

**ENERGY
CONSUMERS
AUSTRALIA**

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Foresighting Forum Program

19-20 February 2025

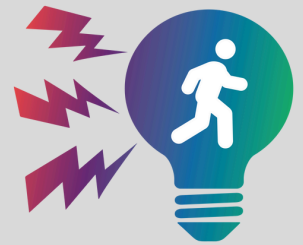


Charging Forward

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 + Fireside Chat: The Equitable Energy Transition - Lessons from the Frontlines**
- Shalanda Baker** University of Michigan
Elissa Freeman Financial Counselling Industry Fund
- 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)
Alexi Boyd Small Biz Matters
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 Equity Centre
Dean Spaccavento Reposit Power
Prof. Iain MacGill UNSW Sydney
Jill Cainey Erne Energy
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 the Energy System of the Future

Marc England Ausgrid
Tony Wood Grattan Institute
Suzanne Falvi AGL
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 what adaptations of the energy system are required to prepare networks for the future and to serve the needs of consumers.

5:00pm

Closing Remarks
Craig Reucassel ABC News

5:10pm

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: Pricing Electricity to Facilitate the Energy Transition

Dr Ahmad Faruqi Economist-at-Large (Keynote)

Sally McMahon AEMC

Brian Spak Energy Consumers Australia

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

David Green

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
Vanessa Napaltjarri Davis Tangentyere Council Research Hub
Sandra Creamer First Nations Clean Energy Network
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 Energy Report Card and share topline findings as a springboard for collaborative discussion. Participants will work in groups to reflect on what's working in consumer advocacy, 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 and integration into ECA's 3-Year Plan, and opportunities for attendees to have ongoing involvement.

12:45pm

Closing Remarks
Brendan French Energy Consumers Australia
Craig Reucassel

12:55pm

Lunch



With thanks to our Sponsors

Keynote Sponsor

Thank you to RACE for 2030 CRC for your generous sponsorship of the keynote address and enabling us to learn from the insights of international speakers. We appreciate your support in making this happen!



Consumer Advocate Sponsor

Thank you to Transgrid who have helped a range of consumer and community advocates to attend and participate in the Forum, ensuring these voices are included in the conversation.



Coffee Cart Sponsor

Thanks also to Ausnet who have sponsored the coffee cart and ensured attendees are fuelled for the duration of the Forum.

