

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Future of Neighbourhood Batteries in Australia Conference

Wednesday, 29 November, 2023

Innovation Space, Level 2, Birch Building, 35 Science Road, Australian National University, Canberra

### Speaker biographies

Associate Professor **Marnie Shaw's** research interests lie in applying data analytics and machine learning to a range of data-rich problems, including the integration of renewable energy into the electricity grid. At the ANU Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program, she has been looking at how energy storage can support increasing amounts of renewable energy in the grid, while reducing energy costs for consumers, and addressing important issues around energy equity.



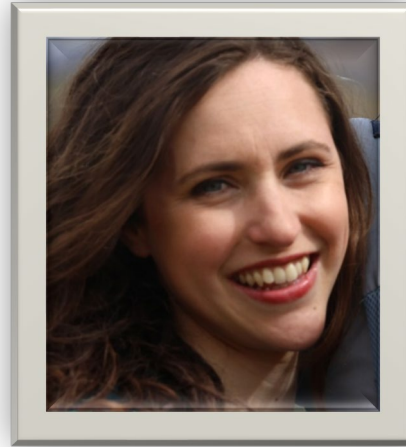
Dr **Kerry Schott AO**, is a veteran of, and incisive commentator on Australia's energy, resources and climate policy journey, and has held a variety of roles across both the public and private sectors. Best known for her roles with Sydney Water and the Energy Security Board, Dr. Schott was recently Chair of NSW Net Zero Emissions Board, before stepping down to become a board member at AGL, as well as Chair of the Carbon Market Institute.





## Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program

**Genevieve Hart** is the Regulated Opportunities Lead for CitiPower, Powercor and United Energy in the Network Strategy and Non-Network Solutions division. She leads the landmark 'Powerful Neighbours' Feasibility Study, supported by the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Battery initiative in 2022 and has extensively engaged with local communities on battery projects and community needs. She is currently involved in the delivery and operationalisation of a number of DNSP led community battery projects and proposals, as well as investigating opportunities for edge of grid solutions.



**Geoff Acton** is a longtime volunteer for not-for-profit group Zero Emissions Noosa who share the same goal with Noosa Council of net zero emissions for the community. Geoff is co-convenor of the Noosa Community Battery initiative and is an enthusiastic data scientist, yoga practitioner and of all things ZEN.



**Alan Luc** is the Systems Lead in Ausgrid's Distribution System Operator strategy team. Alan has worked on Ausgrid's community battery trial and Project Edith testing dynamic network pricing. He is currently seconded to Ausgrid's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure team. His previous work at Ausgrid includes as an electrical engineer in System Control supporting the network Control Room and senior Control & Protection engineer responsible for the asset management of secondary systems equipment.





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**Nick Mason-Smith** is an analyst with Indigo Power, a community energy retailer based in Beechworth, Victoria. Nick is leading a federally-funded feasibility study on aggregated community-scale batteries in North East Victoria. Prior to joining Indigo Power, Nick was a Research Fellow in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at RMIT University working on rotating detonation combustion, after completing his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Monash University.



**Emma Birchall** has worked in the commercial and not-for-profit sectors, both in the UK and Australia as well as the State Government. Her roles have focused on regulatory and financial risk, project management, and more recently, community development within the Gippsland Region Victoria. Most recently, she was the Community Liaison Officer for the Heyfield MyTown Microgrid Feasibility Study, a role that has opened her eyes to the possibilities of power generation, distribution and ownership, along with the opportunities and challenges regional Australia faces as it transitions to renewable energy. She is currently the Project Manager of MyTown Energy Heyfield's Neighbourhood Battery Project and is based at the Heyfield Community Resource Centre in Heyfield.



**Sally Hunter** is born and bred in rural Australia and is passionate about the future of rural communities. She lives on a farm near Narrabri, NSW, with her husband and three sons. Sally wants to be part of a zero-carbon emission future, ensuring rural communities are at the forefront of the transition away from fossil fuels. Having spent more than a decade pushing back against inappropriate coal and gas projects in the region, in 2020 Sally co-founded not-for-profit, Geni.Energy. It educates and engages northwest residents about the benefits of renewables and storage, implementing practical projects to demonstrate these.





## Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program

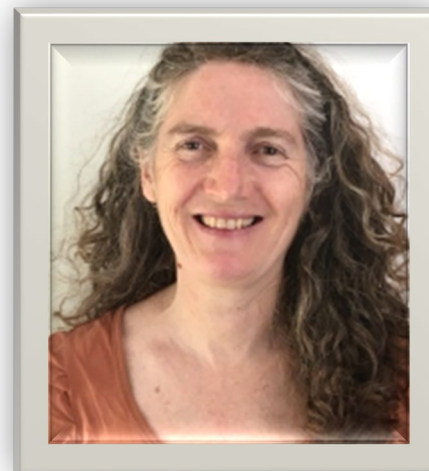
**Sanket Wankhede** leads Energy Australia's VPP and overseas numerous DER initiatives to support the organisation's strategy to transition to clean energy. Sanket has over 7 years of experience in distributed energy and was awarded the Young Energy Leader in 2022 at the WA Energy Awards for his contribution to the WA energy sector. At Synergy, Sanket was the Lead Electrical Engineer on Project Symphony which is demonstrating DER participation in the wholesale energy market and provide network support services with a combination of BTM Resi, BTM Commercial and FTM Storage. Previously at Horizon Power, Sanket was the Lead Engineer on the Onslow DER trials demonstrating power system operation on 100% renewables.



**Chris Wallin** leads Yarra Energy Foundation's Energy & Storage team that delivered the first inner-urban community battery in Australia in June 2022. He is an experienced project manager in technical, business and financial areas. As an electrical engineer, he worked on large industrial installations from design to project handover. He also had a career in business management with Information Technology companies, and regularly volunteers with community organisations to assist in identifying and qualifying renewable energy projects.



**Wendy Russell** is a research fellow with the Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. She was previously a research fellow in the National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science in the College of Science at ANU. She is also an associate of the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra.







## Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program

**Kate Clark** is a Program Manager at the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, where she leads two programs: the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative and the 100 Neighbourhood Battery Program. Her focus is on assisting communities, businesses and governments to determine the roles that neighbourhood-scale batteries can play in supporting Victoria's transitioning electricity system and delivering an affordable and equitable clean energy future.



**Brian Spak** serves as Director, Energy System Transition for Energy Consumers Australia, the national voice of residential and small business energy consumers. His team facilitates a transition to a more abundant, sustainable, and affordable energy system by advocating for dynamic electricity networks that support consumers' values, needs, and expectations. Previously, Brian led grid and renewable integration research for CSIRO and led the new energy product division for Portland General Electric, where his team created award-winning demand response, energy storage, community solar, and electric vehicle programs. He spent more than a decade in Washington, DC's energy and environmental policy arena as a clean energy lobbyist and sustainability strategist.



**James White** is Branch Head, Renewables and Distributed Energy in the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The Branch has policy responsibility for Australia's Renewable Energy Target, distributed energy resources policy and programs, and development of a renewables certification framework. James has previously worked in the private sector and in the NSW and New Zealand Governments on climate change policy and environmental regulation impact analysis. James has a BSc in statistics, MSc (Hons) in natural resource management and a postgraduate diploma in natural resource economics.





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**Lynne Gallagher**, is an Australian Energy Regulator Board Member. Formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Energy Consumers Australia, she has over 20 years' sector leadership, and invaluable knowledge and experience in the energy market, retail markets, and network businesses on the demand and supply side. Ms Gallagher has also held several executive positions in the Australian Public Service, financial sector and served on multiple boards and committees.

