



Asset Institute®
OPTIMISE SUSTAIN TRANSFORM



Energy
Transition
Centre

2026 ANNUAL FORUM & SYMPOSIUM

Reliability, Resilience, and Renewal

Managing assets in the
energy transition

Friday 13 November 2026

08:00 – 18:00 AEST

Room Three Sixty, Y-Block, QUT Gardens Point
2 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000



Program (08:00 – 18:00 AEST)

08:00  **Registration**

08:30 *"Welcome and Opening"*, **Michael Cholette, CEO, Asset Institute**

08:40 *"Principal Sponsor Address"*, **TBA**

09:00 *"Sovereignty, Shutdowns and Server Farms: Asset decisions in a rapid and messy transition"*, **Erik Vandenberg, General Manager - Growth and Energy Transition, Verbrec**



Bio: Erik Vandenberg is a Certified Fellow of Asset Management (CFAM), Chartered Engineering Executive (CEng, EngExec) and General Manager at Verbrec. With more than 25 years' experience across energy, mining, and infrastructure, he works with industry and government to develop resilient, sustainable solutions spanning conventional energy, renewable gas, and emerging decarbonisation technologies.

09:25 *"Energy Transition has many challenges, how do we get through it maintaining reliability?"*, **Steve Saladine, Sigma Squared Solutions & Board Chair, Asset Institute**



Bio: Stephen Saladine is currently the Independent Chair of the Asset Institute and is an accomplished Professional Engineer. Stephen has spent almost 50 years in the Australian Power Industry and has seen many changes through that time. He has in recent times had the opportunity to see firsthand some of the difficulties facing the developers of new facilities. He no longer works in full time employment, however outside the Asset Institute he provides advice and input to a range of Government energy related areas. A highlight of his professional career was being awarded in 2014 the Outstanding Career Achievement Award by the International Society for Engineering Asset Management (ISEAM), at the time the only non-academic and Australian to receive this honour.

09:50 *"Hardwiring collaboration for the energy transition: better decision making and change that sticks"*, **Meg Hooper, Director, Carousel Consulting**



Bio: Dr Meg Hooper is a psychologist and Managing Director of Carousel Consulting. She holds a PhD in Organisational Psychology and has more than 20 years' experience working across government, community, and corporate sectors to support organisation through change, transformation, and team development. Meg developed the Collaboration Maturity Model (CM2), a diagnostic and strategy framework that helps organisations understand why collaboration breaks down across functions and partners, and what to change to fix it. The CM2 has been applied across asset-intensive organisations navigating complex multi-stakeholder environments. Carousel Consulting works with leadership teams, operational managers, and frontline staff to diagnose collaboration challenges and design practical, embedded solutions.

10:15  **Morning Tea (Foyer)**

10:45 *"Climate Scenario Analysis, Assets and Strategy: Reflections from First Year of AASB S2 Reporting"*, **Jessica Kelly, Senior Transition Strategy Advisor, CleanCo**



Bio: Jess Kelly is a Senior Transition Strategy Advisor at CleanCo Queensland, where she works on initiatives supporting the energy transition. Over the past decade, she has built a multidisciplinary career spanning engineering, strategy, and sustainability across the automotive, consulting, renewable energy, and electricity sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (First Class Honours) from the University of Queensland and a Master of Economics from the University of New England.

11:10 *"One Site, Two Eras: Delivering a Utility-Scale BESS within Australia's Largest Coal-Fired Power Station Precinct", Michael Pettenon, Battery Project Director, Origin*



Bio: Michael Pettenon is a Project Director at Origin Energy, leading the delivery of the Eraring Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Australia's largest committed battery project, with more than 3 GWh of storage capacity. Over seven years with Origin, he has held roles spanning engineering, construction, asset management, and project development, building extensive experience across the full lifecycle of major generation and energy storage assets. Michael holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) from the University of Technology Sydney and has more than 11 years of experience in the energy sector.

He brings practical insights from the front line of Australia's energy transition, having worked across both conventional generation and utility-scale energy storage projects.

11:35 *"Wind Farm Asset Management: What Makes Wind Farms Special?", Elizabeth Beavis, Asset Manager, Tilt Renewables*



Bio: Dr Liz Beavis is an Asset Manager with Tilt Renewables, responsible for the performance, reliability and safety of utility-scale wind, solar and battery assets across Australia. With more than 20 years' experience spanning coal-fired generation, gas and renewable energy, she brings a practical whole-of-life asset management perspective to the energy transition. Elizabeth holds a PhD in Coal Gasification and is Co-Chair of the Clean Energy Council's Large Scale Generation Directorate. She is passionate about delivering reliable, resilient energy systems while building the capability, knowledge and leadership needed for Australia's low-carbon future.

12:00 *"Building O&M Capability Through the Energy Transition", Steve Clark, Business Development Director, SPIE Power Services*



Bio: Steve Clark is a power generation executive with more than 30 years' experience across conventional and renewable energy, spanning coal, gas, wind, solar PV, solar thermal and hydro generation. He has held senior roles including General Manager / Power Station Manager, Asset & Engineering Manager and Manager Operations, giving him a practical understanding of the technical, operational and commercial challenges asset owners face across the asset lifecycle. Most recently, Steve established and led Stanwell Asset Maintenance Company's Renewable Maintenance Services business, developing its operating model, commercial frameworks, service capability and market strategy. Now Business Development Director at

SPIE Power Services, his focus is helping owners and operators maximise asset performance through asset management, reliability improvement, technical advisory and lifecycle management.

12:25 **Networking Lunch**

 Exhibition

13:10 **Panel Discussion**

Our Energy Transition: How do we develop new Energy Operations Whilst Managing Existing Energy Supply

Panelists: Wendy McPate, QLD Delivery Manager, GHD & Asset Management Council

Joshua Watts, Energy Storage Group Director, QUT

Steve Clark, Business Development Director, SPIE Power Services

Tim MacTaggart, Business Development Manager, FPR

Facilitator: Liam Tobin, Managing Director, Envisage

14:00 *"Spinach in Your Teeth: How the Hyper-Transparency of Emissions Data Will Impact Asset-Intensive Industries", Robert Perrons, Professor, Queensland University of Technology*



Bio: Robert Perrons is a professor at QUT, and the Chief Executive Officer of EMSat.com, a global leader in satellite-based methane monitoring services. Earlier in his career, Rob worked for Shell International, serving as the company's Executive Coordinator of global R&D. He holds a B.Eng. in mechanical engineering from McMaster University, a Master's in technology and policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in engineering from the University of Cambridge, where he was a Gates Cambridge Scholar. He was also a Fulbright Scholar, and is a member of the United Nations Resources and Energy Expert Group.

14:25 *"Understanding technological disruption and its implications for long-term asset decisions", Tim MacTaggart, Business Development Manager, FPR*



Bio: Dr Tim MacTaggart is an energy industry executive with extensive experience in technology commercialisation, corporate leadership, energy policy and innovation. He has held senior roles at Redflow, Stanwell Corporation and Queensland Treasury, and currently leads business development at FPR Energy, commercialising technologies for industrial decarbonisation. Tim holds a Doctor of Business Administration and an MBA from Queensland University of Technology. His doctoral research examined how emerging technologies disrupt electricity industry ecosystems, particularly through interactions with established market structures, institutions and business models. His interests centre on the systemic challenges of the energy transition and their implications for long-term investment decisions.

14:50 ☕ **Afternoon Tea (Foyer)**

🖼️ **Exhibition**

15:20 *"Keeping the Spark Alive : Managing ageing electrical assets and Incorporation of Renewable Energy Sources", Garry Cracknell, Senior Electrical Asset Engineer, Information Quality*



Bio: Garry Cracknell is a Senior Electrical Asset Engineer with asset management consultancy Information Quality, with over 28 years of asset, operations and maintenance management experience. He spent the first 13 years of his career at sea in offshore oil exploration, where as Instrumentation Department Chief he was responsible for the towed data acquisition arrays on seismic survey vessels. For the past fifteen years he has consulted across oil & gas, mining, utilities, transport infrastructure and health, focusing on maintenance strategy optimisation, regulatory compliance, obsolescence and emerging technology review. Garry holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (James Cook University), an MBA in Technology Management (La Trobe University) and a Master of Engineering Asset Management (University of Wollongong), and is CAMA accredited.

15:45 *"From Data to Decisions: Closing the Loop on Solar O&M with HiveOps", Joel Ibrahim, Hardware Operations Manager, Proa Energy Intelligence*



Bio: Joel Ibrahim is Hardware Operations Manager at Proa and Project Director for the ARENA-supported HiveOps commercialisation project. He works across renewable energy technology, project delivery, field operations and product commercialisation, with a focus on turning engineering data into practical operational decisions. Through HiveOps, Proa is working with asset owners and O&M partners to develop a more connected approach to detecting underperformance, prioritising maintenance and recovering lost generation across utility-scale solar assets.

16:10 *"Delivering fit for purpose asset strategies on a diverse Generation fleet as we transition to renewables", Ben Roxby, Group Manager - Asset Engineering & Digital, Origin*



Bio: Ben Roxby leads Origin Energy's Asset Engineering and Digital group, responsible for developing strategies that support the development, construction, and operation of both existing and emerging energy assets. He leads a team of more than 50 engineering and subject matter experts across Origin Energy, providing technical leadership and governance across a diverse asset portfolio. With extensive experience in asset management, maintenance, engineering and digital transformation, Ben is focused on delivering safe, reliable generation while supporting the energy transition and enabling the integration of new technologies into the energy system.

16:35 *"Understanding the practical challenges of performance assessment for utility-scale solar farms",* **Brendan Wright, UNSW**



Bio: Brendan Wright is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of New South Wales School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, where he leads the applied machine learning (ML) team within the ACDC research group. His research focuses on advanced characterisation of utility-scale solar farms, combining ML-based digital twin models with automated luminescence image analysis, enabling data-driven performance assessment and predictive diagnostics, with authorship of 44 peer-reviewed publications in related fields. In 2025 he cofounded and now leads the UNSW spin-out Insight PV, commercialising these research technologies for real-world impact, deployed in over 700MW of operational Australian utility-scale solar farms.

17:00 🍷 **Networking Refreshments & Exhibition**

18:00 **Close**

'This event may be eligible for Engineers Australia (EA) CPD, refer to the EA guidelines to check suitability'