The Renewable Energy Future
Is our Grid ready for it?

Renewable energy generation distributed across homes, businesses and industry in every city, and increasingly connected via smart devices, is changing the world and the way we source and use energy – and much faster than most imagined. Some argue this change may impact the stability of the network of wires, substations and supporting algorithms that keeps electricity flowing. Is the grid of the last century capable of change? Can it be made fit for purpose? Will the existing 20th century infrastructure in large part be discarded, replaced by a patchwork of microgrids supported by distributed battery storage systems?

Our expert panel will be moderated by Matthew Bowen from Jackson McDonald.

Our Panelists include:

Prof Ray Wills
Prof Wills is Managing Director of the advisory firm Future Smart Strategies, Board Member of Horizon Power, Partner and Director of Sun Brilliance Power, Blue Leader of the ‘blue economy’ startup Blue Australasia and Director of the bioenergy startup BioTek Fuels Pty Ltd. He is also Adjunct Professor at The University of Western Australia contributing to the academic program and providing advice to UWA on sustainability. Prof Wills’ current research interests include adoption rates of technology, disruptive technology including automation and robotics, and the impact of social media on markets. Prof Wills has been recognised as one of the Top 100 Global Leaders in Sustainability since 2011 and from 2014 has been listed as one of the top 100 Global Influencers in Social Media on Climate Change and Energy.

Mr Dean Sharafi
Dean Sharafi is leading System Management, the operator of Western Power’s SWIS network in Australia. Dean holds a degree in Electrical Engineering and a degree in Business Management. He has over 20 years of experience in power system engineering which includes Power System Protection, High Voltage Systems, Asset Management and Power System and Electricity Market Operation.
Dean is a member of Australian Institute of Management, a Member of Engineers Australia and a senior member the IEEE. Dean has been actively involved with IEEE Power and Energy Society initiatives and Cigre Working Groups over the last decade.

Mr Joep Vaessen
Joep has over 10 years’ experience within the renewable energy industry across Australia, Europe, Canada and the USA. He has provided strategic input and design advice on a wide range of renewable energy projects, including solar PV, wind and combinations with energy storage or other generation (e.g. diesel). Joep has a specific focus and knowledge in solar PV projects and is a key member of AECOM’s generation team. Joep holds a Bachelor in Engineering and a Master in Business Administration.

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