



AUSTRALIAN ENERGY WEEK 2026

9 - 12 June 2026 | MCEC



Post-Show Report

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Letter from us

Each year, **Australian Energy Week** gives us a snapshot of where the energy sector really is - not just in policy documents or project pipelines, but in the conversations happening between the people responsible for delivering the transition.

In 2026, those conversations felt especially important. The industry is no longer debating whether the system needs to change. The question now is how quickly, how practically, and how fairly that change can be delivered.

The major themes were clear. Electricity demand is rising sharply. Renewable and storage projects need to move from development into construction faster. Transmission remains one of the hardest constraints. Existing networks need to work harder. Batteries, flexible demand and distributed energy resources are becoming central to reliability and affordability. Large new loads, including data centres, are changing the demand outlook. And through all of this, customers and communities need to see the value of the transition, not just carry the cost.

The strength of the 2026 event was not just the program, the exhibition or the networking. It was the quality of discussion, the willingness to engage honestly with difficult issues, and the shared recognition that delivery is now the challenge.

I would like to sincerely thank our major partners, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, delegates and supporting organisations for their contribution. Their support helps make Australian Energy Week a genuine meeting place for the industry, and a forum focused on practical progress.



Aleks Zids

Managing Director

Quest Events & Australian Energy Week



What did people say about the event?



“Great to have all the leaders across whole of energy systems in one place.”

Julie Colvin, Managing Partner,
Derwent



“The country’s most influential energy leaders, operators, policymakers and innovators for one of the sector’s most significant gatherings of the year.”

PV Magazine

“A quality and high-profile energy conference with great sector, service provider and stakeholder coverage in panels, speaking and in the networking spaces.”

Bridget Ryan, Manager - Stakeholder & Industry Engagement,
SEC Victoria



Energy Week 2026 in numbers



1300+
Attendees



60+
Exhibitors



180
Speakers



21+
Countries



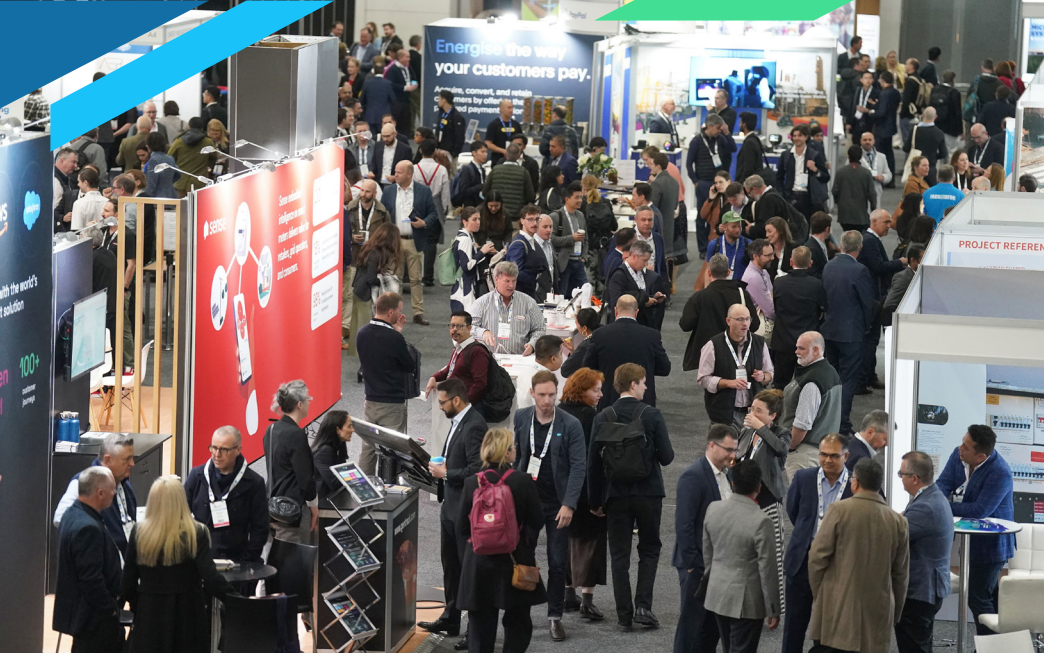
70+
CEOs



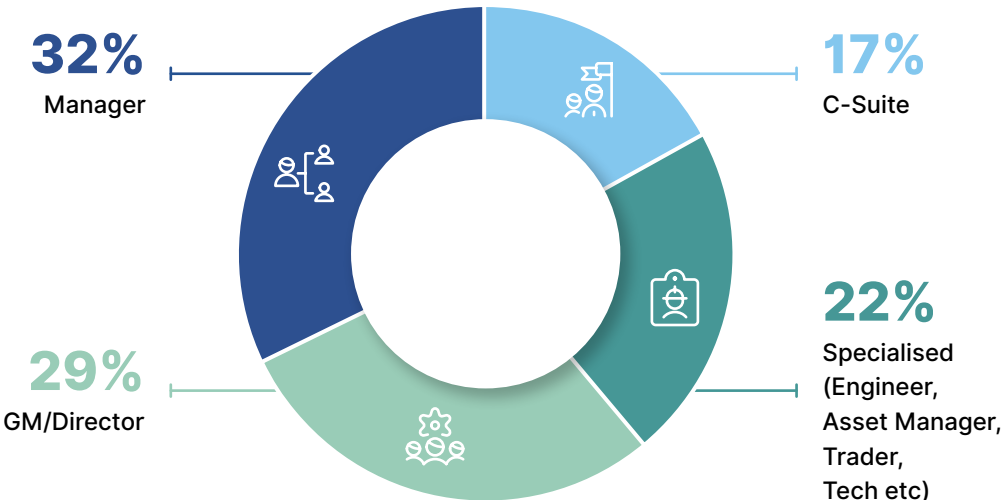
670+
Organisations

“One of the largest and most influential events on the Australian energy calendar.”

ESD News

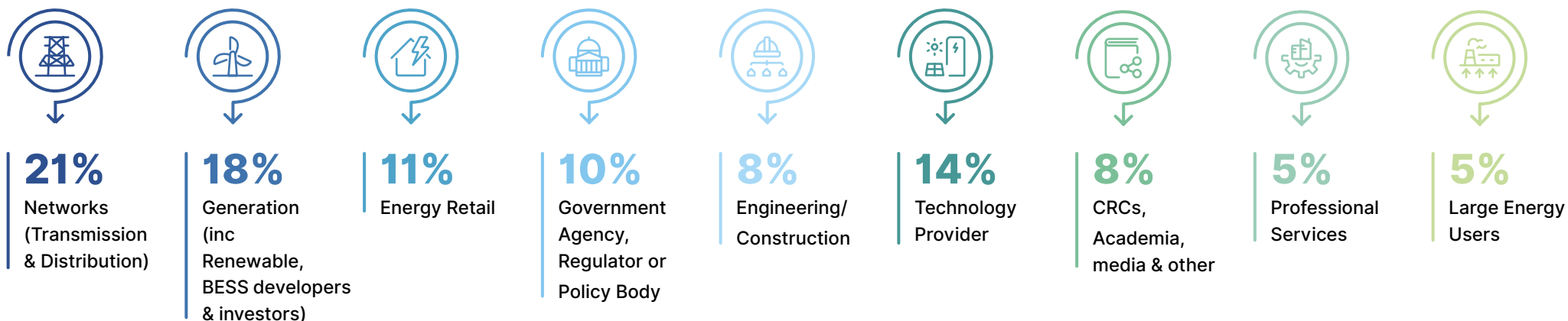


Breakdown by seniority



Energy Week 2026 in numbers

Breakdown by industry sector



“AEW 2026 highlighted both the complexity of the energy transition and the need for practical, customer-focused innovation across the sector.”

Nick Nikolitsis, Product Director - Energy, Hansen Technologies



“The place to be to feel the pulse of the Australian Energy market.”

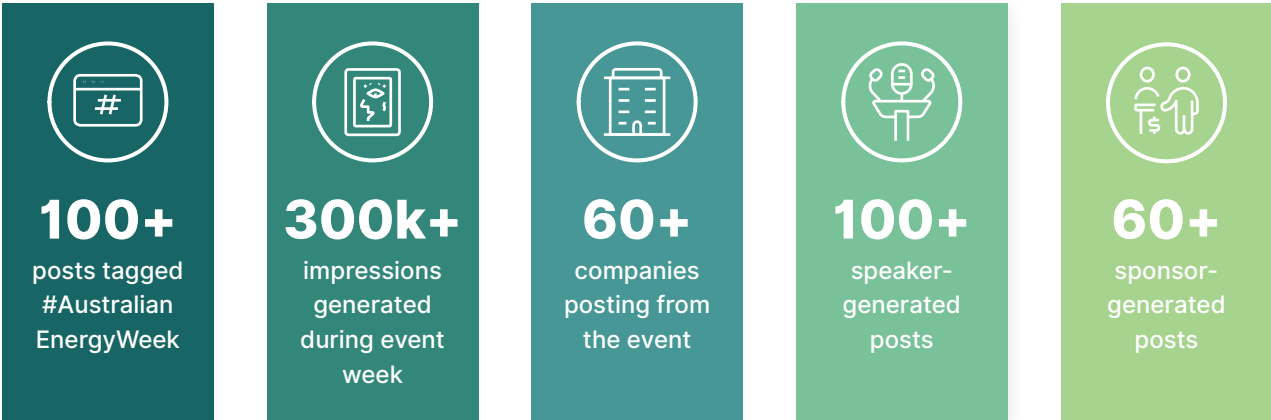
Steve Quilter, Executive General Manager Energy Markets, Stanwell Corporation

Marketing Impact & Industry Reach

Marketing stats



Event Week Industry Engagement



Media Partners & Industry Coverage



Ground Breaking Keynote | Brett Redman - Transgrid



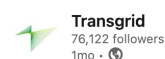
“Where infrastructure is required specifically for large new loads, these costs should sit with the proponents creating that demand, not socialised across consumers.”

Brett Redman

Transgrid's keynote became one of the most talked-about moments of **Australian Energy Week**. Brett Redman's candid views on enabling the energy transition, consumer costs, data centre demand and grid investment sparked extensive industry discussion, significant media coverage and strong LinkedIn engagement, reinforcing Australian Energy Week's role as the platform shaping the sector's biggest conversations.

“The transition will not only be judged by what we built, it will be judged by whether communities can see the value and consumers can feel the benefits.”

Brett Redman



+ Follow



Anthony Jefferson, MBA, Dipl. EET
Driving growth through strategic engagement with ...
4w · 0

That's a wrap on [Australian Energy Week](#).

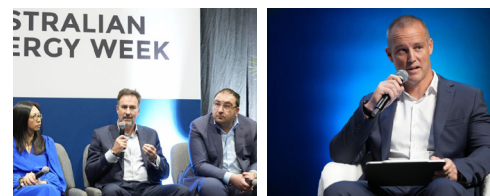
Across the week, a consistent theme emerged – the shift from ambition to delivery is no longer theoretical.

Discussions focused on the practical challenges: coordinating across an increasingly complex system, making better use of existing network capacity, and delivering major infrastructure at pace and scale – all while keeping outcomes for consumers front of mind.

We were pleased to contribute to these conversations, with our CEO [Brett Redman](#) alongside [Jason Krstanoski](#) and [Gordon Taylor](#) sharing perspectives on what it takes to turn this shift into reality.

The real opportunity now is maintaining momentum and continuing to work across the industry to translate these discussions into real outcomes.

[#AustralianEnergyWeek](#)



An interesting debate emerging in Australia that won't be far behind in the UK.

Transgrid CEO Brett Redman has argued that where major grid reinforcements are required specifically for large new data centres, those costs should be borne by the developers creating the demand rather than socialised across consumers.

As AI, data centres, hydrogen and electrification accelerate.

The challenge is that today's "load-driven" reinforcement often becomes tomorrow's strategic network asset, unlocking wider economic growth, generation and system resilience.

[#DataCentres](#) [#AI](#) [#EnergyTransition](#)
[#GridInfrastructure](#) [#ElectricalCapacityGeography](#)
[#PowerSystems](#)

FINANCIAL REVIEW



Angela Macdonald-Smith Senior resources writer

Data centres must pay fair share of grid costs, says Transgrid CEO

Transgrid chief executive Brett Redman says data centres must pay their fair share to expand the grid to avoid the cost falling unfairly on individual consumers, amid mounting worries about the financial burden of the energy transition.



Conversations shifting the industry - CEO Panel

Can policy, innovation, and security align to meet 2030 energy targets?



Tarandeep Singh Partner McKinsey & Company	Mark Collette Managing Director EnergyAustralia	Adam Watson Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director APA Group	Angela Karl Global Infrastructure Partners, a part of BlackRock Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP)/ BlackRock	Daniel Kammen Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Energy & Climate Justice Johns Hopkins University
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Each year at AEW, the CEO panel brings together senior leaders from across the sector to tackle the industry's biggest questions.

This year, it was a clear highlight - widely referenced in attendee feedback, quoted across major broadsheets and industry media, and debated on LinkedIn.

The discussion centred on the challenge of meeting Australia's 2030 target of 82% renewables. While views differed, key hurdles included delays and cost overruns in transmission and renewable projects, slow planning approvals, financing constraints, and rising wind farm construction costs.

There were also positives. Large- and small-scale batteries are growing rapidly and helping smooth peaks, while innovation at the DNSP level is creating new ways to increase renewable penetration without relying solely on major infrastructure builds.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

 **Angela Macdonald-Smith** Senior resources writer

Renewables' 2030 target running years late as hurdles mount, say CEOs

Australia's 2030 goals for renewable energy are likely to be met a decade late as numerous challenges slow the build-out of the clean energy supply system, according to Adam Watson, the chief executive of gas pipeline major APA Group.



Network costs and data centres dominate discussion at Australian Energy Week 2026

By Phil Kreveld

The penumbral conference theatre of the Melbourne Convention Centre is likely to induce somnolence in other than the most alert but attentiveness was nevertheless required for some annual presentations in the electrical energy space. Rather than reporting on their sequence.

ecogeneration

 **LAVINIA HULLEY**
June 15, 2026, 12:50 pm

The big conversations: Australian Energy Week 2026

Australia's target of achieving 82 per cent renewable electricity by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 will require significant investment in transmission infrastructure, greater utilisation of existing network



“Australian Energy Week brought the right conversations into one place. What stood out was the level of clarity from industry leaders. The focus is no longer just on digital transformation, but on connected execution, customer trust and operational resilience. For SEW.AI, it was a valuable opportunity to engage with leaders who are actively shaping the future of energy in Australia.”



“Exhibiting at Australian Energy Week gave us the opportunity to engage directly with industry leaders shaping the next phase of the energy transition in Australia. The conversations were practical, focused and grounded in business outcomes. Leaders were not looking for technology for its own sake. They were looking for ways to improve reliability, reduce cost to serve, strengthen customer trust and create operating models that can scale.”

SEW.AI





“Australian Energy Week provided an excellent opportunity to connect with industry leaders, share insights and better understand the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of the energy sector.”

Tara Cooper, Head of Operations, **nxzen**



“For nxzen, exhibiting allowed us to strengthen existing relationships, connect with new organisations, showcase our capabilities and gain a deeper understanding of the priorities and challenges shaping the future of the energy sector.”

nxzen



Attendee engagement highlights

**Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)**
25,414 followers
1mo • Edited •

[+ Follow](#) [...](#)

How should electricity network regulation evolve as the system transforms?

A strong discussion at [Australian Energy Week](#) on DNSP performance and ...more



**Gorilla - Energy Margin Intelligence**
24,370 followers
1mo •

[+ Follow](#) [...](#)

Great to have our Australian team at [Australian Energy Week](#) last week. [Jak Dyer](#) was on the ground for some strong sessions, including a standout from [Junal Hernandez](#) at McKinsey on rewiring energy with AI. Plenty of food for ...more



**FANOX Electronic Protection Relays**
5,873 followers
1mo •

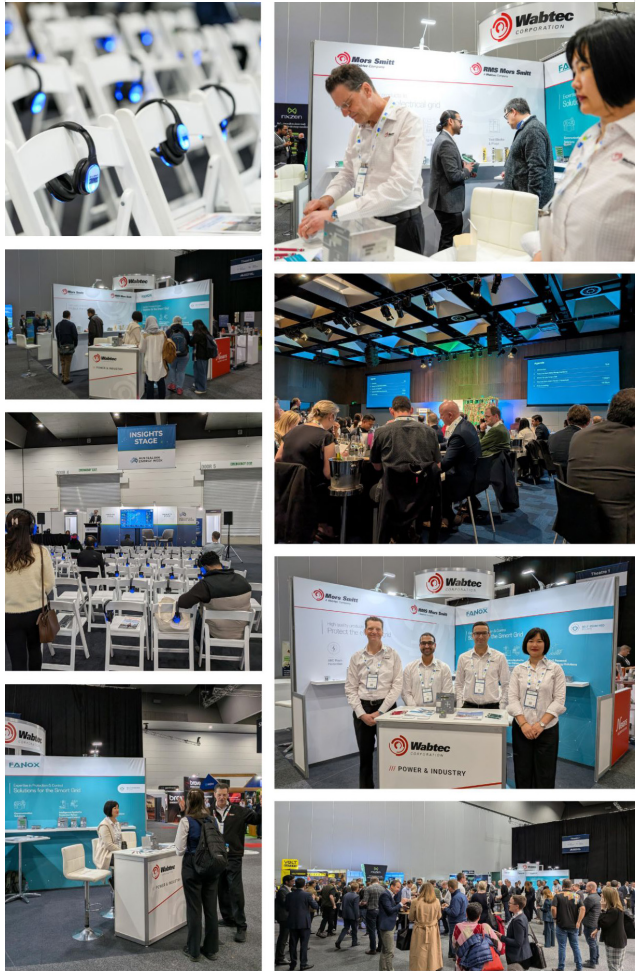
[+ Follow](#) [...](#)

Great energy and valuable conversations at [Australian Energy Week](#) ⚡ Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth. We really appreciated the interest in electrical protection and automation, and the insightful ...more

**RMS Mors Smitt**
320 followers
1mo •

[+ Follow](#)

Australian Energy Week 2026 was a great opportunity to connect with industry professionals, exchange valuable insights, and explore the trends shaping the future of the energy sector. We had many inspiring ...more

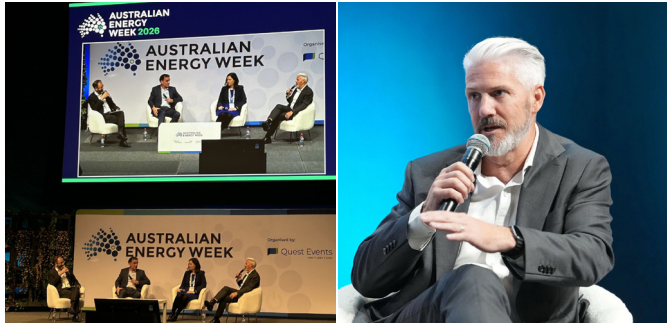


**Lumea**
8,629 followers
1mo •

[+ Follow](#) [...](#)

Great to see the strong discussion coming out of [Australian Energy Week](#) on what it will take to unlock the next wave of renewable investment.

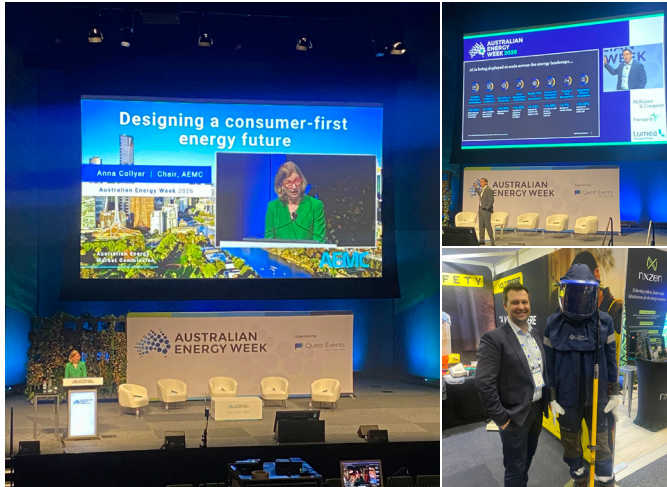
[Craig Stallan](#), Executive General Manager at Lumea, took part in a panel session yesterday alongside [Joel Gilmore](#), [Laura Caspari](#) and [Paul Peters](#) where he shared that data centres are more than a new source of demand. With the right policy settings and long-term contracting structures, they can play a meaningful role in bringing forward new renewable generation, particularly where momentum is needed.



**escient**
7,236 followers
1mo •

[+ Follow](#) [...](#)

Our team enjoyed attending [Australian Energy Week](#) 2026, a conference bringing together the energy value chain for two days of panel discussions and industry insights on the future of energy. ...more



Attendee engagement highlights



Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) + Follow ...

76,338 followers
1mo • 🌐

Distributed energy resources (DER), such as rooftop solar, home batteries and electric vehicles, are transforming Australia's energy system. They put more control in the hands of consumers and help balance the grid.

When coordinated effectively, DER can unlock more than \$5 billion in system benefits, delivering a more efficient, reliable and affordable energy system for all Australians.



AMPYR Australia + Follow ...

AMPYR 3,774 followers
1mo • 🌐

It was great to have our CEO, [Alex Wonhas](#), speaking at [Australian Energy Week](#), joining leaders from across the energy value chain to discuss the future of Australia's energy system.



Elexia Communications + Follow ...

957 followers
1mo • Edited • 🌐

The [Elexia Communications](#) team enjoyed catching up with everyone in Melbourne this week at [Australian Energy Week](#).

The industry is changing rapidly and there were some unusually bold speakers this year.

It was great to support all of our clients presenting at the event on the ground as well as being the Official Communications partner with the event itself. Can't wait for next year!

[Soline Bouchacourt](#) [Brendan Smith](#) [Simon Wheeler](#) [Mia Long](#)

[#energy](#) [#communications](#) [#media](#) [#strategy](#)



Mike Duffy + Follow

Reputational Risk and Stakeholder Strategy for Energy and Infrastr...
1mo • 🌐

Just finishing up at [Australian Energy Week](#) in Melbourne after two big days.

It seems like it's always a critical time in energy, but the positivity and ...more



MicroEJ + Follow ...

7,255 followers
1mo • 🌐

[Australian Energy Week](#) has wrapped, and what a great few days connecting with key players across the energy ecosystem.



Flo Energy + Follow ...

3,890 followers
1mo • 🌐

Our CEO, [Matthijs Guichelaar](#), recently joined the [Australian Energy Week](#) panel discussion: "Can AI and data really make energy customers love us?"

One of the key points Matthijs shared was that while energy is essential, it's rarely top of mind for customers. What matters most is simple: a fair price, an accurate bill, and confidence that they're not being overcharged.

This is where AI and data can make a meaningful difference.



Horizon Power + Follow ...

24,166 followers
1mo • Edited • 🌐

We were thrilled to join the conversations at [Australian Energy Week](#) 2026, with our CEO [Krystal Skinner](#) showcasing the Exmouth Power Project and Customer & Community Executive General Manager [Dave Frankel](#) joining industry leaders for a discussion on how distributed energy resources can deliver value for customers and utilities.



Attendee engagement highlights



Suzanna Michell • 3rd+
Global Partnerships & Key Strategic Accounts Director, APAC

1mo •

+ Follow ...

A whirlwind week at [Australian Energy Week](#) wraps up! It was so great to see many new and familiar faces in the industry this year.

Fantastic to be part of such a great panel conversation around DER unlocking value for customers at scale.

[Gentrack Ltd \(Global\)](#) has a big role in the energy transition by providing flexible technology solutions to utilities companies that integrate seamlessly with partners. We are enabling energy retailers across the world to deliver DER in their given markets.



Ryan Wavish • 3rd+

Accelerating the energy transition | consumer energy innovation ...
1mo •

+ Follow

Yesterday, I had joined my old colleague [Cam Taylor \(Momentum Energy\)](#), along with [Dave Frankel \(Horizon Power\)](#), [Suzanna](#) ... more

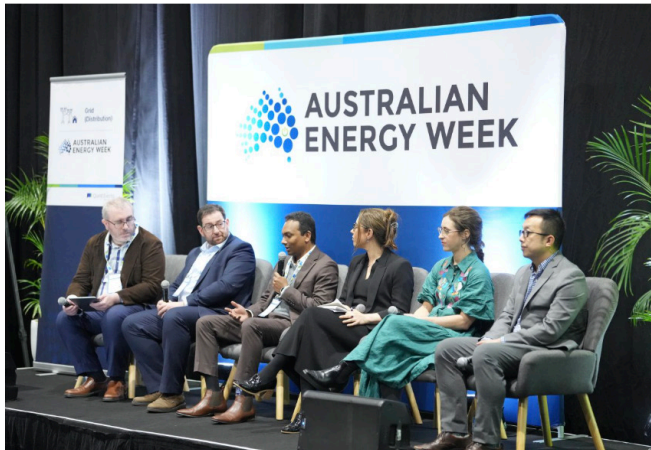


Eddie Thanavelil • 3rd+

Future Networks Innovation Manager at SA Power Networks
1mo •

+ Follow ...

I had a great time talking about DSO, flexibility and coordinated system planning at the [Australian Energy Week](#) panel yesterday. More collaboration required for optimising the planning, regulatory and technology frameworks for better outcomes for both system and customer.



Sandra Diethelm BEng. GAICD • 3rd+

Senior Advisor | Energy Transition | Strategy & Transformatio...
1mo • Edited •

+ Follow ...

A great afternoon chairing the Grid (Transmission) Stream at the [Australian Energy Week](#) conference.



Najma Habeeb • 3rd+

Doctoral Researcher at Federation University, Australia | ...
1mo •

+ Follow ...

I had a wonderful opportunity to attend [Australian Energy Week, 2026](#) at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre through [The Australian Power Institute](#).

It was a valuable experience to explore the latest developments in the energy sector and learn more about how industry professionals are contributing to Australia's energy transition. I had the opportunity to engage with exhibitors, understand emerging technologies, and gain insights into areas such as renewable energy, electrification, grid innovation, asset management, data analytics, and future energy systems.



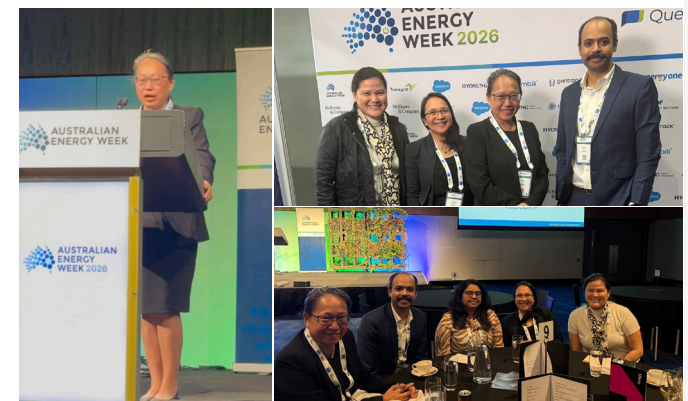
capSpire

27,551 followers
1mo •

+ Follow ...

Proud to have sponsored tonight's Gala Dinner at Australian Energy Week - thank you to our hosts and to everyone who joined us.

The energy transition is well underway in Australia. Renewables and carbon are central to how Australian energy companies plan, trade, and report. As complexity grows, so does the gap between strategy and execution.



More speaker highlights



The discussion between Joe, David and Michael around how AI can delivered unified customer experiences attracted a full house and did not disappoint. One of the talking points of the event.

Panel Discussion:

Joe Delaney
Executive Industry Adviser
Salesforce



David Morretto
Chief Commercial Officer
AGL



Michael Dart
Director
Luminous Consulting



In her widely reported on keynote, Anna spoke about how Australia's energy transition will only succeed if consumers understand it, trust it and can participate without needing to become energy experts. Anna also gave a sneak peak into AEMC's long awaited pricing review.

Keynote Presentation:

Anna Collyer
Chair
AEMC



Much of this panel focused on the innovative approaches and technologies that can help unlock more network capacity without more infrastructure build. However, with the panel directly after Transgrids keynote, it also featured a lively debate between Shayne (NextDC) and Jason (Transgrid) around cost allocation of data centre connections.

Plenary Panel Discussion:

Andrew Dillon
Director - Government Relations & Communications
EDF Australia

Lynne Gallagher
Board member
Australian Energy Regulator (AER)

Suzanne Shipp
Chief Engineer
Energy Queensland

Jacqui Bridge
Executive General Manager
Energy Futures
Powerlink Queensland

Shayne Kumar
Head of Energy
NEXTDC

Jason Krstanoski
Executive General Manager
of Network
Transgrid

Even more speaker highlights...

In his keynote, Marc spoke about the "missing middle" and how DNSPs can de-risk and reduce the cost of the transition. This includes increasing battery storage in the distribution system to reduce volatility and make the transition cheaper.



Keynote Presentation:

Marc England
CEO at [Ausgrid](#)



Deidre gave insights into how one of Australia's largest miners (Fortescue) is looking at the transition, and striving to meet "real zero".

Presentation:

Deidre Willmot
Strategic Advisor, Global Sustainability and External Affairs at [Fortescue](#)



In a candid Q&A Ed spoke about how Australian projects fit into the global world of financing, how Macquarie viewed the market and highlighted how often "certainty matter more than capital".reduce volatility and make the transition cheaper,

On stage Q&A:

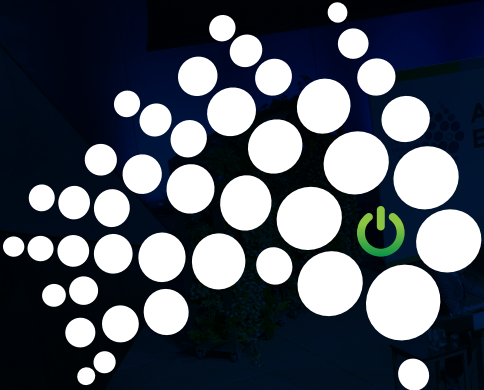
Ed Northam
Global Head of MAM Green Investments, [Macquarie Group](#) - interviewed by **Keira Wright** from [Bloomberg](#)



BESS was a huge topic at AEW. Shane dived into the role of 8 hour batteries, and how asymmetrical registration (charging faster than discharging) at the new Limondale battery was a gamechanger for long duration economics.

Presentation:

Shane Bannister
Head of Business Development and Project Sales, Energy APAC at [Tesla](#)



AUSTRALIAN ENERGY WEEK 2027

If you'd like to become an exhibitor, sponsor or speaker at the event contact



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“As an international business, sponsorship helped us meet the right people in a short time.”

Thomas Sun, CEO, NAD Grid (past sponsor)