

**ENERGY  
CONSUMERS  
AUSTRALIA**

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# **Foresighting Forum Program**

**19-20 February 2025**



## **Charging Forward**

**Foresighting Forum 2025**

**Aerial Function Centre,  
UTS Sydney**

**Building 10, Level 7, 235 Jones St, Ultimo**



## What is the Foresighting Forum?

The Foresighting Forum is a one-of-a-kind energy conference that puts consumers at its centre. Because we believe consumers aren't just part of the energy system, they are the system.

In 2025, we'll explore how we can continue *Charging Forward* to create an energy system that is affordable, clean, and reliable; while reflecting the diverse needs, values, and expectations of all Australians.

The Forum is unique as we bring together diverse voices from across the energy sector: those who interact with, plan, build, govern, advocate for, and use our energy system at every stage. Through interactive sessions, engaging Q&As, and networking opportunities, you'll have the chance to share your insights and shape the discussion.

This year, we're also celebrating ten years of Energy Consumers Australia. Reflecting on a decade of collaboration and research, we'll look back on what's been accomplished together, and what lies ahead.

In our new 3-year plan, we've identified seven targets that must be achieved for Australian energy consumers to thrive in the transition. Throughout the Forum, we will unpack what they mean, and grapple with how we can achieve them, together.



# DAY ONE

## Wednesday 19 February



- 8:00am**                      **Registration**  
Coffee available.
- 9:00am**                      **Welcome to Country**
- Opening Remarks**  
**Dr Michael Schaper** Chair, Energy Consumers Australia  
**Dr Brendan French** CEO Energy Consumers Australia
- 9:30am**                      **Keynote Address**
- Shalanda Baker** Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action at the University of Michigan
- This keynote will explore the themes of energy justice and equity and how we can apply lessons learnt from the United States to Australia.
- 10:30am**                      **Morning tea**
- 11:00am**                      **SESSION ONE: JUSTICE**
- Panel Discussion: Embedding a Duty of Care across the Energy System**
- Clare Savage** Australian Energy Regulator  
**Mark Collette** Energy Australia  
**Prof. Jeannie Marie Paterson** University of Melbourne  
**Janine Young** Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW  
**Dr Brendan French** Energy Consumers Australia (Chair)
- This panel will explore perspectives on embedding a duty of care in energy laws and objectives. Panellists will discuss how this is being adopted in other sectors; what it would look like in practice; and whether or not the energy sector and consumers would benefit.
- 11:55am**                      **Interactive Workshop: Collaborative Action - Embedding a Duty of Care in the Energy Market**
- In table groups, you will be assigned personas and examine how a duty of care would influence your actions, and consider what practical steps you need to take to ensure this duty is fulfilled.
- 12:25pm**                      **Grants Showcase: How do Disconnection Bans Work?**  
**Dr Nicola Willand** RMIT University
- 12:30pm**                      **Lunch**

**DAY ONE**  
**Wednesday 19 February**



**1:30pm**

**SESSION TWO: AGENCY & EQUITY**

**Panel Discussion: One-Stop Shops for Energy Support**

**Ruchika Deora** State Electricity Commission of Victoria  
**Julia Lipton** City of Sydney  
**Katrina Carroll** Service NSW Business Bureau  
**Dr Caroline Valente** Energy Consumers Australia (Chair)

This panel will explore how one-stop shops can deliver energy support, reflecting on work led by Energy Consumers Australia over the past year. Panellists will discuss the current state of play, and what still needs to occur to ensure households and small businesses can access comprehensive, trusted, and well-publicised support.

**2:05pm**

**Grants Showcase and Interactive Workshop: Energising Efficiency - Making Smart Choices Irresistible**

Facilitated by:  
**Erin Turner** CPRC  
**Rosie Thomas** CHOICE

Using CPRC's research on point-of-sale energy efficiency labelling for appliances, attendees will explore how to elevate energy efficiency as a policy priority. You'll contribute ideas that could shape the future of mandatory labelling and efficiency standards.

**2:35pm**

**Panel Discussion: Navigating the Energy Transition - Challenges and Opportunities for Small Businesses**

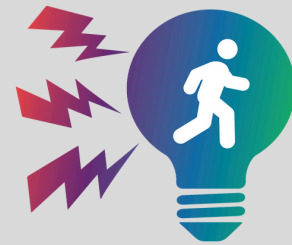
**Dr Andrew Nance** The Energy Project  
**Rob Mallett** Tasmanian Small Business Council  
**Phil Kemp** Business Foundations (WA)  
**Lynda McAlary-Smith** Victorian Small Business Commissioner  
**Dr Michael Schaper** Energy Consumers Australia (Chair)

Small businesses face some of the biggest challenges of the energy transition but also have incredible opportunities to benefit. This panel will discuss how to help small business thrive in a rapidly evolving energy landscape amidst an affordability crisis and consider how to drive innovative solutions.

**3:10pm**

**Afternoon Tea**

**DAY ONE**  
**Wednesday 19 February**



**3:40pm**

**SESSION THREE: VALUE**

**Debate: Energy is a Public Good So Public Taxes Should Cover Network Costs**

**Craig Memery** Justice and Energy Centre

**Dean Spaccavento** Reposit Power

**Prof. Iain MacGill** UNSW Sydney

TBC

**Craig Reucassel** ABC News (Moderator)

This lively debate will tackle one of the most pressing questions of the energy transition: how do we fairly allocate the costs of maintaining and upgrading the energy system? Join the conversation as panellists debate the trade-offs and solutions to ensure a fair and sustainable energy future for all.

**4:20pm**

**Grants Showcase: Reimagining Network Utilisation in the Era of Consumer Energy Resources**

**Dr Ed Langham** Institute for Sustainable Futures

**4:25pm**

**Panel Discussion: The Role of Networks in Supporting a Fair Energy Transition**

**Marc England** Ausgrid

TBCs

**Dr Bill Lilley** RACE for 2030 (Chair)

This panel will explore the critical role of energy networks in helping households and small businesses navigate the complexities of the energy transition. Panellists will discuss practical approaches to adapting the energy system, ensuring that costs are distributed fairly, while supporting equitable access to emerging energy challenges.

**5:00pm**

**Closing Remarks**

**Craig Reucassel** ABC News

**5:15pm**

**Networking Drinks**

**DAY TWO**  
**Thursday 20 February**



**8:30am**

**Registration Desk and Coffee Open**

**9:00am**

**SESSION FOUR: CONTROL & OWNERSHIP**

**Online Keynote Address with Fireside Chat**

**Dr Ahmad Faruqi** Economist-at-Large

As Australia contemplates pricing and tariff design, what can one of the world's leading thinkers on pricing teach us?

**9:45am**

**Inaugural Kelvin Trimper Scholarship Announcement**

**9:55am**

**Interactive session: Making the Energy Transition Inclusive - Ensuring Access to Consumer Energy Resources (CER)**

Ensuring equitable access to, and benefits from, CER and electrification for all Australians is a significant challenge. Participants will identify initiatives and policy opportunities that can drive inclusive participation in the energy transition, fostering solutions that leave no one behind.

**10:30am**

**Grants Showcase: The Benefits of Hyper-Utilisation of Consumer Energy Resources through a Virtual Energy Network**

**Associate Prof. Andrea La Nauze** Deakin University

**10:35am**

**Morning Tea**

**11:05am**

**SESSION FIVE: REPRESENTATION**

**2024 Gill Owen Scholarship Presentation & 2025 Announcement**

**Madison Sturgess** Original Power  
**Dr Brendan French** Energy Consumers Australia

## DAY TWO

### Thursday 20 February

11:15am

#### Panel Discussion: Breaking Barriers - How First Nations Communities are Leading Innovation in the Energy Transition

**Dr Tom Longden** Western Sydney University  
**Chantelle Johns** Marlinja Community Energy Project  
TBC  
**Lauren Mellor** Original Power (Chair)

This panel will showcase the innovative solutions First Nations communities are designing to fully realise the benefits of the energy transition. Highlighting community-led projects, and policy advocacy, the discussion will illustrate how these communities are shaping equitable and sustainable energy futures, driving transformative change.

12:00pm

#### Interactive Session: Charting the Future - Consumer Advocacy

This interactive session will showcase Energy Consumers Australia's new consumer surveys and share topline findings as a springboard for collaborative discussion. Participants will work in groups to reflect on key successes in consumer advocacy in the energy sector over the past decade and identify what needs to change to achieve greater impact, foster collaboration, and meet shared sector-wide goals. The session will culminate in practical ideas for immediate action, with opportunities for ongoing involvement.

12:40pm

#### Closing Remarks

12:45pm

#### Lunch

