

The 4th Annual

Australian Renewable Energy Zones Conference

29 – 30 May 2024 | Swissôtel Sydney



SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Trish Doyle MP, **Member for Blue Mountains, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Heritage, Climate Change and Energy**



James Hay, **Chief Executive, EnergyCo**



Dr Nicholas Aberle, **Director – Energy Generation & Storage, Clean Energy Council**



Adriana Loreto, **Principal - Power, Beca**



Michael Frangos, **Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Energy Australia**



Brad Cam, **General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council**



Dr Jarra Hicks, **Co-founder and Director, Community Power Agency**



Simon Currie, **Co-Founder and Chief Projects Officer, Energy Estate**



Lorna Bishop, **Director, Engagement and Change Advisory, Aurecon**



Louise Johnson, **Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead (NSW), Acciona Energía**



Andrew Truswell, **Director, Utilities Policy & Regulation, KPMG Australia**



Dr John Gardner, **Empowerment Lead, Smart Energy Mission, CSIRO**



Alistair Parker, **Chief Executive Officer, VicGrid, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action**



Renene Windsor, **Energy Infrastructure Delivery Leader, Aurecon**



Crystal Serblan, **Director - Communications and Engagement, RPS**



Kala Saban, **Associate Director, Rewiring the Nation, Clean Energy Finance Corporation**



Carla Martinez, **Principal, Communities and Social Performance, WSP Australia**



Sally Torgoman, **Partner, KPMG**



Sharon Gray, **Group Manager, Diversity, Indigenous and Social Inclusion, CPB Contractors**



Dominic Luddy, **Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Acciona Energía**



Karrina Nolan, **Executive Director, Original Power**



Gerard Carew, **General Manager, Renewable Energy Zones, AusNet**



Nigel Buchanan, **General Manager, Commercial Electricity Infrastructure, APA Group**



Kellie O'Callaghan, **Chair, Regional Development Australia | Gippsland**

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Australian Renewable Energy Zones Conference

Wednesday 29 May 2024

DAY 1

8:30 Registration and Morning Coffee

9:00 **OPENING** | Opening remarks from the Chair

9:10 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | Transforming Australia's electricity system

- Cop 28 & Australia's targets – Achievable or not?
- Renewable energy transition – do we need to speed it up?
- REZ design & government intervention: risks & opportunities
- Does rate of rollout risk disenfranchise local communities?
- Are we on track to have enough renewables online before coal fire power stations retire?
- Why are projects costing more & taking longer than planned?

Dr Nicholas Aberle, *Director – Energy Generation & Storage, Clean Energy Council*

9:40 **An update of the Renewable Energy Zones in NSW**

James Hay, *Chief Executive, EnergyCo*

10:00 **Development of Renewable Energy Zones in Victoria**

Alistair Parker, *Chief Executive Officer, VicGrid, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action*

10:20 Session to be advised

10:40 **Q&A**

10:55 Networking and refreshment break

11:30 **Spurring on the renewable energy roll out & progressing REZ to reality**

Trish Doyle MP, *Member for Blue Mountains, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Heritage, Climate Change and Energy*

11:40 **The latest on state REZ legislation and regulatory frameworks**

- Update on REZ legislation and legislative plans in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania
- Stocktake of developments in NSW: REZ declarations, access scheme declarations and regulation
- Comparison of the features of the different regulatory frameworks across the states and what this means for investors

Andrew Truswell, *Director, Utilities Policy & Regulation, KPMG Australia*

12:00 **Hunter Transmission Project**

Adriana Loreto, *Principal - Power, Beca*

Claire Morgan, *Senior Project Officer, EnergyCo*

12:25 **Major infrastructure engagement: What can go wrong? What will go wrong and how to fix it**

Crystal Serblan, *Director - Communications and Engagement, RPS*

12:50 Session to be advised

1:00 Networking and lunch break

2:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | The greatest challenge in delivering the network to support REZ – engineering or engagement?

Gerard Carew, *General Manager, Renewable Energy Zones, AusNet*

2:30 **Unlocking the big opportunities REZ provides**

- What has worked well & what is now challenging the industry?
- How can the next wave of project developments successfully navigate a changing landscape, manage the expectations of local communities and deliver nature positive outcomes and enduring regional economic benefits?

Simon Currie, *Co-Founder & Chief Projects Officer, Energy Estate*

3:00 **Planning for our energy future – Ensuring development pathways meet the emerging changes in the market**

3:20 Networking and refreshment break

3:50 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | Community push back against renewables – What can be done?

- Is it just consultation failure or is it time for a new approach and policy solutions?
- What can be done to increase community consultation, improve local acceptance and avoid misinformation?
- Is this an opportunity for regional Australia to foster long term prosperity & job creation?
- How is a town's scenery and a resident's sense of place factored into developments?
- What's the role of proposed community benefit sharing fees?

Dr Jarra Hicks, *Co-founder and Director, Community Power Agency*

Lorna Bishop, *Director, Engagement and Change Advisory, Aurecon*

Brad Cam, *General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council*

4:20 **Human-centred engagement for renewable energy projects**

Dominic Luddy, *Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Acciona Energía*

Louise Johnson, *Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead (NSW), Acciona Energía*

4:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | REZ: Opportunities and challenges for Traditional Owners

- Best practices for consultation and engagement with First Nations and Traditional Owners
- Examples of successful and respectful partnerships
- Strategies for incorporating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into development plans
- Opportunities for economic development and job creation

Michael Frangos, *CEO, Indigenous Energy Australia*

Sharon Gray, *Group Manager, Diversity, Indigenous and Social Inclusion, CPB Contractors*

Sally Torgoman, *Partner, KPMG*

5:15 **Community members share their stories**

Karrina Nolan, *Executive Director, Original Power*

5:45 **CLOSING** | Closing remarks & Networking drinks



Australian Renewable Energy Zones Conference

Thursday 30 May 2024

DAY 2

8:30 Registration and Morning Coffee

9:00 **OPENING** | Opening remarks from the Chair

9:10 **Investing in Australia's transmission and renewable energy zones**

Kala Saban, *Associate Director, Rewiring the Nation, Clean Energy Finance Corporation*

9:35 **PANEL DISCUSSION | Financing REZ**

- Financing the transition to renewable energy
- The role of government policies and incentives
- The importance of collaboration between industry, government, communities, and investors – building on capabilities, expertise & experience
- The potential for investment in REZ to drive innovation and job creation

Nigel Buchanan, *General Manager, Commercial Electricity Infrastructure, APA Group*

10:00 Session to be advised

10:25 **Innovations developed to finance Australia's critical projects**

10:50 Networking and refreshment break

11:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION | Managing community Impacts & maximising benefits**

- What's being done to addressing the strategic and cumulative Impacts?
 - > Housing and accommodation to host project workforces
 - > Availability of human capital and supply chains
 - > Pressure over social infrastructure
 - > Road upgrades and maintenance
 - > Telecommunications
 - > Water, waste and circular economy
 - > Bushfire and biosecurity risks
 - > Visual amenity and aesthetic values
- The importance of collaboration & multi-party stakeholder engagement
- Is it time for a mindset change? Social and environmental performance

Carla Martinez, *Principal, Communities and Social Performance, WSP Australia*

Kellie O'Callaghan, *Chair, Regional Development Australia | Gippsland*

11:50 **Providing jobs, stability, and low-cost efficient green energy to the grid**

12:15 **Fast tracking plans to deliver solar, wind, battery storage and pumped hydro projects**

12:45 Networking and Lunch break

1:30 **What does it take to deliver Australia's energy transition – The importance of innovation and collaboration to deliver first-of-its-kind renewable energy infrastructure**

Renene Windsor, *Energy Infrastructure Delivery Leader, Aurecon*

1:55 **Project updates**

2:20 **Empowering communities: Navigating the path to renewable energy zones**

- Insights from CSIRO's national survey about renewable energy infrastructure and the energy transition
- A sneak peek at the National Energy Analysis Centre, a tool to de-risk decision making and better support innovation, energy equity, and decarbonisation goals

Dr John Gardner, *Empowerment Lead, Smart Energy Mission, CSIRO*

2:45 Session to be advised

3:10 **CLOSING** | Closing remarks from the Chair & Close of Conference

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Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Two day conference	\$3,550	\$355	\$3,905	\$400	\$3,950	\$395	\$4,345

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