

## Request for Environmental Professionals



Over the last eighteen months a committed group of Warburton locals have been researching a 'run of the river' micro hydro-electric project on a local creek. We anticipate this could become the "Hepburn Wind" of community hydro power – a best practice demonstration project for Victoria, with the renewable energy produced sold into the grid to fund local community development.

We have the support of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited (UYCEL) – franchisee of Warburton and Yarra Junction **Community Banks**® – giving us access to both the capital and a suitable legal structure for the project. We are now formally a Committee of UYCEL.

We have reached a critical stage, and we need some help with the following requirements.

1. To establish viability and the generating capacity of the project we need to: determine the amount of water that can be sustainably diverted from the creek; prepare an Environmental Assessment Report; and fulfil other requirements to access a 'non-consumptive diversion licence' from Melbourne Water for the operation of the project.

*To issue the diversion licence, Melbourne Water requires assessment of:*

- *In-stream and riparian ecology;*
- *Stream bank stability and erosion; and*
- *Hydrology and stream hydraulics;*

The outputs from this stage will be compiled into an Environmental Assessment Report by our project manager.

2. In addition to the diversion licence, the project also requires planning approval from Yarra Ranges Shire.

*Some of the planning permission requirements are shared with Melbourne Water's Requirements as well as:*

- *Cultural heritage study for the project area*
- *Geotechnical assessment for the project area*
- *Any offsets for vegetation removal that may be required and*
- *Noise assessment for proposed works and plant operation.*

To achieve these targets, our team requires input from suitably qualified and experienced consultants, *and we're hoping you can help!*

As the project is limited in available funding (at this stage), we are hoping to find some like-minded professionals who can assist us by providing their time and expertise at a pro bono or discounted rate.

### ***What can we do for you?***

The project team has strong links within the Australian renewable energy community and the project will be subject to much local and Victorian press interest. Those involved with the project may be given exposure through these avenues

### ***Want to make a difference?***

If you are interested in assisting us, please contact Daniel A'Vard on 0420 819 530

Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited

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