

Conference Programme

EECON2025

EMPOWERING AUSTRALIA'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE
THE JOURNEY TO NET ZERO



MONDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

12:30	TOURS
	TOUR #1 – KWINANA BESS
	TOUR #2 – PACIFIC ENERGY
17:30	CONFERENCE OPENING DRINKS
	EXHIBITION AREA

TUESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2025

From 8:00 REGISTRATION

Main Auditorium

CONFERENCE OPENING

Mr Stuart Aubrey MLA

Spokesman for Minister for Energy

OPENING PLENARY

What's Our Direction? Charting WA's Energy Future?

Facilitator: LAURIE CURRO

08:30 – 09:45

Session Overview:

As the opening session, this forum will set the scene for Western Australia's transition to Net Zero. Key leaders in the WA electricity sector will share their perspectives on the pressing challenges we face—from system reliability and decarbonisation to technology integration and market reform—and outline the strategic initiatives shaping our path forward. Participants will gain valuable insights into the collaborative efforts, policy directions, and innovations that will define the state's energy future.

SIEMENS – Diamond Sponsor segment

Sam Barbaro – CEO, Western Power

Vi Garrood – Executive GM, Future Energy, Horizon Power

Jai Thomas – Coordinator of Energy, A/Director General, DEMIRS

Nicola Falcon – Executive General Manager, AEMO

09:45 – 10:15	MORNING TEA
10:15 – 12:00	SECOND PLENARY
	Tackling Today's Challenges: Building Tomorrow's Energy System <i>Facilitator: RUSSELL ELLEN</i>
	Session Overview: Positioned as a key strategic discussion before the technical papers, this session will delve into the real-world challenges shaping Western Australia's energy transition. Speakers will explore current projects, share lessons learned, and examine barriers to progress—ranging from infrastructure and technology hurdles to the growing need for a skilled workforce. The session will also highlight practical solutions and outline potential pathways to overcome these challenges, ensuring a resilient, sustainable, and forward-focused energy future.
	APD GLOBAL – Platinum Sponsor segment + Video
	Jason Froud – Executive General Manager Strategy & Corporate Affairs Synergy
	Nathan Ling – Head of Development, Neoen Australia
	David Pointing – CEO, The Australian Power Institute
	Jasmine Diaz – Nuclear Australia

12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH	
	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2
Theme(s)	Challenges and Solutions in Powering Australia’s Decarbonised Future	Solution to Integrating Renewables into a Complex, Decentralised Grid
Facilitator	Franco Crisci, EESA National Committee	Joep Vaessen, GHD
13:00 – 13:05	Bronze Sponsor: Western Power	Bronze Sponsor: GHD
13:05 – 13:25	Challenges of Mega Electrical Infrastructure Projects, by Marco Surace, APD Global	Compliance Assessment for Harmonic Distortion focusing on Renewable Energy Generation, by Dr Duane Robinson, APQRC, University of Wollongong
13:25 – 13:40	Decentralised energy hubs - an additional pathway to decarbonisation, by Mitch Adair & Peter Langdon, Endeavour Energy	Stability Considerations for Low-Inertia Gas Peaker Plants Using Power Plant Controllers, by Sunil Verma, FG Consulting
13:40 – 14:05	Baseload - the lowest cost for electricity consumers, by Ben Beattie & Stephen Wilson, University of Queensland	Managing Minimum System Load in the NEM, by Greg Elkins & Christian Jensen, Global Power Energy
14:05 – 14:20	Powering Australia’s Clean Energy Future: Challenges and Innovations in EHV Renewable Energy Zone Development, by Dr. Tuan Vu, Volt-Var and Control Power Systems Consultants	Low Load Weak Power Systems Operation: The Risk of Ferro-Resonance, by Dr. Reza Bank Tavakoli, PowerGie Engineering
14:20 – 14:45	Unlocking Customer-led Decarbonisation in the SWIS, by Charles Crew & Kevin O’Brien, Western Power	Enhancing Transmission Capacity to Facilitate Renewable Energy and Dispatchable Generation Integration in Regional NSW, by Dr Nasim Jabal Ameli, Transgrid

14:45 – 15:15	AFTERNOON TEA	
	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2
Theme(s)	Off-grid Systems, Microgrids, and Remote Energy Solutions	Asset Management Strategies for a Future-Ready Grid
Facilitator	<i>Cip Hosu, Western Power</i>	<i>Raghu Kattukaran Anirudhan, Western Power</i>
15:15 – 15:20	Bronze Sponsor: Pacific Energy	Bronze Sponsor: Dulhunty Poles
15:20 – 15:40	Enabling Australia's Industrial Decarbonisation: Containerised Metal-Hydrogen Energy Storage for Remote and Grid-Connected Applications, by <i>Aaron Teo, AVID Group</i>	Generator Performance Standards and Monitoring Compliance for Legacy Generating Facilities Connected to SWIS: A Systematic Approach, by <i>Fahad Farooq, APD Global</i>
15:40 – 16:00	A Practical Approach to System Stability in Microgrids and Hybrid Systems, by <i>Zen Vakil, GHD</i>	Modernizing aging infrastructure, by <i>Tony O'Brien, Australian Winders</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Isolated Grids - Challenges and Case Studies, by <i>Heramb Mayadeo, KPMG</i>	Predictive Analytics for Proactive Asset Lifecycle Management Using Early Fault Detection Technology, by <i>Kristian Vukadin, IND Technology</i>
16:20 – 16:40	Decarbonising Energy Supply in Remote and Islanded Communities, by <i>Greg Denton, Incite Energy</i>	Protection of Phase-Shifting Transformer for Transgrid Energy Connect Project—Concept and Application Considerations, by <i>SEL</i>
16:40 – 17:00	Project Jupiter and acceleration of VPPs in the SWIS, by <i>Mike Bradford, Western Power</i>	Why digitalization of today's maintenance regime is key to a Future-Ready Grid! by <i>Jonas Lindhom, Kinghill, & Julian Orozco, Western Power</i>

WEDNESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2025

	BREAKFAST
	Breakfast Sponsored by SEL
07:15 – 08:15	Workshop and presentation on the following: • Grid Stability and Reliability of Modern Power Systems with DERs • Impacts and management of increased levels of DER • Adaptive Protection Changes Using Smart Controllers • Special Protection Scheme to improve network performance and reduce unplanned outages. • Black start Readiness: Distributed and Generator black start solutions • Digital Twins Technology: real time simulate of power system behaviour.

	Ballroom 1		Ballroom 2
Theme(s)	From Data to Decisions: Powering the Grid's Digital Evolution		Grid Modernisation Challenges: From Safety Risks to Capacity Optimisation
Facilitator	Marcus Leaver, Yurika		Asma Aziz, Edith Cowan University
08:15 – 08:20	Bronze Sponsor: Century Yuasa Batteries	08:15 – 08:35	DC Arc Flash in a Changing Grid: Managing Risk in the Absence of Standards, by <i>Arash Rohani</i> , APD Global
08:20 – 08:40	Unlocking Efficiency and Innovation: The Crucial Role of Data Governance and a Modern Data Platform in Orion's AI adoption, by <i>Peter Jaksons</i> , Powercat NZ (EEA)	08:35 – 08:55	Practical Engineering Solutions for Embedded Facility's Connection to Weak Transmission Networks, by <i>Javid Melaki</i> , APD Global
08:40 – 09:00	Solving the grid problem for EV Fast Chargers, by <i>Vijay Hirani</i> , PowerCo NZ (EEA)	08:55 – 09:15	Integrating Large Scale Renewables in Grid Efficiently, by <i>Swapnil Kulkarni & Jason Gillett</i> , Reinhausen
09:00 – 09:20	Challenges of Creating a Digital Megawatt: Coordinating Australia's DER-Powered Clean Energy Future, by <i>Carlos Gamez</i> , Nova Energy Consulting	09:15 – 09:35	Connecting Data Centres to the Australian Grids – Why Are We Struggling, by <i>Deepak Sambhi</i> , KPMG
09:20 – 09:40	Transforming Distribution Networks – Applied Voltage Control to Manage Disruptive Energy Trends, by <i>Michael Stack</i> , Tyree Transformers	09:35 – 09:55	Innovative ways to maximise transmission capacity using a SIPS: Waratah Super Battery case study, by <i>Christiaan Swanepoel</i> , Transgrid

09:40 – 10:15	MORNING TEA	
	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2
Theme(s)	Energy Storage Innovation & Grid Integration	Resilient and Sustainable Energy Solutions for Remote, Legacy, and High-IBR Systems
Facilitator	Lekshmi Jaya Mohan, Acciona	Philip Reilly, EESA National Committee
10:15 – 10:20	Bronze Sponsor: Acciona	
10:20 – 10:40	Grid-Forming BESS in Isolated Microgrids: Challenges and Risks of Inadvertent Out-of-Phase Synchronisation, by <i>Matthew Lee</i> , APD Global	Robust and Resilient Energy Management Framework for the Secure and Economical Operation of Mining, Off-grid Systems, and Remote Communities, by <i>Dr Mehrdad Ghahramani</i> , Edith Cowan University (ECU)
10:40 – 11:00	The Missing Metric: System Strength Quantification for Grid-Forming Inverters, by <i>Irvine Murray</i> , APD Global	Decarbonisation Pathways for Isolated Grids: Balancing Renewables and Storage Resources Against Weather Extremes, by <i>Taraneh Ghanbarzadeh</i> , Edith Cowan University
11:00 – 11:20	Learning from BESS Projects (Secondary and Protection), by <i>Marco Surace</i> , APD Global	Towards More Sustainable and Interconnected Power Systems by Establishing Reliable Grid Intertie with Static Frequency Converters, by <i>Damian Elsasser</i> , Hitachi Energy Ltd
11:20 – 11:40	Responsible Management of Retired Mining EV Batteries Through Intelligent Reconfiguration for Second-Life Applications,	Brownfield Turbine Replacement -- Adjust your planning, by <i>BSc Gijs Van Maanen</i> , Innomatics

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	by <i>Kenneth Tetteh Akiti</i> , Edith Cowan University (ECU)	
11:40 – 12:00	Powering Net Zero Future with Solid-State Batteries, by <i>Dawood Ghifari</i> , University of Sydney	Scalable Grid-Connected Asset Placement Studies Using Vectorised Modelling and Programmatic Model Building in High-IBR Power Systems, by <i>Dr Muhammad Ali</i> , Mathworks Australia

12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH	
	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2
Theme(s)	Digitisation, AI, and Risk Mitigation in Modern Power Systems	Emerging Technologies & Power System Innovation
Facilitator	<i>Bhavik Shah</i> , Western Power	<i>John Tope</i> , TasNetworks
13:00 – 13:05		
13:05 – 13:25	Closing the gap between Digital intent and Physical Execution in Substation Projects, by <i>Marie Lize Richard</i> , APD Global	Offshore Wind in Australia – Navigating the Transmission Connection Challenge, by <i>Deepak Sambhi</i> , KPMG
13:25 – 13:40	Understanding and Mitigating Cyber-Physical Risk in Power Generation Assets, by <i>Nikhil Mugi</i> , Astra Cyber Security	Unlocking FCAS Opportunities with Capacitor-Based Load Control, by <i>Marten Bosch</i> , APD Global
13:40 – 14:05	Proactive Mitigation of Bush Fire Hazards with the Use of Natural Ester Dielectric Fluid in Power Systems, by <i>Dr. Kin Yu Lam</i> , Cargill Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Ltd	Using EMT Simulation in Reviewing Distance Protection Schemes of Inverter Based Resource (IBR) Connections, by <i>Noel Nagoorsamy</i> , APD Global
14:05 – 14:20	Automated Neutral Fault Detection and Dispatch with Horizon Power and Gridsight, by <i>Marcel Swanepoel</i> , Gridsight, & <i>Maurice Ryan</i> , Horizon Power	Coordinated Control of Grid-Forming Inverters and Synchronous Condensers in Low-Inertia Power Systems, by <i>Hamid Soleimani</i> , Edith Cowan University (ECU)
14:20 – 14:45	Role of Artificial Intelligence in Energy Networks – Critical Use Cases, by <i>Deepak Sambhi</i> , KPMG	Secondary System Innovation and Technologies Addressing Challenges of Implementing a Large BESS Connection to the 500kV Grid, by <i>Dr Ying Yan</i> , Transgrid

14:45 – 15:15	AFTERNOON TEA	
15:15 – 16:00	FINAL SESSION	
	PowerFUL Women in Energy/Engineering	
	Facilitator: <i>David Pointing</i> , CEO, The Australian Power Institute (API)	
	Susan Kremer Pickford – Principal Engineer, Engineers Australia	
	Janica Lukas – Transmission System Planning Manager, Western Power	
	Nicola Falcon – Executive General Manager AEMO	

16:00 – 17:00	CLOSING PLENARY
	Where Do We Go from Here? Turning Insight into Action <i>Facilitator: ANDY WEARMOUTH</i>
	Session Overview: As the closing forum of the conference, this session will distil key learnings from the presentations, discussions, and debates over the past two days. With a clearer picture of the challenges, opportunities, and emerging solutions, speakers will reflect on what's been learned and consider whether a shift in direction is needed. The focus will be on translating insights into tangible next steps—identifying priorities, shaping collaborative actions, and setting the course for Western Australia's energy future.
	Dean Sharafi – General Manager, AEMO
	Sunny Vijayalayan – Senior Manager-Engineering, Pacific Energy
	James Fleay – Project Development Manager, Bechtel
	Gair Landsborough – Executive Manager, Western Power
CLOSING REMARK	
MC	Terry Lampard – National President Electric Energy Society of Australia