Lismore Community Solarfarms
~ the disruption & transformation of local governance ~

A community energy collaboration facilitated by Starfish Initiatives
Spoiler Alert

- Community energy presents a practical opportunity for Local Government to collaborate with residents
- The community energy movement forms part of a much larger social change to meet & produce our essential needs in collaborative, sustainable & ethical ways
- These social changes are also bringing disruption & transformation of democracy, from representative to direct, participatory, collaborative and place-based
- Local government is perfectly positioned to be a 'backbone support' for the collaborative design, creation and governance of communities of place
creating and supporting the changes required to achieve real rural & regional sustainability
TOGETHER LET'S FIND A NEW APPROACH TO ENERGY IN AUSTRALIA
COMMUNITY ENERGY CONGRESS 2014

C4CE
COMMUNITY ENERGY CONGRESS
16-17 JUNE @ NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA
Solar Power ~ disruption & transformation
The Lismore Community Solar Farms Model

- 2 x 100kW solar farms
- 2 x community companies
- 20 shareholders for each
- Funds raised are lent to Council to build
- Council repays community loan plus interest
- Shareholders receive franked dividends
- Council receives renewable energy & electricity savings
Nothing changes the conventional wisdom except the relentless march of circumstance.

~ J.K. Galbraith
Over the past seven decades the area around Fort McMurray has gotten warmer and drier.
If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.

~ Lao Tzu
**Scientific Wording**

1. Eliminate our contribution to systematic increases in concentrations of substances from the earth’s crust.
2. Eliminate our contribution to systematic increases in substances produced by society.
3. Eliminate our contribution to systematic physical degradation of nature.
4. Remove barriers that undermine humans’ ability to meet their needs worldwide.

**Everyday Language**

1. We cannot dig up stuff from the earth at a rate faster than it naturally returns and replenishes.
2. We cannot make stuff at a rate faster than it takes to naturally break down into the environment.
3. We cannot cause destruction to the planet at a rate faster than it takes to re-grow.
4. We cannot do things that cause others to not be able to fulfill their basic needs worldwide.
“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”

- Buckminster Fuller
When an old culture is dying the new culture is created by those of us who are not afraid to be insecure.

~ Rudolph Bayo

People don’t resist change; they resist being changed.

~ Peter Senge
The age of participation

- **Consultation**: Action FOR/WITH, bring consulted; others analyse and decide course of action.

- **Co-operation**: Action WITH, partnership, work with others to set priorities and course of action.

- **Co-Option**: Action FOR, being informed or set tasks; others set the agenda and direct the process.

- **Compliance?**: Action ON, being manipulated; no real input or power.

- **Consumption?**: Action BY, being in control, little or no input by others.

- **Collective Action or Co-Learning**: Decided by ourselves.

- **Decided by others**:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector of Economy / Society, USA</th>
<th>Internet Impact, to Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Circle" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>Security / Safety / Warfare</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Government / Regulation / Policy Thinking</td>
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The overarching idea ~ in creating good places for people to live, work, & participate in community ~ is **moving from government to governance**.

Governance processes find ways to leverage diverse ideas, coordinate collective resources, use new tools & techniques to inspire & facilitate decision making.

Rather than acting alone or resorting to jurisdictional claims, governments work with one another & through civil society partnerships for joint problem-solving.
“We scientists don’t know how to do that”

“I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change.

I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems.

But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy…

…and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation

- and we scientists don't know how to do that.”

Gus Speth
Wicked Problems call for collaboration

Many of the most pressing policy challenges for the APS involve dealing with very complex problems. These problems share a range of characteristics—they go beyond the capacity of any one organisation to understand and respond to, and there is often disagreement about the causes of the problems and the best way to tackle them. These complex policy problems are sometimes called ‘wicked’ problems.

Usually, part of the solution to wicked problems involves changing the behaviour of groups of citizens or all citizens. Other key ingredients in solving or at least managing complex policy problems include successfully working across both internal and external organisational boundaries and engaging citizens and stakeholders in policy making and implementation. Wicked problems require innovative, comprehensive solutions that can be modified in the light of experience and on-the-ground feedback. All of the above can pose challenges to traditional approaches to policy making and programme implementation.
The catch-cry of the global direct democracy movement has become:

**YOU CAN’T REPRESENT US! RESIST | OCCUPY | PRODUCE!!**

Only if we sustainably produce & meet our essential needs ~ energy, water, transport, air, housing, food, education, nature, healthcare, communications, entertainment, recreation & more ~ can we successfully make this Great Transition in a way that avoids the most serious repercussions of The Great Disruption.
Four Key Domains for Governance

Tapping Local Knowledge
bridging outdated divides
between experts, citizens, &
community-based
organisations

Finding the Right Policy Mix
recognising the potential risks
inherent in the place focus if
conceived too narrowly, or in
isolation from broader policies

Governing through
Collaboration among
government, civil society, &
the economy, & across the
different branches & levels of
the state, taking horizontal &
vertical forms

Recognising local
government’s attuned to
community needs & priorities,
access points for citizen input,
& to convene local actors for
policy collaboration
<table>
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<tr>
<th>The Five Conditions of Collective Impact</th>
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<td><strong>Common Agenda</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Shared Measurement</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mutually Reinforcing Activities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Continuous Communication</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Backbone Support</strong></td>
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We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action.

~ Frank Tibolt
Key Messages

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Thank you!