FZCC news archive

56 news posts from the old Flinders Zero Carbon Community website (flinderszero.org.au), 16 April 2022 to 19 August 2026. Saved 1 November 2026.

Links point to where they went originally; some links to pages on the old website no longer work.

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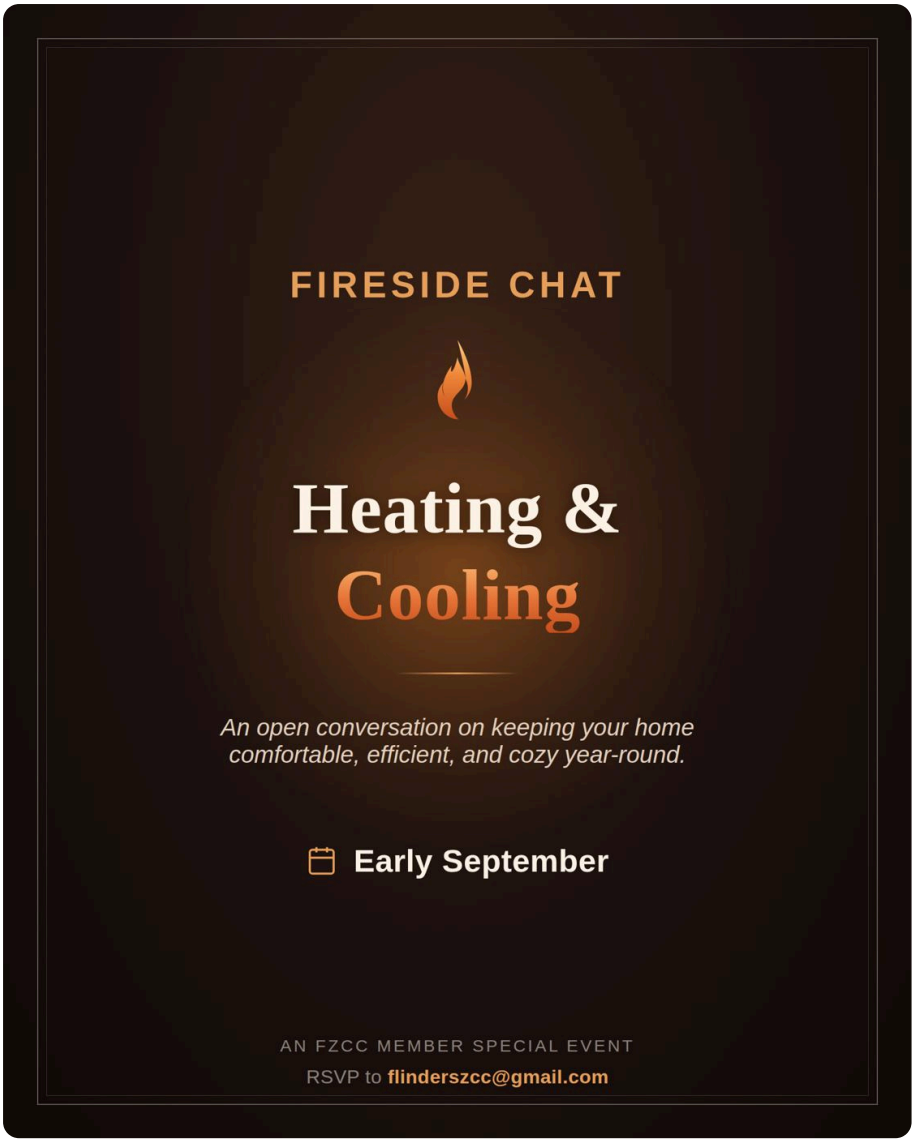
1. 19 AUGUST 2026

EVs out. Heating and Cooling in!!



We had our second fireside chat about EVs a few weeks ago. The next one, in a few weeks, will be about **heating and cooling your home**. It will be another friendly discussion amongst friends. We hope to touch on:

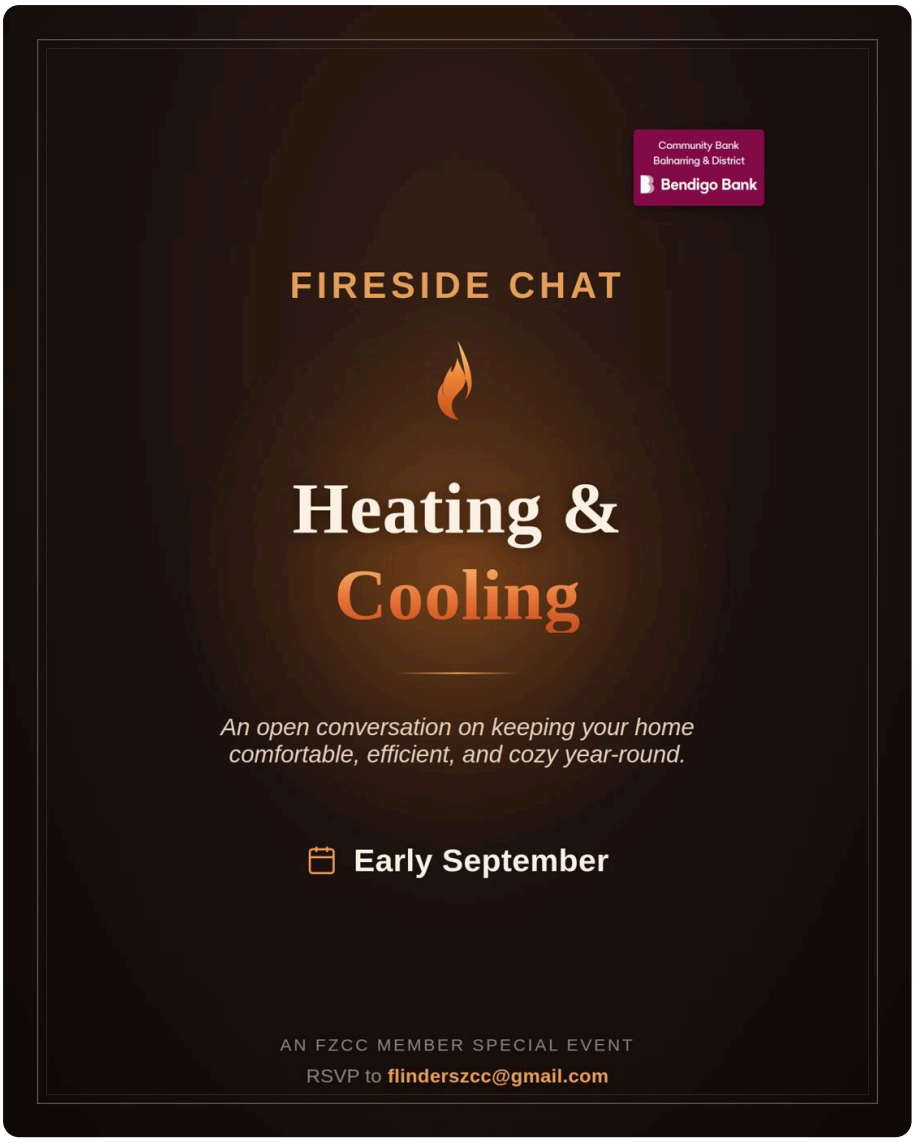
Understand the basics why electric heating can be up to 6 times cheaper than gas.

Get the latest info on:

- Heat pump hot water
- Hydronic heating using electricity
- Slab heating
- Reverse cycle air conditioning (single split, multi split and ducted)

Come and share your experiences. Listen to people who have installed.

We promote these sessions **just to FZCC Members** who will receive an email about time and place in the next few days. W**hat? You're not a member!!** Don't miss out - **sign up now** - it's free (although we'd absolutely *love it* if you decide to support us with a little donation ;))



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/evs-out-heating-and-cooling-in ·

2. 27 JULY 2026

We had another fireside chat!

Electric Vehicles was the hot topic for discussion at the Flinders pub on Sunday July 26th in our second Fireside Chat. We had a good time - and some nice wines! It was an interesting discussion touching on topics such as the state of EVs in Flinders, hybrid vs BEV, cost of ownership, when to change from an ICE car to an EV, charging issues, and other topics.

We only invite FZCC members to these chats - the next one we have planned will be in **4 - 6 weeks from now** and will be about **home heating and cooling** (heat pumps, air conditioners, hot water services, etc.). So if you want to attend and **you are not an FZCC member** please join us now - it is free, or you can donate, that's up to you :)



(Sadly we had no fire this time - a little too warm!)

Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/we-had-another-fireside-chat ·

3. 11 JULY 2026

Want to know more about VENs?

This short blog post discusses a Deakin University trial involving almost 300 households using a **Virtual Energy Network**. We also have a three minute video for you!

The blog post describes how households shared the value of locally generated solar through the digital trading platform. A quote from the article says:

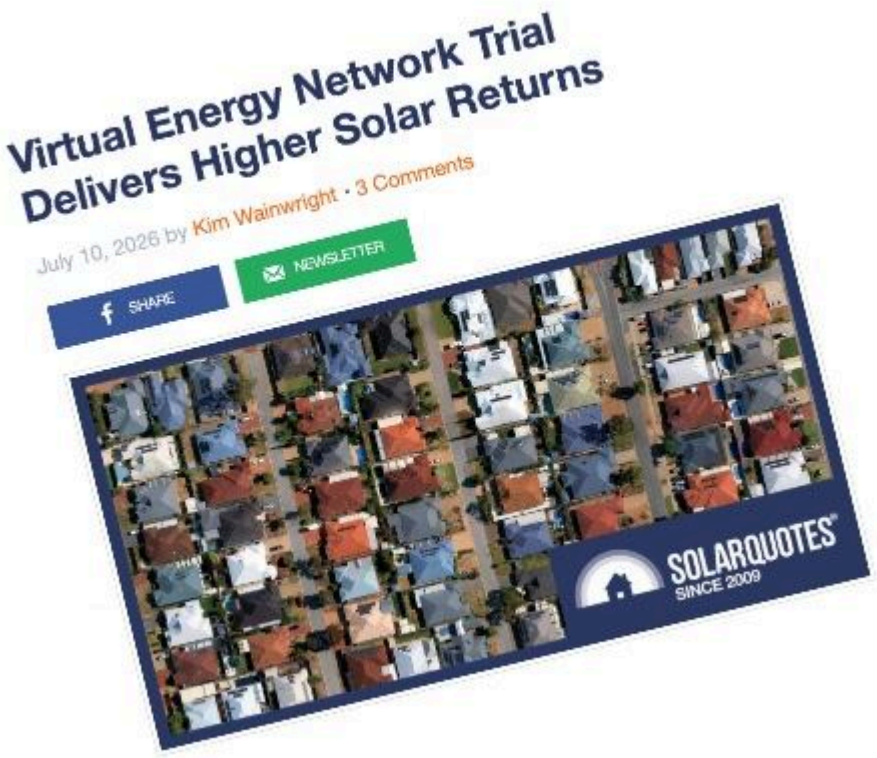
"Overall, households buying electricity paid less than they otherwise would have, while solar-exporting households received higher payments for their generation."

I particularly like this comment:

"Survey responses indicated participants became more confident that the energy system was operating fairly and that renewable energy was delivering benefits to local communities."

In the three minute video the Deakin Research Project lead (Dr Andrea La Nauze) explains the idea of a VEN and some of the participants in the project describe their experiences.

Or, if you are really keen, you can download a PDF of the full report of the trial here.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/want-to-know-more-about-vens ·

4. 23 JUNE 2026

Article about VENs in today's Age (June 23)

Great article on page 10 of The Age today about VENs and the Latrobe University study. Well worth a read. (Sorry we can't post it all here - copyright issues!).

6:11 pm Mon 22 Jun 78%

Contents

NEWS

Deal has neighbours trading in sunshine

Caitlin Fitzsimmons
Environment and climate reporter

Households with excess rooftop solar are selling cheap power to other homes and small businesses directly, beating the dwindling feed-in tariffs offered by retailers and delivering savings to non-solar consumers.

This is done through a virtual energy network (VEN), which in a Deakin University study over the past six months delivered, on average, 14¢ a kilowatt-hour to be shared between the buyer and the seller rather than boosting the profit of the retailer.

Deakin University associate professor Andrea La Nauze said the standard model meant that a household with rooftop solar was paid a feed-in tariff to export their energy to the grid, while their neighbour without solar paid their standard retail rate even if they were using energy at the same time.

"A virtual energy network connects those two neighbours [or any two customers]," La Nauze said. "It's a financial arrangement, so that instead of me buying my energy from the generic pool through my retailer at the retail price, I just buy it from you for a price that you and I agree.

"It is certainly using the grid. It is absolutely using the existing infrastructure that we've already invested in, which is one of the reasons why it is potentially so beneficial because it doesn't require an additional set of hardware. All it requires is smart meters."

La Nauze said the cost of electricity included a fixed and a tradeable component. The retailer still charged a fixed price to cover

'They're getting better than the crappy feed-in tariffs ...'

Tudor Goode, who trades on the virtual energy network.

the cost of the network and a margin but the VEN enabled the tradeable part to be a transaction between individual customers.

Chris McGuigan from Moss Vale in the NSW Southern Highlands said she was both a buyer and a seller on the network, depending on the time of year.

"In winter, with the lower angle of the [sun in the] sky and the shorter days, I'm not able to generate as much [solar power]," McGuigan said. "During spring and summer, I've got so much excess that I'm delighted that someone else can use it."

McGuigan said she traded electricity between her two houses, and sold it at a good price to her sister 20 kilometres away and to various businesses including a cafe, a wellness facility and a winery, with connections facilitated through social media.

Energy Consumers Australia, which helped fund the Deakin study, said the virtual energy network was an example of how all consumers could benefit from the energy transition, not just those with rooftop solar. About 100 of the 300 participants in the study were non-solar households, La Nauze said, and many of them changed the way they used electricity.

"This is the idea of a solar sponge – we saw about a 20 per cent increase in their consumption at times in the middle of the day when it tends to be sunnier and there tends to be a lot of excess solar on the grid," La Nauze said.

The grid has long had a problem of excess electricity during the day, when solar systems are pumping cheap power into the grid but



demand is low. This has been partly alleviated in the past year because of the strong uptake of batteries.

From July, retailers in NSW, South-East Queensland and South Australia will have to offer opt-in Solar Sharer plans with three hours of free electricity during the day in another bid to prompt consumers to shift when they use power. A similar deal, Midday Power Saver, will start in Victoria from October.

Sophie Beard, who owns a 1970s apartment in Brunswick in Melbourne, joined the virtual energy network for environmental

Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/article-about-vens-in-today-s-age-june-23 ·

5. 20 MAY 2026

Fireside chats - more to come!

About 20 of us had a drink and a great fireside chat last Sunday in the pub. Did you miss it? Sorry - we only messaged those who had specifically expressed interest in the **Flinders VEN**. But we plan regular chats on various topics and will invite ***all*** **FZCC Members** through a Member email. So don't miss out! **If you are not a member** [please join us now](#) - it is free, or you can donate, that's up to you :)



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/fireside-chats-more-to-come ·

6. 19 MARCH 2026

What a fabulous forum!

We had a great attendance at our forum on March 15th. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed several talks as well as a yummy afternoon tea! Thank you for coming if you were there.

We'll post link to videos of the presentations and PDFs of the talks very soon, as well as news of some follow-up activities that we are planning.





Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/what-a-fabulous-forum ·

7. 4 MARCH 2026

Tyabb Big Battery nearing completion

> Did you know we have a **big battery** coming to the Peninsula?Four members of the FZCC committee toured the site of the new 240 MW Mornington Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), situated adjacent to the Tyabb substation that serves the Peninsula, and which will be connected to the National Electricity Market. The project owners, Valent Energy, gave a very informative site tour, explained the benefits to the community and to Australia's energy transition, and answered many questions from the FZCC committee members.

At **650 MWh** of capacity, the Mornington BESS is nearly four times the size of the original South Australian Big Battery (Hornsdale), and will store surplus power from the grid at times of high renewables generation to deliver it back to the grid at peak hours of demand in the early evening (4–9pm) and early morning (6–9am). When called upon, the giant battery can deliver up to **240 MW of power** for nearly 3 hours, enough to power over 40,000 homes! It can also help to absorb any shocks to the grid's stability and prevent outages.

The BESS will serve the needs of the entire Peninsula, from Mornington and Hastings in the north to Portsea and Flinders in the south. Once operational in Q2 2026, it will be one of the largest batteries in Australia.



Can you spot the four FZCC Committee Members?



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/tyabb-big-battery-nearing-completion ·

8. 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Forum: Solar & Batteries - Is now the time?

Don't miss our upcoming *free* forum on **Sunday March 15th at 3 pm** in the Flinders Civic Centre.

The event will be hosted by Tracy Hutchinson. We'll have several speakers offering lots of good info on:

- **Home solar** - what's the latest?
- **Batteries** - should you get one?
- What are the various **battery & solar rebates**?
- **Bidirectional EV charging** - is it here? Can we do it yet?
- A **panel discussion** with some of Repower's trusted local business specialising in home electrification.
- An update on our Flinders **Virtual Energy Network**.

*What's a **VEN** do you ask? Simply a way for you to get cheaper electrical power (with or without solar), reclaim a better feed-in tariff for your excess solar, and buy/share your energy among Flinders friends! More info here.*

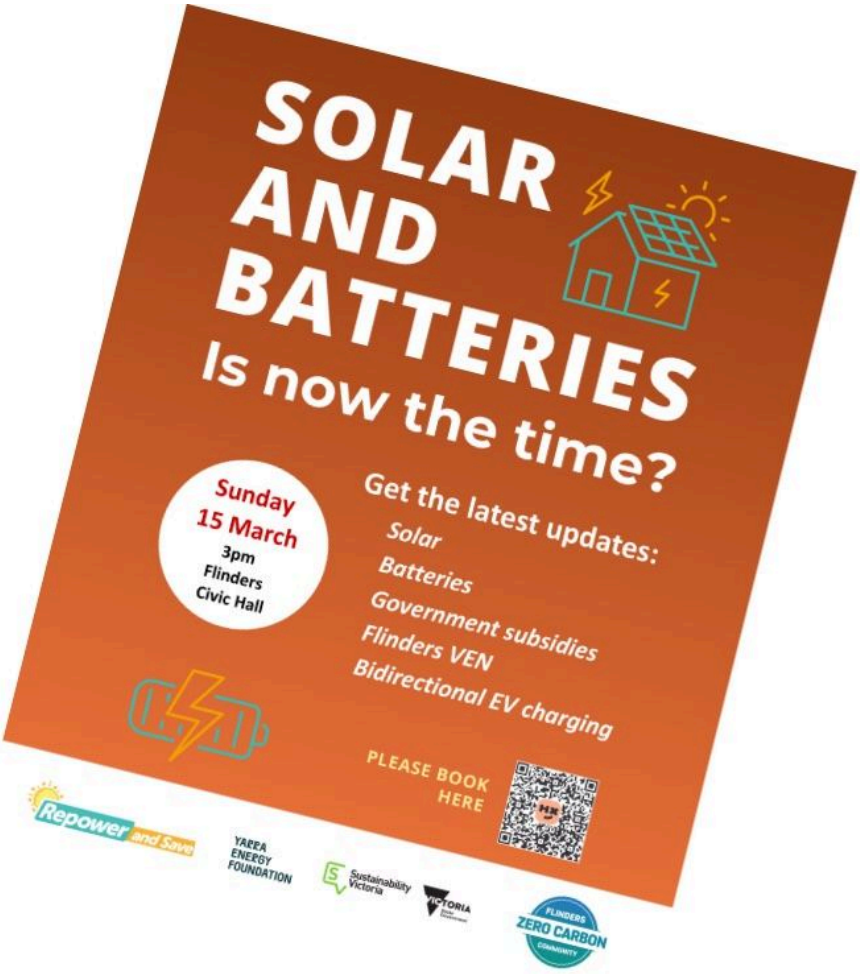
There will be plenty of chance to ask questions and have a bite to eat too :)

Please register here so we know how many cakes to bring you for afternoon tea!

Not an FZCC Member? Tut-tut. Why not join up here - and even donate if you'd like to help keep us operational :)

This forum will be run by FZCC in conjunction with Repower and Yarra Energy Foundation.

Repower and Flinders Zero Carbon Community have received funding support for this event through the Community Electrification Engagement Program grant from the Victorian Government through Sustainability Victoria.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/forum-solar-batteries-is-now-the-time ·

9. 28 JANUARY 2026

Thanks for visiting us at the St John's Fete!

We had a great time meeting lots of people at the St John's Fete last Saturday. If you dropped in to say 'hi', thank you!

There was plenty of interest in our **Virtual Energy Network** - if you haven't found out about it yet, have a look here. Whether or not you have solar, it might save you money, but it will certainly encourage more renewables in Flinders and help to keep our renewable energy *within* Flinders. It also interested a few people that they might be able to generate solar energy in Flinders and send it to their main residence in Melbourne.

Repower kindly lent us their banners & table for the fete - we are co-hosting our Solar and Batteries: is now the time? forum event with them on **March 15**. Should be good!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/thanks-for-visiting-us-at-the-st-john-s-fete ·

10. 21 JANUARY 2026

Come & chat with us at the Fête!



We'll have a table at the St John's fête on Saturday Jan 24th, so why not drop in and say 'hi'? Find out about our latest plans for a Flinders Virtual Energy Network, home batteries, our upcoming forum: Solar and Batteries: is now the time?, and more.

See you at St John's church, Saturday morning.

Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/come-chat-with-us-at-the-fête ·

11. 18 DECEMBER 2025

Our VEN is happening!

We are inviting you to join the **Flinders Virtual Energy Network**!

And before we go any further, we will have an **information table outside the Flinders General Store this Saturday (Dec 20th)** from about **8:30 to 11ish.** Drop by and say 'hi'!

Why a VEN? Well:

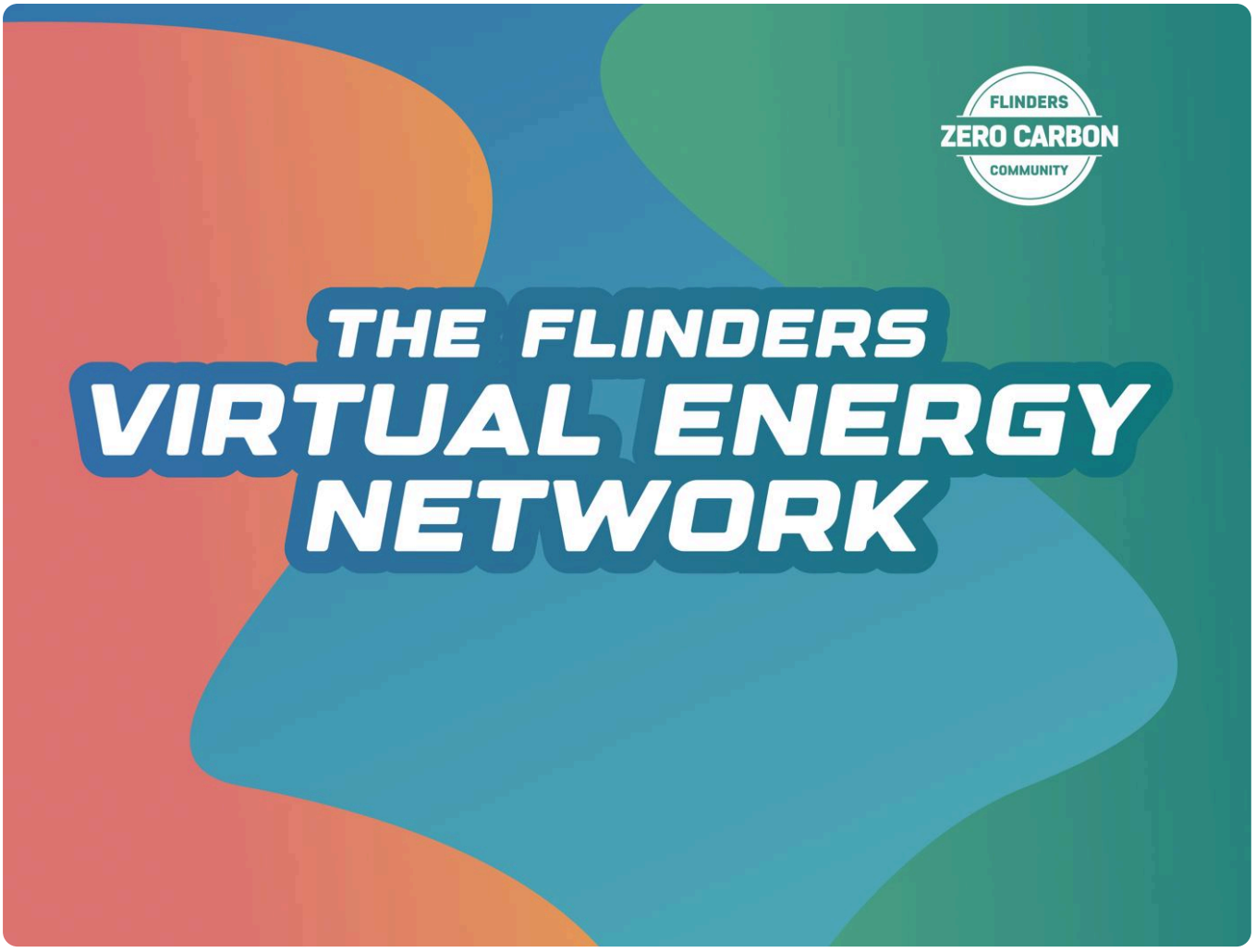
- you might get a kick out of being able to *share or sell any excess solar energy* you have with other Flinders residents or businesses;
- you might get a better price than whatever *measly feed-in tariff* you currently get from your electricity retailer;
- or maybe you don't have solar at all yet and are just looking for a *better price for your energy* (and energy sourced from a local resident to boot!).

To get an indication of what this might mean to you financially, you can download a file from United Energy describing all your energy use for the past year. We have an online tool to help you do that and to use that file to check the likely benefits of being in the VEN compared to your last year's bill. It won't be for everyone as we all have different pricing rates from our retailers and very different usage patterns. But for many, we hope the idea is attractive.

The above online tool link will guide you through the process to help you see where you stand.

What to do next? Head to this informative page on our web site and find out more about this venture and how to get involved.

If you just want more info about what a Virtual Energy Network is, then download at this one-page explainer.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/our-ven-is-happening ·

12. 12 NOVEMBER 2025 · EDITED 24 NOVEMBER 2025

Get ready for our FZCC VEN!

At yesterday's FZCC committee meeting (Nov 11th) we had a good chat about **Virtual Energy Networks** (VENs) with 7 or 8 members joining the meeting to discuss. The strong feeling was that we should go ahead and set up a VEN for Flinders, so we'll do that and let you know how to get involved soon.

Meanwhile, if you missed yesterday's meeting, here are the slides (sorry, probably don't make a lot of sense on their own!). Here is the AI generated video that we showed which, in spite of a slight American flavour, actually does a pretty good job of explaining VENs. And if you haven't yet read our one page explainer about VENs, here it is.

(If you want to play around with analysing your **Victorian Energy Compare report** file - that you can download from United Energy - then have a look at the suite of analysis tools we have developed for you.)



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/get-ready-for-our-fzcc-ven ·

13. 12 NOVEMBER 2025

What happened at our AGM?



Our AGM was held on Nov 11, 2025. 14 members attended, with 3 apologies. It was followed by an FZCC Committee meeting in which we spoke about Virtual Energy Networks (see next news post).

The formal outcomes of the meeting were:

Jon Pearce & **Ralph Kenyon** re-elected as Co-conveners.

Mark Aarons re-elected as Secretary

Richard Atkinson elected as Treasurer.

General committee members:

Leigh Glover

Bernard Daly

Neville Wale

Congrats to all!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/what-happened-at-our-agm ·

14. 5 NOVEMBER 2025 · EDITED 10 NOVEMBER 2025

Not just an AGM...

Don't forget: **Tues 11th, 5 PM** - venue now changed to:

Meeting Room,

Flinders Civic Hall,

54-56 Cook Street, Flinders

Not only a very brief AGM but also a chance to find out about our new **Virtual Energy Network project** for Flinders.

If you are planning to come, please RSVP here so that we can be sure that we have space and maybe offer a little refreshment!

Here's the Agenda:

FZCC Annual General Meeting (2024/2025 ending June 30) Agenda

Tuesday November 11th 2025

Venue: Flinders Civic Hall meeting room, 54-56 Cook Street, Flinders

Time: 5:00 PM

Welcome:

Apologies:

Present:

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting:**
2. **Convenor's Annual Report** 2.1 Acceptance of Convenor's Report:
3. **Finance Report** 3.1 Acceptance of finance report:
4. **Election of FZCC Committee** 4.1 All committee positions declared vacant 4.2 Nominees for committee positions 4.3 Appointment of re-elected/new committee members
5. **Other Business**
6. **Meeting Close**



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/not-just-an-agm ·

15. 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Community Workshop was such fun!

On Saturday Sept 6th we ran our **Community 'round table' style workshop** to discuss ideas to further our zero carbon aims. We heard about FZCC progress to date, government rebates, home batteries and Virtual Energy Networks. Then a great discussion of ideas followed by pizza. Miss it? You can find our presentations and a display of people's thoughts here.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/community-workshop-was-fun ·

16. 13 AUGUST 2025

Pizza and a little chat

We’re inviting you to a **Community Workshop** where we can bounce ideas off each other, share suggestions, and meet like-minded folk.

Following last year's very successful installation of our Flinders Community Battery, we’re still on a mission to reduce carbon emissions in Flinders and we’d love to **hear your ideas and interests** to help us shape this low-carbon future.

That’s why we’re inviting you to a **Community Workshop** where we can bounce ideas off each other, share suggestions, and meet like-minded folk.

We will also be sharing some **pizzas** as a token of our appreciation and for your valuable input.

So please give some serious thought to joining us for an informative discussion on **Saturday September 6th, from 6 pm to about 7:30 pm**, in the Flinders Civic Hall. We’ll also fill you in on recent FZCC activities and have an expert present to talk and answer questions about **home batteries**. Can’t wait to see you there - it will be a fun evening!

Bookings are essential so please

click here to tell us you're coming.

Thanks.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/pizza-and-a-little-chat ·

17. 13 JUNE 2025

Have you seen our petition?

You might have seen the full-page article in the Westernport News (11th June, p.4) or other local publications entitled "**Council must reinstate climate emergency plan**".

It's encouraging you to sign a petition in protest to the Council's recent abandonment of our **Climate Emergency Declaration** and its associated **Climate Emergency Plan**. On May 6th, Councillors followed up by removing all funding for **community climate action grants**, as well as funding for **Performing Arts** and **Indigenous Cultural programs**.

You can read the notice here and sign the petition here.

Thank you for thinking about this - we really appreciate it!

Jon Pearce & Ralph Kenyon

FZCC Co-conveners



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/have-you-seen-our-petition ·

18. 23 MAY 2025

Free Webinar - Monday 26th! Repower and Save!

Repower are running a free webinar on **Monday 26th May** demonstrating the amazing tool **Repower and Save**. This highly interactive tool lets you explore energy use in your home and how you might reduce it through purchasing solar panels, battery and maybe even using a green loan. It allows you to toggle different components, e.g. heat pump, induction cooktop, solar panels, battery, so you can instantly compare costs, energy savings and payback periods on your choices.

It also enables Mornington Peninsula residents to connect with trusted local businesses that have partnered with Repower.

You can find out more here and get your free tickets.





Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/free-webinar-monday-26th-repower-and-save ·

19. 10 MAY 2025

Missed our EV Forum?

What fun our EV forum was a couple of weeks ago! But if you missed it, no worries. You can download Bryce Gaton's slides here, and Richard Atkinson's 's slides too.

Not only that, but Richard has put the presentations into a series of videos. You can find them here on our YouTube Channel.

And don't forget that you can **become an FZCC Member** - it's as easy as a click!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/missed-our-ev-forum ·

20. 24 MARCH 2025

Flinders EV Forum at Easter



Don't miss this! We are holding a forum all about **Electric Vehicles** in the Flinders Civic hall on **Easter Saturday (April 19th).**

Come along and find out all the good oil (oops, no, they don't need oil) about these fabulous cars. How often do they need servicing (well, err, they don't really need much servicing), how likely they are to catch fire (spoiler alert: about 10 to 60 times *less* likely than a petrol car!). Or maybe just come along to find out why we love them so much!

Bryce Gaton (founder *EVchoice Consulting*, and writer for *TheDriven*) will make a presentation, and we'll get into all those tricky topics of charging, battery technology, bidirectional charging, and more. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions of the experts and we'll have some EVs on display.

You will need to register please - so go straight to our registration page here.

You will find some more information about the event here.

And don't forget that the following day (Easter Sunday) is the Flinders Motoring Heritage event: a display of classic, veteran, vintage, and neo-classic motorcars displayed around the of Flinders village.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/flinders-ev-forum-at-easter ·

21. 15 MARCH 2025

Do you have your poster yet?

We are enthusiastic about helping more people to enjoy the benefits of solar on their houses. So if you already have solar panels, why not join us in **spreading the word**? We have a collection of beautiful A3 sized corflute posters that you can tie to your fence or attach to a post. We encourage you to offer $10 towards their production.

This is part of a campaign to get more of us to think about how we can encourage actions on behalf of family & friends - enact local actions to impact global change.

If you would like a poster for your Flinders home, **please send your phone or email details to flinderszcc@gmail.com** and we will be in contact soon.

Join with our community as we work towards net zero together



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/do-you-have-your-poster-yet ·

22. 3 MARCH 2025

How do others do community batteries?

This SwitchedOn podcast is well worth listening to!

Entitled "**So you want to install a community battery? Village Power's battle to get switched on**" it tells the story of a group in the Alphington, Fairfield and Ivanhoe areas who have spent the past 6 or 7 years working towards a community battery - like ours! But they were not so fortunate and have just recently come up against some serious issues.

They chose a different model for the running of the battery from ours: a *subscription model* rather than one in which nobody "joins up" and any financial benefits being returned to the community as a whole. Their website is excellent and informative.



SwitchOn podcast

Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/how-do-others-do-community-batteries ·

23. 18 JANUARY 2025

Have you been to St John's Fête?

Don't miss it - it's on right now!

If you're reading this on Saturday morning, that is. FZCC has a stand there with people you can chat to. Come and join us and have a chat!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/have-you-been-to-st-john-s-fête ·

24. 6 JANUARY 2025

Experience what others have done in their home!

We have an innovative programme running at present in which some of our FZCC members are happy to invite other Flinders residents into their homes to look at various energy saving appliances: r**everse cycle heating/cooling, induction cooktops, solar panels, home battery, heat pump hot water systems,** and more. Our aim is to give you a chance to talk to locals who have acquired these appliances so you can discuss the ins and outs, the pluses and minuses.

If you are interested in visiting a home, just fill in this form and one of our Hosts will be in contact with you to arrange a mutually convenient time for you to visit their house.

Also, if you are willing to be a host and have someone visit *your* house, please let us know here.

*And **Happy New Year.***

Not an FZCC Member yet?

Why not support us and make 2025 the year to join?

Join up here!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/experience-what-others-have-done-in-their-home ·

25. 21 DECEMBER 2024

Wanna help spread the word?

We are enthusiastic about helping more people to enjoy the benefits of solar on their houses. So if you already have solar panels, why not join us in **spreading the word**? We have a collection of beautiful A3 sized corflute posters that you can tie to your fence or attach to a post. We encourage you to offer $10 towards their production.

This is the start of a campaign to get more of us to think about how we can encourage actions on behalf of family & friends - enact local actions to impact global change. You will see more posters around Flinders during summer encouraging action.

If you would like a poster for your Flinders home, **please send your phone or email details to flinderszcc@gmail.com** and we will be in contact soon.

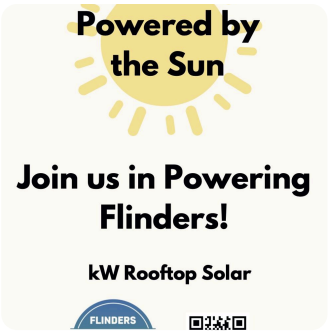
Join with our community as we work towards net zero together



See how beautiful our posters are!

Posters to choose from (the last one is a special one for those homes within the battery subnetwork):







Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/wanna-help-spread-the-word ·

26. 29 OCTOBER 2024 · EDITED 30 OCTOBER 2024

The first in the country!

Our community battery was officially launched by the Hon Josh Wilson, member for Fremantle and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, today, October 29th. He reminded us that this is the the **first non-network owned battery in Australia** delivered under the Community Batteries for Household Solar program, it is wholly owned by the Shire rather than one of the energy network distributors. Quite an achievement for us in Flinders!

Chris Wallin (Yarra Energy Foundation) MC'd the morning. Short speeches were given by John Baker (CEO MP Shire), Ralph Kenyon (FZCC Co-convenor) and then Josh Wilson. Then they all proceeded to unveil the battery.

About 80 to 100 people attended and enjoyed a lovely morning tea provided kindly by the Flinders General Store (thank you, Kate!).

If you weren't able to be there, you can watch the 32 minute video here (thanks to Richard Atkinson for this).

Chris Wallin watches the unveiling:



And here is the excited FZCC team:



Back row, L to R: Leigh Austin, Richard Atkinson, Ralph Kenyon, Neville Wale, Bernard Daly.

Front row, L to R: Caitlin Bello, Jon Pearce, Mark Aarons.

Team members absent from photo: Naomi Murray & Stephen Hare.

And some of the crowd:



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/the-first-in-the-country ·

27. 26 OCTOBER 2024

Our beautiful battery is ready to launch!

All is in place for our launch at **10 am this Tuesday!**

In case you are interested, here is some information about the battery's artwork:

Artist: Glenn Shaw

Glenn is a proud Bunurong (Victoria) and Plangermairreenner (Tasmania) Aboriginal man, strongly connected to Community and Culture. Glenn was born on Flinders Island, Tasmania in 1958 and started painting as a teenager.

Artwork: Bush Currant

The Bush Currant grows in the coastal zone all around the country. There are a number of varieties and colours which include Red, which are often found in North Queensland and the White/Yellow variety which are found in Victoria, Tasmania and across to Western Australia. The Currant is a small berry with a number of seeds, very sweet taste and has a high vitamin C level.

They flower during the Bunurong Seasons of Garrawang (December) and Bidarep (January-February). The Artwork also depicts 2 campsites where those collecting the seeds were camping, 2 waterholes/springs which represent the Bunurong connection to water with the remaining 7 circles depicting the 7 Seasons of the Kulin Nation being:

- Bidarep (Dry Season January – February),
- Lum (Eel Season – March),
- Waring (Wombat Season - April – July),
- Guling (Orchid Season – August),
- Poorneet (Tadpole Season – September – October),
- Buarth (Guru Grass Flowering Season – November)
- and Garrawang (Kangaroo Apple Season – December).

The 5 colours in the circles represent the 5 main apical ancestor groups of the Bunurong people.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/our-beautiful-battery-is-ready-to-launch ·

28. 11 OCTOBER 2024

Come to our battery launch! Tuesday 29th October 10 am

10 - 11.30 am ,Tuesday 29th October, 2024

Our community battery will be officially launched by Josh Wilson, the federal Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy on October 29. The event will include a morning tea outside the Flinders Civic Centre on the corner of Cook and Norman streets.

Our battery is the first one on the Peninsula and the first one in the state to be operational from round 1 of the government's *"Community Batteries for Household Solar program"*.

So please don't miss out - come along to this free event and help us celebrate history being made!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/come-to-our-battery-launch ·

29. 27 AUGUST 2024

64 weeks + 4 days of planning (give or take)...

...and **our battery has been installed** after just 2 weeks of digging, concreting and constructing! Yes, the installation happened today (Tues 27th) and it will be connected to the grid tomorrow (Wed) and operating by Thursday. It's a beautiful subtle grey colour at present but will have some gorgeous artwork applied to it soon.





Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/64-weeks-4-days-of-planning-give-or-take ·

30. 13 AUGUST 2024

See that post? It's about to begin!

The small post in the photo marks the spot for a battery. Look carefully and you'll see the top of a pit (go on, zoom in)! We expect to see ***civil works begin this week*** and a concrete pour by the end of the week. The actual battery should follow after the concrete has had a week or so to cure. We are working towards the battery going live a couple of weeks into September.

It's all happening.

We'll keep you posted!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/see-that-post-it-s-about-to-begin ·

31. 6 AUGUST 2024

When is our community battery coming??



Good question! We are hoping to see some fencing being erected early next week (Aug 12th onwards) and a pit being dug in the last week of August. The battery to be installed later that week. That's the plan. Keep an eye out for what is happening on on the site :)



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/when-is-our-community-battery-coming ·

32. 30 JULY 2024

Solar Bulk Buy extended until August 30th!

Good news! Our **Flinders Solar Bulk Buy** scheme has been so successful that **All Electric Homes** have agreed to extend it for an extra month! This means that the closing date is now **August 30th**.

So if you are even remotely thinking about solar, get a free in-home consultation from the All Electric Homes team, or visit our page about the Bulk Buy Scheme. All Electric Homes can fully model your home's energy requirements including *hot water heat pumps, batteries, cooktops, pool pumps*, etc. applying all applicable subsidies. And even organise loans.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/solar-bulk-buy-extended-until-august-30th ·

33. 30 JULY 2024

Yummy sausages!



Mark Aarons & Ralph Kenyon cook some yummy sausages to feed the people enjoying the music at a Flinders Fringe Festival event last Sunday. All proceeds go to help funding FZCC.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/yummy-sausages ·

34. 15 JULY 2024

Become an FZCC Member!

Good news! We are establishing the ability to become an **FZCC member** for residents who have an interest in helping to move Flinders towards net-zero by 2030. This will help us to work with and encourage people who have a stronger interest in the Flinders environment than just being on our mailing list. As a member you will receive advance notification of events and future offers and discounts to any paid events.

Please join us by becoming a member! *There is no membership fee* but a voluntary contribution of $25 per annum would be of great assistance to the group. These contributions will help us to maintain the group's web site, organise more events and stay in contact with you.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/become-an-fzcc-member ·

35. 15 JULY 2024

July Forum videos are live!

Couldn't make our July forum? No worries - you can catch up on the speakers' presentations and the Q&A session in 3 videos on our Resources page. Or use these direct links to YouTube here:

Part 1: Health and gas in the home, Genevieve Cowie.

Part 2: My Efficient Electric Home, Tim Forcey

Part 3: Q&A session, Genevieve Cowie, Tim Forcey & Trent Jones.

Enjoy!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/july-forum-videos-are-live ·

36. 9 JULY 2024

Can you see the missing tree?

Keen eyes might have noticed a tree missing outside the Flinders Civic Hall. It was diseased and so this will become the site of our **Community Battery**. The tree will be replaced by 3 Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) on the Flinders Common.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/can-you-see-the-missing-tree ·

37. 9 JULY 2024

Fantastic Forum for Flinders!

We had a great forum last Sunday (7th) with speakers Genevieve Cowie and Tim Forcey. About 55 people braved the chilly weather and enjoyed the speakers followed by a Q&A session including Trent Jones (All Electric Homes). It was followed by fine wines donated from our local wineries (Quealy, Nazaaray Estate and Morning Peninsula Vignerons) as well as nibbles. We will post a video of the session this web site soon.



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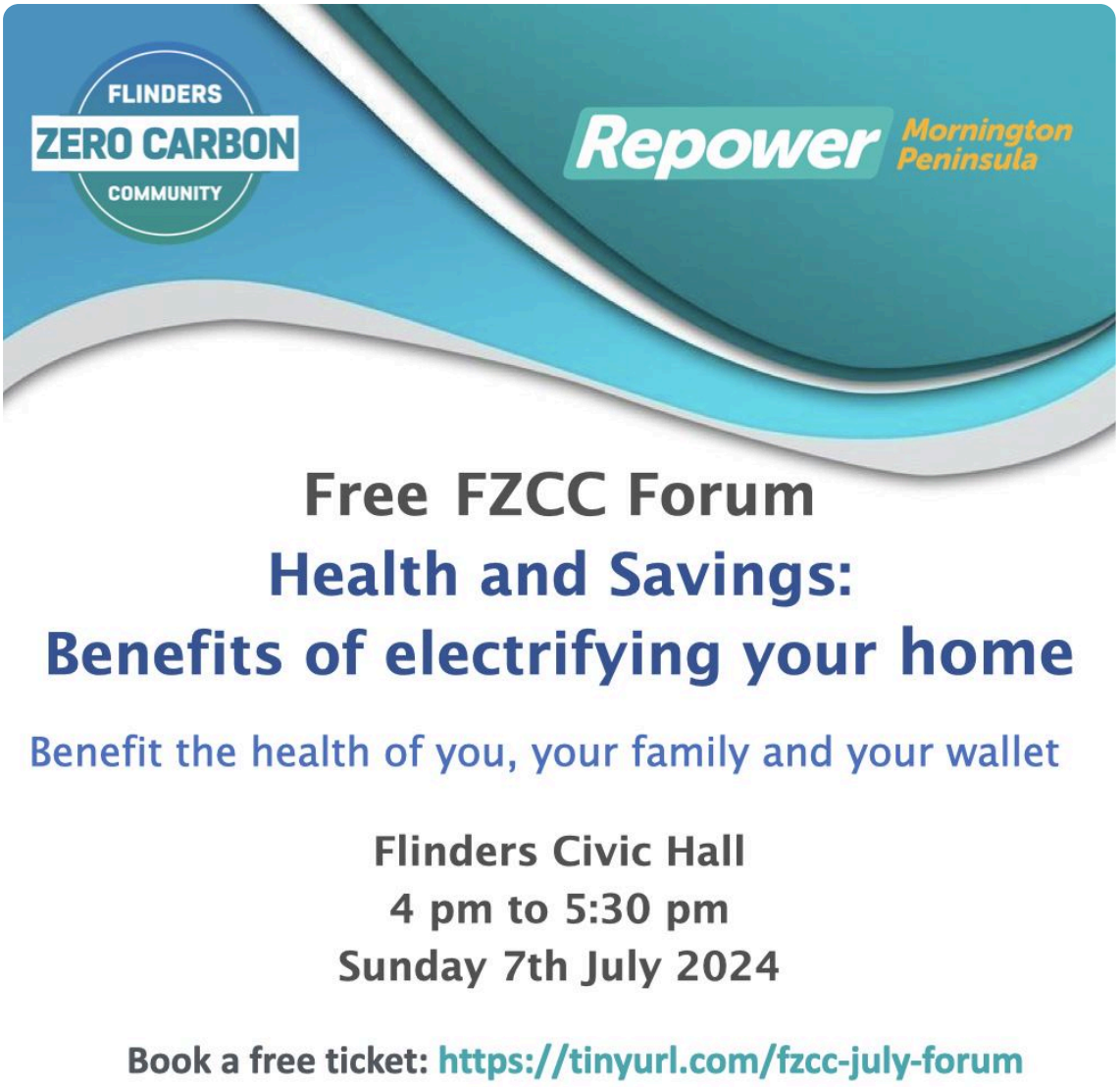
Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/fantastic-forum-for-flinders ·

38. 28 JUNE 2024

Free FZCC Forum July 7th



Health and Savings: Benefits of electrifying your home

Sunday 7th July 4pm to 5:30pm

Flinders Civic Hall, Cook St, Flinders

(Followed by drinks and canapés)

(Book your ticket here.)

By switching your appliances from gas to electricity, you can save money on your household bills, improve your family's comfort, protect them from gas health impacts, and take action to help stop climate change.

Hear from **Dr Genevieve Cowie** (Convenor of Doctors for the environment Australia) and **Tim Forcey** (Home comfort and energy adviser). Dr Cowie will speak about the health impacts of gas in the home. Tim will speak about the benefits of insulation and draft proofing your home and the benefits of home electrification. He has provided advice to over 1,000 Melbourne homes about how to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills by switching to electrical appliances. Tim's expertise is widely sought and accessed by individuals, community groups, businesses, government bodies, members of Parliament and media.

This is a *free* ticketed event but it is essential that you book to help us with catering. You can go to our booking page here.

Looking forward to meeting you there.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/free-fzcc-forum-july-7th ·

39. 18 JUNE 2024

Looking for a free in-home consultation?



Flinders Zero Carbon Community and **REPOWER Mornington Peninsula's** trusted electrification partner - **All Electric Homes** - are providing *FREE* in-home consultations. An electrification expert will be able to specify a solution to suit your home and budget and provide you with a plan to transition to renewable energy.

All Electric Homes will also be offering advice on gas abolishment and providing customised plans, quotes and applicable rebates associated with:

- Solar & Batteries

- Hydronic heating heat pumps
- Air conditioning
- Hot water heat pumps
- EV chargers
- Induction Cooktops
- Supply upgrades
- Pool heat pumps

Just click this link to express your interest and the good folk at **All Electric Homes** will contact you.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/looking-for-a-free-in-home-consultation ·

40. 9 MAY 2024

Bulk Buy Info Session videos are here!

The videos of our **Bulk Buy Info Session** from Saturday May 4th are now live on our website. We have split them into three parts for your viewing pleasure!

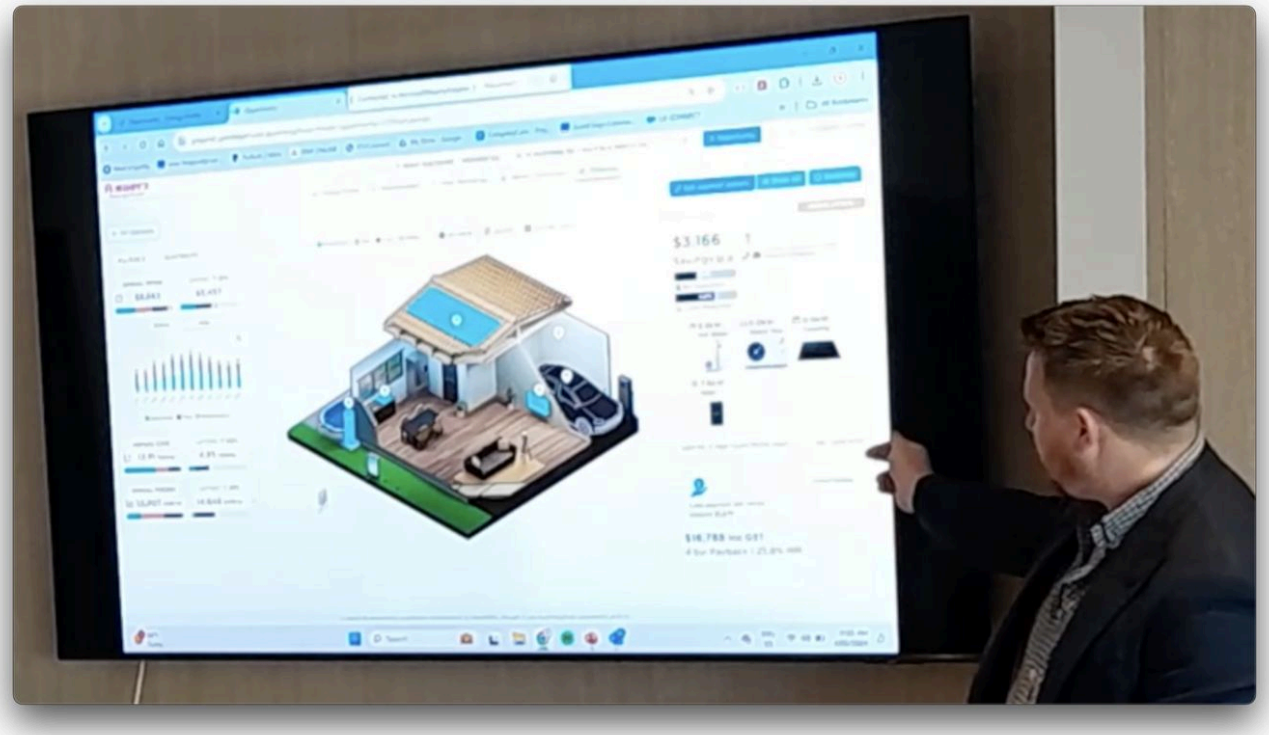
Part 1: Welcome by Ralph Kenyon & Jon Pearce and an overview of the aims of FZCC and activities to date.

Part 2: Trent Jones from All Electric Homes talks about their vision and how their process works to determine the optimal solar system for your house.

Part 3: Josh Jones from All Electric Homes shows their home modelling software as well as answering questions from the audience.

You can play each one on YouTube directly from the links above, or find them all on our Resources page.

Enjoy!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/bulk-buy-info-session-videos-are-here ·

41. 4 MAY 2024

Solar Bulk Buy Forum hugely popular!

This morning we held a forum in the Flinders hall to explain the **Solar Bulk Buy** scheme we have set up in Flinders. The Ralph Kenyon & Jon Pearce (FZCC Co-convenors) kicked things off with an introduction and review of what FZCC has been up to and where we are currently at. Then the CEO of All Electric Homes (Trent Jones) and his team walked us through what they do and showed how easy it is to get solar installed on your house - as well as other things such as heat pump hot water and air conditioning.

There were about 50 people present and lots of questions. A great morning!





Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/bulk-buy-forum-hugely-popular ·

42. 23 APRIL 2024 · EDITED 25 APRIL 2024

Flinders Solar Bulk Buy Launch! May 4th, 10:30 am

The **Flinders Solar Bulk Buy Scheme** is being launched at an Information Session on **Saturday May 4th, 10:30 am** in the new Civic Hall (56 Cook St, Flinders). And this scheme is open to **Shoreham residents** too!

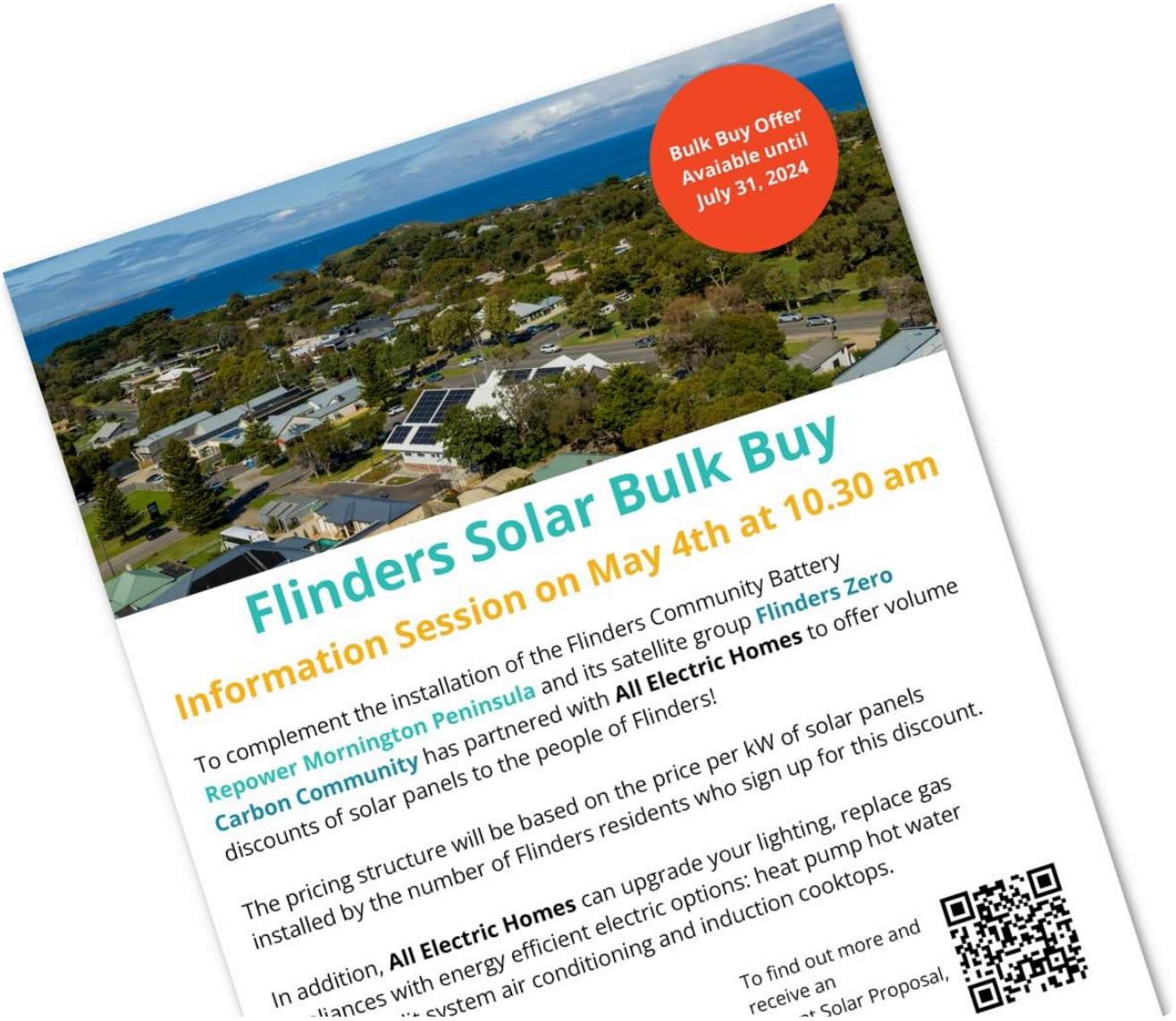
To complement the installation of the Flinders Community Battery **Repower Mornington Peninsula** and its satellite group **Flinders Zero Carbon Community** has partnered with **All Electric Homes** to offer volume discounts of solar panels to the people of Flinders and Shoreham.

The pricing structure will be based on the price per kW of solar panels installed by the number of Flinders residents who sign up for this discount. In addition, **All Electric Homes** can upgrade your lighting, replace gas appliances with energy efficient electric options: heat pump hot water services, split system air conditioning and induction cooktops.

More details of the scheme, including indicative pricing, can be found on our Web page here.

So come along on **Saturday May 4th at 10:30 am** to hear from the good folks at **All Electric Homes**. They will explain the scheme to us, take us through the process of getting a solar system installed on your house using their very cool software to model the energy performance of your home. They will be happy to answer all manner of questions regarding choice of systems, government rebates, the installation process as well as information on low cost loans.

And if you plan to come on Saturday, **please drop us a line** at flinderszcc@gmail.com to help us estimate numbers. Thanks - that helps a lot!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/flinders-solar-bulk-buy-launch ·

43. 26 MARCH 2024

Want a good deal on heat pumps? Solar panels? Induction cooktops?

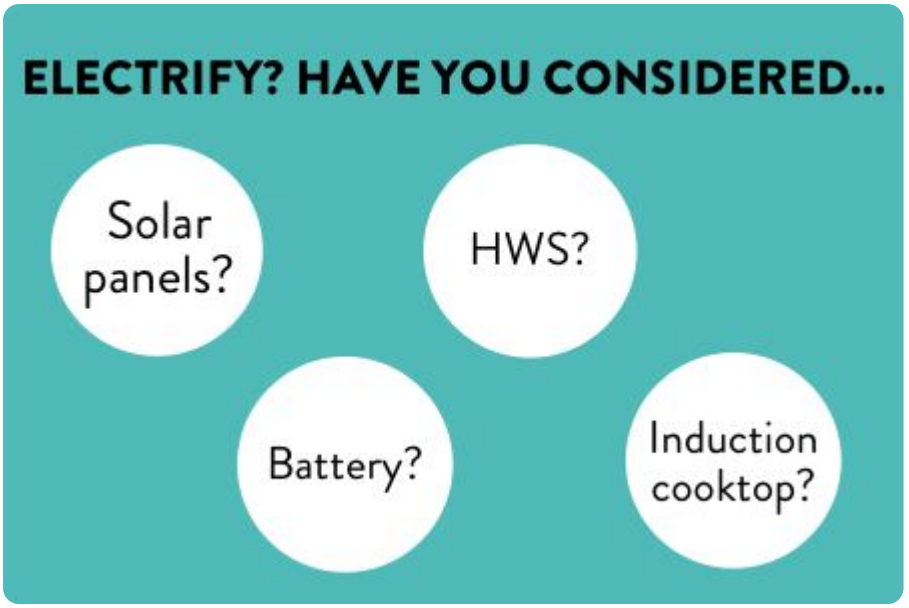
We are keen to get small groups of residents together to discuss how to go about buying things such as **hot water heat pumps, solar panels, batteries**, and maybe other **energy efficient appliances**. We are exploring the opportunity to have some installation experts address the community to demonstrate how electrifying your home can be achieved.

Electrifying your home might mean removing gas appliances, new installations or adjustments to your existing infrastructure and appliances. Electrifying your home could bring specific benefits to you including; reduced energy costs, reduced carbon emissions, more locally produced energy and adding value to your home. Our sessions would aim to demonstrate how investments in electrification provide some or all of these benefits together with information on the likely return on investment and pay back periods based on the options that are available to you.

We appreciate that most Flinders residents prefer to deal with local, reliable trades and in conjunction with the Shire and Mornington Peninsula Repower we believe that we have sourced a company that can provided **competitively priced services** that may meet your needs.

The easiest way to stay informed about these activities is to click on this link where you will be able to tell us a little bit about your interests. There's nothing scary here, but it will let us keep contact with you and inform you about what activities we plan.

We are keen to get several discussions happening during the year, but we want them to fit in with people's expectations and desires, so any feedback you can give us will be much appreciated.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/want-a-good-deal-on-heat-pumps-solar-panels-induction-cooktops ·

44. 18 MARCH 2024

Check out our podcast!

One of our co-convenors - Ralph Kenyon - was interviewed for this podcast. Ralph's story demonstrates how committed communities can indeed change the world, offering insights and practical tips for others to emulate. Download or play the podcast here.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/check-out-our-podcast ·

45. 8 JANUARY 2024

Short survey: where to put our battery?

Have your say in this short survey

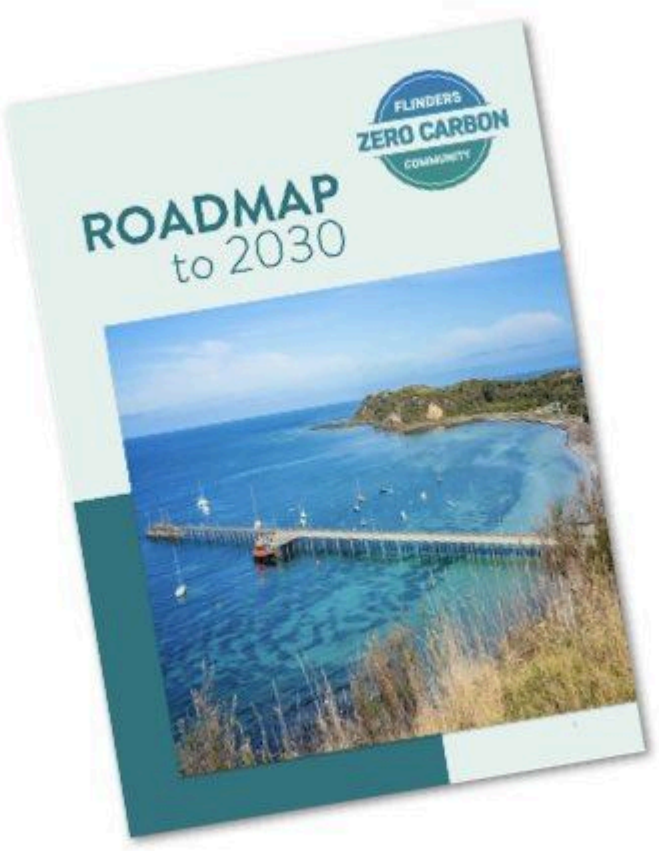


Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/where-to-put-our-battery ·

46. 2 JANUARY 2024

Get the FZCC Roadmap to 2030!

You can download this doc now from our Resources web page and read about how we can make our way to zero net carbon in Flinders by 2030.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/get-the-fzcc-roadmap-to-2030 ·

47. 7 DECEMBER 2023

Community Reference Group's first report!

Our Community Reference Group comprises 7 people meeting regularly with representatives from Council, Yarra Energy Foundation and Repower. They had their first meeting on Nov 23rd, and we now have the minutes from that meeting. They discussed the process of implementing this project and issues relevant to the local community, such as the likely location of the battery.

You can download a copy of the report below (and find future ones on our Resources page).

📄 Flinders CRG 1st Agenda-Minutes_v2.pdf

Enjoy!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/community-reference-group-s-first-report ·

48. 27 NOVEMBER 2023 · EDITED 7 DECEMBER 2023

We had a great Forum! Watch the videos!

We had a great meeting on Saturday evening to find out all about this battery project.

Did you miss it? Just hop over to our Resources page



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Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/we-had-a-great-forum ·

Community Reference Group



Extension for EOIs

Due to delays in the delivery of mail and email communication about the Community Reference Group, the timeframe for *Expressions of Interest* for the CRG has been extended to 5pm on 16th November. So if you are a resident of Flinders and would like to be considered, please email your EOI to Marie Lakey at marie.lakey@yef.org.au

Other dates to note:

The first meeting of the CRG (online) will be in the week of November 20th.

Saturday November 25: *Community Information Session* at 5:30 PM at the Bowls Club.

Watch this website for notifications regarding these issues.

Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/community-reference-group ·

50. 2 AUGUST 2023

A new film from Rachel Ward about the power of Regen Ag

Film director and actress Rachel Ward is not the first person you'd expect to join a farming revolution. In this triumphant film, Rachel voyages from wilful ignorance about the ecological impacts of conventional agriculture on her own rural property to embracing a movement to restore the health of Australia's farmland, food and climate. ***Rachel's Farm*** will be touring in July & August and coming to **Rosebud** on **Wednesday 9th August at 6.30 pm at Peninsula Cinema Rosebud** for a special Q&A screening event with Rachel Ward and special guests Simone Watts, Sarah Saxton and Sophie O'Neil.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/a-new-film-from-rachel-ward-about-the-power-of-regen-ag ·

51. 2 APRIL 2023 · EDITED 3 JUNE 2023

Community Battery Project

In late January 2023 we submitted an application to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for funding to install a community battery in Flinders.

You can read more about the project here.

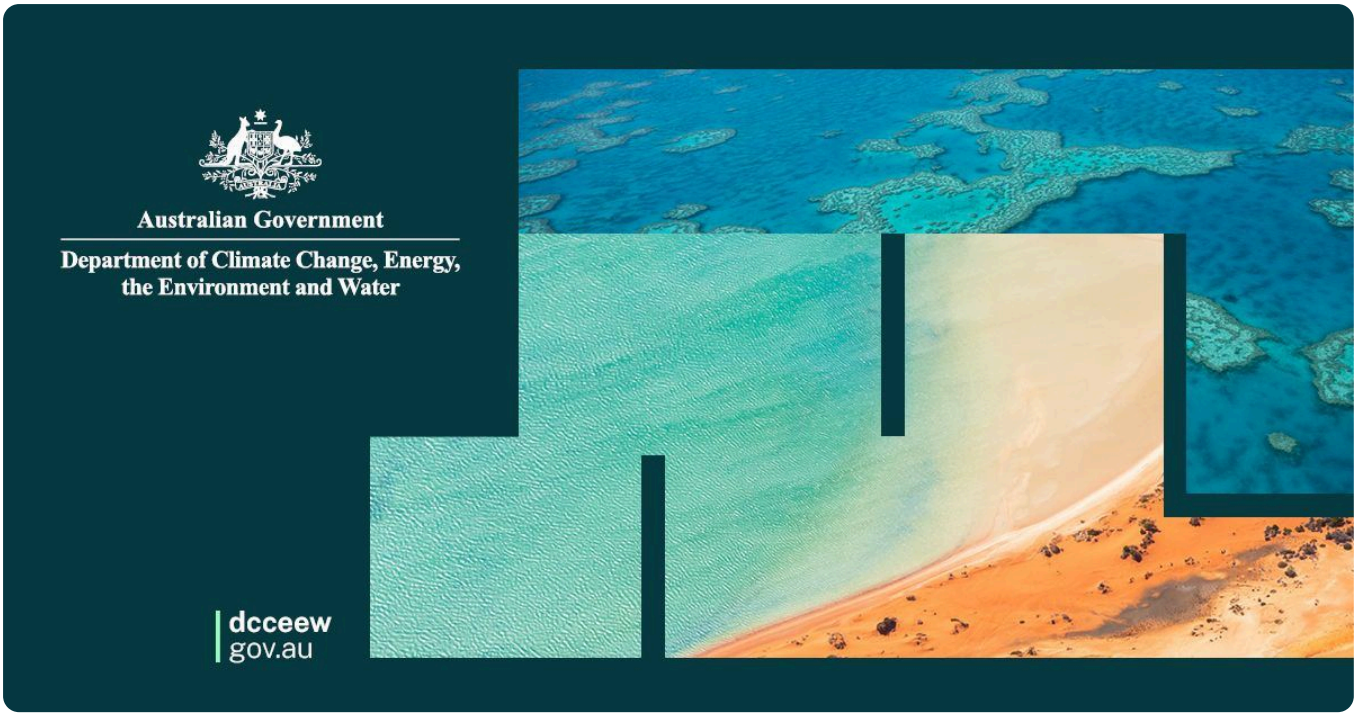


Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/community-battery-project ·

52. 24 JANUARY 2023 · EDITED 3 JUNE 2023

Application to DCCEEW for battery funding

In late January 2023 we submitted an application to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for funding to install a community battery in Flinders. In June we found out that we had been successful in our application! You can read more about the project here.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/application-to-dcceew-for-battery-funding ·

53. 20 JANUARY 2023

Community Meeting: Roadmap 2030

This forum at the Flinders Bowls club was packed with locals wanting to hear about our plans for a community battery in Flinders. The speakers were: Taryn Lane (from the Hepburn Wind Project) who spoke about the feasibility study that we commissioned her to prepare; Chris Wallin (Yarra Energy Foundation) explained to us the ins and outs of community batteries; and Steph Delaney (Community Carbon Facilitation Officer at Mornington Shire) spoke about matters from the Shire's perspective. It was a highly informative event with a great response and much interest from the locals!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/community-forum ·

54. 20 DECEMBER 2022

Flinders Spring Creek and Double Creek Biolink Habitat Project

Main Creek Landcare Group, Flinders Net Zero Carbon Group and Flinders District Lions Club are combining forces to facilitate restoration of Spring and Double Creeks with grant funding assistance from Melbourne Water.

Why? Areas of these creeks are choked with Karamu and numerous other weed species that are smothering and killing the native habitat that our local fauna need to survive.



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/flinders-spring-creek-and-double-creek-biolink-habitat-project ·

55. 3 DECEMBER 2022

Sausage sizzle at Fringe

We had a very successful sausage sizzle today outside the Flinders General Store. The sauce flowed freely and we raised a bit of money to support our activities. Thanks to David Gibbs (owner of Flinders General Store) for letting us use the space.

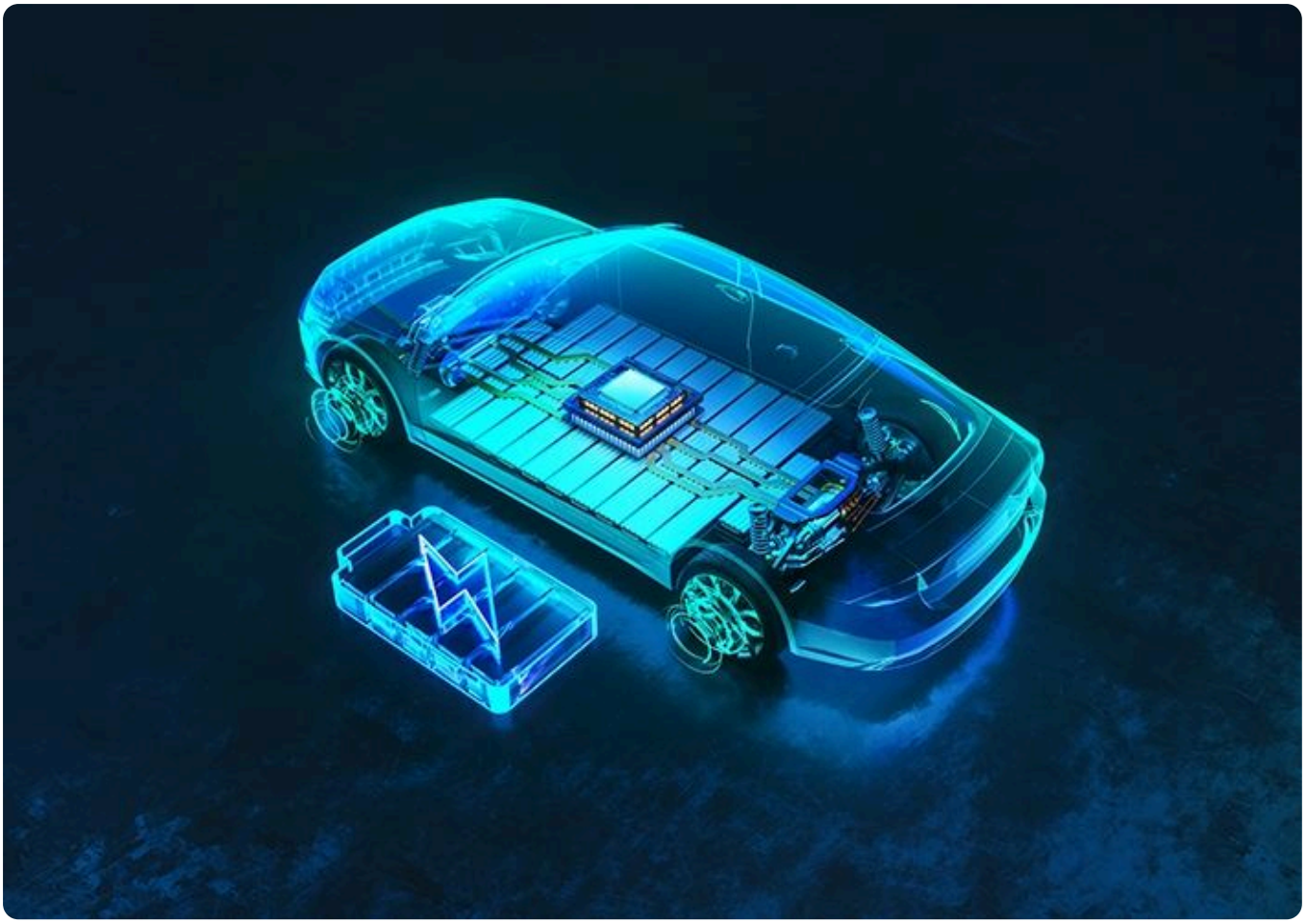


Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/sausage-sizzle-at-fringe ·

56. 16 APRIL 2022

Electric Vehicle forum

We held a well attended community forum at the Bowls Club where we learnt all about electric vehicles. Bryce Gaton, who is an expert on electric vehicles and contributor for The Driven and Renew Economy, made an excellent presentation followed by a lively Q&A session. There were a few EVs present to look at - including an electric Porsche that we all wanted to take home!



Originally at www.flinderszero.org.au/post/ev-forum ·