



Oceania Renewable Power Summit



2025

POST-EVENT REPORT

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freeman.
industry information and events



“ One of the best...
conferences...I’ve
attended recently. ”

2025 delegate



AT A GLANCE

Tuesday 16 – Wednesday 17 September 2025

Pullman Auckland Hotel

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

Launched in 2024, the event brings together delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa, Niue, Singapore, Tonga, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nauru and Vanuatu.

The Summit focus was *Mastering renewable generation, deployment, and integration* and spoke to construction, market integration, financing, and asset management.

The event took place as work is accelerating across Oceania to bring more renewable generation online and manage the intermittency it brings to deliver on climate emission reduction goals.

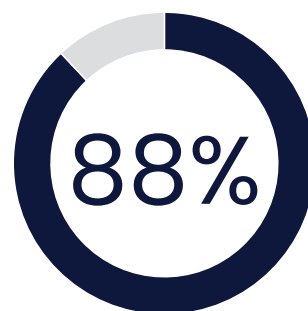
The Summit successfully brought together leaders, decision makers, regulators and technology and service providers to share experiences, make new connections, and drive progress forward.

223

Registered
attendees

17

Sponsors,
exhibitors, and
supporters



of survey
respondents rated
the conference
as "Very good" or
"Excellent"

131

Organisations
represented

59

Speakers,
facilitators, and
panelists

"Much improved from 2024, really good audience make-up which meant I got value for money with networking conversations."

2025 delegate

TOP RATED SESSIONS

FIRMING RESPONSIBILITIES IN A RENEWABLES PORTFOLIO

The future role for coal, gas, and diesel for electricity generation in New Zealand.

Genesis is New Zealand's largest thermal generator, and largest electricity and gas retailer. It provides crucial thermal firming support in the New Zealand electricity market while having strong ambitions for growing its renewables portfolio. Hear how the company balances these priorities:

- the future role for coal, gas, and diesel for electricity generation in New Zealand
- insights from the Lauriston solar project (63MW)
- the importance of public-private collaboration in achieving national climate goals
- the role of PPAs in scaling renewables and supporting corporate sustainability
- a role for biomass?

Malcolm Johns – *chief executive, Genesis Energy*

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

Utility-scale batteries play an important role on integrated electricity grids and in remote distributed systems, especially as solar or wind power reach higher levels of penetration.

Investors and merchant generators must consider a range of factors in deciding in which jurisdiction to invest.

- importance of the regulatory landscape – market rules
- demand forecasts and wholesale price forecasts
- need for subsidies?
- understanding the different drivers of the New Zealand dry season vs the Australian summer
- considerations around storage duration
- importance of ancillary services such as FCAS, peak shaving and energy arbitrage and how they support the business case.

Gary Holden – *managing director, Lodestone Energy*

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

Insights into grid connections and systems stability are critical for developer return on investment.

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?

- underlying project and technology fundamentals will evolve so a sustainable portfolio needs flexibility and discipline
- a customer and load-led transition can attract greater global investment
- insights into grid connections and systems stability are critical for developer return on investment
- plan and engage differently, even earlier and tailor benefits to increase consent of projects
- prepare essential infrastructure links including port and road development for import of key asset components
- prepare for operating assets phase earlier through development and construction.

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

FUTURE VIEW: REGIONAL ENERGY SELF SUFFICIENCY

What level is possible and to what extent does a region need to stay connected?

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

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

STATE OF PLAY IN OCEANIA

Featuring a regional overview including energy supply, market structure and a development pipeline.

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 – *technical director – energy and power market advisory, Jacobs*

AUSTRALIA | NEW ZEALAND STREAM LEADERS' PANEL: HOW TO ENABLE AN AFFORDABLE TRANSITION

Australia and the Pacific have 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.

Affordable renewables are required as electrification of industry increases – EVs, datacenters.

In this panel we look at:

- how different parts of the overall system can collaborate to drive an affordable transition
- collaboration between retailers and distributors (e.g community batteries / ESaaS)
- the interface between distribution-connected and transmission-connected supply
- migrating homes away from gas to electricity in an ordered and considered fashion e.g. accelerated deprecation, price signals
- construction and supply chain opportunities.

John Clarke – *executive general manager future grid, Transpower*

Dennis Freedman – *managing director ANZ, Aquila Clean Energy*

Kate Binns – *chief operating officer, Helios Energy*

Lana Stockman – *commissioner, Australian Energy Market Commission*

Nathan Ling – *head of development, Neoen Australia*

Facilitator:

Blair Walter – *principal, power generation, Aurecon*

EVENT MARKETING

Oceania Renewable Power Summit was strategically marketed across multiple channels.

DIRECT MARKETING

29,954 newsletters sent

SOCIAL MEDIA

49 posts, **35** re-posts, and **17** comments

Followers:

779 at 23 September 2025

ONLINE ADVERTISING

Energy News

448,844 online ad impressions, **391** click throughs

Capital Letter

193,467 online ad impressions, **242** click throughs

ENERGY NEWS STORIES

Eight summit stories on *Energy News* before, during and after the event, with a combined total of **3081** views

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

- Ara Ake
- Electricity Authority (New Zealand)

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

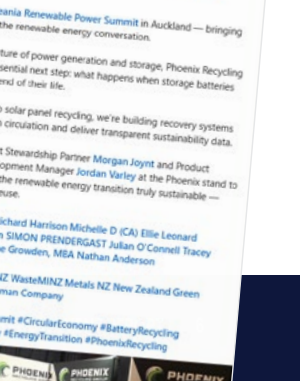
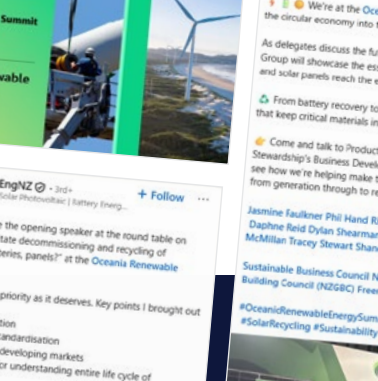
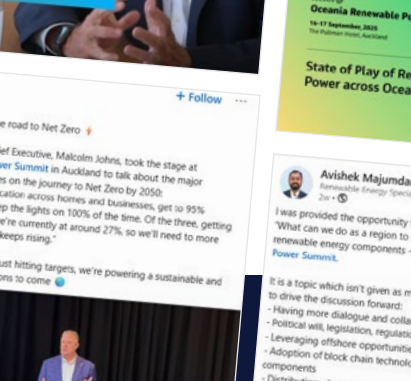
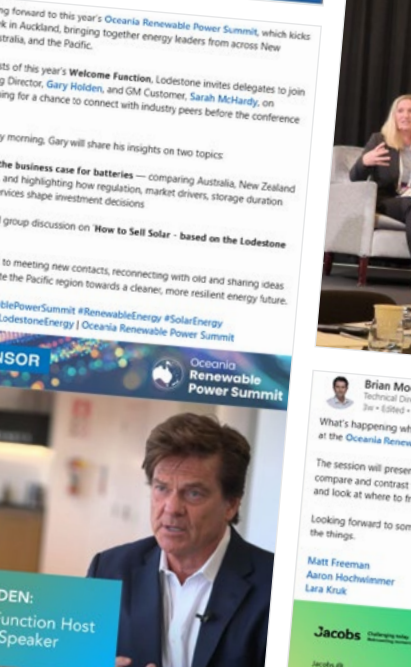
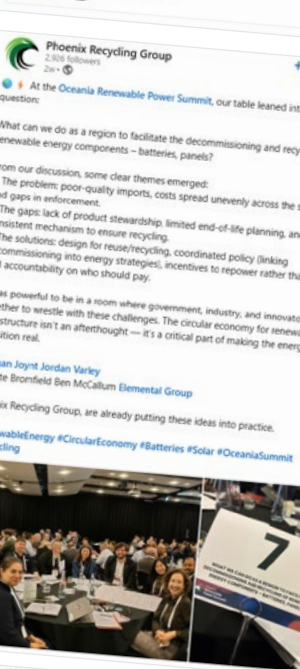
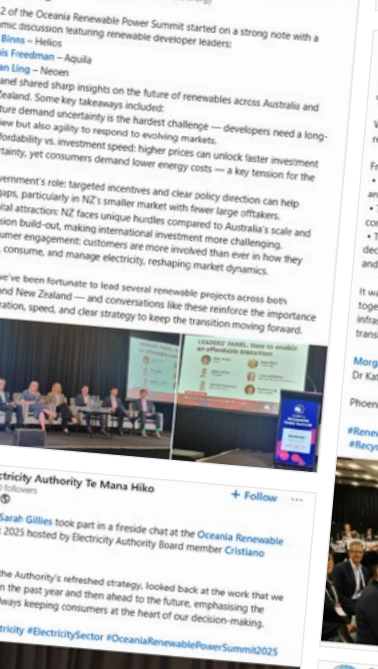
- Pacific Trade Invest
- Investment Fiji
- Fiji Consulate General & Trade Commission
- Carbon and Energy Professionals New Zealand (CEP)
- Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility
- Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)
- Young Energy Professionals Network (YEPN)
- Ngākau Hihiko

WEBSITE

www.oceaniapowersummit.com



MEDIA



DELEGATE INSIGHTS

We strive to provide delegates with a valuable, engaging experience that educates and inspires every time.



"Summit was well organised."

"Great job! Great mix of people."

"I was really happy to attend and to participate in panel discussions. Thank you."

"I look forward to assisting in the next conference round table sessions."

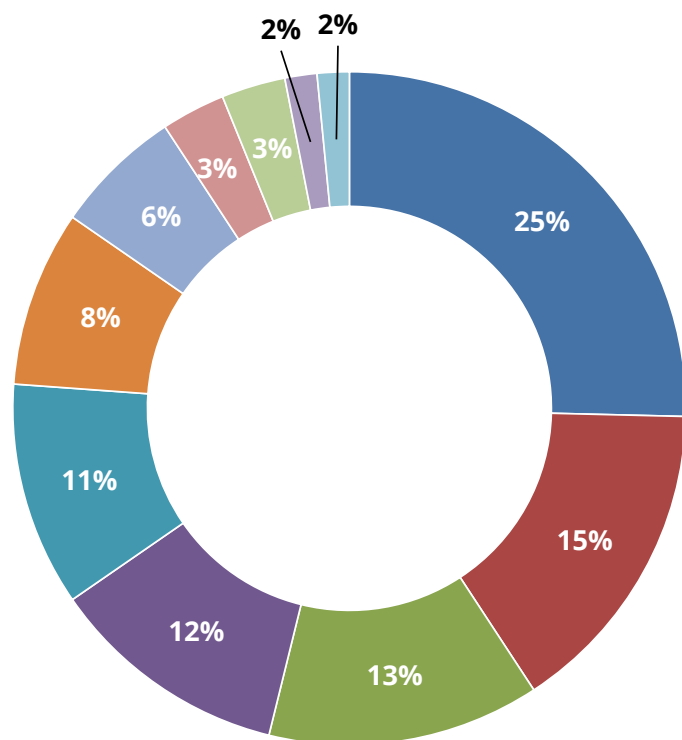


DELEGATES

223 summit attendees

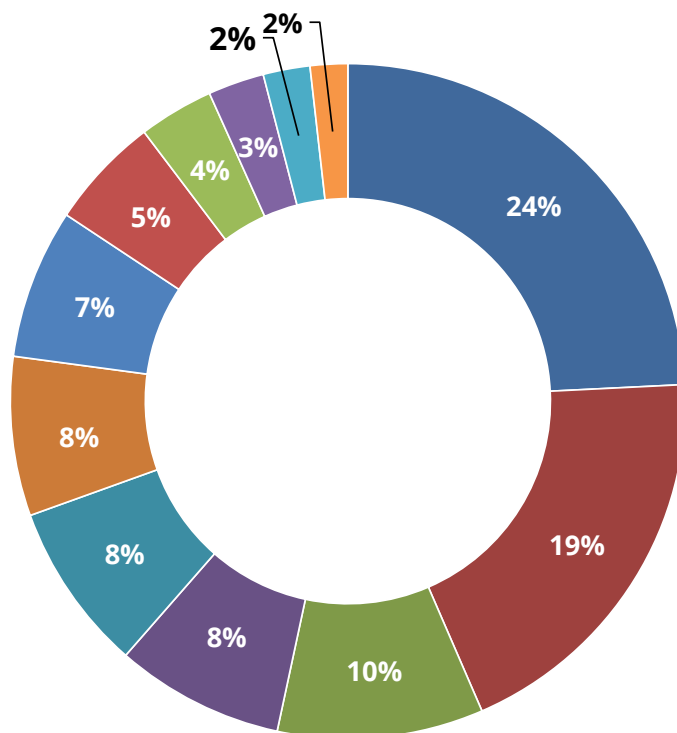
131 organisations

ORGANISATION TYPE



- 25% Electricity generation, transmission, distribution and retail
- 15% Government (central and local) and regulators
- 13% Consulting and research
- 12% Infrastructure, engineering, environmental
- 11% Service and supply
- 8% Investment and financial services
- 6% Legal
- 3% Information and technology services
- 3% Other
- 2% Associations
- 2% Large Energy User

ROLE



- 24% Chief executive, c-suite, director
- 19% Operations, assets, engineering, energy, project
- 10% Sales, business development, commercial
- 8% Partner, solicitor, associate, counsel
- 8% Policy, regulatory, risk manager, advisor, analyst
- 8% Technical manager, consultant
- 7% General Manager
- 5% Academic, student
- 4% Investment, finance manager
- 3% Chair, board member, trustee
- 2% Communications, external affairs, media
- 2% Other

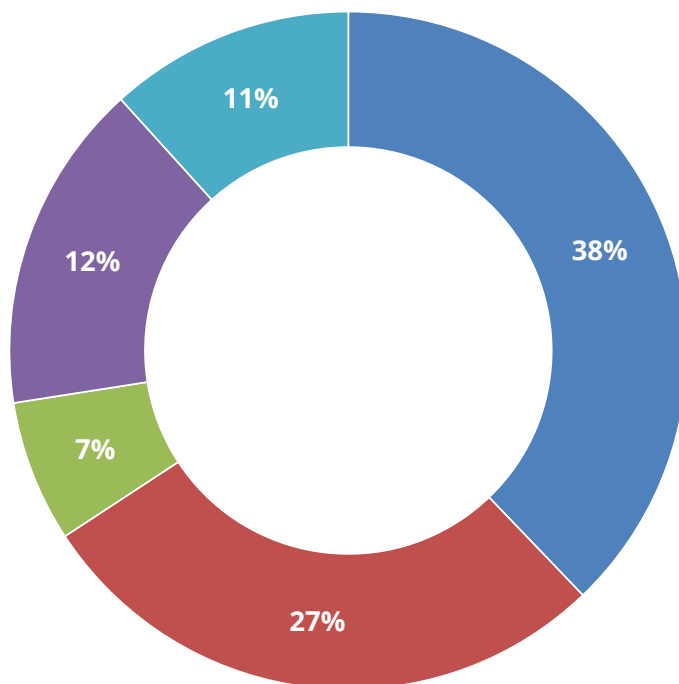


DELEGATES

223 summit attendees

131 organisations

COUNTRY



■ 38% New Zealand - Auckland

■ 27% New Zealand - Other North Island

■ 7% New Zealand - South Island

■ 16% Australia

■ 12% Pacific Islands

**72%
New Zealand**

ORGANISATIONS

- AECOM
- Aggreko
- Aquila Clean Energy
- Ara Ake
- Asian Development Bank
- Auckland University
- Aurecon
- Aurora Energy
- Australian Energy Market Commission
- Australian Energy Market Operator
- AVO New Zealand
- Baringa
- Bell Gully
- Blackcurrent
- British High Commission Wellington
- Camco
- Capital Strategic Advisors
- Carbon and Energy Professionals NZ (CEP)
- CBS Power Solutions (Fiji)
- Centralines
- Centre for Sustainable Finance
- Chapman Tripp
- Clarus
- Clay Energy
- Commerce Commission
- Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- Concept Consulting
- Connexis
- Cook Islands Ministry of Finance
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Department of Energy
- DLA Piper
- Earth Sciences New Zealand
- Edison Consulting
- Ekistica
- Elecnor
- Electricity Authority
- Electricity Risk Solutions
- ElectroNet
- Elemental Group
- Energy Fiji Ltd
- Energy Link
- Energy Networks Australia
- Energy News
- Entec
- Envisory
- Eologix-Ping
- EPC
- Ergo Consulting
- Evoegy Consulting
- Fiji Trade Commission Australia and NZ
- Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Fijian Government
- Fonterra
- Fred Olsen 1848
- Freeman
- GameChange Solar
- Genesis
- GHD
- Greenwood Roche
- Haast Energy
- Haast Energy Trading
- Harmony Energy
- Helios Energy
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- HES Aotearoa
- Hitachi Energy NZ
- HoustonKemp
- Howden Energy
- IFC (World Bank)
- Infradebt
- Infralogic
- Ingeteam Australia
- Invest NZ
- Jacobs
- Khan Advisory
- Lodestone Energy
- Mana Pacific Inc.
- Marshalls Energy Company
- MBIE
- McMahon
- Mercuria
- Mott MacDonald
- National Energy Authority of the Government of Papua New Guinea
- Nauru Utilities Corporation
- Neoen Australia
- New Zealand Government
- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- NewPower Energy
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets
- Northpower
- Nova Energy
- NZ Clean Energy
- Oji Fibre Solutions
- Pacific Engineering Projects
- Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility
- Pacific Trade Invest
- PCREEE
- Phoenix Recycling Group
- Planz Consultants
- Powerco
- Prysmian New Zealand
- Rabobank NZ
- RMA Ecology
- Russell McVeagh
- Signature Consulting
- SLR Consulting
- Solargis
- Sumitomo Corporation
- Sunergise
- Sungrow
- Te Aponga Uira
- TesAcha
- TOBA Projects
- Tompkins Wake Lawyers
- Tonga Energy Commission
- Tonkin + Taylor
- Transpower
- Tū Mai Rā Energy
- Tuvalu Electricity Corporation
- UNELCO ENGIE, Vanuatu
- Ventia
- WEL Networks
- Wellington City Council
- Wells
- WENZ Consultants
- Winjam Advisory
- Yinson Renewables
- Young Energy Professionals Network (YEPN)
- ZAK Renewable Energy

THANKS

Sponsors and exhibitors



Foundation partners



Supporting organisations



PROGRAMME | DAY ONE



PROGRAMME – DAY 1: TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

8.40am	Mihi and welcome from the MC Cristiano Marantes – MC	12.40pm	View from Australia: What we wish we had known five years ago Ben Power – industry director energy – power generation and storage, Aurecon
9.00am	State of play in Oceania Brian Moore – senior consultant – energy transition, Jacobs	1.00pm	Networking lunch
9.30am	Fireside chat: In conversation with New Zealand's Electricity Authority Sarah Gillies – chief executive, Electricity Authority Cristiano Marantes – MC	2.00pm	Firming responsibilities in a renewables portfolio Malcolm Johns – chief executive, Genesis Energy
10.00am	Future view: Regional energy self sufficiency Michael O'Brien – head of network planning, Powerco	2.30pm	Latest developments in asset management Matthew Stead – co-founder, Eologix-Ping Kerry Green – general manager asset management, WEL Networks Michael Eschenbruch – reliability manager, Genesis Energy
10.30am	Consequences of a rapid uptake in solar Mark Nelson – principal consultant, Energy Link	3.20pm	Afternoon tea
11.00am	Morning tea	3.50pm	Empowering Oceania's utility-scale future Jimmy Molea – regional business development director, Sungrow
11.30am	Panel: The changing relationship between transmission and DSO Buddhika Rajapakse – associate director, Concept Consulting Michael O'Brien – head of network planning, Powerco Rebecca Osborne – head of market services, Transpower Dominic Adams – chief operations officer, Energy Networks Australia	4.10pm	Ministerial panel Hon Simon Watts – Minister for Energy and Minister of Climate Change, New Zealand Hon Filipe Tuisawau – Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Fiji
12.20pm	Incentivising consumer market participation with battery subsidies Nicola Falcon – interim executive general manager, Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)	5.10pm	MC wrap and day one close Cristiano Marantes – MC
		5.25 - 6.30pm	Networking drinks



PROGRAMME | DAY TWO

PROGRAMME – DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND STREAM	
8.30am	Welcome to the Australia/New Zealand stream Cristiano Marantes – MC
8.45am	Leaders' panel: How to enable an affordable transition John Clarke – Transpower Dennis Freedman – Aquila Clean Energy Kate Binns – Helios Energy Lana Stockman – AEMC Nathan Ling – Neoen Australia Facilitator: Blair Walter – Aurecon
9.45am	Trading BESSs on the New Zealand electricity market Ricky Smith – <i>trading manager</i> , NewPower Energy Steve Robertson – <i>general manager</i> , NewPower Energy
10.15am	The business case for batteries: Comparing the markets of Australia vs New Zealand vs the Pacific Gary Holden – <i>managing director</i> , Lodestone Energy
10.45am	Morning tea

ROUND TABLES	
11.15am	Choose from a list of topical small group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How to sell solar retail – the Lodestone story Gary Holden – Lodestone Energy •Pacific focus: Managing your diesel supply chain as renewables penetration increases Shakil Kumar – Envisory •What investors are looking for when conducting due diligence on a new renewables project? Blair Walter – Aurecon •Calling all innovators, disruptors, change-makers: Moving towards a digitalised future electricity system Larissa Lutchman and Jono Barnard – New Zealand Electricity Authority •Earth Sciences New Zealand: Intermittent fuel to climate resilience Dr Joshu Mountjoy – Earth Sciences New Zealand •What we can do as a region to facilitate decommissioning and recycling of renewable energy components – batteries, panels? Kate Bromfield – Elemental Group •Pathways and barriers to commercialising energy innovation in Aotearoa New Zealand Daniel Gnoth – Ara Ake, and Matt Strik – Blackcurrent •Hybrid PPAs (particularly solar+BESS) and the different models and structures available Kishan Gunatunga, Anthony Arrow, and Melissa Grinter – Corrs Chambers Westgarth •Potential for cross-sectoral and integrated solutions in the Pacific Rafayil Abbasov – Asian Development Bank

PACIFIC STREAM	
8.30am	Welcome to the Pacific stream Solomone Fifita – <i>manager</i> , PCREEE
8.45am	Leaders' panel: Market settings and the Pacific opportunity 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
9.45am	The role of donors and donor funding Jane Romero – <i>technical assistance advisor</i> , Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility
10.15am	Country overview and update – the Cook Islands Lesley Katoa – <i>chief executive officer</i> , Te Aponga Uira Tei Nia – <i>chief engineer</i> , Te Aponga Uira Stephen Peters – <i>director and principal engineer</i> , McMahon

12.30pm Networking lunch

PACIFIC STREAM	
1.30pm	Pacific renewables investment forum Rafayil Abbasov – Asian Development Bank Andy Cavanagh-Downs – Camco Rick Zwaan – British High Commission Wellington Nimarta Banga – IFC (World Bank) Facilitator: David Dewar – New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND STREAM	
1.30pm	The Australian and New Zealand electricity market reviews John Hancock – <i>independent consultant</i> , Signature Consulting
1.35pm	Review of the Australian National Electricity Market (NEM) wholesale market settings Tim Nelson – <i>chair of the independent review of the NEM</i> , Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
1.55pm	Review of New Zealand electricity market performance Carl Hansen – <i>director</i> , Capital Strategic Advisors
2.15pm	Panel: Comparison of the two approaches and findings to-date Greg Houston – HoustonKemp Tim Nelson – Australian Government Carl Hansen – Capital Strategic Advisors Peter Sherry – Baringa Facilitator: John Hancock, Signature Consulting
3.10pm	Closing keynote: Looking to the future Dr Keith Turner – <i>power industry executive and independent director</i>
3.40-4.00pm	MC wrap and conference close



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US IN 2026

We are excited to bring you **Oceania Renewable Power Summit 2026**.

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

ABOUT FREEMAN

Freeman is an experienced and savvy information services provider to the New Zealand corporate community, established in 2002 by Matt Freeman. It specialises in online subscription news and information services for specific business sectors, publishing a range of reports and maps, and running industry events.

SPONSORSHIP

To learn about audience engagement and sponsorship opportunities for 2026, please contact:

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