



ACCC

AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION
& CONSUMER COMMISSION



AUSTRALIAN
ENERGY
REGULATOR

Regulatory Conference 2023

3 & 4 August 2023
Brisbane



Acknowledgment of country

The ACCC acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and future.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Ngunnawal
23 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2601
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ACCC 07/23_23-47

www.accc.gov.au

Program

Thursday 3 August 2023

9.00am

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country & opening address

By AER Chair Clare Savage

9.30am

Plenary 1 – Beyond efficiency?

The conference theme poses the question of whether economic efficiency is enough, as the compass or true North for public policy and regulatory frameworks applying to systems and markets. This session explores this question in the context of essential services.

Chaired by

ACCC Commissioner Anna Brakey

Speakers

- Ron Ben-David
- Dinesh Kumareswaran
- Lynne Gallagher

10.45am

Morning tea

11.15am

Plenary 2 – Delivering Environmental benefits using markets

Governments and non-state parties are increasingly proposing – and scrutinising - market-based solutions to addressing climate change and other environmental issues. Drawing on examples from carbon, biodiversity and financial markets, this session will ask: where are market-based approaches being developed? Where and when have they been successful – at achieving the environmental benefit intended, promoting investment and consumer confidence, ensuring market integrity? What are the principles we need to get right in policy design to maximise these outcomes? What's the role of the regulator in ensuring these markets are operating effectively?

Chaired by

ACCC Deputy Chair Mick Keogh

Speakers

- Sarah Barker
- Regina Betz
- Ken Henry AC

12.30pm

Lunch

1.30pm

Plenary 3 – How best do you achieve value for money in the human services sector?

How can governments ensure timely, affordable and high-quality delivery of human services, such as childcare, which are appropriate to consumer needs and delivered in a cost-effective manner? Economic regulation has traditionally focussed on utilities in the energy, communications, transport and water sectors; do market failures differ for human services, are there macroeconomic and socioeconomic impacts we should consider, and can lessons from utility regulation be transferred to the human services sector (and vice versa)?

Chaired by

ACCC Executive General Manager Sarah Proudfoot

Speakers

- Darryl Biggar
- Rob Bray
- Peter Crone
- Danielle Wood

2.45pm

Afternoon tea

3.15pm

Breakout Session 3A – The electricity market transition: international perspectives

Electricity markets are undergoing a profound transformation. In Australia, the National Electricity Market is moving from a centralised system of large fossil fuel (coal and gas) generation towards an array of smaller scale, widely dispersed wind and solar generators, hydroelectric generation, grid-scale batteries and demand response. Similar transitions are occurring in many overseas jurisdictions. This session will bring together a panel of leading experts from the UK, US and Australia to give their perspectives on the key challenges occurring in their jurisdictions and across the globe.

Chaired by

AER Board Member Jim Cox

Speakers

- John Feddersen
- Daniel Kammen
- Akshay Kaul
- Sally McMahon

Breakout Session 3B – Regulating telecommunications services to benefit all consumers

Many of our regulatory decisions are guided by the principle of ‘promoting the long-term interests of end-users’. However, the needs of individual consumers can vary widely depending on several factors such as how they use telecommunications services, geographic location and socio-economic status. How can we ensure that our regulatory decisions meet the diverse needs of all consumers? Do we need to think beyond economic efficiency to support equity outcomes as well? Our expert panel will share some of the key issues facing particular groups of telecommunications consumers in Australia. We will then explore how we can consider these issues to make better regulatory and public policy decisions.

Chaired by

ACCC Deputy Chair Catriona Lowe

Speakers

- Michael Cosgrave
- Gareth Downing
- Daniel Featherstone
- Kristy Sparrow

4.45pm

Session Close

5.15pm

Drinks & Canapes

6.30pm

Dinner Welcome

ACCC CEO Scott Gregson

Friday 4 August 2023

9.00am

Plenary 4 – Digital Platforms

Questions regarding the appropriate way to address competition issues on digital platforms continue to be at the forefront of competition policy in many parts of the world. In this session, we will hear speakers from Asia, Europe and the United States discuss the competition concerns raised by digital platforms; potential reasons why certain digital platforms should be regulated; and how such regulation should (and should not) occur, with reference to policy developments from their respective jurisdictions.

Chaired by

ACCC, GM Digital Platforms, Kate Reader

Speakers

- Reiko Aoki
- Daniel Francis
- Annabelle Gawer

10.15am

Morning tea

<p>10.45am</p>	<p>Breakout Session 5A – Human-centred regulation</p> <p>The human-centred regulation session at the ACCC/AER Regulatory Conference 2023 will demonstrate the positive impact of effective design thinking in combating family violence, contributing to disaster planning, and understanding customer needs. Jithma Beneragama will demonstrate the positive impact of effective information sharing in combating family violence, highlighting the role of the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme in safeguarding survivors and holding perpetrators accountable while respecting privacy legislation. Ciara Sterling will present on the One Stop One Story Hub and its contribution to disaster planning, emphasising the power of collaborative social innovation. Sabiene Heindl's talk will demystify human-centred design, shifting the focus from expert-led processes to understanding and meeting customer needs. Collectively, these speakers will offer valuable insights into the application of design thinking in a regulatory environment, ultimately leading to improved outcomes for consumers and markets.</p> <p>Chaired by</p> <p>AER A/g Executive General Manager, Market Performance, Stephanie Jolly</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Jithma Beneragama ■ Sabiene Heindl ■ Ciara Sterling <p>Breakout Session 5B – Chief Economists in conversation: public sector economics</p> <p>What are the big issues public sector economists currently face in the Australian economy? Are economists achieving cut-through in shaping public policy? Should public sector economists be re-thinking how they go about influencing policy?</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>AER Board Member Jarrod Ball</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rosalyn Bell ■ Jenny Gordon ■ Meghan Quinn PSM
<p>12.00pm</p>	<p>The Great Debate</p> <p>Moderated by AER Board member Justin Oliver</p>
<p>12.45pm</p>	<p>Conference close</p> <p>With ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb</p>
<p>1.00pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>

* Session times may be subject to minor changes during the event

Speaker biographies



Dr Reiko Aoki

Commissioner Japan Fair Trade Commission

Reiko Aoki is Commissioner of Japan Fair Trade Commission and former Executive Vice-President (International, IP and Gender Equality) at Kyushu University. She has conducted research on economics of patents, patent pools, standards, innovation and intergenerational political economy. She has been actively involved in science, technology and innovation policy as Executive Member of Council for Science and Technology Policy, Japanese Cabinet Office 2009–2014.

Previous appointments include Member of Science Council of Japan, Member of Industrial Structure Council (METI), Intellectual Property Committee (JPO), its Patent System Subcommittee and its Expert Working Group, and Information and Communications Council (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication) and its subcommittees.

She received her Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) from University of Tokyo, Master of Arts (Public Policy) from University of Tsukuba, Master of Science (Statistics) and PhD (Economics) from Stanford University. She has held positions at the Ohio State University, SUNY Stony Brook, University of Auckland and Hitotsubashi University. She is Professor Emeritus of Hitotsubashi University, and past President of Japan Law and Economics Association.



Sarah Barker

Partner & Head of Climate & Sustainability Risk Management Governance, Minter Ellison

Sarah Barker leads the climate and sustainability risk governance team at the Asia-Pacific's largest commercial law firm, MinterEllison. She has more than 2 decades' experience as a corporate lawyer, and is regarded as one of the world's foremost experts on climate change governance, finance and liability risks.

In addition to a roster of large ASX-, NYSE- and LSE-listed clients across the energy and resources, banking, financial services, industrial and retail sectors, Sarah's expertise has been called upon by institutions from the Bank of England to UN Principles for Responsible Investment. She brings the practical perspective as an experienced non-executive director in the financial services sector, having recently completed 2 terms on the board of one of Australia's largest pension funds.

Sarah is a non-executive director of the Commonwealth Climate & Law Initiative, sits on the SteerCo of the Australian Chapter of the international Climate Governance Initiative, and on the Australian Accounting Standards Board's Sustainability Reporting Advisory Committee. She teaches the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership's non-executive directors' programme, is an academic visitor at Oxford University's Smith School, and is Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Climate Governance Community of Experts. Sarah led the team recognised as global Law Firm of the Year – Impact by Environmental Finance in 2020.



Rosalyn Bell

First Assistant Commissioner, Productivity Commission

Rosalyn has around 25 years' experience in economic, social, and environmental policy development, analysis, and advice for governments. Rosalyn heads the Canberra office of the Productivity Commission, leads large scale public inquiries and consultation processes, and is an active participant in a number of interdepartmental groups.

Rosalyn's policy experience stretches across a diverse range of areas including: productivity growth; public sector and consumer data availability and use; regtech and government responses to digital disruption; small business regulation; drought assistance and irrigated water use; mental health care; and childcare assistance arrangements.

Rosalyn holds a masters in economics and econometrics from the University of Manchester (UK) and an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Tasmania (Australia).



Dr Ron Ben-David

Professorial Fellow with the Monash Business School and Monash Sustainable Development Institute

Dr Ron Ben-David is a Professorial Fellow with the Monash Business School and the principal of Solrose Consulting. Between 2008 and 2019, Ron served as full-time chair of the Essential Service Commission (Vic) where he led far-reaching reforms in many areas of regulation administered by the commission. Ron is a board member at ClimateWorks Australia and the Consumer Policy and Research Centre. He is an advisory board member for the Centre for Market Design and has been a member of the AER's Consumer Reference Group and Consumer Challenge Panel. Last year, Ron was appointed to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission as deputy chair.



Jithma Beneragama

Strategic Advisor for Amazon Web Services in Australia

Jithma is a senior digital executive with more than 20 years of global experience leading organisations to take advantage of our changing digital world. Recognised as one of Australia's Top 50 most innovative CIOs in 2018, 2020 and again in 2021, Jithma has led teams to consistently deliver a number of industry firsts and award-winning products in categories such as innovation, customer experience, and design.

He is currently a Strategic Advisor for Amazon Web Services in Australia, helping governments explore and navigate disruptive transformation. Prior to joining AWS, Jithma spent 8 years working within the Victorian State Government most recently as Executive Director of Digital, Design and Innovation where he helped set the state's transformation agenda.



Prof Dr Regina Betz

Professor Zurich University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Regina Betz is Head of the Centre for Energy and the Environment (CEE) at the School of Management and Law of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). Before joining ZHAW she was Joint Director at the Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets (CEEM) at the UNSW Sydney. Regina's teaching and research interests include energy and climate economics.

She also contributes to master courses and consults to industry and government clients in these areas. She has been called to appear as an expert witness in climate change issues at various Federal government enquiries. Today her research is mainly focusing on the design of climate policies such as emissions trading schemes, carbon taxes or energy efficiency obligations as well as electricity markets applying experimental economics or empirical methods.

She is also the president of the Swiss Association of Energy Economics (SAEE), a management board member of Go for impact, member of the Advisory Board of Atmosfair and co-president of the National Research Programme on "Sustainable economy" of the Swiss National Research Foundation (SNF).



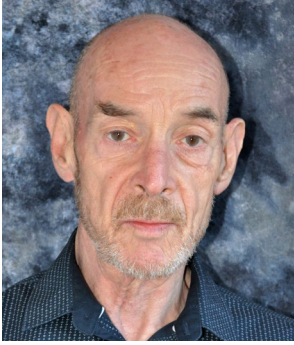
Dr Darryl Biggar

Regulatory and competition economist

Darryl Biggar is one of the most experienced and widely-known regulatory and competition economists in Australia. In his previous roles (most recently as a Deputy Chief Economist with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) he was heavily involved in the design of regulatory frameworks and in the analysis of regulatory and competition questions in a range of sectors of the Australian economy. In previous roles he has advised the AEMC, AEMO, New Zealand Electricity Authority, the OECD, and the Bangladesh government, amongst other clients. He is regularly invited to give talks and presentations at domestic and international events. In 2022 he participated on a panel for the OECD in a Peer Review of the Portuguese Energy Regulator.

He has also published a large number of academic articles on matters of regulation and competition, especially on the design of wholesale electricity markets and in the assessment of market power. Dr Biggar is an advocate for the economic approach to public policy which focuses on identifying the underlying market failure, in order to understand the why and how of public policy action. His recent articles include pieces looking at the economic foundation for public policy in the education and health care sectors. In 2014 he published a textbook on the Economics of Electricity Markets. He was the inaugural winner of the Distinguished Scholar award from the International Confederation of Energy Regulators. In 2022 he was appointed as an Adjunct Associate Professor with Monash University. He currently averages about 100 citations per year in the academic literature.

Before joining the ACCC, Dr Biggar was an Analyst for the Competition Division of the OECD where he authored a number of reports on the interaction of competition and regulation in regulated sectors. Before that, Dr Biggar advised the New Zealand government (MBIE and the New Zealand Treasury). Dr Biggar has a PhD in Economics from Stanford University and an MA in Mathematics from Cambridge University in the UK.



Dr Rob Bray PSM

Research Fellow, Australian National University

Rob Bray is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the Australian National University. He joined the ANU over a decade ago after a thirty year career as a policy analyst, researcher and program manager in the Australian Public Service, spanning a range of social policy portfolios including health, employment, housing and social security. Reflecting this career, which also encompassed consultancies for the OECD and New Zealand Government, he was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2010. Continuing with his focus on the interface between economic and social policy, he completed a PhD on the evolution of the roles of the Australian Minimum Wage, family payments, and the paid workforce participation of women.

A major component of his work at the ANU has been directed at policy and program evaluation, with leading roles in commissioned evaluations of government policies and programs. Notable amongst these are the evaluation of New Income Management in the Northern Territory, and most recently the evaluation of the 2018 'Jobs for Families' childcare package. This found that while the package had improved affordability for most low and middle earners, it had little impact on other outcomes, including workforce participation. More so, it found that there was significant incoherence in both the policy and operational frameworks. He also co-authored, on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand School of Government, research papers on public sector evaluation for the 2019 Thodey Review of the Australian Public Service.



Michael Cosgrave

Plum Consulting

Mr Michael Cosgrave held senior managerial positions, principally in infrastructure regulation, with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for 25 years until August 2021. He was the most senior official on telecommunications regulation for 20 years. He has been closely involved with a broad range of regulatory and policy issues in the telecommunications sector over that period. He was responsible for fostering competitive, efficient and informed markets in critical sectors and industries including communications, water and transport markets, including in regional Australia. His most recent roles were as Executive General Manager, Infrastructure Regulation Division and Chief Infrastructure Advisor.

Since leaving the ACCC, Michael has provided consultancy and advisory services to both government and corporate clients with a principal focus being the provision of independent assurance of transparency of process and compliance with principles of operation. He is an associate of the UK Communications consultancy, Plum Consulting and is currently the Independent Adviser on Communications Alliance's development of a revised Telecommunications Consumer Protection

Public roles have included an appointment by the Australian Government to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee, and Chair of the Independent Review Panel for the Western Australian Economic Regulator for its Gas Rate of Return Guidelines.



Peter Crone
ACCC Commissioner

Peter Crone was appointed a Commissioner of the ACCC in December 2020. Peter chairs the Consumer Data Right Committee and the Childcare Inquiry Board. Peter is also a member of the ACCC's Mergers Review Committee, Digital Platforms Inquiry Board, Financial Services Competition Board, and the Energy Markets Board.

Peter brings deep experience in assessing and explaining economic and regulatory trends at play across markets and industries. His broad experience reflects the economy-wide remit of the ACCC. Having more than 30 years of experience in economic policy and commercial strategy at the highest levels of government and business in Australia, Peter has served as an adviser to state and federal governments. This includes roles as Senior Economic Advisor to Australia's Prime Minister from 1997 to 2006, and filled chief economist roles at the Business Council of Australia, Ernst and Young, and Coles Group. In addition, Peter has also been a commercial adviser to a number of superannuation funds on infrastructure investments, and commenced his career at the Commonwealth Treasury as a policy adviser and research economist.

Peter holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from the University of Western Australia. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Dr Gareth Downing
Deputy CEO, ACCAN

Dr Downing oversees a team responsible for ACCAN's policy work, community engagement and membership. His career has focused on policy and regulation and he has worked on policy across a number of regulated sectors including telecommunications, energy and water.

Gareth is committed to advancing consumer's interest through his leadership of ACCAN's policy team. Gareth has previously sat on the ACCAN board, and prior to that worked for ACCAN in the role of Senior Policy Analyst providing advice on a wide range of policy, economic regulation and pricing matters. Gareth holds tertiary qualifications in policy, economics and law.



Dr Daniel Featherstone

RMIT

Daniel is a Senior Research Fellow within the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making & Society, based at RMIT University in Melbourne. He is currently leading the 'Mapping the Digital Gap' research project on digital inclusion in remote First Nations communities.

Daniel was previously General Manager of national peak body First Nations Media Australia, formerly Indigenous Remote Communications Association, from 2012–20. From 2001–2010, Daniel managed remote media organisation Ngaanyatjarra Media, coordinating media, telecommunications and digital inclusion programs for 15 communities across WA's Ngaanyatjarra Lands. In 2015, Daniel completed a Research PhD on evaluation and policy development of remote Indigenous media and communications. He has written extensively on First Nations media, communications, digital inclusion and archiving practices, including in Media International Australia, Telecommunications Journal of Australia, Australian Aboriginal Studies and several book chapters.



Dr John Feddersen

CEO, Aurora Energy Research/Visiting Fellow at Oxford University

John is the Founder and CEO of Aurora Energy Research. Since beginning his business career with Deutsche Bank, he has advised a number of major government and private sector clients – previously working with the Boston Consulting Group throughout Australia and South-East Asia. John is a Visiting Fellow of the University of Oxford. His commentary and analysis is regularly featured in international press and he has contributed papers for various academic journals.

He holds a first-class degree in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Melbourne, and MPhil and DPhil degrees in Economics, awarded with the George Webb Medley Prize, from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.



Daniel Francis

Assistant Professor of Law, New York University

Daniel Francis is Assistant Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, where he teaches and writes about antitrust, competition, and regulation. He previously served as Deputy Director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition, after earlier serving as the Bureau's Associate Director for Digital Markets and as Senior Counsel. In those roles, he helped to direct and manage FTC antitrust policy and enforcement matters of all kinds, with a particular focus on digital and platform antitrust.

Before government service, he practiced antitrust law for more than a decade with two multinational law firms in Washington DC, New York City, and Brussels. He has twice testified before the antitrust subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the US Senate on matters of antitrust and competition policy, and he has been appointed by the US State Department to serve as a Fulbright Specialist in antitrust and tech regulation.

He holds degrees in law from Trinity College, University of Cambridge; Harvard Law School; and New York University School of Law. Most recently, he is the co-author of *Antitrust: Principles, Cases, and Materials*, a new antitrust casebook published by the American Bar Association as a free resource for students and teachers.



Lynne Gallagher

AER Board Member

Lynne Gallagher was appointed a Board Member of the Australian Energy Regulator in June 2023. Lynne is the Chair of the AER Board's Network Committee, and a member of the Enforcement and Compliance Committee.

For over 15 years, Lynne has championed major reforms and systems design change in Australia's energy sector, to achieve better outcomes for people and communities. Before working in the energy sector, Lynne held senior executive leadership roles in business, including in the finance, infrastructure and superannuation sectors, and in the public sector, including Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Treasury. Prior to joining the AER, from March 2020 Lynne was the Chief Executive Officer of Energy Consumers Australia, the national voice for households and small business energy consumers. In her 8 years at Energy Consumers Australia, Lynne led the development of the most extensive set of ongoing energy consumer research in Australia, including \$4 million used to investigate consumer attitudes, sentiment and behavioural insights. She was also a leading contributor to the internationally pathbreaking Digital Energy Futures research program. Lynne is an advisory council member at the Monash Energy Institute and Western Sydney University's Urban Transformations Research Centre; she is also a member of Energy Safe Victoria's Future Trends Advisory Council and sits on the Advisory Board for the Pacific Energy Institute.

Lynne holds a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University and has completed Harvard University's Applied Behavioural Insights for Public Policy program and the Executive Leadership Program at Mt Eliza Business School.



Professor Annabelle Gawer

University of Surrey (UK)

Professor Annabelle Gawer is Chaired Professor in Digital Economy and Director of CoDE the Centre of Digital Economy at Surrey Business School, University of Surrey (UK). She is also Visiting Professor of Strategy and Innovation at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School.

A Fellow of the British Academy, she was appointed as an independent digital expert for the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in 2023. She has extensive public policy and private consultancy experience, having served as an Expert for the EU Commission and Parliament, the UK House of Lords, the OECD, and UK government departments.



Dr Jenny Gordon

Honorary Professor, Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU

Dr Jenny Gordon is an Honorary Professor at the Centre for Social Research and Methods, at the Australian National University. She is also a non-resident fellow at the Lowy Institute, one of Australia's leading think tanks on foreign policy. Jenny is a member of the Australian International Agricultural Research Centre's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisory Panel, and on the Asian Development Bank Institute's (ADB) Advisory Committee. She was recently a co-chair for the taskforce on Peace, Stability and Governance for the T7, organised by the ADB.

Jenny was the Chief Economist at DFAT from 2019 to 2021, joining DFAT from Nous Group, where she was the Chief Economist. Jenny spent 10 years with the Australian Productivity Commission as Principal Adviser (Research). Prior to this she was a partner at the Centre for International Economics (The CIE). She has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University and started her professional career at the Reserve Bank of Australia.



Sabiene Heindl

Executive Director, The Energy Charter

Sabiene Heindl is the Executive Director of the Energy Charter – a unique coalition of like-minded energy organisations with a shared purpose and passion for customers and communities. Previously in the CEO Office at Energy Consumers Australia, Sabiene has held a range of senior leadership roles across the energy, telecommunications, media and legal sectors focused on transformational change.

With a background as a corporate lawyer, she holds an Executive MBA from Brown University (USA) and IE Business School (Spain), BA Laws (First Class Honours) and BA Int Business. She is passionate about inspiring human-centred decision making and outcomes in the energy transition.



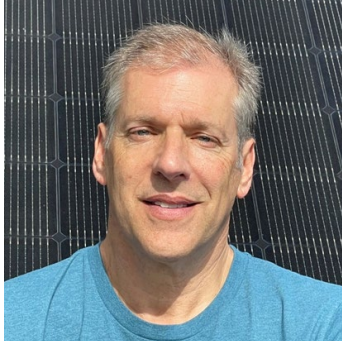
Dr Ken Henry AC

Chair Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation

Dr Henry is Chair of the Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation (ACBF) and an inaugural board member of Accounting for Nature (AfN). These entities are not-for-profit. He is also an adviser to the Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC). Since August 2022, he has been leading the independent statutory review of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act.

ACBF is helping stakeholders find ways of ending native forest logging and land clearing across Australia, transitioning the public native forest estate to a business model based on carbon sequestration, biodiversity restoration, indigenous cultural practices, bushfire resilience and recreation. AfN is leading the world in the development and implementation of science-based metrics for evaluating change in environmental condition. The DFCRC is scoping the development of a digital public marketplace for the listing of investment activities with provable impact driven outcomes, in addition to financial returns, to enable sustainability investments at scale.

Dr Henry was Australian Secretary to the Treasury from 2001 to 2011, Chair of National Australia Bank from 2015 to 2019 and a non-executive director of ASX Ltd from 2012 to 2022. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia, the Australian Institute of International Affairs and ANZSOG.



Dr Daniel Kammen

Professor of Energy, University of California, Berkeley

Daniel Kammen is the James and Katherine Lau Distinguished Professor of Sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley, with parallel appointments in the Energy and Resources Group, the Goldman School of Public Policy, and the department of Nuclear Engineering. His work is focused on decarbonization, energy access, and climate justice. He has served as Senior Advisor for Energy and Innovation at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Dr Kammen is a Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC. He is the Co-Chair of the UC Berkeley Roundtable on Climate and Environmental Justice (ceej.berkeley.edu)

Kammen was appointed the first Environment and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA) Fellow by Secretary of State Hilary R. Clinton in April 2010 and served as Science Envoy for Secretary of State John Kerry (2016- 2017). His research is focused on the science and policy of decarbonized energy systems, energy access, and environmental justice. He has published more than 450 papers, which are available on his laboratory website, the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL, online at <http://rael.berkeley.edu>). His research is currently focused on: decarbonization of power systems around the world; energy access and social justice; materials science for low-carbon economies; big-data approaches to clean transportation, and on the electrification of health facilities across Africa (HETA). Kammen has founded or is on the board of over 10 companies, and has served the State of California and US federal government in expert and advisory capacities. Kammen was the First Chief Technical Specialist for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the World Bank (2010 – 2011). Dr. Kammen has served as a contributing or coordinating lead author on various reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since 1999. The IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He serves on the Advisory Committee for Energy & Environment for the X-Prize Foundation. He is on the board of Native Renewables (Flagstaff, AZ); The Mpala Research Center (Nanyuki, Kenya), the Chabot Space and Science Center (Oakland, CA), The Human Needs Project/Kibera Town Center (Nairobi, Kenya). Kammen was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2020.

Kammen was educated in physics at Cornell and Harvard, and held postdoctoral positions at the California Institute of Technology and Harvard. Before moving to the University of California, Berkeley, he was Assistant Professor and Chair of the Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Program at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.



Akshay Kaul

Ofgem

Akshay joined Ofgem in 2017 and is currently the Interim Director of Infrastructure and Security of Supply. His remit covers Winter preparedness and Security of Supply, as well as oversight of Systems and Network Regulation, Wholesale Market Regulation and Cybersecurity. Prior to his temporary promotion, Akshay was Director of Networks responsible for the economic regulation of Great Britain's energy networks. This includes the development of the next generation of onshore network price controls called RIIO2, the regulation of offshore transmission infrastructure, and the delivery of an ambitious cross-border interconnection programme through the cap and floor regime.

Prior to joining Ofgem, Akshay was on secondment from HM Treasury to Transport for London, where he led TfL's work on funding transport infrastructure in London by capturing the uplift in land and property values associated with transport projects such as Barking Riverside Extension, Crossrail 2 and the Bakerloo Line Extension. This followed a spell of five years at HM Treasury, where Akshay directed energy and transport projects for Infrastructure UK. He has been involved in the design and delivery of electricity market reform, the competition for carbon capture and storage, the development of the new nuclear energy programme, the reform of the strategic roads network and regeneration projects such as the Northern Line extension to Battersea Power Station in London.

Akshay studied economics, finance, management, and bioscience, at the London School of Economics, the universities of London and Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Management.



Dinesh Kumareswaran

Frontier Economics

Dinesh Kumareswaran is a Director of Frontier Economics and an economist with over 20 years of experience in competition and regulatory economics. He regularly advises regulators, regulated business and access seekers in a wide range of industries (energy, water, telecommunications, aviation, rail and ports) and jurisdictions (Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Europe).

Dinesh provides advice on topics such as the design of regulatory frameworks, the allowed rate of return, incentive mechanisms, benchmarking and efficiency analysis and regulatory and financial modelling. Before joining Frontier Economics, Dinesh was a Senior Economist at the New Zealand Commerce Commission.

Dinesh holds Masters and Honours degrees in economics from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.



Sally McMahon

Commissioner Sally McMahon is an economist with more than 25 years' experience in energy and industry reform programs. Commencing her career investigating third-party gas access regimes, she has been an advisor and executive with economic regulators, governments, electricity and gas businesses, and investment funds in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Canada.

Sally has held key roles in the evolution of jurisdictional energy markets and the establishment and ongoing development of the law and rules for the National Electricity and Gas Market. Sally has been a Special Advisor to the Energy Coordinator in Western Australia on stage two of the Energy Transformation Strategy, an advisor on the regulatory framework for the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. She is currently the Independent Chair of the Market Advisory Committee, the Gas Advisory Board and the Pilbara Advisory Committee in Western Australia.

Sally holds an Honours degree in Economics from the Flinders University of South Australia and is a GAICD. Sally is also a member of the Economic Society of Australia and a former Chair of Women in Economics Network of WA..



Meghan Quinn PSM

Secretary Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Meghan Quinn PSM is the Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Meghan brings a wealth of experience to this role from her former positions at Treasury, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Bank of England. Throughout her career she has provided advice on a wide range of economic policy areas including financial markets, superannuation, international relations, macroeconomics, climate change mitigation, forecasting and modelling.

Meghan holds a Masters of Economics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours) from the University of Western Australia. She is a member of the Council of Financial Regulators, Trans-Tasman Council of Banking Supervision and the Financial Stability Board. Meghan was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2009 for outstanding public service in the development of climate change policy.



Kristy Sparrow

Co-founder Better Internet for Rural, Regional & Remote Australia.

Grazier, regional advocate, and co-founder of BIRRR (Better Internet for Rural, Regional & Remote Australia), Kristy Sparrow is dedicated to improving 'connectivity literacy', a term she coined to encompass the disconnect between available and adopted technology, which results in significant disadvantage for bush residents and businesses. Now in its eighth year, BIRRR is a not-for-profit advocacy body lobbying for viable and sustainable solutions to a wide variety of rural, regional, and remote telecommunication issues. Independent, apolitical, and technologically agnostic BIRRR also provides information, practical support, and advice through its Facebook platform, boasting a 15,000 strong active membership.

A true example of what can be achieved with current bush infrastructure, Kristy connects and works with service providers, government, and industry across Australia in her role as the face of BIRRR from her family's cattle property at Alpha, in Central Western Queensland. Overseeing an equally dispersed team of BIRRR administrators, Kristy volunteers her time and skills to identify, find and promote solutions hindering #betterbushcomms. Kristy is a member of the Rural, Regional and Remote Communications Coalition and the NFF Telecommunications and Social Policy Committee. In 2021 Kristy was appointed as Deputy Chair to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC), who presented their report 'A Step Change in Demand' to the federal Government and was also a member of the federal Government's Alternate Voice Service Trial Stakeholder Reference Group.

Her collection of accolades includes 2016 Queensland Rural, Regional & Remote Women's Network (QRRRW) Woman of the Year, winner of the 2016 QLD Regional Achievement & Community Awards (Innovation & Leadership Category), finalist in the Australian of The Year 2016 (QLD Local Hero Category), 2017 Australian Farmer of the Year Rural Community Leader and the 2019 Barcaldine Regional Council Citizen of the Year.



Ciara Sterling

Founding CEO of the Thriving Communities Partnership

As Founding CEO and Director of the Thriving Communities Partnership a for-purpose charity, Ciara Sterling convenes over 350 organisations across sectors, together with people with lived experience, to forge deeper understanding of vulnerability and drive ecosystem change through social design innovation. Ciara is also a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Consumer Action Law Centre (CALC), is a member of the White Ribbon Advisory, the AER committee, the Monash Safe and Equal Advisory board and a founding member of the Economic Abuse Reference Group (EARG).

She has over 20 years' experience collaborating across corporate, government, regulators, Ombudsman, community sectors and lived experience to address the root causes of vulnerability domestic abuse and inequality. A key example of this is the development the One Stop One Story Hub a world-first cross-sector digital wrap around support platform enabling frontline workers in corporate, community and government organisations to connect and refer people to a range of supports through a single access point. She believes in the power of cross-sector collaboration to create genuine systemic change.



Danielle Wood

CEO, Grattan Institute

Danielle Wood is CEO of the Grattan Institute where she heads a team of leading policy thinkers, researching and advocating policy to improve the lives of Australians. Danielle was previously Principal Economist and Director of Merger investigations at the ACCC, a Senior Economist at NERA Economic Consulting and Senior Research Economist the Productivity Commission. She holds an Honours degree in Economics from the University of Adelaide and two Masters degrees, one in Economics and one in Competition Law, from the University of Melbourne.

Danielle is an Honorary Fellow and former President of the Economic Society of Australia and a Research Fellow of the Women's Leadership Institute. She is also a passionate advocate for women in economics and was the co-founder and first Chair of the Women in Economics Network.

Session Chairs & Moderator biographies



Clare Savage **AER Chair**

Clare Savage was appointed Chair of the Australian Energy Regulator in September 2019 and is a member of the Energy Security Board.

Over the last 20 years Clare has acquired significant leadership experience in the Australian energy industry. She has a passion for the energy sector and a commitment to its development, particularly through this current transition. Prior to joining the AER, Clare was Deputy Chair of the Energy Security Board. Prior to joining the ESB, Clare was an Executive Director at the Business Council of Australia. From 2012 to 2015 Clare held senior executive positions within Energy Australia spanning corporate strategy; business development; policy & government affairs; and public affairs. Prior to this Clare held several roles at the Energy Supply Association of Australia including Chief Executive Officer. Clare commenced her career in the public service – initially in the UK and then at the Federal Department of the Treasury.

Clare has a Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) and a Bachelor of Arts (Politics and History) from The University of Melbourne and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Gina Cass-Gottlieb **ACCC Chair**

Gina Cass-Gottlieb commenced her 5-year appointment as Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on 21 March 2022.

Before she joined the ACCC Gina was a senior and founding partner of Gilbert and Tobin's competition and regulation team. Gina has over 25 years' experience advising on a large number of merger, competition and regulatory matters in Australia and New Zealand. She is widely recognised as one of Australia's leading competition and regulatory experts. Gina was appointed by the Commonwealth Treasurer to the Reserve Bank of Australia's Payments System Board in 2013 and re-appointed in 2018. The Payments System Board is the regulator of access to payment systems. Gina was appointed to the Financial Regulator Assessment Authority in September 2021.

Gina has received numerous accolades from Chambers Asia Pacific, Legal 500 Asia Pacific, Who's Who Legal, Lawyers Weekly Awards, Beaton Client Choice Awards and Best Lawyers Australia, for her competition and legal expertise. Gina was a Fulbright Scholar at UC Berkeley from 1986 to 1987, majoring in US competition law, financial institutions regulation and securities regulation. Gina is the first female Chair of the ACCC since it was established as an independent statutory authority in 1995.



Jarrod Ball,
AER Board Member

Jarrod Ball was appointed a Board Member of the Australian Energy Regulator in May 2023.

Prior to joining the AER, Jarrod was Chief Economist at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) leading their economic research and advocacy. He has over 20 years' experience in public policy, government relations and economics, working across state and federal governments and major Australian companies such as EY and BHP. Jarrod has provided economic and policy advice to governments across the energy, transport and telecommunications sectors, including as a lead adviser on microeconomic reform in the Victorian Government. Jarrod has also held several board and committee positions across government and business and until recently was an Adjunct Associate Professor at Deakin Business School.

Jarrod holds a Masters in Economics from Monash University, and a Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern Queensland.



Anna Brakey
ACCC Commissioner

Anna Brakey was appointed a Commissioner of the ACCC in December 2020. She is also an Associate Member of the Australian Communications and Media Authority. On 1 March 2022 Anna commenced as an Associate Member of the New Zealand Commerce Commission.

Anna has extensive experience in regulatory economics and public policy with over 25 years of experience working with regulators, government and within the private sector. She has had broad exposure to a wide range of infrastructure industries, including energy, water and transport. Additionally, she has worked on economic reform to social policy. Prior to starting at ACCC, Anna worked as an economist at Frontier Economics and held a number of roles at the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), including being a deputy Tribunal Member, the Executive Director of Strategy and Economic Analysis and the Chief Operating Officer. Anna's expertise includes the Parliamentary Committee process, the New South Wales Department of Transport, the Australian Productivity Commission, the Bureau of Industry Economics and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Additionally, Anna has worked for the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) on reforms to economic regulation and with the New South Wales Treasury on the sale of assets. Anna chairs the ACCC's Infrastructure Committee, Communications Committee, Electricity Markets Inquiry Board and East Coast Gas Market Board and is a member of the ACCC's Competition Exemptions Committee and Water and Agriculture Board.

Anna holds a Bachelor of Economics from Australian National University and a Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance and Investment from Securities Institute of Australia. She is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Jim Cox
AER Board Member

Jim Cox was re-appointed as the Deputy Chair of the AER Board on 5 April 2022 for a further 2-year term commencing 22 April 2022.

Jim has held positions with the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat of the Department of Social Security. He was a principal economist at the Office of the Economic Planning Advisory Council between 1986 and 1989. Between 1989 and 1992 he was a consultant to the New South Wales Cabinet Office. Jim was Principal Adviser to the Government Pricing Tribunal of New South Wales from 1992 and was a member of IPART from January 1996 to September 2013. He was Acting Chairman of IPART in 2004, 2009–10 and 2011 and a visiting fellow at Monash University in 1985. Jim assisted the New Zealand Government with social policy changes during the early part of 1991.

Jim was awarded the Public Service Medal in the Australia Day honours list in 2011 for outstanding public service to IPART.



Scott Gregson
ACCC CEO

Scott Gregson was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (now the Chief Executive Officer) of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in 2020. In his role as the CEO, Scott leads the corporate teams and senior leaders to deliver important work of the agency under the strategic direction and decision making of the Commission. Scott is focussed on driving sustainable organisational change and ensuring the agency is responsive to the ever-changing economic and social environment, and nurturing the ACCC's open and accountable culture.

Scott has been with the ACCC since 1996 when he joined as a graduate and has spent much of his career leading enforcement divisions to protect competition in markets, and stop conduct that's anti-competitive or harmful to consumers.



Stephanie Jolly
AER A/g Executive General Manager

Stephanie Jolly joined the AER in 2021 after 13 years working on energy issues in the Qld Government. Over that time, Stephanie worked on issues across the energy system from consumer protections and price setting to gas markets, liquid fuels, the emergence of the renewables industry in Qld and national energy policy. Prior to joining the Qld Government Stephanie worked on aviation safety and broadcasting policy in a number of Commonwealth departments.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Honours) in Political Science and Government and an Executive Masters in Public Administration.



Mick Keogh
ACCC Deputy Chair

Mick Keogh was appointed to the ACCC in February 2016, and then as Deputy Chair of the ACCC in 2018, with responsibility for Small Business and Agriculture. He was reappointed in May 2023.

Mick has a long and diverse history of involvement with the small business and agriculture sector, including periods of employment as a business consultant, and in advocacy and advisory roles to policymakers and governments. He has also chaired a number of Commonwealth Government inquiries and Ministerial advisory boards. He is currently a member of the Commonwealth Government's Emission Reduction Assurance Council, and a Board member of the Food Agility Co-operative Research Centre. From 2003 to 2018, he was Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute, an independent policy research institute that conducted research into strategic policy issues of importance to Australian agriculture and regional Australia. Mick continued in that role until his appointment as Deputy Chair of the ACCC in June 2018. Mick chairs the Water and Agriculture Board and Competition Exemptions Committee, and is a member of the Enforcement, Compliance and Product Safety, and Mergers Review Committees, and Electricity Markets Inquiry and East Coast Gas Market Boards. Mick's role also includes oversight of the small business, franchising and agriculture units of the ACCC.

Mick was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2015. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in science, both obtained at the University of New South Wales, and a Doctor of Applied Science (honoris causa) from Charles Sturt University.



Catriona Lowe

ACCC Deputy Chair

Catriona Lowe was appointed by the Governor General to the position of ACCC Deputy Chair for a 5-year term on 27 January 2023. On 19 June 2023 Catriona commenced as an Associate Member of the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Catriona chairs the Compliance and Product Safety Committee, and is a member of the Competition Exemptions, Consumer Data Right and Enforcement Committees and the Digital Platforms Inquiry, Financial Services Inquiry, Child Care Inquiry and Energy Markets Boards.

For over 20 years Catriona has had a strong commitment to consumer issues and protection of consumer rights in her varied roles as a regulator, litigator and consumer advocate.

Before joining the ACCC, Catriona was a Board Member of the Australian Energy Regulator from February 2020. She has also held a non-Executive director role on a range of boards, including the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, the Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority and the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman. Catriona was also principal of a consumer-focused consulting practice. From 2006 to 2013, Catriona was Co-CEO of the Consumer Action Law Centre. She has also held senior roles with the Consumers' Federation of Australia and the ACCC. Catriona chairs the Compliance and Product Safety Committee, and is a member of the Competition Exemptions, Consumer Data Right and Enforcement Committees and the Digital Platforms inquiry, Financial Services Inquiry, Child Care Inquiry and Energy Markets Boards.

Over the years Catriona has worked extensively on matters involving consumer focused regulation, behavioural economics and effective enforcement and compliance. She has advocated for consumers across a range of markets including financial services, telecommunications and energy. Catriona has a Bachelor of Laws from Northern Territory University (now Charles Darwin University).



Justin Oliver
AER Board Member

Justin Oliver was appointed a Board Member of the Australian Energy Regulator in February 2020. Justin was formerly a partner of Minter Ellison, specialising in competition law and energy regulation. Prior to joining Minter Ellison, Justin was the head of the ACCC's regulatory law practice, advising on all aspects of energy, communications and transport regulation, and became the head of legal for the Australian Energy Regulator upon its creation in 2005. Justin has also worked as a senior lawyer in the Victorian Premier's Department.

For two decades, Justin has acted for governments, regulators and industry participants involved in all parts of Australia's energy sector. He has worked extensively on a range of relevant issues including gas pipeline access arrangements and electricity network determinations; energy policy reform; and a range of compliance and enforcement issues under laws governing the operation of wholesale energy markets, energy networks, and energy retail businesses.

Justin holds a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Monash University.



Sarah Proudfoot
ACCC Executive General Manager

Sarah Proudfoot is Executive General Manager of the ACCC's Infrastructure Division. The Division is responsible for economic regulation, compliance, market monitoring and advocacy across a range of sectors, including telecommunications, rail, ports, airports, electricity, gas, reinsurance and childcare.

Sarah holds Bachelor degrees in Law and Arts (Communication). She joined the ACCC in 2005, working in compliance and outreach roles, before moving to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in 2011 to lead the Retail Markets and then Consumers and Markets branch. Sarah returned to the ACCC and her role in Infrastructure Division in 2020.



Kate Reader

ACCC General Manager, Digital Platforms

Kate has been the General Manager of the ACCC's Digital Platforms Branch (formally the Digital Platform Inquiry) since 2017. The original inquiry looked at the impact of social media platforms, search engines and other digital content aggregators on the media and advertising markets. The current 5-year Inquiry requires 6 monthly reports to the Treasurer on various digital platform services.

Kate has previously been a Director of Merger Investigations, a Principal Lawyer and a Director of the Mobile and Consumer Engagement at the ACCC. Kate has worked across a number of significant issues including international mergers, NBN related matters, mobile roaming and gas and electricity matters.

Prior to joining the ACCC, Kate was a Principal Lawyer at the Australian Communication and Media Authority. She also worked in regulatory roles at Ofgem and the Office of Rail and Road in the United Kingdom. Kate has Bachelor degrees in Law and Commerce and a Graduate Diploma in EC Competition Law from Kings College London.

