

Offshore Renewable Energy Forum

EVENT PROGRAMME

8 - 9 March 2023 | The Devon Hotel, New Plymouth



venture
TARANAKI
Te Puna Umanga

**Ara
Ake**
Future
Energy
Development

Programme

WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH - DAY ONE - 10AM - 5PM + DINNER

10am – 10.25am	Mihi whakatau Ngāti Te Whiti Housekeeping and introduction John Hancock Ara Ake introduction Cristiano Marantes - CE, Ara Ake
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Session 1 – International updates

10.25am – 11.45am	Offshore wind Stewart Mullin - COO, Global Wind Energy Council Wave and tidal Sian Wilson - Head of Offshore Development (Infrastructure and Emerging Technology), Crown Estate Scotland Australian perspective Oliver Davey - Senior Maritime Engineer, ARUP
Lunch - 11.45am - 12.45pm	

Session 2 – Domestic updates

12.45pm – 2.15pm	BlueFloat Nathan Turner - Country Manager (NZ), BlueFloat COP Giacomo Caleffi - Senior Business Development Manager, COP Parkwind Peter Spencer - Country Manager (NZ), Parkwind Oceanex Energy Andy Evans - CEO, Oceanex AU Wind Quarry Zealandia Dr Pat O'Meara - CEO, Wind Quarry Zealandia Energy Estate Simon Currie - Co-Founder and CPO, Energy Estate
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Session 3 – New Zealand innovation

2.15pm – 3.30pm	Wave Energy Armin Howard - Project Operations Manager, Azura Wave Power Energy Storage Tim Hawkey - CEO & Co-Founder, EnergyBank Wave Energy Converters (WECs) development Jonathan Everett - PhD Student, University of Auckland
Afternoon tea - 3pm - 3.30pm	

Session 4 – Iwi perspective

3.30pm – 3.55pm	Ngāruahine - Renewable energy position statement Te Aorangi Dillon - Tumu Whakarae / CEO, Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
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Session 5 – Social licence

3.55pm – 4.40pm	What is social licence and why should we care? Neil Holdom - Mayor, New Plymouth District Council Panel discussion - Building trust in the community. <i>Facilitator: Kelvin Wright (Venture Taranaki)</i> Emily Tuhi-Ao Bailey - Founding Member, Climate Justice Taranaki Mayor Neil Holdom - NPDC Mayor, Taranaki Mayoral Forum Dr Peter Edwards - Senior Researcher, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research TeUraura Nganeko - Lead, External Relations, Ngāruahine
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Day 1 - Wrap up and close

4.40pm – 5pm	National Energy Policy Stuart Smith - Spokesperson for Energy and Resource, New Zealand National Party Wrap up and close John Hancock, MC
5pm on	Networking and dinner - 5pm - 9pm. Key note speaker: Mayor Neil Holdom

THURSDAY, 9 MARCH - DAY TWO - 9AM - 3PM

9am – 9.15am Welcome | John Hancock
9.15am Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki introduction | Stacey Hitchcock - Deputy CE / GM Investment, Venture Taranaki

Session 6 – Regulation

9.15am – 10.40am Panel Session: Enabling Investment in Offshore Renewable Energy. *Facilitator: Angela Ogier (EY)*
Craig Stevens - Principal Scientist - Marine Physics, NIWA
Lauren Wallace - Partner, Govett Quilliam
Peter Bartlett - Director, Sector Engagement, MBIE
Tom Young - Chairperson, Offshore Wind Working Group
Getting Green Lights on Environmental Approvals | Tamara Al-Hashimi - Senior Principal Marine Scientist, RPS Group

Morning Tea - 10.40am - 11.15am

Session 7 – Environmental considerations

11.15am – 11.55am Government perspective | Chris Rendall - RMA Senior National Advisor, DoC
Independent perspective | Dr Leigh Bull - Ecologist and Partner, Boffa Miskell

Session 8 – Infrastructure

11.55am – 12.30pm Transpower long-term planning | Nicolas Vessoit - Senior Strategy Manager, Transpower
NZ Future Infrastructure needs | Ross Copland - CEO, Te Waihanga | New Zealand Infrastructure Commission

Lunch - 12.30pm - 1.45pm

Session 9 – Ministerial Address

1.45pm – 2pm Ministerial Address | Honourable Dr Megan Woods - Minister of Energy and Resources

Session 10 – Industry Capability

2.15pm – 3.25pm Collaborating across industry (AUS/NZ) | Professor Evan Gray - Programme Leader for Offshore Renewable Energy Systems, Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre
Industry Capability Mapping Study | David Hunt - Director, Concept Consulting
Existing offshore energy perspective | Kerry Williamson - Head of Department Development Projects, OMV

Session 11 – Reflection and next steps

3.25pm – 3.55pm Panel session: Bringing offshore energy in New Zealand - what needs to happen to enable a successful offshore energy industry in New Zealand? *Facilitator: John Hancock*
Sheree Long - Workforce Development Director, Energy Resources Aotearoa
Jonathan Young - Head of Policy, Research & Insights, Ara Ake
Blair Walter - Wind Energy Association Chairperson & Renewable team lead, Aurecon
Justine Gilliland - Offshore Wind Partnerships Director, BlueFloat & Elemental Group

Next steps and close

3.55pm – 4.05pm Next steps and close | John Hancock, Luke Millard - Cultural Adviser, Venture Taranaki

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Speakers



John Hancock

MC

John Hancock is a well-known energy utilities consultant and commentator. He chairs the Electricity Authority's Innovation & Participation Advisory Group, is a member of EECA's Low Emission Transport Fund advisory panel and was a member of Expert Advisory Group for the Government's Electricity Price Review.

Much of his work draws on his unusual combination of deep experience in both technology and deregulation - key dimensions of the strategic environment in the sector.

John has worked in the utilities industry around the world for over 30 years.



Honourable Dr Megan Woods

New Zealand Minister for Energy & Resources

Hon Megan Woods is a Christchurch local, and has been the Member of Parliament for Wigram since 2011. Megan is the Minister of Energy and Resources, Minister of Housing, Minister of Building and Construction, Minister of Infrastructure, as well as Associate Minister of Finance.

Prior to becoming a Member of Parliament, Megan worked as a Business Manager at Plant & Food Research. She holds a PhD in New Zealand history from the University of Canterbury, more specifically a study of Māori urbanisation during and after WWII, and the housing policies that facilitated one of the swiftest rural urban shifts in history.

In between a busy schedule, Megan enjoys watching cricket, rugby and spending her free time with friends and family.





Dr Cristiano Marantes

Chief Executive, Ara Ake

Dr Cristiano Marantes is the Chief Executive of Ara Ake (New Zealand's Future Energy Centre), a role he started in September 2020. Having worked in different international markets, Cristiano is a highly experienced energy sector leader with an extensive engineering background and an informed worldview on the potential of technologies and business opportunities that will likely emerge in a low emissions energy future. He has a life-long passion for enabling this future, through strong leadership, innovation and knowledge of new low emissions energy solutions.



Stewart Mullin

Chief Operating Officer, Global Wind Energy Council

Stewart joined GWEC in February 2021 after having spent the previous 15 years as a senior executive in the wind industry for two of the world's leading turbine manufacturers (Siemens Wind Power and MHI Vestas).

He worked on establishing offshore wind in emerging and next generation markets; expanding offshore wind's impact in the green energy transition (Power2X); unlocking the potential of floating offshore wind; and advocating the transformational socioeconomic value offshore wind provides for communities across the globe.

He worked closely with regulators in emerging offshore wind markets like Taiwan and the USA to unlock the supply chain potential of the regions.

Since joining GWEC, he oversees all strategic partnerships and programs and currently co-chairs GWEC's Australia Offshore Wind Task Force which provides industry input to consultation processes for the Australia and New Zealand offshore wind markets.

"Throughout my career, I have watched GWEC open up countless new market opportunities for both onshore and offshore wind energy across the world. I look forward to using my knowledge and experience from the private sector to reinforce this important work by scaling up our ambitions as an association and industry when it comes to events, institutional partnerships, advocacy, and everything in between. I am deeply committed to ensuring that GWEC continues to focus on creating optimum value for its members and I am excited to begin this new journey while supporting GWEC's mission to establish wind power as a key solution to today's energy and climate challenges" - Stewart Mullin.

You can find him on LinkedIn here: www.linkedin.com/in/stewartmullin



Sian Wilson

Head of Offshore Development (Infrastructure & Emerging Technology), Crown Estate Scotland

Sian has worked in the offshore renewable energy industry in the UK for 17 years.

She studied Environmental Science at the University of Manchester and then Offshore Technology at Cranfield University. She's now completed an MBA from the Edinburgh Business School.

Her first role in the sector was as a consultant where she worked on technical and economic assessments of all the leading marine energy technologies.

Most recently, Sian has been in a strategic role at Crown Estate Scotland for 10 years. In this role Sian heads up offshore development activities for Emerging Technology (including marine energy) and infrastructure (incl cables, pipelines and CO₂ storage).



Oliver Davey

Senior Maritime Engineer, ARUP

Oliver has expertise in port and logistics requirements for the offshore wind sector including fixed and floating. Oliver's experience has grown from a two-year secondment to SPR managing port infrastructure upgrades as well as the offshore scour and grouting installation packages. Oliver has since managed studies looking at the latest and future offshore wind needs, with extensive stakeholder engagement enabling clarity and risk reduction. Oliver has supported studies both at project level, as well as National governmental level, working with Arup colleagues across environmental, energy and economic fields to deliver holistic thinking to the studies. This has enabled Oliver to support due diligence of facilities across the globe and developed concepts for infrastructure upgrades for both fixed and floating offshore wind port infrastructure.



Nathan Turner

Country Manager (NZ), BlueFloat

As Country Manager, Nathan is responsible for offshore wind project development in New Zealand, leading the development of projects from site screening through to Final Investment Decision and beyond. Nathan manages site selection, consenting, development planning, and establishes and maintains relationships with strategic partners and key local stakeholders.

Prior to joining BlueFloat Energy, Nathan was responsible for the planning and programme management of all grid works for Transpower New Zealand, the owner and operator of New Zealand's national grid infrastructure. Nathan led a large, national team who coordinated the delivery of all maintenance and project activities (including new connections) valued at >\$300M per annum in conjunction with internal teams and external contractors.

Nathan has worked in the energy sector for over a decade in Brisbane, Perth, Singapore and Auckland. During his time with BG Group and Shell, Nathan was involved in the delivery and operation of various mega-projects, including the world's first CSG-LNG Project (QCLNG) and Shell's floating LNG facility in Western Australia (Prelude LNG). Nathan's responsibilities included the negotiation and management of various infrastructure development agreements, joint venture agreements and commodity sale agreements (gas, LNG, power).

Whilst in Singapore, Nathan was responsible for regional business development for Shell's gas and power trading business. During this time, Nathan was focussed on growing new businesses in liberalising energy markets and successfully launched new business opportunities in Malaysia and the Philippines whilst leading Shell's efforts in developing new LNG import infrastructure in Pakistan. Nathan was also involved in various renewable generation projects led by Shell's New Energies team and played an instrumental role in developing Shell's power strategy for Asia.

Nathan holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland and Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne. Nathan started his career as a solicitor at leading Australian law firm King & Wood Mallesons where he primarily advised clients in the mining and energy sector on commercial transactions and disputes.



Giacomo Caleffi

Senior Business Development Manager, Copenhagen Offshore Partners

Giacomo Caleffi is the NZ Senior Manager for Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP), a leading and experienced provider of project development, construction management, and operational management services to offshore wind projects. In his role at COP, Giacomo is leading the development of the offshore wind project by NZ Super Fund and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners in the South Taranaki Bight.

Prior to joining COP, Giacomo was the Chair of the NZ Offshore Wind working group and worked as offshore engineer on over 10 offshore wind projects around the world (UK, Germany, US, Taiwan) for engineering consultancies Ramboll, Arup and ISC.

Giacomo is based in Wellington.



Peter Spencer

Country Manager (NZ), Parkwind

Passionate about offshore wind, Peter is a New Zealander who started in the industry in 2007 at the specialist Danish engineering firm, ISC Consulting Engineers. Over the following 15 years Peter worked on delivery of key infrastructure including offshore substations and WTG foundations. To date, Peter has undertaken detailed design on 28 offshore wind farms installed around the world, with a combined capacity exceeding 13GW. These include 4 of the 5 offshore substations built by Parkwind since 2010.

Peter was appointed by Parkwind as country manager for Aotearoa New Zealand in April last year and is working hard with the ambition to bring 500MW to 1GW of offshore wind to the country by 2032.

Peter is also supporting Parkwind's development activities in Australia and currently preparing a feasibility license application for the Gippsland Offshore Electricity Energy zone, which was declared by the Commonwealth Government of Australia in December 2022.



Andy Evans

CEO, Oceanex AU

Andy Evans commenced his offshore wind journey in 2012 as a co-founder and CEO for the first 7 years of the Star of the South Wind Farm off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria (which is now managed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and of which he still remains a large shareholder), where he was key to establishing the Australian offshore wind industry and regulatory framework with the Australian Government. Andy established Oceanex Energy in 2020 with his Star of the South co-founder, Peter Sgardelis, as a leader in the development of floating offshore wind farm projects off the coast of NSW, of which Equinor acquired a 40% stake in the NSW project entities in late 2022. Andy is spending a great deal of time progressing the Bunbury Offshore Wind Farm in WA and helping progress the nascent New Zealand offshore wind market, where Oceanex has 3 projects in early development phase. Whilst based in Melbourne, Andy spends most of his time on the road developing new offshore wind markets in NSW, WA and NZ and is involved in other new ventures including NewVolt Infrastructure (which is the leader in introducing integrated generation and charging assets to progress the introduction of electric trucks) and Meta Renewables (which is looking at onshore/off-grid assets to support brown and greenfield manufacturing assets).



Dr Patrick O'Meara

Chief Executive Officer, Wind Quarry Zealandia

Patrick is a Family Physician who has practiced in Oregon and Colorado in the USA, and now sees patients in Gore, New Zealand. With a lifelong interest in renewable energy and biodiversity he and his brother John O'Meara founded Wind Quarry, LLC in the USA in 2008 to help increase renewable energy, and developed two commercial scale projects in South Dakota. After relocating to Aotearoa New Zealand he and his brother founded Wind Quarry Zealandia Ltd. in 2019 to develop offshore wind power projects here.



Simon Currie

Co-Founder & CPO, Energy Estate

Simon started his career in New Zealand working on projects like Motonui synfuels and the national gas pipeline network.

He has been a keen supporter of the offshore wind industry since the first near shore projects in Europe.

Since forming Energy Estate in 2018 Simon and his team have been developing large scale wind, solar, storage and green hydrogen/e-fuels projects in Australia, New Zealand and other markets globally.



Armin Howard

Project Operations Manager, Azura Wave Power

Armin holds a master's degree from Exeter University and has an extensive background in the energy and engineering sectors. His early career was spent in business development roles within the fluid power and automotive sectors.

He is skilled in new product development, intellectual property management, fund raising, and developing collaborative relationships with supply chain partners and end use customers. His technical background includes motion control technologies, automotive engineering, structural design, fluid dynamics and energy systems.



Tim Hawkey

CEO & Co-Founder, EnergyBank

Tim Hawkey is the CEO and Co-Founder of EnergyBank. EnergyBank is an early-stage technology startup developing a deep-ocean-gravitational-energy-storage (DOGES) technology.



Jonathan Everett

PhD Student, University of Auckland

Jonathan is a mechanical engineering PhD candidate at the University of Auckland, researching and developing wave energy converters (WECs) with applications in aquafarming. Jonathan has experience in prototyping and physical testing of wave energy devices in wave flumes and will be deploying a prototype in the ocean later this year.



Te Aorangi Dillon

Tumu Whakarae (CEO), Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

Born and raised in Whakaahurangi, Te Aorangi and her husband are parents to three tamariki. She is an advocate for Te Reo Māori me ōna tikanga. A servant of her people. Te Aorangi is an active uri of her hapū within Ngāruahine and comes takes the values of being brought up on the marae into every day life and her current role. As her cousin is known to have said, the only time you start at the top, is when you're digging a hole. Te Aorangi is the current Tumu Whakarae (CEO) of Te Korowai o Ngāruahine. Her experience and skill set sits in communications and people. Te Korowais priorities are based on forging strong relationships internally and externally with other entities. These relationships are based on a mutual respect for the Taiao and each other. Ka tika a muri, ka tika a mua.



Neil Holdom

Mayor, New Plymouth District Council

Born in Kaponga In 1972 and raised on an Awatuna dairy farm, Neil now lives on a 9-acre lifestyle block in Lepperton with his wife Melissa and their three children Xavier, Savanna and Alyssa.

Neil studied philosophy and political science at Victoria University and journalism at Wellington's school of language and communication before moving back to Taranaki to work for Independent Newspapers Limited.

In 2003 Neil started work at energy utility Powerco where he undertook a range of roles over 14 years involving communications, government relations, strategic planning and more recently the preparation of the company's \$1.3billion electricity network development programme.

Neil was elected Mayor in 2016 and also runs a niche management consultancy providing advice to boards and senior management teams at regulated utilities.



Emily Tuhi-Ao Bailey

Founding Member, Climate Justice Taranaki

Emily Tuhi-Ao Bailey is an ecologist and community organiser, raised in Wellington and based at Parihaka Pa for the past 16 years, recently taking up the role of chairperson to lead infrastructure and housing development. She is a founding member of Climate Justice Taranaki and lead writer of their climate just transition plan Toitu Taranaki 2030.



Dr Peter Edwards

Senior Researcher, Manaaki Whenua | Landcare Research

Peter Edwards is a Senior Researcher (Social Science) at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. He has worked on the social licence to operate, particularly in the forestry and agriculture sectors. Peter has been involved in helping organisations think about their social licence through an innovative framework he helped develop. Peter also conducts research into public perceptions of natural resource use, motivations, attitudes and beliefs about forestry and farming practices.



Te Uraura Nganeko

Lead, External Relations, Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

Ngāruahine, Taranaki Tūturu, Ngāti Ruanui

TeUraura works for his Iwi, Ngaruahine, as Pouuruhi Lead - External Relations.

Leads initiatives under the Poua te pātūtū (Kāinga), housing and Te Kawa Whanakeora (Mahi) employment, training and enterprise development.

TeUraura has a depth of knowledge in business development, developing and managing relationships in the Oil and Gas sector, and worked for central government and many Māori and Iwi groups.



Kelvin Wright

Chief Executive, Venture Taranaki

Kelvin Wright is the Chief Executive of Te Puna Umanga / Venture Taranaki. He joined the regional development agency in May 2022 after his role as Deputy Chief Executive at New Plymouth District Council (NPDC).

Prior to his role as Deputy Chief Executive, Kelvin was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for NPDC from 2017 to 2020. Before joining local government, Kelvin held roles as the General Manager of Operations for Energyworks Ltd. in New Plymouth and the Chief Executive Officer for Allied Industrial Engineering in the Bay of Plenty.

Kelvin grew up in Mosgiel, Dunedin, where his career started as a Mechanical Design Engineer. He then established his own mechanical design consultancy business for New Zealand-wide manufacturers and engineering providers, while gaining his Commercial Pilots License and flying part-time. Kelvin has largely lived in Taranaki since 2012 with his wife and two children.



Stuart Smith

Spokesperson for Energy & Resources, New Zealand National Party

Stuart Smith is the National MP for Kaikoura. He is the Opposition Spokesperson for Energy and Resources, Viticulture and the Earthquake Commission. He has been in Parliament for nine years, elected in 2014.

Prior to entering Parliament, Stuart was Chairman of the New Zealand Winegrowers and owned and operated a vineyard in Marlborough, with his wife Julie. Stuart was inducted as a New Zealand winegrowers fellow in 2013 for services to the industry. He was also President of the New Zealand Grape Growers Council and a former member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Stuart has three adult children and lives in Blenheim.



Stacey Hitchcock

Deputy Chief Executive & General Manager Investment, Te Puna Umanga | Venture Taranaki

Stacey Hitchcock joined Te Puna Umanga / Venture Taranaki in November 2022 as the GM Investment/Deputy Chief Executive. Stacey is currently the Co-Chair of WOMAD NZ Charitable Trust and as a Taranaki local has held various leadership and governance positions over the past 20 years, including two recent terms as a New Plymouth District Council Councillor. Previously Stacey has worked within her own consultancy delivering strategy and research and development.



Angela Ogier

Oceania Hydrogen & Energy Transition Director, EY

Angela is a Director in EY's Infrastructure Advisory practice leading studies on energy strategy and transition. Angela's 20-year career spans the economic assessment, strategic planning, commercial delivery and negotiation of energy projects in New Zealand, France, Nigeria, the UK and Australia. A qualified engineer, she has comprehensive understanding of energy technology, regulation and global energy markets. Her commercial and strategy experience has given her hands on experience in the assessment of project economics and techno-economic assessment in the energy sector. She has a Master of Engineering from the University of Auckland and an MBA from the University of Cambridge (UK).



Dr Craig Stevens

Principal Scientist - Marine Physics, NIWA

Craig Stevens is an oceanographer based in New Zealand with a joint position as Principal Scientist Marine Physics at NIWA and as Professor in Physics at the University of Auckland. His research focus is on the ocean's role in climate with a focus on mixing in extreme environments. He grew up in Kauria country in South Australia and studied in Australia and Canada before moving to New Zealand in the 1990s. He is currently PI on the NZ Antarctic Science Platform Ocean Mechanics Project and is a past President of the New Zealand Association of Scientists and past Chair of the Aotearoa wave and tidal energy association.



Lauren Wallace

Partner, Govett Quilliam

Lauren Wallace is an environmental lawyer specialising in resource management, local government, and energy law. She is a partner at Govett Quilliam and is known for providing pragmatic, strategic advice. She has worked on a variety of energy and environmental matters throughout her career, but her passion lies with renewable energy projects. She enjoys working with project teams to develop and co-design consenting pathways and solutions to address complex environmental issues.

She has a broad client base and acts for local and regional authorities, national corporations, local businesses, startups, iwi and post-settlement governance entities, individuals and families, and community organisations. She has advised and represented clients with respect to Council Hearings, Environment Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and Board of Inquiry processes. Her extensive experience allows her to bring a whole of system perspective and a deep understanding of the regulatory environment.

Lauren is an accredited RMA Hearings Commissioner and holds several leadership roles in her community, including as a board member of the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust (Wild for Taranaki), Regional Co-Chair and National Committee Member of the Resource Management Law Association, Deputy Chair of the Moturoa School Board and she holds roles with the Govett Brewster Art Gallery/ Len Lye Centre and Heritage Taranaki.



Peter Bartlett

Director, Sector Engagement, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Peter Bartlett is Director, Sector Engagement for the Energy and Resources policy branch within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Among other energy transition topics Peter is currently overseeing the development of the offshore renewables regulatory system and the Government's interim hydrogen roadmap.

Peter has held a variety of roles across MBIE including in relation to trade, intellectual property, international strategy and research, science and innovation.



Tom Young

Chair, Offshore Wind Working Group

Tom is the New Zealand Lead for the Infrastructure Sustainability Council. He is also Chair of the New Zealand Offshore Wind Energy Working Group. Tom has over 15 years' experience in renewable energy, from both consultant and developer perspectives. Tom has sat on a number of industry working groups, having secured multiple, significant consents; including the 700MW Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm, and associated onshore and offshore transmission works.

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council is a member-based, purpose-led organisation working in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia to enable sustainability outcomes in infrastructure.

The aim of the New Zealand Offshore Wind working group is to create a space for energy developers, professional engineers, planners, academics and others with a professional interest in exploring the potential for offshore wind in New Zealand, to network and share their ideas, information and experiences.



Tamara Al-Hashimi

Senior Principal Marine Scientist, RPS Group

Tamara has over 23 years' experience delivering environmental approvals for large scale infrastructure projects in marine and coastal environments in Australia and the UK, across offshore wind, ports and harbours, and oil and gas. Working across the project development lifecycle from inception through to delivery, she provides strategic advice to inform the approvals strategy. Tamara has been supporting Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and NZ Super Fund with their site feasibility studies to identify key sensitivities at offshore locations around New Zealand, and more closely for their potential Offshore Wind Development in the South Taranaki Bight. Tamara has continued to provide environmental approvals support to the Star of the South project (Australia's first offshore wind project) since 2017; and is the Technical Director and technical lead for the marine mammals and underwater noise scopes. Tamara is Technical Director for another wind project in Australia and provides strategic advice to multiple clients using both her UK offshore wind experience and deep understanding of the Australian marine environment. Tamara has also led delivery of due diligence environmental constraints and feasibility studies for confidential offshore wind clients across multiple sites in Australian States (New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia).



Chris Rendall

RMA Senior National Advisor, Department of Conservation

For the last 12 years I have worked for the Department of Conservation (DOC). For three years in Taranaki as a Community Ranger focussed on resource and land management. This included engagement in oil and gas and offshore ironsand. I then moved to a Senior National Advisor Resource Management Act (RMA) role, initially focussing on resources to support our rangers engage in RMA processes, supporting the Minister of Conservation fulfil functions under the RMA and some engagement in specific processes, for example the Chatham Rock Phosphate marine consent application. I have also contributed to national direction development and review under the RMA, legislation development including the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and specific topics including mining on conservation land.

For the 22FY I worked on a range of projects, including DOC's approach to engagement in renewable energy proposals, continued refinement of the DOC RMA engagement system & resource management reforms. Recent renewables engagement includes onshore and offshore windfarm, hydro consenting and solar farm discussions. This has included NZ scale site selection commentary and responding to specific NZWEA enquiries.

Quals: BSc Zoology (ecology minor) & MPlan. Member: NZPI, RMLA and NZAIA



Dr Leigh Bull

Ecologist/Partner, Boffa Miskell

Dr Leigh Bull is a consulting ecologist with 16 years' experience in the industry. Her area of specialisation is avifauna, particularly coastal and oceanic birds. She has worked on major infrastructure projects and has extensive experience working on a range of projects in the marine environment including reclamations, port activities, aquaculture and dredging. Leigh has extensive experience working with onshore windfarms, having been involved in the consenting, construction and post-construction phases for a number of wind farm projects around New Zealand. Leigh developed the experiment design, and published the results of, the first long-term post-construction avifauna mortality investigation at an operating wind farm in New Zealand.

Leigh has very good knowledge of various pieces of legislation relating to the management of natural resources, gained through her years of experience and the projects she has worked on (e.g. RMA, Marine Consents in the EEZ, the Canterbury and Hurunui / Kaikoura Earthquakes Recovery Acts, and the Covid-19 Fast Track Act). She has appeared as an expert witness at Council, Environment Court, Board of Inquiry and Marine Consent hearings for nationally and regionally significant projects.



Nicolas Vessoit

Senior Strategy Manager, Transpower

Nicolas heads Transpower's strategy function where he is responsible for ensuring Transpower can enable the successful transition of Aotearoa New Zealand to a zero-carbon economy. From December 2021 to June 2022, he was acting General Manager Strategy and Customer, taking responsibility for the management of future and existing connected customers to the transmission network.

Prior to joining Transpower, he worked in different roles within gas and electricity distributor Powerco, in a wide range of roles in asset management, network transformation and innovation, and general management. He was previously a management consultant with a local business in Aotearoa New Zealand, and in France with French electricity generator EDF.

Nicolas holds a Masters of Science in Engineering (Diplôme d'ingénieur) from École Centrale Paris. He was a finalist of the Deloitte Energy Excellence Award, engineer of the year category, and co-chair of the Young Energy Professional Network where he continues to be involved with mentoring young energy professionals.



Ross Copland

CEO, Te Waihangā | New Zealand Infrastructure Commission

Ross Copland is the Chief Executive Officer of the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission (Te Waihangā).

Prior to joining the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Ross had a career in construction and tourism infrastructure development. He is passionate about renewables and sustainable building, and has taken part in development engineering and disaster relief assignments across the Pacific. Ross has degrees in civil engineering, commerce, and an MBA.



Professor Evan Gray

Programme Leader for Offshore Renewable Energy Systems, Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre

Evan Gray is a Professor of Physics at Griffith University with more than 35 years of experience in basic research on hydrogen storage and other energy materials. He manages the National Hydrogen Materials Reference Facility at Griffith University. Evan's applied research encompasses hydrogen microgrids, hydrogen storage for off-grid electricity supply, metal-hydride compressors for hydrogen vehicle filling stations, hydrogen embrittlement of high-strength alloys such as pipeline steels, and computer modelling of all aspects of hydrogen-based renewable energy systems from the device to the enterprise level.

Evan is closely associated with the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre, a landmark solar-powered building demonstrating green hydrogen energy technology, with its hydrogen stored in solid-state metal-hydride form.

Evan leads Research Program 3: Offshore Renewable Energy Systems in the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre and is heavily involved in the CRC's activities related to hydrogen microgrids, including a bench-scale DC microgrid at Griffith University and the demonstration project in Hobart with a 700 kW electrolyser that will supply hydrogen for fuel-cell buses.



David Hunt

Director, Concept Consulting

David is a Director at Concept Consulting. Concept has been providing expert advice on policy, regulation, strategy and economics in the energy and utility sectors for more than 20 years. David has led consulting assignments for government agencies and companies in New Zealand, Australia and Singapore. He provides advice, analysis and expert evidence across a wide range of energy and utility sector issues, combining rigorous economic analysis with strong practical knowledge and understanding. Before joining Concept, David held a number of senior executive roles within the energy sector in New Zealand and Australia, including Chief Executive of Contact Energy Limited. Prior to his move into business, David held senior roles at the NZ Treasury, including Economic Adviser to the Minister of Finance. David has a BA Hons (First Class) in Economics, and a BA in Statistics, both from Massey University.



Kerry Williamson

Head of Department Development Projects, OMV

Kerry is the Head of Development for OMV New Zealand. He is on the OMV NZ Country Leadership Team and is responsible for the delivery of new production and opportunities for the Māui, Pohokura, and Maari fields. Currently, Kerry is responsible for major drilling and development activity projects on the Maui and Pohokura fields, as part of OMV's NZ \$600mln rejuvenation investment in these assets. Prior to this, Kerry was with the Royal Dutch Shell group for 22 years, with roles held across Operations, Projects and Business Planning around the world. Kerry is passionate about HSE and Quality performance in his role, and focusses on strict planning for risk reduction and operational procedures that enable exceptional HSE performance through the project lifecycle. Kerry resides in New Plymouth with his wife Rebecca, and twin 12 year old daughters Charlotte and Abigail.



Sheree Long

Workforce Development Director, Energy Resources Aotearoa

Sheree leads Energy Resources Aotearoa's workforce development programme to attract, promote and develop talent for the New Zealand energy industry.

Sheree has both a private and public sector background, working in labour market, business and human resource strategic roles. This includes time as Labour Market Manager and Economic and Community Development Advisor at the Department of Labour; Business Development Manager at the Tauranga Chamber of Commerce and Human Resource Manager at Rishworth Aviation in Auckland.



Jonathan Young

Head of Policy, Research & Insights, Ara Ake

Jonathan Young is Head of Policy, Research and Insights at Ara Ake, New Zealand's future energy centre. He joined Ara Ake in June 2021.

Ara Ake was established by the Government in 2020 with the task to promote energy innovation to support the acceleration of the decarbonisation of the energy sector and the New Zealand economy.

For 12 years (2008 – 2020), Jonathan served as the Member of Parliament for the New Plymouth electorate. He was the National Party's Energy & Resources spokesperson from 2017-2020.

His Parliamentary roles included:

- Energy and Resources spokesperson (2017-2020)
- Regional Economic Development spokesperson – North Island, NZ (2017-2020)
- Parliamentary Private Secretary, Economic Development (2015-17)
- Chair, Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee (2017-2020)
- Chair, Transport and Industrial Relations Committee (2014-17)
- Chair, Commerce Committee (2011-14)
- Deputy Chair, Law & Order Committee (2010-2011)
- Member, Environment Committee (2008-2011)



Blair Walter

Chair, New Zealand Wind Energy Association

Blair Walter is an experienced mechanical engineer with specialist skills in project management and advisory services on renewable energy projects in the international energy sector. International experience includes projects in Brazil, Turkey, Mexico, Europe, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Blair has led technical advisory services on over 20 GW of renewable energy projects over the last 20 years, with a focus on wind energy and solar PV, and broad exposure to other technologies including hydropower, biomass, concentrating solar power, batteries and hydrogen. Blair supports clients in all stages of project development from site identification and concept design through to approvals, procurement and construction, and provides a wide range of technical and strategic advisory services to private and public sector clients.

Blair is a technical director at Aurecon where he has led the growth of the renewable energy business since 2005. He is currently Chair of the New Zealand Wind Energy Association and has been a member of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's Advisory Panel for the past 7 years.



Justine Gilliland

Offshore Wind Partnerships Director, BlueFloat & Elemental Group

Justine is an independent director, and strategy and engagement consultant. She is currently on the boards of Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research; ESR (Environmental Science Research); the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust; Economic Development NZ; and kaupapa Māori health provider Tui Ora, as well holding governance/advisory group chair and member positions in the food, tourism and energy sectors. Justine is the former Chief Executive of Venture Taranaki. Prior to Venture Taranaki, Justine was Deputy Director-General Sector Partnerships and Programmes at the Ministry for Primary Industries, and previously held senior management roles across a number of government agencies in strategy, communications, and policy, as well as heading the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission of Inquiry.

Her consulting work is mainly focused on developing offshore wind energy for Aotearoa New Zealand and she holds the role of Partnerships Director with the BlueFloat Energy and Elemental Group offshore wind energy development partnership. Justine has law and arts degrees, and resides in Taranaki with her young family.

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