

Powering Sydney into the Future: the Science of Alternative Energy



6.30pm Monday 17 August 2015 | Wesley Conference Centre



MEDIA STATEMENT

5 August 2015

HOW WILL SYDNEY POWER ITSELF INTO THE FUTURE?

The Geological Society of Australia (GSA) will hold a public forum on 17 August that will ask if Sydney is ready to tackle alternative energy.

Powering Sydney into the Future: the Science of Alternative Energy Public Forum is being held as part of Sydney Science Festival and National Science Week and will tackle the scientific challenges of creating sustainable management plans for our country.

Prof Martin Van Kranendonk from the GSA's organising committee said that if Sydney was to reach its ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse emissions then it must take dramatic steps toward water, energy and waste management within the next decade.

'It is the right time to present the latest science in alternative energy possibilities, including 'clean' coal, small thorium reactors and algal farms for biofuels,' Prof Martin Van Kranendonk said.

To discuss these important issues the Geological Society of Australia has secured highly respected ABC science journalist and broadcaster, Dr Robyn Williams, to moderate a 'Q & A' style discussion with leading scientists and engineers. The panellists are:

- Prof. Mary O'Kane, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer. In 2013 Prof. O'Kane was directed by the then Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell to conduct a comprehensive review of CSG-related activities, focusing on the human health and environment impacts. That report was handed down in late 2014.
- Prof. Ben Hankamer, University of Queensland, founding director of the Solar Biofuels Consortium which is developing high-efficiency micro algal biofuel production systems.
- Dr Gary Ellem, Tom Farrell Institute, University of Newcastle. His recent work has focussed on modelling and analysis of the scale and economics of alternative energy, sequestration and land management systems, as well as the development of innovative biomass technologies such as microalgae.
- Tony Irwin, Technical Director SNR Nuclear Technology has more than 40 years' experience with nuclear reactors. He is currently the Chairman of Engineers Australia Nuclear Engineering Panel and a visiting lecturer for the Masters of Nuclear Science course at Australian National University.
- Prof. Deo Prasad, Director of the UNSW Centre for a Sustainable Built Environment. He is an international authority on sustainable buildings and cities and among the leading advocates for sustainability in Australia

The event will be held 6:30pm to 8:30pm Monday 17 August at the Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney. Tickets are available from Eventbrite and are just \$15 each or family (2Adults + 2Children) for \$40. School groups are also welcome at a discount rate of \$10 per person (min of 5 and maximum of 30). Questions for the panel are invited and can be sent to gsapublicforum@applebyolutions.com including your full name and contact mobile phone and email address.

For information: Ruth Appleby 0417 498 881.

#gsapublicforums



twitter

www.gsa.org.au