



NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board

First Report on Activities of the Board

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Contents

- 1. NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap 1**
- 2. About the NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board 2**
- 3. Sector Board members..... 3**
 - Chairpersons 3
 - Members 3
 - About the members 4
- 4. Outcomes of Sector Board meeting 5 March 2021 9**
- 5. Sector Board’s workplan and forward agenda 9**

1. NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

The [NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap](#) is a comprehensive framework to modernise the NSW electricity system into one that is cheaper, cleaner and more reliable. It sets New South Wales on a path to replace its ageing coal fired power stations with a coordinated portfolio of generation, storage and network investment that is intended to reduce risks to investors, reduce costs to businesses and households, maintain a reliable supply and provide a basis for the future economic prosperity of New South Wales.

The Roadmap is a decisive step towards thriving regions, a revitalised and re-industrialised economy, and better livelihoods for all NSW citizens. It is expected to:

- attract up to \$32 billion in private investment for regional energy infrastructure by 2030
- support an estimated 6300 construction jobs and 2800 ongoing jobs in 2030, mostly in regional New South Wales
- save around \$130 a year on the average NSW household electricity bill and \$430 a year on the average small business electricity bill between 2023 and 2040.

The Roadmap's enabling legislation, the [Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 \(NSW\)](#) (the Act), passed both houses of NSW Parliament with strong bi-partisan support. It was enacted into law on 2 December 2020.

Together, the Roadmap and the Act commit the Government to:

- declaring five Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in the Central West Orana, Illawarra, New England, South West and Hunter-Central Coast regions. These zones will deliver an intended network capacity of 12 gigawatts
- establishing an Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard to deliver new generation, long duration storage and firming capacity. A Consumer Trustee will be appointed to run competitive processes to offer Long Term Energy Service Agreements while protecting the interests of NSW consumers
- establishing an Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate and NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board to ensure the use of locally manufactured and supplied goods and services, and maximise the engagement of suitably qualified local workers
- establishing a Transmission Development Scheme that will de-risk REZ investment.

The NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's role is to oversee the operation of the renewable energy sector and the manufacture and construction of infrastructure in the sector. The board will play a key role in delivering on the NSW Government's commitment to boost opportunities for local jobs and industry, particularly in the regions.

2. About the NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board

The Act requires the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment to establish a board for the NSW renewable energy sector (the Sector Board), in particular in relation to the operation of the sector and the manufacture and construction of infrastructure in the sector.

The Sector Board is required to:

- prepare and provide to the Minister a plan for the NSW renewable energy sector
- monitor and review the plan and make recommendations to the Minister about the implementation of the plan
- report to the Minister on another matter if requested by Parliament by resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

The Sector Board's plan must set out how to, in a cost-effective way, maximise the following in the construction of generation, storage and network infrastructure carried out under the Act:

- use of locally produced and supplied goods and services
- employment of suitable qualified local workers
- opportunities for apprentices and trainees.

The [Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021](#) further specifies that the Sector Board's plan must protect the financial interests of NSW electricity customers and be consistent with Australia's international trade obligations. The Regulator may recommend a Board's plan to the Minister only if satisfied the plan meets these two objectives.

The Sector Board must provide its plan to the Minister and make any amendments to it requested by the Minister. The Minister may approve the plan only on the recommendation of the Regulator.

A plan approved by the Minister must be published on the website of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) and takes effect on the day it is published.

The Minister and the Consumer Trustee must consider the plan when exercising their functions under the Act including but not limited to conditions on REZ network infrastructure projects and priority transmission infrastructure projects.

3. Sector Board members

The Minister appointed the Sector Board in February 2021, filling the Board via a merit-based process.

The Act specifies 10 groups that must be represented on the Sector Board, and the Minister may appoint other additional persons. Nominations were sought from organisations representing industry, workers and consumers. These were assessed by a panel from the Department. Appointments are for a three-year term. Board members are listed below.

Chairpersons

Representing the Australian Workers' Union: **Daniel Walton, National Secretary, Australian Workers' Union**

Representing NSW electricity customers: **Craig Memery, Director, Energy + Water Consumers' Advocacy Program, Public Interest Advocacy Centre**

Members

Representing manufacturers of steel, aluminium and other similar materials: **Stacey Sleeman, Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary, Tomago Aluminium** representing the Australian Aluminium Council and **Mark Cain, Chief Executive, Australian Steel Institute**

Representing the metal fabrication industry: **John Coyle, Director, Varley Group** representing Australian Industry Group

Representing the Electrical Trades Union: **Justin Page, NSW and ACT Secretary, Electrical Trades Union**

Representing the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union: **Cory Wright, NSW and ACT Secretary, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union**

Representing the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union: **Grahame Kelly, General Secretary, CFMEU (Mining and Energy Division)**

Representing employers in the electricity, manufacturing and construction sectors: **Matthew Robertson, National Strategy & Market Development Manager, BlueScope Steel Australia** representing Business Council of Australia

Representing persons involved in the planning, design, construction and operation of generation infrastructure: **Anna Freeman, Policy Director – Energy Generation, Clean Energy Council**

Representing NSW electricity customers: **Lynne Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Consumers Australia**

Representing the Energy Corporation of NSW: **James Hay, Chief Executive, Energy Corporation of NSW**

Others appointed by the Minister: **Rod Stowe, former NSW Fair Trading Commissioner** and **Paul Italiano, Chief Executive Officer, TransGrid** representing Energy Networks Australia

About the members

Chairpersons



Daniel Walton, National Secretary, Australian Workers' Union (AWU)

Daniel Walton is the National and NSW Secretary of the Australian Workers' Union.

Since 2008, he has held the positions of Assistant National Secretary, National Vice President and National Campaigns and Organising Coordinator at the AWU.

Daniel is Vice President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and is an Executive Committee member of the global union federation, IndustriALL.

Daniel is a director of AustralianSuper, Chifley Services and the Migration Council of Australia. He also serves on a number of government bodies, including the EU & UK Ministerial Trade Advisory Committee.



Craig Memery, Director of the Energy + Water Consumers' Advocacy Program, Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)

Craig Memery is the Energy and Water Consumer Advocacy Program Director at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

Since joining the energy sector in 2002, Craig has: managed demand- and supply-side renewable energy projects; provided economic, technical and regulatory advice to the government, community and private sectors; designed and delivered training programs; engaged with energy users and communities across Australia; and provided thought leadership on long standing and emerging energy policy challenges.

Craig also represents energy consumers and the NSW community on a number of bodies including the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW's Board, the Australian Energy Market Commission's Reliability Panel and the Australian Energy Regulator's Consumer Reference Group.

Members



Stacey Sleeman, Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary, Tomago Aluminium

Stacey Sleeman has over 19 years' experience working in a variety of commercial roles across global multi-commodity mining and manufacturing organisations and professional services firms. In her most recent role as CFO at Tomago Aluminium, Stacey is directly responsible for the management of the Tomago Aluminium energy contract, and all commercial negotiations in relation to energy for the smelter including the Australian Energy Market Operator Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader contract negotiation and management.

In prior roles, including for PanAust Ltd and Anglo American, Stacey led commercial teams spanning Australia, Asia, South Africa, South America, Papua New Guinea and the United Kingdom.



Mark Cain, Chief Executive, Australian Steel Institute (ASI)

Mark Cain is the Chief Executive of ASI, the nation's peak body representing the entire steel supply chain from manufacturing mills right through to end-users in building and construction, heavy engineering and manufacturing.

Mark has extensive experience in the steel industry, gained at BHP and BlueScope that spanned technical roles, research and development, sales, marketing, strategy, manufacturing and general management throughout Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia. Mark has also held senior executive roles at Coates Hire, GME and the Metal Roofing and Cladding Association of Australia.



John Coyle, Director, Varley Group

John Coyle has been a Director for Varley Group for 13 years. He was formerly Chief Executive Officer of HunterNet Co-operative Limited, a Hunter-based network of engineering and manufacturing companies, of which he is now a life member.

While CEO, John supported a partnership with Hunter TAFE to assist HunterNet members in providing the skilled metal-based trades to support growth and the evolving technologies across the industry. John has served on a range of committees including the Hunter Export Centre and Newcastle Innovation.



Justin Page, NSW & ACT Secretary, Electrical Trades Union (ETU)

Justin Page is the Secretary of the ETU NSW & ACT Branch. He has extensive experience in leading and developing strategy, marketing and governance within member-focused organisations and has practical knowledge of government policy and industrial relations.

Justin has served on industry boards and bodies including Chair of Energy Industries Super Scheme Board and Electrogrouop, and Director of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology Industry Training Advisory Body.



Cory Wright, NSW & ACT Secretary, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU)

Cory Wright is a passionate and enthusiastic trade union leader. As Secretary of the AMWU, he is responsible for the strategic direction of the NSW & ACT Branch.

Cory has extensive experience in negotiation, campaigning, strategy, advocacy, education, corporate governance, asset management, finance and health and safety.

Cory has represented AMWU members across the manufacturing, power generation, mining, heavy industry, ship building and construction industries of New South Wales for over 13 years.

Cory is passionate about advocating for manufacturing opportunities within New South Wales. Current directorships include Hunter Jobs Alliance, Industry Capability Network (ICN), MERT, LabourCo and WageGuard.



Grahame Kelly, General Secretary, Mining and Energy Division, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)

Grahame Kelly is the General Secretary of the Mining and Energy Division of CFMEU. He has worked to advance the rights and interests of workers and their communities in Australia's mining regions for 25 years.

Grahame also represents the union on a large number of boards and industry bodies such as Mine Super, Coal Long Service Leave Corporation and MATES in Mining & Energy. He is also a Director of Unity Bank.



Matthew Robertson, National Manager Strategy and Business Development, BlueScope Australia

Matt Robertson is the National Manager of Strategy and Business Development for BlueScope Australia and is also responsible for global export sales from the group's international footprint.

Matt has extensive experience in building supply chain capability in the Australian energy and infrastructure markets with a strong focus on renewable energy generation and electricity transmission infrastructure. Matt is extremely passionate about local manufacturing and the significant potential for jobs creation and economic benefit enabled by the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.



Anna Freeman, Policy Director, Energy Generation, Clean Energy Council (CEC)

Anna Freeman is Policy Director – Energy Generation at CEC – Australia's peak body for the renewable energy sector – and is responsible for leading policy and industry development for the wind, large-scale solar and renewable hydrogen sectors.

Anna has been deeply engaged in energy and climate change policy issues for more than 15 years, at both the national and state levels, including as Public Affairs Director for the Garnaut Climate Change Reviews in both 2007 and 2011. She has had senior public affairs roles in the private sector in infrastructure, resources and media.



Lynne Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Consumers Australia (ECA)

Lynne Gallagher is the Chief Executive Officer of ECA, which is the national advocacy organisation contributing to shaping Australia's energy future for households and small businesses. She has been with Energy Consumers Australia for over five years and has over 20 years of experience in the energy sector in strategy, policy and research roles.

Prior to working in the energy sector, Lynne held senior executive roles in business and in the public sector, where she delivered major reforms that contributed to improving the financial and economic wellbeing of many Australians.

**James Hay, Chief Executive, Energy Corporation of NSW**

James holds the dual role of Chief Executive Energy Corporation of NSW and Deputy Secretary Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

James has specialised in the public and private sector network and infrastructure businesses. This includes their operations and infrastructure development and funding, policy settings, regulation, trading and pricing, risk management and governance.

In previous roles James has led strategies and projects in Australia and New Zealand, including Snowy Hydro Limited, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Regenerate Christchurch and Meridian Energy.

**Rod Stowe, PSM, FRSN**

Rod Stowe is Chair of Consumer Advocacy Trust and Super Consumers Australia.

After 41 years including six years as NSW Fair Trading Commissioner, Rod retired from the NSW public service in 2018.

Rod is a leader in consumer advocacy and received the Public Service Medal for services to consumer protection in 2011. He was one of the original architects of the Australian Consumer Law and championed the introduction of the ground-breaking NSW Consumer Complaints Register.

**Paul Italiano, Chief Executive Officer, TransGrid**

Paul Italiano is a visionary leader in Australia's energy distribution sector, who over the past decade has driven innovative new solutions for the power system. Paul was one of the original proponents of renewable energy zones.

For the last 10 years, as CEO of first Western Power and now TransGrid, Paul has played a collaborative and central role in driving Australia's transition to a more robust and sustainable national electricity market.

Paul has held executive roles at Wesfarmers General Insurance, HBF Health Funds and the RAC.

4. Outcomes of Sector Board meeting 5 March 2021

The Board had its first meeting on Friday 5 March 2021. The agenda included a briefing from the Department on the background and objectives of the Board and the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

The Board discussed:

- the outline for its first report to the Minister, due by 31 March 2021
- steps to develop the Board's plan on the NSW renewable energy sector including commissioning work to provide data and information for the plan
- a workplan for the Board for the next 12 months.

The Board approved this first report on its activities out-of-session following its first meeting.

5. Sector Board's workplan and forward agenda

The Board will develop its plan for the NSW renewable energy sector in two stages, to align with other [Roadmap workstreams \(PDF 122KB\)](#).

Stage 1 of the plan will consider procurement practices for generation, storage, firming and network projects to encourage locally produced and supplied goods and services.

This part of the plan will be ready for the Regulator and the Minister to consider by July 2021. Once approved by the Minister, the Consumer Trustee can then consider the Board's advice in the first Long Term Energy Service Agreements tenders.

The Consumer Trustee is working towards the first tender for Long Term Energy Service Agreements opening for bids in late 2021 or early 2022. The eligibility and merit criteria the Consumer Trustee chooses to adopt for the tender bids can be informed by Stage 1 of the plan.

A complete plan for the renewable energy sector will propose strategies and actions to enhance supply chains for local goods and services, and capture opportunities for employment, training and apprenticeships. In doing so, the plan will also establish a baseline for:

- renewable energy sector supply chains
- employment, including incomes and location
- opportunities for apprenticeships and training.

The Board's complete plan will be ready for the Regulator and the Minister to consider by October 2021.

The Board will commission expert advice as required, including on supply chains, employment, apprenticeships and training to help develop these plans for the renewable energy sector. The Board will also:

- seek advice from international trade law experts to ensure its plans are consistent with Australia's international trade law obligations
- carry out targeted consultation with relevant stakeholders to ensure its plans are in the best interests of NSW electricity consumers.

Once approved by the Minister, the Department will publish the Board's plans on its website. The plans take effect on the day they are published.