

# DOWN STREAM\24

THE ENERGY SECTOR'S STRATEGIC FORUM



**TRANSITIONING  
FASTER & SMARTER**

**5-6 March 2024  
Lower Hutt Events Centre**

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## KEY THEMES

- ▶ Political priorities and strategy
- ▶ Technology and innovation
- ▶ Demand-side flexibility
- ▶ Fuelling our future
- ▶ Regulation and intervention
- ▶ Climate considerations
- ▶ Investment
- ▶ Human-centered solutions
- ▶ Resilience
- ▶ Decarbonisation



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THE ENERGY SECTOR'S STRATEGIC FORUM

**Keeping you informed and engaged in 2024, Downstream is New Zealand's leading event for the energy industry.**

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## WHAT'S HOT ON THE AGENDA

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- ▶ **Delivering the future** - Hearing from energy sector leaders
- ▶ **Embracing technology and innovation** - Accelerating innovation and using AI
- ▶ **Maximising our flex** - Recent activity and the big demand-side response issues
- ▶ **Building resilience** - Reflecting on disaster recovery and strengthening security
- ▶ **Customers and competition** - Regulatory updates and observations from other jurisdictions
- ▶ **Strategy and investment** - The conditions needed to move at scale and pace
- ▶ **Fuelling our future** - Effects of climate on planning, and the outlook for gas
- ▶ **Going electric** - Electrification's impact on infrastructure, equipment, and people

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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**Esther Tomkinson**  
Mercury



**Stephen Batstone**  
Sapere Research  
Group



**Alzbeta Bouskova**  
Ecogas



**Ajay Makhija**  
National Emergency  
Management Agency



**Caz Haydon**  
Powerco



**Ben Reid**  
Memia



**Professor  
Bruce Mountain**  
Victoria Energy  
Policy Centre



**Laura Harris**  
Mafic Partners



**Dr Jen Purdie**  
University of  
Otago




**Paul Goodeve**  
Clarus



# DAY 1 : 5 MARCH

7.30 Registration and coffee in the exhibition

7.30 Breakfast (by invitation only)  
sponsored by  **POWERco**

8.55 Mihi whakatau

9.00 Welcome from the day one chair  
**Esther Tomkinson** – *Sustainability and Strategy Analyst, Mercury and Young Energy Professionals Network Co-Chair*

## DELIVERING THE FUTURE

9.05 Ministerial Address

9.30 **Leaders' panel | The long game**  
In the last 18 months the energy transition has endured some serious headwinds, including cyclone recovery, thermal plant reliability, market power concerns, and a new government. However, new generation developments are proceeding at pace, demand-side flexibility options are growing, and decarbonisation of large energy users is well underway. The big question is, have the recent challenges affected our ability to play the long game to meet our emissions and energy related targets? Or were they just the bumps we must negotiate as we embrace the future?

**Gary Holden** – *Managing Director, Lodestone Energy*



**Alison Andrew** – *Chief Executive, Transpower*

**Tracey Kai** – *Chief Executive, Electricity Networks Aotearoa*

**Luke Blincoe** – *Chief Executive, The Energy Collective*

**Paul Goodeve** – *Chief Executive Officer, Clarus*

**Facilitator: Toby Stevenson** – *Consulting Director, Sapere Research Group*

10.30 Morning break and networking within the exhibition  
sponsored by  

## EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION


11.00 Presentation sponsored by  **EROAD**

11.15 **Collabor-action: Accelerating energy ecosystem innovation**  
Last year it was pig poo to power beams and everything in between, with an introduction to the energy sector innovation occurring in Aotearoa New Zealand. This time we report in on the highs and lows of the entrepreneurs and risk takers

seeking novel and efficient solutions to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

**Cristiano Marantes** – *Chief Executive, Ara Ake*

11.45

Presentation sponsored by 

12.00

### Accelerating the transition with AI

In an engaging session, technology futurist Ben Reid explores the fusion of exponential technology and the energy transition, starting with the cutting-edge applications of artificial intelligence (AI) and culminating in its profound impact on the energy sector. In the near term, applications such as AI-driven predictive maintenance, enhanced grid management and robotic asset maintenance will improve efficiency and productivity across the industry – while in the longer term, AI will fundamentally accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and technology development, which could lead to near infinite renewable energy sources such as nuclear fusion and space-based solar within a decade. This raises the question: is Aotearoa prepared for the rate of change that is coming?

**Ben Reid** – *Director, Memia*

12.30

**Lunch and networking within the exhibition**

## MAXIMISING OUR FLEX

1.30

### Demand-side flexibility part 1 – Recent activity and insights

Over the past several years efforts to benefit from demand-side flexibility have increased. This session will provide short updates from three organisations on recent activity and insights with flexibility, to set the scene for the following panel discussion.

**Evie Trollove** – *Head of Market and Customer Innovation, Orion*

**Ryan Kuggeleijn** – *Head of Energy Innovation, Meridian Energy*

**David Charlton** – *Head of New Energy Solutions, Octopus Energy*

2.00

### Demand-side flexibility part 2 – panel | Let's flex

Following on from the previous updates the panel will look to answer a few of the big demand-side response questions:

- Has this coordination been working and what's been the outcome?
- How far can demand-side flexibility contribute to reducing renewable overbuild and help with intermittency and peaks?
- How can we value and reward flexibility to deliver positive outcomes?

- What's holding us back from accelerating and maximising the benefits of flexibility?

**Evie Trolove** – Head of Market and Customer Innovation, Orion

**Ryan Kuggeleijn** – Head of Energy Innovation, Meridian Energy

**David Charlton** – Head of New Energy Solutions, Octopus Energy

**Chris Otton** – Manager, Operations – Market policy, Electricity Authority

**Tim Hewitt** – Principal Adviser, Infrastructure Regulation, Commerce Commission

**Facilitator: Stephen Batstone** – Director, Sapere Research Group

## 3.00 Afternoon break and networking within the exhibition

sponsored by



## BUILDING RESILIENCE

### 3.30 Solutions for supporting New Zealand's energy security and resilience

New Zealand's economy, at the end of global supply chains and vulnerable to natural hazards, would be expected to have energy security as a top priority. However, on many metrics we underperform developed nation peers on our ability to resist and be resilient to disruption. The good news? It wouldn't take much to turn

4.00

### Panel | Honest reflections on disaster recovery

In February 2023, Severe Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle devastated parts of the North Island. A year on, what are the reflections for energy transmission and distribution organisations? How can we improve our response during the next crisis and what have we learned about managing and maintaining our networks?

**Caz Haydon** – Head of Network Operations, Powerco

**Harsharan Singh** – Operations Manager - Energy Networks & Renewables, Ventia

**Mark Ryall** – General Manager Grid Delivery, Transpower

**Ajay Makhija** – Acting Manager, National Operations, National Emergency Management Agency

**Facilitated by: Roger Sutton** – Chief Executive Officer, EA Networks

4.55

### Review of day one and preview of day two

5.00

### Networking drinks

Sponsored by TRANSPOWER

6.30

### Downstream Dinner (to be booked separately)

## DAY 2: 6 MARCH

### 7.30 Breakfast (by invitation only)

sponsored by **Jacobs**

### 9.00 Welcome from the day two chair

**Ben Gerritsen** – GM Customer and Regulatory, Clarus

## CUSTOMERS AND COMPETITION

### 9.05 Keynote | Humanising energy

Human-centred design, customer insights and focus are not just buzzwords, they are compelling frameworks used to discover what customers really need. With growth and change accelerating across the energy value chain, how to we keep customer needs at the centre of what we do?

9.35

### International keynote | Observations from the revolution in the Australian electricity market

The Australian electricity market has changed massively over the last decade and now has world-leading levels of variable renewable generation both behind the meter and in front of the meter, in some regions of the National Electricity Market. What's keeping the lights on, what's happened to prices, investment and competition and where might things be headed?

**Professor Bruce Mountain** – Director, Victoria Energy Policy Centre

10.05

### Electricity Authority update

**Sarah Gillies** – Chief Executive, Electricity Authority

**10.30** **Morning break and networking within the exhibition**

**11.00** **Presentation sponsored by**  **worley**

## STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT

**11.15** **Panel | Enabling investment**

A lot has been said about the massive scale of investment required to fund New Zealand's energy transition goals. What, if anything, is preventing investment at scale from being unlocked? This panel will discuss the conditions needed to move at scale and pace, and will cover:

- Is capital constrained?
- What are the regulatory and commercial barriers?
- Should government play a role to de-risk investments?
- Are there global or other factors at play?
- Has the new Government hindered or helped?

**Nigel Barbour** – Group Chief Executive, Orion

**Justine Gilliland** – Partnerships Director, BlueFloat Energy and Elemental Group

**Andrew Harvey-Green** – Director / Senior Analyst, NZ Equities, Forsyth Barr

**Laura Harris** – Partner, Mafic Partners

**Facilitated by: John Carnegie** – Chief Executive, Energy Resources Aotearoa

**12.10** **Discussion tables | Energy transition issues interactive session**

New Zealand's energy system faces several strategic challenges as we transition away from fossil fuels to a low emissions economy. This interactive session provides each table of delegates time to discuss one of several topics relating to the energy transition. Tables' thoughts will be shared back live following the discussion and all output will be presented back later in the day.

**12.35** **Lunch break and networking within the exhibition**

## FUELLING THE FUTURE

**1.25** **Presentation sponsored by** 

**1.40** **Implications of a changing climate on short and long term energy planning**

Our climate is changing, and this has significant ramifications for planning next year's generation and the next decade's new renewable energy builds. The climate has shifted significantly over the past century, and energy companies planning near term generation based on the range of

historical hydro and wind records may find their predictions of generation fuel are poor. Seasonality is also shifting, and the volatility of hydro and wind increasing, with bigger storms and bigger floods already being experienced here. These changes are expected to ramp up significantly over the next few decades, with shifts in when and where our renewable fuels arrive.

**Dr Jen Purdie** – Senior Research Fellow – Climate and Energy, University of Otago

**2.05** **Panel | The outlook for gas**

Gas in all its forms has a pivotal role to play in the energy transition. And managing the ongoing investment in supply is challenging as demand gradually declines due to a shift away from gas for baseload electricity generation, increased electrification, and use of renewable gases. This panel will review the new government's thinking about the gas transition and current gas supply outlook to address the commercial, consumer, community, and energy security risks for Aotearoa.

**Alzbeta Bouskova** – General Manager, Ecogas

**James Kilty** – Chief Executive, Powerco

**Andy Knight** – Chief Executive, Gas Industry Co.

**Facilitated by: John Kidd** – Director, Head of Research, Enerlytica

**3.00** **Afternoon break and networking within the exhibition**

## GOING ELECTRIC

**3.30** **Case studies | EECA – Moving the dial**

Large scale decarbonisation and energy efficiency initiatives are really starting to move the dial for our emissions reduction objectives. At the same time, those projects requiring electrification are presenting new challenges with infrastructure, equipment, people, and supply security. This session will feature case-studies and candid conversations with several organisations and an update on the impact EECA is having.

**Facilitated by: Dr Marcos Pelenur** – Chief Executive, EECA

**4.20** **Closing Ministerial address**

**4.45** **Downstream 2024 concludes**

# DINNER

Conclude day one with further networking and something magical, thanks to our special guest.

## MEET OUR MC & ENTERTAINER FOR THE EVENING BRENDAN DOOLEY

Brendan is a dynamic magician and entertainer dubbed "A New Generation of Talent" by The Press. With a fusion of world-class magic, quick wit, mind-reading, and audience participation, Brendan has become a global favourite.



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TABLE OF 10

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**Dominic Duncan**, [dominicd@brightstar.co.nz](mailto:dominicd@brightstar.co.nz) to learn more.

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- Send a substitute delegate in your place at no charge.
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