



## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

During the afternoon workshops we request that participants attend one of three workshops;

### Group 1: Ideation

This workshop is for groups that are interested in starting a community energy project or wish to formally organise to address climate change but haven't yet registered as an LLC or not-for-profit. Attend this session if you DO NOT have a written strategic plan for your goals. These include community groups, well organised citizens and informal groups who have not registered as an LLC or not-for-profit.

#### Workshop 1 will address:

- + Identify your goals
- + Templates for planning
- + Who to talk to and when: DNSPs, Data providers, consultants, Councils...
- + Overview of the Australian electricity landscape: "who's who in the zoo"
- + Federal and State Grants Overview
- + Introduction to Tools: How to use the Deakin Tool and other available tools

### Group 2: Feasibility

This workshop is for organisations that have specific projects in mind and a baseline understanding of their geographic area's energy consumption and subsequent energy goals. These organisations may or may not have identified pathways to funding but are looking for support to get their project up and running. They may or may not have engaged consultants to begin work on their project.

#### Workshop 2 will address:

- + Strategy check for the written plan – does your plan cover the following?
- + Defined geographic area
- + Energy consumption
- + Local renewable generation
- + Commercial and Industrial footprint – why is this important?
- + Reliability and Security of Supply Stats
- + How to engage with the following: DNSPs, Data providers, consultants, Councils...
- + Overview of the Australian electricity landscape: "Who's who in the zoo" and what is their responsibility to the consumer.
- + Federal and State Grants Overview
- + Introduction to Tools: How to use the Deakin Tool and other available tools

### Group 3: Action

This workshop is for organisations that are almost or are "shovel ready", they have documented plans to achieve their community energy needs and have coordinated with the community to create an ownership model and operational plan. These organisations are looking for funding, consultants, connections and regulatory support.

#### Workshop 3 will address:

- + Understanding barriers to project success
- + How to engage with the following: DNSPs, Data providers, consultants, Councils...
- + Federal and State Grants Overview
- + Developing creative commercial contracts

## KEY CET EVENT PERSONNEL

### Guest Speakers



**James Seymour** | CEO, C4NET, *Moderator*

With more than 20 years of technology commercialisation experience, James has led the development and management of IP, technology, corporate strategy, policy and innovative business models both in Australia and internationally. James's professional career has spanned roles in venture capital, leading energy businesses in gen-tailing and distribution, government, solar manufacturing and new ventures.

James has focused in particular on commercialisation of new energy technologies driven by changing consumer preferences, technology advancement and government policies. These technologies have included solar, battery/storage, IoT, microgrids and alternative networks, and the financing and policy environments that support such growth.



**Dr. David Gormley-O'Brien** | Programs Director, Central Victorian Greenhouse Gas Alliance, *Panellist*

CVGA is a network of 13 local governments, working together across Central and Northern Victoria. CVGA develop and implement innovative regional projects, undertake advocacy on climate and energy policy and share knowledge and promote best practice. David was a key project personell in the Donald and Tarnagulla Microgrid Feasibility Project, representing CVGA's stakeholder interests, David has also been the President of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group for the past four years and was named Macedon Ranges Citizen of the year in 2022 for his work in the sustainability area.



**Emma Birchall** | My Town Microgrid, *Panellist*

Emma joins the CET representing My Town Microgrid, an innovative, multi-year, multi-stakeholder project undertaking a detailed data-led feasibility study for the historic town of Heyfield. The "My Town" objective, like Donald & Tarnagulla is a better energy future for the people of Regional communities. Parallel to Donald & Tarnagulla, over the three-year duration, the project aims to undertake a detailed data-led microgrid and energy solutions feasibility study for Heyfield, built on a platform of deep community engagement and capacity building.



**Nick Mason Smith** | Analyst at Indigo Power, *Panellist*

Nick joins the CET on behalf of Indigo Power, fellow recipients of the Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund Microgrids grant recipients from 2020–21. Indigo power are a community owned energy company, based in regional Victoria. As a certified social enterprise, Indigo Power are committed to returning 50% of profits to clean energy and community projects in regional towns. Indigo Power join us to speak to their experience of project delivery providing insight into their work having partnered with 15 community energy groups, from Albury to Seymour, to deliver clean energy solutions, community energy hubs, and local renewable generation and storage.

## KEY CET EVENT PERSONNEL

### Guest speakers



**Jake Anderson** | Microgrids Project Engineer at Energy Queensland, *Panellist*

Jake brings field experience of network planning, network protection, substation design, new technology, and strategic modelling. For Energy Queensland, Jake tackles projects that use renewable technologies to increase network resilience and reliability in remote communities while reducing their dependence on fossil fuels. These projects range from remote grid-connected communities to isolated networks in Western Queensland, Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands. Jake joins the CET forum to contribute the perspective of Microgrid engineering into the conversation.



**Mohamed Abdelrazek** | Associate Professor of Software Engineering and IoT, Deakin University, *Presenting Microgrid Assessment Tool*

Mohamed experience spans over 15 years of software industry, research and teaching experience. Before joining Deakin University in 2015, Mohamed worked as a senior research fellow at Swinburne University of Technology and Swinburne-NICTA software innovation lab (SSIL). Mohamed moved to Australia in 2010 to do his PhD in cloud computing security. Mohamed has deep experience in designing, developing, integrating, and managing large-scale software systems including military process automation, ERP, and CRM systems. Mohammad developed the tool produced as an outcome of the Donald & Tarnagulla Feasibility study presented this forum.



**Liz Kenny** | Australian Energy Regulator (AER), *Guest Speaker*

The Australian Energy Regulator exists to ensure energy consumers are better off, now and in the future. The AER's new Energy Innovation Toolkit (EIT) supports energy innovators and start-ups navigate complex regulatory frameworks, and trial new products and services that will deliver greater choice and cheaper energy options for consumers. The EIT is delivered by the AER with the AEMC, AEMO, ESC and ARENA. Liz Kenny is an Assistant Director in the Regulatory Sandbox team responsible for the delivery of the EIT. She has over a decade of experience providing energy and infrastructure policy advice.



**Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran** | Acting Director MSSI, and Senior Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course, *Guest Speaker*

Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran is the Acting Director of MSSI at the University of Melbourne. She holds a joint position in MSSI and as a Senior Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course (the Life Course Centre).

Dr. Sangeetha is an economic geographer with a focus on the political economic dimensions of environmental change. Sangeetha's research is motivated by the challenge of deep decarbonisation and the political-economic complexities involved with changing large socio-technical systems. She has focused on the energy sector where she has looked at the evolution of demand management; marketization and social equity and environmental outcomes; metering roll-outs and consumer/citizen benefits.

## KEY CET EVENT PERSONNEL

### Workshop facilitators



**Ruchika Deora** | Program Director, C4NET, *Workshop 1*

Ruchika has worked in marketing and strategy with over 20 years of global experience in the energy sector. She has a strong commercial acumen in electricity and oil wholesale, distribution, retail, demand response and energy efficiency programs, helping companies from emerging start-ups to Fortune 5s, incorporate data driven customer insights to drive profitability. She is skilled in developing successful Go-To-Market programs, Negotiation, Business Planning, Corporate Communications, and Market Research. She has an MBA from American University and is passionate about the energy transition.



**Dean Lombard** | Consultant, Advisor, Researcher, and Project Worker in Energy and Consumer Advocacy, University of Melbourne & RMIT University, *Workshop 2*

Dean is an energy policy specialist with extensive experience in policy analysis and advocacy for residential consumers, especially vulnerable households and consumers concerned with environmental sustainability and minimising their carbon footprint. Dean's areas of experience include hardship frameworks, embedded networks, consumer protections, and tariff reform. Dean joins the CET as a University of Melbourne Research Fellow, having worked across the Donald & Tarnagulla Microgrid Feasibility study, investigating the regulatory barriers and impacts.

### Attendees of interest



**Pat Stafrace** | Stakeholder Engagement Lead, New Energy Solutions at CitiPower and Powercor

Pat joins CET representing CitiPower and Powercor's New Energy Solutions, with a particular lenses on stakeholder engagement. CitiPower and Powercor are part of the Victoria Power Networks group of companies and are Victorian based electricity distribution businesses. Powercor specifically supplies electricity across 64% of Victoria spanning from the western suburbs of Melbourne through central and western Victoria to the South Australian and New South Wales borders. Households represent about 86% of our 844,000 customer connections which also include 11,175 commercial and industrial businesses and over 100,000 small businesses mainly in the health care, agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors.



**Glenn Pomeroy** | Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership Coordinator, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

In Glenn's role at Loddon Shire, he focuses on collaboration, regional development, innovation and impact by pursuing transformative projects that build a more productive, sustainable, and resilient Region. Spanning six local government areas across Central Victoria, the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership aims to achieve improved outcomes for the region's economy, communities and environment.