



Oceania Renewable Power Summit



SOLAR

WIND

BATTERIES

16-17 September 2025

Pullman Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand

Mastering renewable generation, deployment, and integration



Rafayil Abbasov
Asian Development Bank



Gina Zheng
Eku Energy



Dennis Freedman
Aquila Clean Energy



Ricky Smith
NewPower Energy



Frédéric Petit
UNELCO ENGIE
Vanuatu



Keith Turner
Independent Director



Tim Nelson
Chair - NEM Review



Jane Romero
Pacific Region
Infrastructure Facility

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SUNGROW
Clean power for all

Event metrics from 2024

200+
attendees

120+
organisations

30+
CEOs

40+
speakers

New for 2025

Pacific stream
Round table
sessions



Annual renewable energy conference

The Oceania Renewable Power Summit is a two-day conference and exhibition focused on the deployment of solar, wind, and battery technologies across the Oceania region.

The event launched in September 2024 and brought together delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa, Niue, Singapore, Kingdom of Tonga, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nauru, and Vanuatu.

THE SUMMIT'S CONTENT WILL FOCUS ON FOUR KEY THEMES



Construction



Market integration



Financing



Asset management

It will explore how to realise the opportunities in transitioning to renewables, analysing key topics such as funding models, investment, regulations, social acceptance, and engaging the supply chain.

2024 FEEDBACK

"A lot of great insights and gained a much better appreciation on the needs of all of Oceania."





MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

5.30 -
7.00

WELCOME FUNCTION

PROGRAMME – DAY 1: TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

7.30

REGISTRATION OPEN

8.40

WELCOME FROM THE MC

Cristiano Marantes – *chief executive, Ara Ake*



9.00

STATE OF PLAY IN OCEANIA



We commence the conference with a comprehensive drill-down into renewable power generation uptake across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

- regional overview including energy supply and market structure
- onshore wind resource, solar resource, demand per sq km. of unforested land, sub-region specific challenges
- analysing the pipeline by generation type and scale
- comparing and contrasting between the three regions

Brian Moore – *senior consultant - energy transition, Jacobs*

9.30

MINISTERIAL PANEL



Where do our government leaders see renewable power uptake and what is the opportunity to work together more closely in the region, and to become a global leader?

- progress in achieving global commitments such as COP29
- challenges around uptake
- costs of transitioning – risks of increasing costs around de-industrialisation, political pressure
- local content in manufacturing and assembly
- is the transition moving fast enough?
- the Pacific opportunity
- selling Oceania as a market for investment and also as a provider of IP and skills

Hon Simon Watts – *Minister for Energy and Minister of Climate Change, New Zealand*

10.30

CONSEQUENCES OF A RAPID UPTAKE IN SOLAR



A rapid increase in solar generation is underway across New Zealand and the Pacific. Australia will continue its large scale rollout. What are the price and technology ramifications as this hits the grid in NZ and what have been our learnings from Australia?

- are there any fundamental differences between NZ solar and Australian solar?
- what is the cost to firm solar and what is it contributing towards the market?
- what effect will large scale solar have on prices?
- the importance of batteries
- how to make a good financial return

Mark Nelson – *principal consultant, Energy Link*

11.00

MORNING TEA

11.30

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSMISSION AND DSO

Electricity systems have the opportunity to advance with less poles and wires if they get the DSO role right, particularly as more smaller-scale renewables come onto the grid. The challenge becomes around affordability and reliability.

Australia has considerable experience with a boom in residential rooftop solar and associated battery storage. As more battery storage systems and network generation come onto the system who is going to play what part?

Buddhika Rajapakse – *senior consultant, Concept Consulting*

Michael O'Brien – *head of network planning, Powerco*

Rebecca Osborne – *head of market services, Transpower*



12.20



INCENTIVISING CONSUMER MARKET PARTICIPATION WITH BATTERY SUBSIDIES

Find out how household batteries could be used from an operator perspective to improve grid health.

Western Australia is launching a major residential battery subsidy scheme this year, aimed at accelerating the adoption of home battery systems and supporting the broader shift toward distributed energy resources (DERs).

Nicola Falcon – *interim executive general manager, Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)*

12.40



VIEW FROM AUSTRALIA: WHAT WE WISH WE HAD KNOWN FIVE YEARS AGO

In Australia, the 2025 Federal election outcome has provided policy certainty at a time of global trade disruptions, climate pressures, and growing great power rivalries. However, while a big curtain has gone up, the underlying energy transition hurdles remain in the spotlight. It's a critical time and there is now much to do. What does Australia wish it had known five years ago?

- insights into grid connections and systems stability are critical for developer return on investment

Ben Power – *industry director energy - power generation and storage, Aurecon*



1.00

NETWORKING LUNCH

2.30

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ASSET MANAGEMENT



What is the business case for adopting new asset management technologies to replace/complement existing practices? How are we best monitoring equipment health to identify potential issues before they become major problems.

- leveraging data analytics from turbines and panels and using AI for predictive maintenance
- developments in sensors and condition monitoring systems
- costs of digital twin technology
- drones and robotics – becoming more standard?
- performance-based contracting - performance KPIs and SLAs vs time-based contracts

Matthew Stead – *co-founder, Eologix-Ping*

3.30

AFTERNOON TEA

4.00

EMPOWERING NEW ZEALAND'S UTILITY-SCALE FUTURE

Jimmy Molea – *regional business development director, Sungrow*



4.20

FUTURE VIEW: REGIONAL ENERGY SELF SUFFICIENCY



Remote communities, islands, and regions at the edge of the grid see renewable energy as an opportunity to become more self-sufficient in energy. Is true self-sufficiency possible? What are some of the opportunities available and what is the industry's position on this?

- cost considerations
- technologies that enable more self-sufficiency
- community buy-in

Karen Frew – *general manager electricity, Powerco*

4.50

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY UPDATE

An update from the New Zealand regulator

Sarah Gillies – *chief executive, Electricity Authority*



5.15

MC WRAP AND DAY ONE CLOSE

Cristiano Marantes – *chief executive, Ara Ake*

5.30 -

6.30

NETWORKING DRINKS

2024 FEEDBACK

"Great coverage of a range of very relevant topics."





PROGRAMME – DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

7.30 REGISTRATION OPEN

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND STREAM

PACIFIC STREAM

8.30 **WELCOME TO THE AUSTRALIA/
NEW ZEALAND STREAM**

Cristiano Marantes – *chief executive, Ara Ake*

WELCOME TO THE PACIFIC STREAM

Solomone Fifita – *manager, PCREEE*



8.45 **LEADERS' PANEL: HOW TO ENABLE AN
AFFORDABLE TRANSITION**



The rising cost of electricity is the elephant in the room when it comes to increased penetration of renewables. New Zealand maintained relatively low wholesale electricity prices for years off the back of a hydro-dominated system firmed by thermal.



Australia had kept prices down through thermal baseload and relatively simple grids. But as renewables have displaced some of this thermal generation, the cost of electricity to the consumer has been rising and the system has become more complex.



John Clarke – Transpower



Dennis Freedman – Aquila Clean Energy

Kate Binns – Helios Energy

Lana Stockman – AEMC

Nathan Ling – Neoen Australia

Facilitator: **Blair Walter** – Aurecon

**LEADERS' PANEL: MARKET SETTINGS AND
THE PACIFIC OPPORTUNITY**

For those Pacific nations without hydropower resources, most are turning to solar and battery technologies as they seek to displace diesel generation, or deal with growing electricity demand. These nations are looking to attract Independent Power Producers which require appropriate market settings to incentivise private investment.



Frédéric Petit – UNELCO ENGIE (Vanuatu)

Paul Makumbe – Sunergise

Sia Latu – Tonga Energy Commission

Jitendra Kumar – Energy Fiji Limited

Faumui Toimoana – EPC (Samoa)

Facilitator: **Dean Yarrall** – Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Cook Islands



9.45 **TRADING BESSs ON THE NEW ZEALAND
ELECTRICITY MARKET**



Operating a successful Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in New Zealand requires a clear trading strategy and an understanding of the local electricity market.



Ricky Smith – *general manager, NewPower Energy*

Steve Robertson – *trading manager, NewPower Energy*

THE ROLE OF DONORS AND DONOR FUNDING

A snapshot of the pipeline of projects in the Pacific.

- role of the donor
- investing in upgrading installed renewable energy systems vs new build projects
- case studies of some projects invested in over the past decade-plus



Jane Romero – *technical assistance officer, Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility*

10.15 **THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BATTERIES:
COMPARING THE MARKETS OF AUSTRALIA
VS NEW ZEALAND VS THE PACIFIC**



Investors and merchant generators must consider a range of factors in deciding in which jurisdiction to invest. In this presentation we hear from Eku Energy – a developer – who is rolling out battery projects across Australia and New Zealand.

Gina Zheng – *business development manager, Eku Energy*

**COUNTRY OVERVIEW AND UPDATE - THE COOK
ISLANDS**

Te Aponga Uira is the state-owned electricity utility in the Cook Islands. In this presentation learn about the current state of the electricity system, a profile around load and generation, the deployment of renewables, and an update on key projects.



Lesley Katoa – *chief executive officer, Te Aponga Uira*

Tei Nia – *chief engineer, Te Aponga Uira*



10.45 **MORNING TEA**

11.15

ROUND TABLES



Choose from a list of topical small group discussions:

• HOW TO SELL SOLAR RETAIL MASS MARKET – THE LODESTONE STORY

Gary Holden – *managing director*, Lodestone Energy



• PACIFIC FOCUS: MANAGING YOUR DIESEL SUPPLY CHAIN AS RENEWABLES PENETRATION INCREASES

Shakil Kumar – *energy advisor*, Envisory



• WHAT INVESTORS ARE LOOKING FOR WHEN CONDUCTING DUE DILIGENCE ON A NEW RENEWABLES PROJECT?

Blair Walter – *principal*, power generation, Aurecon

• OVERCOMING CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES: WHAT THE NEW GLOBAL TRADE LANDSCAPE LOOKS LIKE FOR RENEWABLES DEVELOPERS

• NEW ZEALAND ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

• ASSET MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR MANAGING FIRE RISK: WIND TURBINES, BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS, SOLAR FARMS

Chris Buller – *principal engineer*, Evoegy Consulting

• EARTH SCIENCES NEW ZEALAND: INTERMITTENT FUEL TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Dr Joshu Mountjoy – *sector lead energy*, NIWA



12.30

NETWORKING LUNCH

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND STREAM

PACIFIC STREAM

1.30

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ELECTRICITY MARKET REVIEWS

A comparison of proposed changes to both markets to further drive renewable electricity uptake that is both affordable and secure.

PACIFIC RENEWABLES INVESTMENT FORUM

This panel takes a look at the current aid landscape and talks about what sort of projects are more likely to be considered, and how to pitch these.

1.35

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET (NEM) WHOLESALE MARKET SETTINGS



Tim Nelson – *chair of the independent review of the NEM* | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

- overview of the current funding mechanisms for renewable energy in the Pacific
- changes to USAID
- the TIDES programme and opportunities for blended funding
- the investment appetite for PPPs
- lessons from other jurisdictions
- investing in Independent Power Producers (IPPs)

1.55

REVIEW OF NEW ZEALAND ELECTRICITY MARKET PERFORMANCE

Rafayil Abbasov – Asian Development Bank

2.15

PANEL DISCUSSION: COMPARISON OF THE TWO APPROACHES AND FINDINGS TO-DATE



What learnings can be shared across both jurisdictions?

Greg Houston – HoustonKemp

Andy Cavanagh-Downs – Camco

Rick Zwaan – British High Commission Wellington

Facilitator: David Dewar – New Zealand Trade and Enterprise



Tim Nelson – Australian Government

Facilitator: John Hancock, Signature Consulting



3.10

CLOSING KEYNOTE: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Sector evolution needed to sustain the growth of renewables.

- New Zealand will be at the forefront of world electricity systems in testing a system of renewables approaching 100%

Dr Keith Turner – *power industry executive and independent director*

3.40-4.00

MC WRAP AND CONFERENCE CLOSE



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REASONS TO ATTEND

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the energy transition across Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific
- Hear from renewable energy experts, business leaders, analysts, regulators, and policy makers
- Discover the commercial opportunities in renewable power across Oceania
- Build your network with key renewable power stakeholders from across the region
- Engage with suppliers who have solutions to your construction, investment, asset management, and renewable energy procurement challenges

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

The Summit offers a unique opportunity to put your brand, expertise, and people at the centre of a significant event, offering the opportunity for strong alignment and high engagement with key influencers across New Zealand, Australian, and Pacific markets. Speaking, branding, and exhibition options are available.

To learn more about the audience and the sponsorship options available, please contact:

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16 July 2025
\$1,999*

EARLY BIRD

Register and pay before 5pm
14 August 2025
\$2,199*

LAST MINUTE

\$2,399*

MULTI-BUY FOR 3+ TICKETS

\$1,799*

PACIFIC ISLAND ATTENDEES

\$1,599*

*Prices are in New Zealand dollars, per person, and exclude Goods and Services Tax (GST)

THE VENUE AND AUCKLAND

Pullman Hotel, Auckland, is a luxury 5-star hotel located in Auckland CBD, just a short walk to Viaduct Harbour. Offering over 300 stylish rooms, suites, and apartments (with one, two, or three bedrooms) you'll find yourself in effortless comfort throughout your visit to Auckland.

Book your Pullman accommodation from the event website and receive preferential room rates.

www.oceaniapowersummit.com/venue



AGENDA UPDATES

www.oceaniapowersummit.com/programme

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