

25th Energy in Western Australia Conference

From ambition to execution

9 - 11 September 2026 | Ritz Carlton, Perth

Speakers include:



Hon Amber-Jade, Sanderson
Minister for Energy & Decarbonisation
Government of Western Australia



Mary Burce Warlick
Deputy Executive Director
International Energy Agency (IEA)



Bill Farren-Price
Senior Research Fellow & Head of Gas Research
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies



Tim Bray
Deputy Director General,
PoweringWA
WA Department of Energy and Economic Diversification



Gair Landsborough
Chief Executive Officer
Western Power



Aaron Hood
Managing Director,
Wesfarmers Chemicals
Energy & Fertilisers



Kirsten Rose
Executive General
Manager WA & Strategy
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)



Krystal Skinner
Chief Executive Officer
Horizon Power



Rachael Smith
Executive General
Manager, Commercial & Growth
Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG)



Laurent Trost
Chief Operations Officer
Yara Pilbara



Rob Wilson
Executive Director,
Western Australia & Resources
Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)



Sally McMahon
Commissioner
Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)



Gareth Wright
Head of Climate Strategy & Engagement
Woodside Energy



Cameron Owens
Head of DER & Engineering
Synergy



Troy Eaton
Co-Chair
Nyamal Aboriginal Corporation

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What is the **Energy in Western Australia** conference?

Now in its 25th year, the **Energy in WA Conference** is the State's premier annual energy event, proudly hosted by the Australian Institute of Energy (Perth Branch) and Energy Policy WA (Government of Western Australia).

As the energy transition accelerates, there has never been a more important time for energy professionals from every part of the value chain to collaborate.



Why attend?

Gain practical insight, sharper market context and valuable connections to help turn energy transition strategy into action.

Three days. Every part of the value chain.



The whole of WA's energy sector, under one roof

No other event in the State brings together this breadth of the energy community. Every part of the supply chain, in the same room, working the same challenges.



Intelligence built for your market

Every session is grounded in what's happening here, in Western Australia. Walk away with insight that's directly relevant to your projects, your strategy and your next move.



Network where it counts

With a curated room of genuine decision makers, every conversation matters. Build real relationships across networking drinks and social functions designed to connect you with the right people.



Celebrate the people powering WA's energy future

An optional part of the conference experience, the WA Energy Awards Gala Dinner gives you another high-value opportunity to connect with senior industry peers.

WA's longest-running energy conference brings unrivalled credibility and a loyal, returning audience - the reason it remains the sector's major annual meeting place.

08:20 Registration and coffee

08:45 Welcome from AIE Perth conference committee Chair

 **Brad McIlroy**
Director, Entellus Energy; Strategic Projects Director
Nu-phase

08:50 Welcome to country

09:05 Opening remarks from the Chair

 **Daniel Mercer**
Energy Reporter
Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Global perspectives and implications for energy sector in WA

09:15 **Powering WA's future: certainty, investment, and the path to net zero**

 **Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson**
Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation
Government of Western Australia

09:30 **Reframing critical minerals competition to unlock Australia's decarbonisation advantage**

 **Mary Burce Warlick**
Deputy Executive Director
International Energy Agency (IEA)

09:55 **Securing WA's industrial future: the role of gas in a changing energy system**

 **Aaron Hood**
Managing Director
Wesfarmers Chemicals Energy & Fertilisers

10:20 Morning tea

10:50 **Powering Up WA-Delivering WA's prosperous industrial future**

 **Matt McKee**
Chief Researcher
Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE)

Optimising system design, market structure and investment signals

11:10 **Designing transmission at scale: What can WA learn from NSW REZ delivery?**

 **Sally McMahon**
Commissioner
Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)

11:35 **Beyond capital and concept: breaching the WA grid "execution wall" to utility operator and FID gateways**

 **Steve Armitage**
Project Director
Genus

12:05 Lunch

13:05 Panel discussion: **Examining the realities of delivering transmission**

 **Kieron Hendicott**
Acting Chief Executive / Deputy Chief Executive
Infrastructure WA

 **Steve Armitage**
Project Director
Genus

 **Tim Bray**
Deputy Director General, PoweringWA
WA Department of Energy & Economic Diversification

 **Zane Christmas**
Acting Executive Manager Transmission Growth
Western Power

Delivery gap: ambition vs execution, and what's next for WA

13:45 **Delivering scale efficient grid infrastructure to unlock value, and the role of the RTN in accelerating essential grid projects**

 **Rob Wilson**
Executive Director, Western Australia and Resources
Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)

14:10 Panel discussion: **What should WA adopt, adapt or avoid for the next phase of growth?**

 **Peta Ashworth**
Director, Curtin Institute for Energy Transition (CIET)
Curtin University

 **Jordan Prainito**
Co-Founder & Managing Director
Auzvolt

 **Shelley Robertson**
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director
Strike

 **Gary Bryant**
Executive General Manager Power
APA Group

 **Sally McMahon**
Commissioner
Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)

Who owns the energy transition in WA's grid; utilities, technology, markets, or customers?

14:50 **Utility perspective: Lessons from across Western Australia in enabling industry and delivering a stable and secure energy transition**

 **Gary Bryant**
Executive General Manager Power
APA Group

15:10 Afternoon tea

15:40 **Customer perspective: Accelerating distribution transformation through customer centricity**

 **Cameron Owens**
Head of DER & Engineering
Synergy

16:00 **Market perspective: Strengthening market operability by sharpening storage signals and system incentives**

 **Jai Thomas**
Deputy Director General - Coordinator of Energy, Energy Policy WA
WA Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED)

16:20 Panel discussion: **Unlocking the full capability of inverter-based resources in a rapidly changing SWIS**

 **Majid Fard**
Power Systems Leader
Aurecon

 **Gary Bryant**
Executive General Manager Power
APA Group

 **Martin Maticka**
Group Manager, WA Operations
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

 **Cameron Owens**
Head of DER & Engineering
Synergy

 **Jai Thomas**
Deputy Director General - Coordinator of Energy, Energy Policy WA
WA Department of Energy & Economic Diversification (DEED)

 **Dev Tayal**
Policy & Business Development
Tesla

17:00 Closing remarks from Chair

17:05 Close of day one

18:00 WA Energy Awards Gala Dinner



Join us for a memorable evening as we wine, dine and celebrate the people behind Western Australia's energy sector. Brought to you by the Australian Institute of Energy Perth and the City of Perth, this is our tenth year of celebrating excellence.

08:30 Welcome coffee

08:50 Opening remarks from the Chair



Wenona Hadingham

Executive Director, Planning, Analysis and Decarbonisation Policy,
Energy Policy WA
WA Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED)

Leaning in to WA's unique structural context: isolation, mining and regional activity

09:00 **Navigating global gas volatility to strengthen WA's LNG and domestic market position**



Bill Farren-Price

Head of Gas Research
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Making regional energy work

09:25 **Regional WA's energy transition: reliable, flexible and sustainable**



Krystal Skinner

Chief Executive Officer
Horizon Power

09:35 **Pragmatism not prescription - Manufacturing a successful energy transition storage**



Laurent Trost

Chief Operations Officer
Yara

09:45 **Working with regional communities on improving network resilience**



Gair Landsborough

Chief Executive Officer
Western Power

09:55 **Project Meridien: electrons, molecules and photons - a third pathway for regional energy**



Jop van Hattum

Chief Executive Officer
Gingerah Energy

10:05 Morning tea

10:45 Panel discussion: **Finding innovative, localised solutions to planning, markets and reliability in regional communities**



Matt McKee

Chief Researcher
Beyond Zero
Emissions (BZE)



Krystal Skinner

Chief Executive Officer
Horizon Power



Laurent Trost

Chief Operations
Officer
Yara Pilbara



Gair Landsborough

Chief Executive
Officer
Western Power



Jop van Hattum

Chief Executive Officer
Gingerah Energy



Sam Pearce

Chief Executive Officer
Collgar Renewables

11:25 **How AI can help clear the connection queue and de-risk transmission investment**



Brent Gimpel

Head of Technology
ElectraNet

What does a globally competitive WA look like?

11:50 **Capturing more downstream energy value to turn WA's strategic advantage into investment, jobs and green industry leadership**



Masoud Abshar

Managing Director
Magellan Power

12:15 Lunch

13:25 **Building an energy system that supports WA's future competitiveness**



Oliver Nunn

Managing Director
Endgame Analytics

Achieving social licence & community outcomes & communicating the message

13:50 **Q&A: Shifting from consultation to co-ownership to expand First Nations participation in energy projects**



Troy Eaton

Co-Chair
Nyamal Aboriginal
Corporation



Jahna Cedar

Owner
Jahna Cedar Consulting

14:15 **Strengthening social licence by building energy literacy and countering misinformation in our communities**



Ed Coper

Chief Executive Officer
Populares

Planning firming, flexibility and gas for a secure transition

14:40 **Gas enablement: moving supply and pipeline capacity from outlook to execution**



Rachael Smith

Executive General Manager, Commercial and Growth
Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG)

15:05 Afternoon tea

15:35 **Planning the transition points: keeping the SWIS secure as renewables scale**



Kirsten Rose

Executive General Manager WA and Strategy
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

16:00 Panel discussion: **What should be the strategic role and limits of gas in Western Australia's transition?**



Gareth Wright

Head of Climate Strategy
& Engagement
Woodside Energy



Patrick Peake

Senior Manager WA
EMR
AGL I Perth Energy



Oliver Nunn

Managing Director
Endgame Analytics
Studies



Bill Farren-Price

Head of Gas Research
Oxford Institute for Energy



Rachael Smith

Executive General
Manager Commercial
& Growth
Australian Gas
Infrastructure Group
(AGIG)

16:40 **Closing remarks from AIE Perth conference committee Chair**



Brad McIlroy

Director, Entellus Energy; Strategic Projects Director
Nu-phase

16:45 Close EWA 2026

17:15 Networking drinks sponsored by Western Power



Register Today!

www.energywa.org.au/register

Masterclass

Introductory Masterclass: Western Australia energy industry boot camp

Specifically for professionals new to Western Australia's energy sector, this workshop provides an accessible overview of the key organisations shaping the state's unique energy landscape. Designed for engineers, consultants and policy professionals at the early to mid-career stage, it will help bridge gaps in awareness of how WA's energy systems operate outside the National Electricity Market.

Upon completion of the workshop, attendees will

- Understand the context of the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) and the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) in WA
- Identify the major players, agencies and their interactions across interconnected and remote networks
- Develop insight into current issues and challenges for the WA energy sector
- Gain perspective on future directions and opportunities in WA's evolving energy transition

Outline:

08:30 Registration and coffee

09:00 Welcome and setting the scene: skills for the energy transition

- Introduction to the Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence, the purpose of the workshop, and an overview of the energy transition, workforce challenges and opportunities facing Western Australia

Senior representative

Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence

09:30 Understanding the key players in WA's energy sector

- Explore the role of the WA government in coordination with WA's key energy agencies.
- Develop insight into current issues and challenges for the WA energy sector

Stephen Eliot

Executive Director Energy Policy WA, Commercial

WA Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED)

10:00 Understanding the WEM and context of the SWIS

- Gain an understanding of Western Australia's unique electricity market, including the history of the WEM, the SWIS, key market mechanisms and how WA differs from the National Electricity Market.



Jean-Phillipe Montandan

Principal - WA Operations

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

10:30 Morning tea

11:00 Enabling a once-in-a-generation energy transition

- Western Power's role in WA's energy system and our relationship with key sector participants
- How the SWIS is evolving through the energy transition
- Growth of distributed energy resources across the network
- VPPs, community batteries and the future of customer energy resources



Megan Allan

Head of Distribution Energy Transition

Western Power

11:30 Understanding remote power generation in the state

Senior representative

Horizon Power (TBA)

12:00 Energy industry insights Q&A panel

- Facilitated discussion with key energy industry players. Participants can ask questions about the electricity system, industry trends, workforce needs and career opportunities in the sector



Megan Allan

Head of Distribution

Energy Transition

Western Power



Jean-Phillipe Montandon

Principal - WA Operations

Australian Energy Market

Operator (AEMO)

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Clean energy careers in virtual reality

- Experience CESNCE's VR Career Exploration Program and explore a range of clean energy occupations and work environments through immersive virtual reality experiences

Senior representative

Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence

14:30 Battery fundamentals - where BESS fits in the energy system

- How BESS supports reliability, flexibility and peak demand management by storing surplus renewable generation
- Understanding core BESS components, including battery chemistry, inverters, control systems, sizing, duration and performance parameters
- Identifying the practical decisions that shape BESS project success, including location, use case, safety and system value
- Exploring the battery value chain, technology options, and key opportunities and challenges for BESS in Western Australia



Muhammad Rizwan Azhar

Lecturer, School of Engineering

Edith Cowan University

15:00 Afternoon tea

15:30 Battery fundamentals continued

16:30 (approximate) Close of day

Speakers Facilitators:



Maureen Boyle

Senior Research Fellow,
Curtin Institute of Energy
Transition

Curtin University



Muhammad Rizwan Azhar

Lecturer, School of
Engineering

Edith Cowan University



Megan Allan

Head of Distribution

Energy Transition

Western Power



Jean-Phillipe Montandon

Principal - WA Operations

Australian Energy Market

Operator (AEMO)



Stephen Eliot

Executive Director Energy

Policy WA, Commercial

WA Department of Energy &

Economic Diversification

(DEED)

Register Today!

www.energywa.org.au/register

Masterclass

BESS Masterclass: Overcoming technology and operational challenges for Battery Energy Storage Systems

This masterclass is designed to address the practical challenges of operating BESS assets in the Australian market, and is suited to engineers and technical specialists responsible for the installation, commissioning and ongoing maintenance. It is appropriate for BESS engineers working at utility-scale or large commercial installations who need to move beyond vendor manuals and understand how batteries actually perform in the field - under regulatory pressure, extreme conditions and evolving grid requirements. If you are grappling with degradation, safety obligations, inverter complexity or changing performance expectations, this masterclass is for you.

Upon completion of the masterclass, attendees will:

- Understand the key drivers of battery performance and degradation and how design and operational decisions impact asset life and project economics
- Understand key considerations required to operate and maintain BESS safely and reliably under Australian conditions
- Gain practical insight into managing fire risk, safety standards and compliance obligations
- Understand key considerations to achieve new technical expectations, including ancillary services and grid-forming requirements

Outline:

08:30 Registration and coffee

09:00 Fundamentals overview

- Technology and chemistry selection
- Key components
- Basis of sizing
- Use case selection
- Key performance parameters and guarantees

09:30 Development and delivery principles

- Project lifecycle overview including typical pre FID activities and considerations
- Delivery and procurement strategies
- Technical integration and interface challenges
- Design and operational implications
- Case studies

10:00 Managing battery degradation and lifetime performance

- Understanding degradation mechanisms to protect capacity, availability and revenue
- Understanding skillsets, competencies and resources required to effectively manage BESS throughout the life cycle
- Designing operating envelopes and cycling strategies to extend asset life
- Using data, diagnostics and warranties to align maintenance decisions with project economics
- Augmentation strategies and considerations

10:30 Morning tea

11:00 Operating utility-scale BESS under real-world conditions

- Managing thermal, environmental and load stress to maintain performance in extreme heat, dust and humidity
- Commissioning and maintaining systems to avoid latent faults and early-life failures
- Integrating operational lessons from Australian utility-scale deployments to reduce downtime

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Designing for safety

- Identifying and managing fire, thermal runaway and propagation risks to protect people and assets
- Implementing detection, suppression and emergency response strategies that work in practice
- Translating incident learnings into installation, maintenance and operational procedures

15:00 Afternoon tea

15:30 Meeting new technical and regulatory expectations

- Inverter, control and protection implications for ancillary services and grid-forming requirements
- Navigating safety standards, performance obligations and registration pathways with confidence
- Preparing for national harmonisation of fire safety rules and grid-forming inverter standards to future-proof assets

16:30 Case studies

17:00 Concludes

Facilitator:



Claude Morris
National Sector Leader- BESS
GHD



Why sponsor the Energy in WA conference?

Energy in WA is your opportunity to engage the decision makers shaping the future of energy in Western Australia. As part of Energy Week WA, this is the state's premier energy conference, with 25 years of industry trust behind it and a tightly focused audience of around 250 senior professionals driving WA's energy transition.

Whether you're looking to build brand authority with C-suite leaders, have meaningful conversations with project and business unit heads, or showcase your latest solutions to technical decision makers, Energy in WA puts you in front of the right people at the right time.

Download the prospectus at www.energywa.org.au/download-prospectus

Registration

Members Pricing

9 - 11 September

3 Day Package + Dinner

\$3,090

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions incl. dinner

One pre-conference masterclass

All networking sessions

10 - 11 September

2 Day Package + Dinner

\$2,090

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions incl. dinner

All networking sessions

9 - 11 September

3 Day Package

\$2,895

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions

One pre-conference masterclass

All networking sessions

10 - 11 September

2 Day Package

\$1,895

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions

All networking sessions

9 - 11 September

3 Day Package + Dinner

\$3,290

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions incl. dinner

One pre-conference masterclass

All networking sessions

10 - 11 September

2 Day Package + Dinner

\$2,290

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions incl. dinner

All networking sessions

9 - 11 September

3 Day Package

\$3,095

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions

One pre-conference masterclass

All networking sessions

10 - 11 September

2 Day Package

\$2,095

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions

All networking sessions



9 September

Masterclass Only

\$1,995

One pre-conference
masterclass

All networking sessions

10 - 11 September

2 Day Student Package

\$650

Full access to the 2-day main
conference sessions

All networking sessions

**Register
now**



Call our Account Executives with any questions or to discuss the best discount options for you.



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