

Keynote Speakers



International Keynote

R. Rex Parris

Mayor, City of Lancaster, California

In 2008, R. Rex Parris was elected Mayor of his hometown, Lancaster, California, located in Northern Los Angeles County. Currently serving his fourth term, Parris has positioned Lancaster as a global leader in the alternative energy arena.

Under his auspices for the past decade, the City has fostered unique partnerships with innovative organizations from all around the world. Such relationships have led to the establishment of affordable residential solar communities and municipal solar ordinances, as well as Lancaster becoming home to BYD's first North American electric bus manufacturing plant and battery storage facility. Soon, Lancaster will tout the nation's first 100% electric bus fleet.

Most notable is Lancaster's inaugural footprint as a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA), with Lancaster Choice Energy offering renewable, cleaner energy sources at more affordable rates than traditional power sources. Additionally, Lancaster has formed the California Clean Energy Authority to help other municipalities form their own CCAs.

Mayor Parris' tenacious "can do" attitude has shepherded Lancaster along the path of being one of the world's first Zero-Net Energy Cities. In addition, Lancaster was recently designated as the Alternative Energy Research Center of Excellence for the State of California.



Local Keynote

Shane Rattenbury MLA

Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability, ACT Government

Shane is passionate about Canberra being a sustainable and fair city, with a great public transport system, low carbon emissions and resilience against the climate impacts ahead. Shane was previously Speaker of the Assembly, and in 2012, became the first ACT Greens Minister and holds the portfolios of Territory and Municipal Services, Corrective Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, and Sport and Recreation.

Shane is a keen triathlete and photographer and has lived in Canberra for more than twenty years. He studied economics and law at the ANU, and then, after a short stint in the federal public service, followed his passion for the environment working for Greenpeace, both in Canberra and overseas. He campaigned to protect global oceans and headed up Greenpeace's expedition to Antarctica to protest against Japanese whaling.

In 2008, Shane was elected to the Legislative Assembly as one of four Green MLAs, and became the first Greens Speaker of a parliament anywhere in the world. As the Greens Spokesperson on Climate Change and Environment, and Attorney-General and Emergency Services, he worked to secure the ACT Government's climate change target and campaigned for equal marriage rights.

Speakers and Panellists

MC



Bruce Roberts

Journalist and Newsreader
Win Television

Bruce has anchored more than 12,000 prime-time news bulletins and written countless news stories. He's been with WIN News for 10 years, daily presenting five bulletins aired throughout Victoria and southern New South Wales.

Bruce has a graduate diploma and a masters degree in journalism from Charles Sturt University. He graduated from NIDA in 1990 before working for the Seven Network, BBC and Sky Sports. He has a deep passion for military causes and MC'd numerous services for the RSL and is a Legacy ambassador. Bruce is also qualified in workplace training and assessment, MBTI, DiSC and PADI Logistics.



Greg Bourne

Climate Councillor

Greg Bourne has worked at the nexus of climate change, energy business and policy for over 30 years. With BP he lived and worked in the UK, Middle East, USA, Canada, Ireland, Brazil, China, Venezuela and Australia. For two years he was Special Adviser on Energy and Transport to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He returned to Australia in 1999 as Regional President, BP Australasia and worked with business and governments on the Climate Change agenda.

Greg was CEO WWF Australia for six years and a non-executive director of Carnegie Wave Energy. He is the former Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, he was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to the environment.

Speakers and Panellists



Victoria Adams

Director, Corporate and Project Finance
Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Victoria Adams leads the Community Housing business platform at the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. The CEFC's energy efficient Community Housing Program is an initiative to deliver over 1,000 new energy efficient social and affordable housing dwellings. The program is delivering lower energy costs for low income residents while lowering Australia's carbon footprint. Victoria also has experience in utility-scale solar projects, investment funds, social infrastructure, public private partnerships (PPPs) and climate bonds for the CEFC.

Before joining the CEFC, Victoria worked at Deloitte, Goldman Sachs and Macquarie Capital. She has a broad range of corporate finance experience in mergers and acquisitions for both advisory and principal transactions across a number of industries.



Adam Clarke

Program Co-ordinator, Corporate & Community Planning, Smart Cities Team,
The City of Newcastle

Adam is responsible for managing and analysing energy and resource use across Council to develop and implement projects for financial and environmental returns for the City, including MW scale solar, street lighting upgrades, rooftop solar, power quality, EV and battery storage.

Projects of note include leading the Energy Hunter program, which assisted 500 Hunter businesses to reduce their annual electricity consumption by over 4 million kilowatt hours, making \$1.1m in annual savings and receiving the NSW Green Globe for Climate Change. Adam also led the installation of a 100kW solar system on the State Heritage listed Newcastle Museum. He is responsible for developing Council's landmark \$8m solar farm project and delivering a range of smart city infrastructure projects.



Claire Connell

Project Officer, ClimateWorks Australia

Claire supports ClimateWorks across a range of implementation projects, including Generation Yes and our electric vehicle uptake projects. In these roles she works with partners and individuals across sectors to develop understanding and action on climate change in Australia. Previously Claire has worked in engagement roles in higher education and the not for profit sector.



Bernhard Conoplia

Program Director, NRMA Electric Vehicle Fast Charging Network

Bernhard brings over 20 years of local and international experience and a background in Engineering, Product Development and Strategy to this pioneering challenge of building one of Australia's largest fast charging networks.

Electric vehicle take up is growing rapidly around the world, yet Australia is lagging. Late last year the NRMA announced it would do its part to encourage electric vehicle take up by investing \$10m to build over 40 fast chargers across NSW and ACT. The network is designed to address the fundamental infrastructure barrier that stops people buying EVs today. The first chargers are now live with many more in the pipeline.

Bernhard will be presenting the story behind why NRMA is making this investment, the challenges of the project and the opportunities for local authorities to maximise the benefit for communities.



Anne Fitzsimmons

Senior Sustainability Officer, Inner West Council

Anne has worked in sustainability in local and State Government since 2008. She specialises in corporate sustainability and developing energy efficiency projects as well as working across teams to improve the environmental sustainability of Council facilities. She has managed a number of major lighting upgrades in Council facilities and more recently was part of the evaluation panel for the SSROC-led Power Purchase Agreement project, which tendered for a PPA to supply 20 metropolitan and regional councils with renewable energy.

Anne spent nearly 6 years with Canterbury Bankstown Council before joining Inner West in April 2018. She has a Masters in Environmental Management from UNSW where she focussed on renewable energy policy and corporate energy management.



Helene Forsythe

Team Leader Sustainability, Canterbury Bankstown Council

Helene has worked in Local Government in NSW for 20 years with a background in Environmental Science and Education (Macquarie University) as well Environmental Management in Local Government (Newcastle University).

She has seen a lot of change in how local government responds to environmental issues over the past two decades, and is confident that we are starting to make a real difference. Her main focus with work is around strengthening the resilience of Canterbury Bankstown council and her local community.

The newly amalgamated City of Canterbury Bankstown is now the largest Council in NSW with a population of 368,000. The Local community are very ethnically diverse with 44% born overseas, and 41% from countries where English is not the first language. Canterbury Bankstown - where interesting happens!



Nikki Jordan

Acting Team Leader, Sustainability Integration, City of Melbourne

Nikki Jordan has worked in both the corporate and government sectors in Australia and the U.K. for over 16 years, and is currently working at the City of Melbourne in the Sustainability Integration Team.

Prior to joining the City of Melbourne two years ago, Nikki led the sustainability program for Bank Australia – a project partner in the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project. Expertise ranges from sustainable business development and performance reporting to project management, environmental management systems, stakeholder engagement and communications.



Councillor Mark Honey

Mayor, Kiama Municipal Council

Mayor Mark Honey is a highly respected local dairy farmer who has operated the family farm for about 45 years, since the retirement of his father. He currently works the properties with his sons, and wife Anne.

In September 2012, Mark was elected to the Kiama Municipal Council and is currently in his second term. He was elected as Mayor in 2016. Mark participates in a number of Committees including the Blue Haven Care Board, the Local Traffic Committee, and Council's Cultural Board, Walking Tracks and Cycleways and Planning committees.

Mark also holds positions on a number of external bodies including the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation and is director on the CivicRisk Mutual Board.



Professor Lesley Hughes

Climate Councillor and Distinguished Professor of Biology, Macquarie University

Professor Lesley Hughes is a Distinguished Professor of Biology and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Integrity & Development) at Macquarie University. Her research has mainly focused on the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems.

She is a former federal Climate Commissioner and former Lead Author in the IPCC's 4th and 5th Assessment Report. She is also a Director for WWF Australia, a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, the Director of the Biodiversity Node for the NSW Adaptation Hub and a member of the expert advisory committee for Future Earth Australia.



Professor Karen Hussey

Climate Councillor & Director, Centre for Policy Futures, University of Queensland

Trained as a political scientist and economist, Karen undertakes research in the field of public policy and governance, with a particular interest in public policy relating to sustainable development. Her recent research has focused on water and energy security, the role of the state in climate change mitigation and adaptation and the links between international trade and environmental regulation.

Karen is a Chief Investigator on the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project 'Policies, Institutions and Governance of Natural Hazards'.

Prior to joining UQ, she was Associate Professor in the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU, where she now holds an Adjunct Professorship.



Dr Sonia Marshall

Strategic Policy Officer, Sustainability,
Liveability and Natural Assets,
Sunshine Coast Council

Dr Sonia Marshall is currently in the Environment and Sustainability Policy Branch at Sunshine Coast Council. Apart from writing policy, she is also responsible for measuring and monitoring council's greenhouse gas emissions and other sustainability indicators such as energy, waste, water and behaviour change.

Sonia's degree was in environmental management and her PhD in environmental interpretation. Her other experience includes campaigning for an environmental group, planning and delivering environmental education programs at tourism destinations and lecturing / tutoring in environmental management at universities.



Brett McDonald

Senior Greenhouse Project Officer,
Sustainability & Transport,
City of Port Phillip

Brett McDonald is Senior Greenhouse Projects Officer at the City of Port Phillip, with a remit to help council achieve zero net emissions by 2020. In the six years he's been there, he has led various projects to install solar PV and improve the energy efficiency of council assets and services. This includes halving the energy use at St Kilda Town Hall, the council's largest energy user. And starting this January, all of council's electricity will be 100% GreenPower, which will make the goal of zero net emissions by 2020 attainable.

When he is not helping and advising others on their energy use, Brett enjoys riding around Melbourne and growing food on a small patch of garden at home.



Anna McGuire

Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change,
ACT Government

Anna led the development of the ACT Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan which was launched in April 2018, and is now coordinating the implementation of this plan including guiding the transition to a zero emissions Government passenger vehicle fleet. She is also leading the development of a new climate strategy for the ACT to map a pathway towards reducing ACT emissions by 50-60% by 2025 and achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

Anna has a background in ecology and sustainability and been working in climate change and environmental policy development and advocacy for the past ten years. She has a particular interest in zero carbon cities, urban resilience, behaviour change and community-driven solutions to climate change.



Julie McMinn

Co-ordinator, Switch Your Thinking!
Program, City of Gosnells

Julie McMinn coordinates the award winning Switch your thinking program, a local government initiative that inspires sustainable action across Perth.

Collaborating with other local governments, households, businesses, schools, researchers and community groups, Julie promotes resource efficiency and the uptake of renewable energy to drive greenhouse emission reductions. Julie is passionate about evidence based and community focused climate change mitigation.



Nik Midlam

Manager Carbon Strategy, City of Sydney

Having worked with the City of Sydney since 2002, Nik has been involved in developing, and now delivering on the City's targets to reduce emissions by 70 per cent below 2006 levels by 2030, 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050. Under Nik's watch the City organization became carbon neutral and reduced emissions by 25 per cent. Across the local government area emissions are 19 per cent below 2006 levels.

Nik is an advocate for energy efficiency and renewable energy. He understands issues faced by local government and communities in the pursuit of zero emissions across all sectors of our economy. Nik participates in C40 and Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance networks.



Daniel Murphy

Manager of Economic Development,
Bega Valley Shire Council

Daniel Murphy has over 15 years' experience in various corporate and government roles. First starting out in banking in London, he's now fully reformed and has developed and delivered greenhouse action programs in non-profits, develop sustainable building assessment tools for local government and complete a variety of environmental projects in sensitive coastal areas. In a previous position at Council, he coordinated its role in development and delivery of the Green Globe winning Tathra Community Solar Farm – one of Australia's first community backed solar farms.

Community engagement has been a key requirement of all projects that he's undertaken and he's endeavored to navigate the needs and desire of the community with the roles, resources and responsibilities of local government.



Peter Natrass

Technical Specialist, Sustainability,
City of Adelaide

Peter has led the development and delivery of key policies and projects to progress achievement of the community's ambition to be one of the world's first carbon neutral cities.

Peter has recently completed a roll-out of 40 electric vehicle charging stations and was a lead author on the City's *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025*, *Carbon Neutral Adelaide Action Plan 2016-2021* and the *Sustainability Incentives Scheme* that provides up to \$5,000 for each electric vehicle charging station and energy storage systems installed by property owners or tenants.



Kate Nicolazzo

Head of Development, Moreland Energy
Foundation

Kate is responsible for developing strategic partnerships, programs and services that deliver on MEFL's vision of a zero carbon society.

Prior to this Kate was the Manager of Positive Charge, the Moreland Energy Foundation's social enterprise. Leading a small team of dedicated staff delivering energy efficiency and renewable energy advice, products and services to householders, businesses, schools and community groups across Victoria, Kate also spearheaded the expansion of Positive Charge into NSW under the brand Our Energy Future.

Kate has worked across the community and private sectors in a variety of roles focused on health, climate change and sustainability in the past 15 years before joining MEFL. She was the CEO of the Yarra Energy Foundation and General Manager for Sustainability and Innovation at the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI).

Kate has also been Treasurer and Secretary for Beyond Zero Emissions and regularly mentors Fellows from the Centre for Sustainability Leadership.



Dr Matthew Nott

Founder, Clean Energy for Eternity

Dr Matthew Nott is an orthopaedic surgeon, based in Bega since 1999. He helps to provide a regional orthopaedic service for SE NSW.

Dr Nott became interested in climate change in 2006 after reading Tim Flannery's "The Weather Makers". After much research, he started up the community group Clean Energy For Eternity.

Clean Energy for Eternity has been involved in human signs, has helped community groups fund raise for solar panels and has achieved renewable energy onto the roof-tops of surf clubs, fire stations, churches, community halls and schools. They have set an emission reduction target of 50/50 by 2020. Additionally, they have built Australia's largest community funded solar sculpture (IMAGINE). Their most recent project has been to fundraise for a 20kW solar array onto the roof of the local footy club, which they are hoping to launch in August 2018. They plan to keep doing what they are doing until 2020.



Claire Painter

EQ Infrastructure Readiness Manager, Mercedes-Benz Australia

Claire is the EQ Infrastructure Readiness Manager at Mercedes-Benz Australia, contributing to an overarching strategy for the Australian and New Zealand markets, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure and services.

Prior to joining Mercedes-Benz Australia, Claire was an Implementation Manager at ClimateWorks Australia. Claire managed efforts to reduce emissions across the transport and energy sectors. In the transport sector program, Claire led projects which focussed on best practice vehicle emissions standards, supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and net zero emissions strategies. Claire played a key role in the establishment of the Electric Vehicle Council, and authored the June 2018 second edition of the State of Electric Vehicles in Australia report.



Alix Pearce

Director, Cities Power Partnership, Climate Council

Alix directs the biggest climate program for local government in the country. Prior to this role Alix was the strategic projects manager at the Climate Council, leading projects in climate change and renewable energy that have generated millions of dollars' worth of media, reaching over 350 million people and engaging hundreds of stakeholders and decision makers. This included spearheading Australia's first climate security summit, involving international and Australian security leaders.

Formerly a researcher at the Climate Council and the University of Sydney, she has co-written dozens of reports on climate change impacts and solutions with some of Australia's premier scientists.



Vicky Petterson

Senior Program Officer, Carbon Policy and Administration, Brisbane City Council

Vicky has worked in energy and carbon policy roles at local, state and national levels for the last 15 years. During this time, she contributed to the design and implementation of national policy measures, including the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme, National Carbon Offset Standard and Carbon Farming Initiative. Most recently, she has worked for Brisbane City Council's Energy and Carbon team, with a focus on delivering the Lord Mayor's commitment to becoming a carbon neutral organisation.

Brisbane City Council achieved carbon neutral status in February 2017 and was formally certified carbon neutral against the National Carbon Offset Standard earlier this year.



Clr Damien Ryan

Mayor, Alice Springs Town Council &
Vice President Australian Local
Government Association

Elected as Mayor of Alice Springs in March 2008, Mayor Ryan is passionate about promoting and working for the Alice Springs community and is strongly committed to the sustainable development and advancement of Alice Springs.

Mayor Ryan is also the President of the Local Government Association NT and NT Grants Commissioner; Deputy Chair of the Outback Highway Development Council, and Board Member of the Finke Desert Race.

Alice Springs was one of the original Commonwealth Solar Cities program members and has installed 575kW of solar PV to date.



Nicola Saltman

Engagement Lead, 3 Council Regional
Environment Program – Waverley,
Woollahra & Randwick, NSW

Nicola is an experienced program manager, engagement and communications professional in climate change and broader sustainability. Over the past 18 years, Nicola has successfully delivered sustainability programs and solutions across government, not-for-profit and commercial sectors – in Australia, the UK and Europe. She's deeply passionate about driving positive social and environmental change, through collaboration and capacity-building.

Most recently Nicola has been working in the Sustainable Communities Team at Waverley Council (Sydney) where she is driving awareness through an award-winning Second Nature program, helping strata buildings improve their environmental performance with Building Futures program, and driving uptake of solar power in schools and for renters.



Andrew Sloan

Deputy Mayor, Kiama Municipal Council

Andrew is a practicing civil engineer and was elected to council 6 years ago. He has over 20 years' experience in water and environmental management, and holds a Masters Degree in planning and local government law.

A long-time advocate of transitioning to renewables, Andrew champions Kiama's involvement in the Partnership and action on the councils' pledges.

His family first achieved carbon neutrality 10 years ago after solarising his (then) home in Brisbane, and taking advantage of a Queensland Government Scheme that allowed offsets to be purchased for transport emissions (sadly now defunct). He's very happy with the performance of his Powerwall 2 over the past 12 months and is looking forward to the release of more affordable plug in hybrid and electric cars in the very near future which could transform both his own garage and the council car fleet.



Dan Stevens

Community Development Manager,
Australian PV Institute

Dan's role focuses on the implementation of the SunSPoT Solar Potential tool. The tool allows real time insight into savings potential for Australians wanting to install solar PV – supporting smart energy decisions.

Dan brings a wealth of management consulting experience to his role working with Australian councils to meet their smart energy and carbon reduction goals. Dan is a passionate advocate of renewable energy and is keen to help accelerate the transition to sustainable and renewable energy consumption. He utilises his numerous years in consulting, strategic planning and procurement to ensure a streamlined approach to delivering projects, helping to drive the low carbon future.



Katie Vines

Director of Sustainable and Resilient Cities,
Climate KIC Australia

Katie brings expertise and experience working with mega-cities around the world to create innovative, end-user led transformation towards sustainable and resilient Australian cities and regions.

Katie previously worked as the Head of Adaptation Research at C40 Cities climate leadership group. In this role she led a program of research and facilitated a global network of city staff that drove meaningful, measurable and sustainable climate change adaptation. Katie has worked in State and Federal government in Australia where she collaborated with communities, local governments, researchers and public and private organisations on building adaptive capacity.



Anthony Weinberg

3-Council Regional Environment Program
Coordinator, Waverley, Woollahra &
Randwick Councils, NSW

Anthony is an experienced project manager and sustainability consultant in the energy, waste, water, biodiversity and sustainability sectors. He is passionate about realising meaningful and long-lasting environmental outcomes by translating strategic plans and targets into real life projects and programs. Over the past 14 years, Anthony has worked on a number of successful results on major infrastructure projects, strategies and engagement activities for government and commercial sectors in NSW.

In his current role he has planned, designed and implemented a number of successful projects across the Eastern Suburbs to meet ambitious environmental targets. He developed and manages the Solar My School, public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging rollout and Compost Revolution programs which have achieved strong results and have been recognised at local and state level for delivering tangible environment outcomes and strong engagement with communities.



Chris Wilson

Director of Sustainability Advisory Services,
Pangolin Associates

Chris is a developer and provider of a suite of sustainability advisory services. He constructs and maintains frameworks and management systems that deliver effective environmental outcomes and efficiency gains. Chris has worked with many local and state government authorities to assist with measuring and achieving their carbon and energy reduction goals. This includes compiling and auditing carbon accounts under both the NGERs and NCOS frameworks, strategy and risk analysis, and renewables and offset feasibility studies.

Chris is certified as an Associate Environmental Auditor. He is a Registered Greenhouse and Energy Auditor (Category 1) and is President of the Australian Institute of Environmental Accounting.



Tim Wong

Senior Project Officer, NSW Office of
Environment and Heritage (OEH)

Tim Wong has worked on the Building Upgrade Finance program since 2014. He has overseen the streamlining of the product in NSW including its rebranding from Environmental Upgrade Agreements to Building Upgrade Finance.

Before joining OEH Tim worked for several accredited certificate providers under the NSW Energy Savings Scheme. He has also supported businesses operating under the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Scheme. Prior to this he worked for Thomson Reuters where he developed some of the first Australian information services reporting on climate change and the commercial and regulatory implications for businesses.