



NEWS RELEASE

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First line-up for WA energy futures conference revealed

The South West Development Commission has announced WA Energy Minister Ben Wyatt will officially open a conference that will shine a light on the future of energy production and storage.

Joining Minister Wyatt on stage at the upcoming *Powering the Future of WA* conference will be a thought-provoking mix of leaders, trailblazers and industry experts from community, industry and government backgrounds.

Among those named to present at the event taking place in the energy hub of Collie on Friday June 8 is Synergy chief executive officer Jason Waters who will examine what is shaping WA's electricity sector.

Others preparing to energise the audience include Carnegie Clean Energy's Tristy Fairfield who will discuss innovative solutions for a new economy including off-grid, battery energy storage and micro-grid technologies.

Redback Energy chief business development officer Glynn Ellis will shine a light on virtual power plants, while Kim Brooksbank from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will examine the future of bioenergy.

SunWise Energy chief executive officer and founder Glen Holland will talk about energy and sustainability, and Dominique Van Gent from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will focus on reducing industrially-generated carbon dioxide.

Helping to provide insight into how communities are shaping the energy landscape will be Coalition for Community Energy chair Heather Smith, along with Augusta Margaret River Clean Community Energy chair Lyn Serventy and deputy chair Ian Williams.

SWDC acting chief executive officer Rebecca Ball said it was expected the conference would inform thinking and ignite discussion about the way communities are powered in the coming years and decades.

“There is no doubt the way energy is generated, stored and consumed is evolving – and this presents exciting opportunities,” Ms Ball said.

“Whether you are a community member or from industry or government, we expect you will find this glimpse into the future of energy and how communities are powered to be interesting and valuable.

“Not only will there be a chance to hear from the presenters, but an opportunity to be part of the discussion by asking questions during panel discussions.

“We look forward to sharing with you more of our speaker line-up in the near future.”

The full day conference will take place at Harris River Estate in Collie on Friday June 8, following an official welcome function at the Collie Motorplex on the evening of Thursday June 7.

The cost of attending the conference is \$90, with the price including a morning tea sponsored by Synergy as well as lunch and a post-event networking session.

Registrations are limited. For more information or to book your place at the conference, visit www.criticalhorizons.com.au .

Critical Horizons – Powering the Future of WA is being made possible by Alcoa, LandCorp, Operation Next Gen Collie, Regional Development Australia – South West, Shire of Collie, South West Development Commission, and Synergy.

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