

4th Annual

Australian Renewable Energy Zones Conference

29 - 30 May 2024 | Swissotel, Sydney

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DAY ONE | Wednesday 29th May 2024

8:00 Registration & Morning Coffee

9:00 **EVENT OPENING**

Alexandra Bennet, *Conference Director*, **Informa**

9:05 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**

David O'Hara, *General Manager of Projects*, **Transgrid**

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 **Approach to Renewable Energy Zones in Queensland**

Leanne Caelers, *Executive Director REZ and Transformation*, **Queensland Department of Energy and Climate**

10:40 **Q&A**

James Hay, *Chief Executive*, **EnergyCo**

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

Leanne Caelers, *Executive Director REZ and Transformation*, **Queensland Department of Energy and Climate**

10:55 Networking & 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** Networking & Lunch Break
- 1:50 PANEL DISCUSSION | The greatest challenge in delivering the network to support REZ – engineering or engagement?**
- Building for the future
 - Is enough consideration given to firming solutions across a wide time duration
 - Key factors that drive social licence in communities
 - Key learnings - building engagement & working with communities
 - How transmission companies can build trust within communities– learnings from current developments
 - A different approach to community investment
- Gerard Carew, *General Manager, Renewable Energy Zones*, **AusNet**
Senior Representative, **Transgrid**
- 2:20 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**
- 2:50 Planning for our energy future – Ensuring development pathways meet the emerging changes in the market**
- 3:10** Networking & Refreshment Break

3:40 **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**

4:10 **Human-centred engagement for renewable energy projects**

- Sharing experience in engaging with communities on wind and solar farm developments
- Bringing a focus on person-to-person engagement – showing how different skillsets, backgrounds and experience within
- the team can create stronger connections with communities and stakeholders
- Illustrating the critical importance of locally-led engagement and support for communities in Renewable Energy Zones, and how this needs to come from a place of listening first and a willingness to learn.

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

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

4:35 **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**

5:05 **Community members share their stories**

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

5:35 **CLOSING** | End of Day One

5:35-6:35 **Networking Drinks**

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DAY TWO | Thursday 30th May 2024

8:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

9:00 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**

Sally Torgoman, *Partner*, **KPMG**

10:00 Fast tracking plans to deliver solar, wind, battery storage and pumped hydro projects

10:25 Providing jobs, stability, and low-cost efficient green energy to the grid

10:50 Networking & 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** **Achieving leading and efficient procurement for a renewable energy project**
Senior Representative, **Ansarada**
- 12:15** **Best practice for managing heritage requirements in renewable developments**
Jamie Reeves, *Executive Director and Founding Partner*, **Niche**
- 12:40** 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 update**
- 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