Join us in
Bendigo
for the:

C4NET | CET Community Energy Transformers

Community Energy Transformers Forum

Monday 5 June, 2023

Supported by

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

PRE EVENT PACK

Welcome from James,

C4NET | CET Community Energy Transformers

James Seymour | C4NET CEO

Dear CET Attendees,

Thank you for your involvement in the Community Energy Transformers Forum. We are delighted to be hosting an engaged and collaborative group of delegates representative of DNSP's, Community Energy Advocacy groups, Greenhouse Gas Alliance Organizations, Research Institutions, local governments, Federal Government Organizations and many others. We are keen to share our insights and be intent listeners to hear your learnings and understand your needs.

At C4NET we know that the energy transition is not just about switching to renewable generation but is also about changes to how individuals and communities wish to use energy and take action to meet their changing needs. Access to data helps us inform how to address this and the demand for information related to new technology integration will only continue to grow. As the energy sector transitions, access to reliable, consistent, and easy to understand electricity data, with outcomes that are scalable, is critical to our clean energy transition success. C4NET was created by the Victorian government with this in mind.

Uniquely, C4NET's exploration of regional microgrid feasibility, with Donald and Tarnagulla communities as cases-in-point, positions community needs at the centre of the equation. Utilising rich data sets, combining stakeholder engagement, community energy goals and academic analysis, the project has been a balance between the technical, cultural and social elements of understanding the feasibility of microgrids. The results of this study are in-turn being shared through an engagement framework; the Community Energy Transformers Forum offers attendees tools, templates and collaborative workshops in which their energy goals are platformed and knowledge can be shared.

Australia is at the forefront of this global shift towards distributed energy and, with high penetration of smart meters in Victoria, we have a localised competitive advantage to understand, integrate and commercialise what will become the new smart grid. We're proud of the deeply collaborative research we have been able to support stakeholders across the sector determined to enact their energy goals that will help progress our energy system transition.

We hope you enjoy the Community Energy Transformers Event and can contribute to improving our collective understanding of community energy needs.

Sincerely,

MAP

Bendigo CBD

Planning your stay & the CET

Plan to arrive at the Capital for 8:30am Monday 5 June, 2023

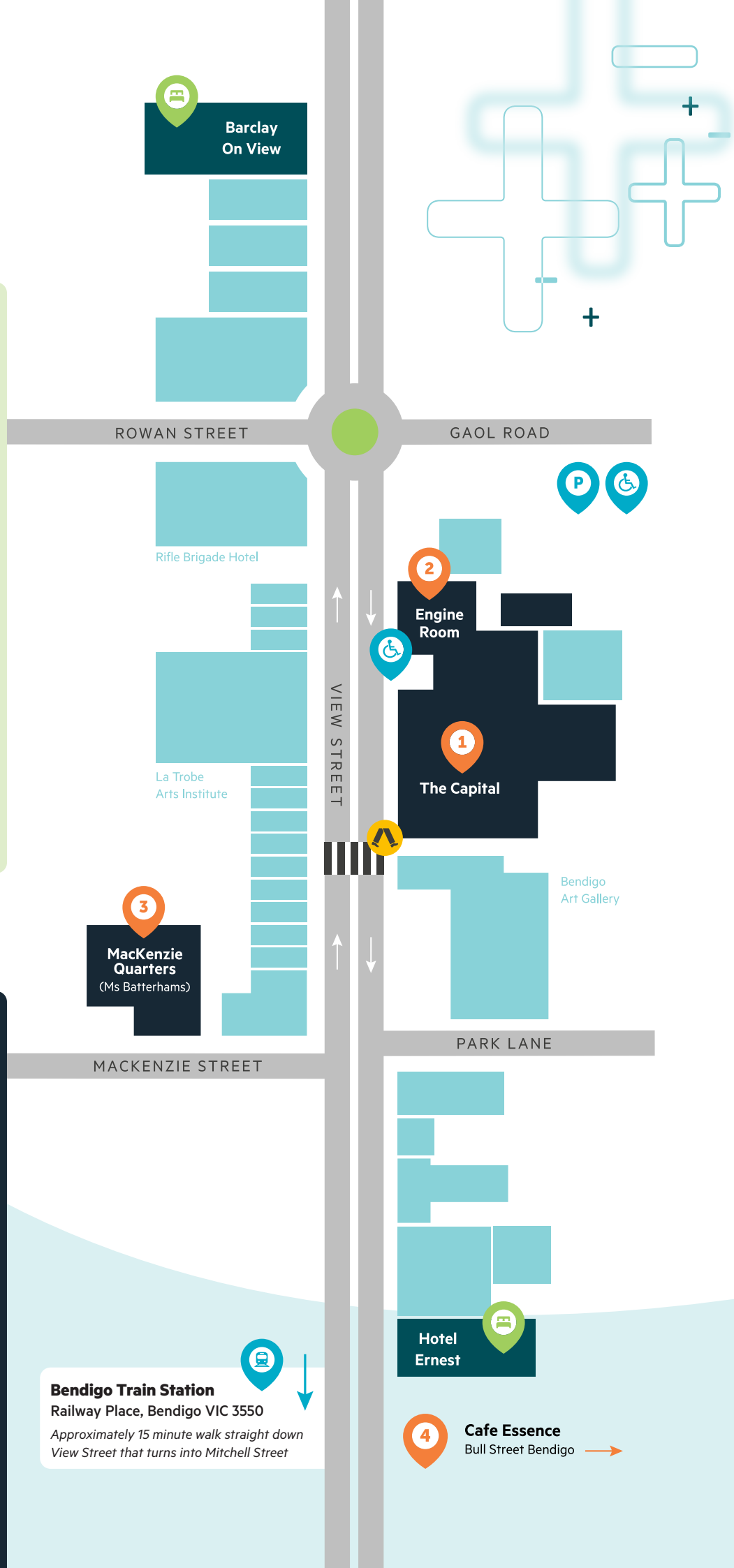
Afternoon Sessions will take place across three break out spaces in the main building and the Engine room.

Stay for networking drinks at The Capital from 4:00pm

Guests registered for dinner, please make your way to MacKenzie Quarters for 7.00pm.

Tuesday's industry session will be hosted at:

Cafe Essence
53 Bull St, Bendigo VIC 3550



Legend

- Venues
- Accommodation
- Accessible Entrance
- Parking

For more information contact:

Alice Coates
p: 0452 141 664
e: alice.coates@c4net.com.au

AGENDA

Monday 5 June, 2023

TIME	DURATION	ITEM
8:15am		**Coffee and Registration**
9:00am	90mins	**Morning Forum: Session 1** + Welcome to Country + C4NET Welcome + Community Energy & The Future of Electricity Discussion + Panel Discussion: What we've learned so far
10:30am	15mins	**Morning Tea**
10:45am	90mins	**Morning Forum: Session 2** + Microgrid Assessment Tool + Tools for your next steps
12:15pm	45mins	**Networking Lunch**
1:00pm	165mins	**Break Out Groups** + Group #01: Ideation + Group #02: Planning + Group #03: Action
2:15pm	15mins	**Afternoon Tea**
3:45pm	15mins	**Closing Remarks**
4:00pm	10mins	**Forum Close**

Networking Drinks **from 4:10pm**

The Capital Lanyon Bar
50 View Street, Bendigo

Networking Dinner **7:00pm**

MacKenzie Quarters
10 - 12 MacKenzie Street, Bendigo *(above Ms Batterhams)*

What is Community Energy?

Community Energy:

When a community group initiates, develops, operates and benefits from a renewable energy resource or energy efficiency initiative. Community groups are formed based on a common interest or geographical region such as a town or suburb.

Every Community Energy project is different as it should be tailored to the individual community's needs and context. Community Energy projects may be developed to:

- Maximise local ownership and decision making.
- Job generation
- Efficient and sustainable use of resources
- Match energy production to local energy needs and circumstances.
- Help address climate change. (i)

As technology is becoming more available to support bespoke energy needs, Community Energy momentum is picking up speed in Australia. For example, storage, solar PV, and new commercial supply contracts are evolving to meet to the needs to different consumer types.

Community energy projects are well placed to fill a scale gap between large utility scale renewable energy projects (10- 2000 MW) and household renewable energy (1-10 kW).

It is recognised that a variety of forms of energy generation will be required to build a resilient, reliable and low carbon electricity grid. With community generation projects tending to range in size from 10kW to 10MW, filling this scale gap provides new opportunities to scale up the sector. (ii)

Locally led community responses can have a tremendous impact. There are many examples of communities' innovation and leadership to rebuild and heal after crisis events like the bushfires or economic downturns from the Covid19 pandemic and broader geopolitical impacts.

i.https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-your-community/support-community-energy
ii.https://c4ce.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/National-Community-Energy-Strategy.pdf

C4NET

DONALD AND TARNAGULLA MICROGRID FEASIBILITY STUDY OVERVIEW

The Donald and Tarnagulla microgrid feasibility study was supported by funding from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, C4NET and the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA).

Over three years, an exploration of microgrid feasibility in the rural Victorian context was undertaken in collaboration with *Powercor, the CVGA, University of Melbourne, Swinburne University, RMIT University, Federation University of Australia, Deakin University, Powercor, GWM Water and ENEA Consulting, Buloke Shire and Loddon Shire.*

The project has been a balance between the technical, cultural and social elements of understanding the feasibility of microgrids. Project elements included community engagement, area hosting capacity assessment, concentrated generation and storage impact, network assessment, islanding design and cost analysis, microgrid impact study, stakeholder impact investigation, economic and risk assessment, microgrid assessment tool development and recommendations to regulators.

Please refer to our website for an in-depth overview, reports and key project outcomes here: ***https://c4net.com.au/projects/donald-and-tarnagulla-microgrid-feasibility-study/.***

C4NET was established to deliver innovative solutions to complex challenges within the energy sector.

We are designed to bridge the gap between research, industry and government, solving problems through practical, data-driven collaborative research and analysis.

Our founding members are Swinburne University, Monash University, RMIT University, Federation University, Deakin University and the University of Melbourne, AusNet Services and Powercor (on behalf of CitiPower and United Energy), with support from the Victorian Government and AEMO. Each organisation has been instrumental in shaping C4NET's structure and mission.

C4NET delivers multi-disciplinary solutions to the challenges the energy industry is facing. Working with complexity requires diverse skills, reliable data and new approaches – elements C4NET's unique model is designed to deliver. Bringing together government, industry and universities, C4NET creates new links across the sector and delivers collaborative projects that are helping to progress our energy system transition.

Our projects and events focus on intelligent data access and use; transforming energy data into valuable information to:

- Improve Improve industry efficiency by identifying gaps and duplications
- Support consumers to take up new energy technologies, products and services
- Inform evidence-based policy, regulation and market development
- Drive better outcomes for energy consumers (lower cost, more choice, optimised solutions)
- Improve integrated approaches across the value chain.

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