

# Towards 100% renewable energy for Kangaroo Island

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Stokes Bay Kangaroo Island. Credit: Matthew Fuentes on Flickr

Can Australia's iconic Kangaroo Island be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy? This is the focus of a new study announced today by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in partnership with the

Kangaroo Island Council.

Supported by \$60,000 of [funding](#) from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), the Towards 100% Renewable Energy for Kangaroo Island research study will be managed by the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) at UTS.

Acting ARENA CEO Ian Kay said the project represented a great opportunity to demonstrate the potential of renewables to generate clean, reliable and cost effective electricity for fringe-of-grid communities like Kangaroo Island.

Kangaroo Island is currently powered by a 15km long, 33,000 volt undersea electricity cable from the mainland. As the cable is approaching the end of its expected life, South Australia Power Networks (SAPN) is investigating options to continue to provide reliable power to the island.

SAPN has identified that the preferred network option solution is to install a new \$45 million cable connecting the island to the main electricity grid. As part of these investigations, SAPN has also issued an open two-month request for alternative non-network option proposals to replace the cable.

In response to this request, the ISF study will draw on the latest science to assess the viability of clean renewable energy technology being used to generate power for Kangaroo Island, instead of the proposed new grid-connected cable. In line with SAPN's proposal deadline the study will be completed and released by mid July 2016.

Mr Chris Dunstan, Project Director at ISF said, "Powering a large community like Kangaroo Island with reliable and affordable renewable energy is a challenging task, but the early indications of the study are

encouraging.

"If we can show that renewable energy is technically and economically viable for Kangaroo Island, it would be a powerful precedent for communities around Australia who are seeking to develop their own renewable energy resources."

Chief Executive Officer of the Kangaroo Island Council, Mr Andrew Boardman welcomed the new investigation.

"Kangaroo Island has great wind, solar and biomass resources and a strong commitment to environmentally sustainable economic development. Reliable, renewable energy should be the cornerstone of this development. It is crucial that we invest the time to investigate properly our clean energy options."

Mayor Peter Clements said, "This is not something new for the Kangaroo Island Council – we have been discussing and working in the area of [renewable energy](#) and a low carbon future since 2011 and it is now firmly in the minds of the community."

Provided by University of Technology, Sydney

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