

Powering Sydney into the Future: the Science of Alternative Energy



6.30pm Monday 17 August 2015 | Wesley Conference Centre



Media Statement

12 August 2015

Transformative transport key to Sydney's sustainability

Sydney's clean energy future should include transformative approaches to transport, planning and infrastructure strategies.

Future Industries manager at the Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment, Dr Gary Ellem, believes an increasing focus on efficiencies of a 'Smart Sydney' economy will reduce the energy intensiveness of the city's GDP.

Dr Ellem is a futurist and national thought leader in sustainability working in the areas of transport, energy and regional innovation. As a trailblazer in smart transport, Dr Ellem has been instrumental in initiatives such as the Carbon Valley 2050 think tank, Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Festival and Smart Future Cities Conference to be held in Newcastle in October 2015.

Dr Ellem says in order for Sydney to be sustainable the future energy mix needs to build stronger strategic connections between clean energy spending and the benefits for economic security, energy security and smart industry development.

"The technology pieces are falling in to place for a major transformation in transport away from the private motorcar and towards shared transport alternatives and driverless taxi systems," said Dr Ellem.

"A proactive focus on this would speed up the electrification of transport across Sydney, while boosting GDP by around 4% by avoiding the economic leakage from car and oil imports."

Dr Ellem will be one of five guest panellists on this month's *Powering Sydney into the Future: the Science of Alternative Energy* public forum. The forum is being held as part of the Sydney Science Festival and National Science Week and will tackle question, "is Sydney ready to tackle alternative energy?"

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.

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