

**ENERGY CONSUMERS AUSTRALIA**

# **Foresighting Forum Program**

**14 -15 February 2024**

**UTS Aerial Function Centre,  
Sydney**



**Event  
Sponsors**



**CutlerMerz**

**RACE for  
2030**  
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# DAY ONE

## Wednesday 14 February



8:00am

### Registration

Coffee and light breakfast available.

9:00am

### Welcome to Country

#### Opening Remarks

**Louise Sylvan** Outgoing Chair, Energy Consumers Australia

**Brendan French** CEO Energy Consumers Australia

9:30am

### Keynote address

**Audrey Zibelman** Zibelman Energy Advisors

All transitions happen slowly before they happen quickly. What changes need to occur to support consumers as they energy transition picks up speed?

10:30am

### Morning tea

11:00am

### Interactive session: What's stopping consumers benefitting from the energy transition?

In this interactive session, attendees will “don the consumer hat” as they identify and explore the specific challenges and barriers individual consumer segments face in benefitting from the energy transition.

12:30pm

### Lunch

1:30pm

### Panel Session: The benefits and barriers to electrification for consumers

**Kate Minter** Rewiring Australia

**Evette Smeathers** Horizon Power

**Damian Sullivan** Brotherhood of St. Laurence

**Deborah Fewster** Victorian Council of Social Service (Chair)

A successful energy transition will ensure that all consumers can benefit from going all-electric and that no one is left behind. This session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of electrification and how we can ensure all Australians have the ability and agency to make the switch.

3:00pm

### Afternoon tea

**DAY ONE**  
**Wednesday 14 February**



**3:30pm**

**Panel Session: Community energy resilience**

**Heather Smith** Coalition for Community Energy  
**Scott Dwyer** UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures  
**Michael Klerck** Tangentyere Council  
**Rob McLeod** Renew  
**Jill Cainey** Erne Energy (Chair)

Increasing extreme weather is changing reliance on energy as an essential service while also threatening to disrupt consumers' access to it. This is felt perhaps most keenly by those living in remote or regional areas. This session will focus on what energy resilience looks like for different communities and how we can empower and support communities to develop it.

**4:30pm**

**Panel Session: Reflections and conclusions**

Moderated by **Rick Morton** with:  
**Ron Ben-David** Monash University  
**Alison Reeve** Grattan Institute

**From 5pm**

**Networking drinks**



## DAY TWO

### Thursday 15 February



9:00am

#### Keynote address

**Michael Colgrove** Energy Trust of Oregon

Energy consumers looking to save money on their energy bills and adopt new technologies – and the tradespeople that support them – run into a lot of challenges. This keynote address will feature Michael Colgrove, Executive Director of the Energy Trust of Oregon, and the dedicated support it provides to energy consumers in the Pacific Northwest of the United States to use less energy, save on energy costs, and transition to renewable resources. Since its beginning in 2002, the Energy Trust has saved consumers more than US\$10.5 billion off their energy bills.

#### Fireside chat

Luke Menzel from the Energy Efficiency Council will chat with Michael about what lessons Australia can learn from the Energy Trust of Oregon.

10:15am

#### Morning tea

10:35am

#### Panel session: Empowering and supporting consumers in the energy transition

**Erin Chancellor** ACT Government  
**Asha Ramzan** Sydney Community Forum  
**Simon Moore** Business NSW  
**Madison Sturgess** Original Power  
**Donna Luckman** Merri-bek City Council (Chair)

Australian consumer advocates and community leaders will discuss how communities are leading initiatives to empower and support consumers to understand the information, services, and tools that are available. The session will look at what different consumers need to help them make the transition: where and when they need support and information, how, and who from.

12:00pm

#### Panel Discussion: Where to from here?

**Moderated by Rick Morton with:**  
**Ron Ben-David** Monash University  
**Alison Reeve** Grattan Institute  
**Michael Colgrove** Energy Trust of Oregon  
**Brian Spak** Energy Consumers Australia

Building on everything we've heard, we'll reflect on what you can do in your sphere of influence to empower and support consumers in the energy transition.

12:30pm

#### Closing remarks

**Dr Michael Schaper** Incoming Chair, Energy Consumers Australia  
**Brendan French** CEO, Energy Consumers Australia



## What is the Foresighting Forum?

Our Foresighting Forum is an energy conference like no other. You'll be prompted to think, speak, act, and dream like a consumer. And you'll be challenged to consider what role you can play in delivering an energy system that benefits everyone so that no one is left behind.

The 2024 Foresighting Forum will offer practical and tangible ways for attendees to think about the role they can play in delivering an energy system that benefits consumers.

## Sponsorship

### Event Sponsors

The Foresighting Forum is made possible through the generous support of Cutler Merz and the RACE for 2030 CRC. Thank you!



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### Community Advocate Sponsors

We'd also like to thank Ausgrid and Transgrid who have helped a range of consumer and community advocates to attend and participate in the Forum.

