households facing energy hardship in Moreland.

## Solar for Apartments

This year we successfully proved the feasibility of shared renewable energy for people living in medium or high-density dwellings. We are now working with more councils to power more apartments with solar PV.

## Latrobe Valley Microgrid

The Solar Partnering Around Regional Communities (SPARC) project will deliver 7.5MW of solar PV and 1.5MWh of battery storage across up to 75 microgrid sites across the Latrobe Valley. Small to medium sized businesses who either cannot afford the upfront costs of solar, or are tenants and don't own their rooftops will then be able to join and use the power from the microgrid and cut their energy bills by up to 25%.

## Re4Bre

The Renewable Energy in Brewarrina (Re4Bre) project was created with our close partners, The Valley Centre and Pingala. Many Indigenous communities across Australia need relief from high levels of energy stress. To help fulfill Nyemba Elder Uncle 'Ike' Gordon's vision for "cheap power for all indigenous communities", a rolling fund was set up to raise \$66,000. Through this fund, Indigenous communities will be able to access no-interest loans for solar and batteries and being a rolling fund, once the loan is paid back the money is used again to help another community member. We are please to say we are less than \$5k away from our target.



# Strategic Goal 2

We increase energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy in Australia.

## Energy Advice Services

We celebrated the 6th year of our Energy Advice Services program (known previously as Positive Charge), and it was another strong performing year putting us in good stead as we expand the service across Australia.

- Over 2.2MW of residential solar installed through the program across the 28 subscribing councils in New South Wales and Victoria.
- Over 300kW of battery storage added to the residential solar uptake.
- 257 installs of energy efficiency upgrades including 901 halogen lights replaced.
- Introduced other energy efficiency products through the program including, heat-pump hot water systems and reverse cycle air conditioning, which have been a popular addition to the product range.

- Further product range development underway to support people in the move to all electric homes.
- We provided our services to 17 businesses to support them in the switch to solar and install over 480kW of solar PV.

- 894 lifetime Tonnes of carbon were abated through business energy efficiency upgrades.
- Throughout the year we assisted people with 7228 quote requests, and an additional 295 people called with general energy enquiries.

- Our websites were viewed almost 100,000 times and across our various social channels we reached just over 300,000 impressions.

The Energy Advice Services telephone advice line and website offer tailored advice to householders. Our partnerships with carefully selected suppliers mean that people can be linked with quality products and services to ensure they can make decisions with confidence.

## Quote Requests



**7228** Quote requests

**79%** Solar & batteries  
**21%** Energy Efficiency

## Websites



Over **94k**  
web sessions &  
**186k** page views

**303k** content views  
across social media

## Energy Efficiency Upgrades



**257** Installs  
**901** Halogen lights  
replaced

Total GHG Abatement  
**10,175 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e**

## Solar Installations



**17** Businesses **483.5kW**  
**498** Households **2.21MW**  
**28** Batteries **305.9kW**

Total GHG Abatement  
**62,114 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e**

## Strategic Goal 2 continued

### Major Projects

#### Healthy Homes

The Victorian Healthy Homes Program is tracking well after our initial upgrades in winter of 2018. As the first randomized controlled trial research project in Australia, the program is designed to measure whether making a home warmer and drier during winter leads to improved health outcomes.

This thermal and energy efficient retrofitting study (funded by Sustainability Victoria) engaged AEF to recruit eligible participants, manage home visits, undertake residential energy scorecard assessments and manage the thermal upgrade installations.

The study targets a total of 1,000 low-income households in western Melbourne and the Goulburn Valley. This year we achieved 609 installations across 186 homes and our next phase is well under way.

#### Energy Smart

Beginning in May 2017, the EnergySmart Public Housing Research Project has seen AEF delivering a variety of upgrades to thousands of Department of Health and Human Services low-income dwellings located across Victoria. The project aims to identify how these upgrades provide an energy saving and improved thermal comfort to the tenant. The upgrades included appliance and thermal shell upgrades, behaviour initiatives and Victorian Residential Scorecard Assessments. This year we installed 669 upgrades to 338 homes.

#### Power Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government committed \$48m to help Victorians understand their energy bills, compare retail offers and ensure they are getting the best deal from energy providers. Through this program, we have delivered face to face information sessions to hundreds of vulnerable and digitally excluded Victorians to help them get the best deal.

More of the Victorian community is now educated on how they can negotiate a better rate and ensure they are receiving the right discounts. This year we've helped save people around 30% on their bills on top of their relevant concessions.

#### Healthy Homes



**186** homes upgraded  
**609** installations

**162** insulation/  
draught-proofing



**91** window furnishings



**50** reverse-cycle  
air conditioning



**221** gas heating  
& CO<sub>2</sub> tests



**6** general  
trade works



**76** electrical  
& lighting



**3** asbestos  
removal



#### Energy Smart



**338** homes upgraded  
**669** installations

**169** reverse-cycle  
air conditioning



**342** thermal  
upgrades



**108** hot water



**50** scorecard  
assessment



# Strategic Goal 3

We are a sustainable organisation.

## Walking the talk

At the AEF Brunswick Office we pride ourselves on implementing best practice environmental management. Office sustainability is championed and facilitated by an internal staff committee called ZING. The ZING committee are role models for best practice sustainability and regularly conduct education sessions for the organisation. The ZING Committee's achievements for FY18-19:

### 01. Striving for a zero-waste office by educating the team about waste management and recycling.

In FY17-18 we sent 5.3kg of waste to landfill per week, this FY18-19 we sent 1.8kg in an average week. Reductions in waste going to landfill was achieved through:

- Implementing an office Bokashi bin and compost collection for organic waste (processed locally).
- Introducing soft plastic and e-waste collection in the office.
- Phasing out the purchasing of plastic packaged goods for office communal use, such as teabags, biscuits, milk bottles, hand soap and dishwashing powder. This has been replaced with purchasing from bulk food stores that allow you to refill your own container.

- Participation in Plastic Free July and providing KeepCups and containers for takeaway food and drink.
- Running regular education sessions on recycling and sharing knowledge through channels on office messaging. A weekly rotating kitchen roster ensures all staff are trained in the sustainable practices around the office and contributes to lifelong learning.
- Cloth towels replace paper handtowel (although, we maintain paper hand towels for when staff are sick to reduce infection).
- 100% recycled paper items are always purchased for office use.
- Vegetarian catering policy for staff meetings and events.
- Sustainable events policy
- Offset all major events, such as Spark!, Thrive, Christmas Party

Measuring, reducing and offsetting our emissions is an important part of our operations. This is not only to improve our environmental performance but to showcase climate leadership. We are now working towards achieving Carbon Neutral Certification.

## Emissions at a glance



**24.45t CO<sub>2</sub>e**  
Carbon footprint

CO<sub>2</sub>e inclusive of our electricity usage which is purchased through Powershop a carbon neutral retailer. Emissions AEF will offset: **14.5t CO<sub>2</sub>e**.



**20,626kWh**  
Electricity used



**24.45t CO<sub>2</sub>e**  
Business travel



**152kg**  
Paper used

We use Mindful Paper - a carbon neutral certified brand of paper.

## Strategic Goal 3 continued

### 02. Advocating For Low Carbon Transport Options

The Zing team conducted a survey in March 2019. A total of 30 responses were gained from 36 staff at the time. This creates a baseline for reporting early next year. As a sustainable organisation we were proud of a high population of cycling commuters. The survey also further identified a desire in staff to increase or begin riding to work. Their values are closely aligned with those of AEF.

In addition to creating a baseline of sustainable staff commuting practices, the Zing team also championed the following initiatives:

- Ride to Work Day celebrated and all staff encouraged to ride. Morning tea for those who rode and challenge for who could set up the folding bicycle the fastest. Identifying who rode to give tips to those who do not.
- This was also followed up by the promotion of using teleconferencing instead of driving to meeting and encouraging staff to make use of flexible work/office policies and to use the EV.
- The Zing team will be focusing on increasing sustainable commuting practices through education and events.

### 03. Education and support around energy use

The office has always maintained a focus on reducing energy consumption. This includes switching all power usage off at the mains every night. Ensuring screens are turned off when you leave your desk. Using the kettle less and implementing a thermos to capture unused hot water, thus reducing the need to boil. The Zing team will focus more in this area to see how minimal the energy consumption can be.

Last financial year electricity usage was 22,311 kWh FY17-18. This financial year it was 20,626 kWh.



## Strategic Goal 3 continued

### Employee Engagement survey

This year's survey was conducted in March 2019. The survey was refined this year and new questions relating to trust and flexibility were added with a target of 80% positive responses. The response rate for the overall survey was on a par with previous years and for our key questions we were pleased to see the following results:

- 90% of staff felt that AEF is a flexible workplace.
- 92% of staff felt that they were working within a culture of trust.

### Diversity and Inclusion

To be an employer of choice and to model best practice, we want to excel in all areas of diversity and inclusion.

We surveyed the Board and staff to establish the diversity baseline of the organisation, with the results telling us that AEF is predominantly Caucasian, male, heterosexual, young and don't identify as having a disability.

- There is a higher percentage of men across the organisation with the gender split 55% men to 45% women.

- The gender split on our Board is only 36% female whilst our Executive Leadership Team has 60% females. Our target is 50% across Board and ELT.
- The majority of AEF's Board and staff are heterosexual, non-disabled and Caucasian.
- There are no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people at any level of the organisation.

Working to be a best practice inclusive and diverse organisation and to attract and retain a diverse workforce is a key goal for AEF. We are already a welcoming workplace with a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

To move us towards our goals we have developed a 3 year diversity and inclusion plan, with stepped goals for each year. A Diversity & Inclusion committee has also been put in place to action the plan throughout the year.

### Board Members



**Travis Neal**  
Chair and Independent  
Non-Executive Director



**Alison Rowe**  
Chief Executive Officer  
and Executive Director



**Andrew Hewett**  
Independent  
Non-Executive Director



**Dugald Murray**  
Independent  
Non-Executive Director



**Nikki Potter**  
Independent  
Non-Executive Director



**James Scott**  
Independent  
Non-Executive Director



**Ali Irfanli**  
Moreland City Council  
appointed Non-  
Executive Director



**Imogen Jubb**  
Community Elected  
Non-Executive Director



**Cameron Herbert**  
Independent  
Non-Executive Director



**Sarah Paparo**  
Company Secretary

## Strategic Goal 3 continued

### Financials

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

-

**MORELAND ENERGY FOUNDATION LIMITED**

**ABN: 72 095 439 160**

|   | <b>2019</b>      | <b>2018</b>    |
|---|------------------|----------------|
|   | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>      |
| Revenue   | 6,439,357        | 6,756,716      |
| Employee Benefit Expenses   | (3,379,381)      | (3,046,962)    |
| Project Costs   | (2,765,635)      | (2,979,717)    |
| Depreciation Expense  | (55,798)         | (38,988)       |
| Auditors Remuneration - Statutory Audit                                 | (15,135)         | (11,350)       |
| Rental Expense  | (46,242)         | (42,979)       |
| Other Expenses  | (545,569)        | (325,929)      |
| <b>Net Current year surplus/(deficit)</b>                               | <b>(368,403)</b> | <b>310,791</b> |
| <b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>                                       | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Total Comprehensive Income attributable to members of the entity</b> | <b>(368,403)</b> | <b>310,791</b> |

## Strategic Goal 3 continued

### Financials

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

-

**MORELAND ENERGY FOUNDATION LIMITED**

**ABN: 72 095 439 160**

|                                       | 2019             | 2018             |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                       | \$               | \$               |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                 |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents             | 1,309,909        | 2,740,725        |
| Accounts receivable and other debtors | 1,474,526        | 1,434,243        |
| Prepayments                           | 62,212           | 51,691           |
| Other financial assets                | 4,913            | 4,331            |
| Inventories                           | 136,000          | 70,885           |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>           | <b>2,987,560</b> | <b>4,301,875</b> |
| <b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>             |                  |                  |
| Accounts receivable and other debtors | 11,000           | 11,000           |
| Plant and equipment                   | 91,981           | 105,561          |
| Other financial assets                | 4,985            | 10,444           |
| <b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>       | <b>107,966</b>   | <b>127,005</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <b>3,095,526</b> | <b>4,428,880</b> |

|                                      | 2019             | 2018             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                      | \$               | \$               |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |                  |                  |
| Accounts payable and other payables  | 2,496,413        | 3,427,358        |
| Borrowings                           | -                | 40,000           |
| Provisions                           | 170,749          | 169,204          |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     | <b>2,667,162</b> | <b>3,636,562</b> |
| <b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |                  |                  |
| Borrowings                           | -                | -                |
| Provisions                           | 18,579           | 14,130           |
| <b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> | <b>18,579</b>    | <b>14,130</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>2,685,741</b> | <b>3,650,692</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>409,785</b>   | <b>778,188</b>   |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |                  |                  |
| <b>Retained Surplus</b>              | <b>409,785</b>   | <b>778,188</b>   |

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