

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Summer Study on Energy Productivity Targets Energy and Climate Goals

Following the landmark climate deal struck in Paris at COP 21 in December, the Australian Government's \$1 billion National Innovation and Science Agenda and the announcement of the National Energy Productivity Plan (NEPP), there is a renewed and urgent focus on lifting Australia's energy productivity. This focus will be the subject of the third **Australian Summer Study on Energy Productivity** (the Summer Study).

The Summer Study, hosted by the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) of the University of Technology Sydney and the Australian Alliance to Save Energy (A2SE), will take place at the Novotel Hotel Manly Beach, 24th to 26th February. The Summer Study will highlight the opportunity for Australia to dramatically lift energy productivity in order to transition to a prosperous, low carbon energy future.

Chris Dunstan, Summer Study Co-Chair and Research Director at ISF said: "The missing link in reconciling deep emission cuts with strong economic growth is energy productivity – squeezing more economic output from each unit of energy used."

Numerous studies have shown that the quickest and most cost-effective way of reducing carbon emissions is through improving energy efficiency. And this strategy is already paying huge dividends. The International Energy Agency's 2015 Energy Efficiency Market Report found that in OECD member countries "energy consumption is as low now as it was in 2000, while GDP has expanded by \$US 8.5 trillion, an increase of 26%." This is equivalent to producing an extra 26% of energy from zero carbon emission sources. The report also noted that "40% of the emissions required by 2050 to limit global temperature increase to less than 2 degrees centigrade could come from energy efficiency."

Mr Dunstan said that boosting energy productivity was crucial not only for Australia's economic competitiveness and meeting climate goals, but also for enhancing energy security and insulating Australia from volatile energy prices.

Energy experts from Australian and around the globe will share their knowledge at the Summer Study. Key international speakers include Kateri Callahan, President of the US Alliance to Save Energy. The US Alliance was instrumental in United States' President Barack Obama adopting an historic target of doubling national energy productivity based on 2010 levels by 2030.

The four themes which will be covered at the Summer Study are markets and regulation, sectoral energy productivity, communities and communication, and technology and innovation. Sessions included under sectoral energy productivity will include the mining and resources sector, building and construction, transport (passenger and freight), food and agriculture and urban design.

The technology theme will cover solar, trigeneration, smart energy management and energy storage. The community energy theme will address local government and community engagement. Other sessions will focus on the role of the media and innovative ways of financing energy productivity.

There will also be a focus on Australia's key food and agricultural sector where gains in energy productivity and efficiency are essential for improving its competitiveness

International speakers include:

- Kateri Callahan (President US Alliance to Save Energy)
- Philip Sellwood (Chief Executive, UK Energy Savings Trust)
- Martin Bornholdt (Managing Director, DENEFF- German Business Initiative for Energy Efficiency)
- Steve Nadel (Executive Director, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy)
- David Hochschild, (Commissioner, California Energy Commission)
- Anne Arquit Niederberger (Vice President, Government Affairs and Market Development, Enervee)
- Andrea Trianni (Assistant Professor, Milan Polytechnic)
- Christophe LeCourtier (Ambassador of France to Australia)

Presenters from Australia include:

- The Hon. Mark Speakman (NSW Minister for the Environment)
- Greg Bourne (Chair, Australian Renewable Energy Agency)
- Jon Jutsen (Chair, Australian Alliance to Save Energy)
- Anna Skarbek (CEO, ClimateWorks Australia)
- Prof Deo Prasad (CEO, CRC for Low Carbon Living)
- Prof Stuart White (Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS)
- Gerard Reiter (Executive General Manager, Asset Management, Transgrid)
- Jonathon Holmes (former Presenter, Media Watch, ABC)
- Andrew Chamberlin (Project Manager, Energy, Queensland Farmer's Federations)
- Paul Ryan (Director EnergyConsult Pty Ltd)
- Dr Glenn Platt (Theme Leader for Local Energy Systems, CSIRO)

For more information on the program and speakers and to register: [2016 Australian Summer Study on Energy Productivity](#)

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