



The Sustainable Engineering Society

...engineering in harmony with ecology

SENG-WA Newsletter – August 2022

In this edition of the SENG WA newsletter, we present two events, the first focusing on sustainable procurement practices, with the second being the World Renewable Energy Congress to be hosted by Murdoch University in Perth.

Also of interest is the State of the Environment report, released by the Federal Government at the end of July. What are your thoughts on this report? We'd love to hear from you by [email](#).

WA businesses are also invited to let us know how they are being Sustainability Champions in their industry. Please get in touch if sustainability is at the heart of your business, or a business you know.

We hope you enjoy!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A 'Climate Change Challenges' series of webinars and forums was run in 2021 by the WA Division of Engineers Australia, in conjunction with the University of WA and Murdoch University.

During the series, over 100 questions or comments were submitted from around 1000 attendees. A 'Q&A' of the most pertinent, together with suggested answers, was put together by a group of senior EA members. The answers are NOT official EA answers; they are possible answers provided by the group as thought provokers.

In our Newsletter we will be publishing one Question and one possible Answer in each edition. We invite comments from our readers, a summary of which will be published in the following edition. Simple comments, such as agree/disagree are welcome, as are more detailed comments. These may be emailed to the [Q&A reply email](#).

This month, our question and possible answer is:

Q

Is there sufficient effort going into revisions to Australian Standards for 3°C?

A

Work is being done in some standards committees to investigate the impact, for example AS1170 Part 2 Wind loading. However, there it is not a consistent and comprehensive approach across all standards. Government planning rules also need to be adapted. There is a need to agree the future planet temperature and ensure it is consistently implemented across all standards and planning rules etc. It would be useful for EA to step up in this space

SENG WA would love to hear from you about these questions and answers.

Contact us here: [Q&A reply email](#)

EVENTS

ENABLING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

2 Day Online Course by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC)

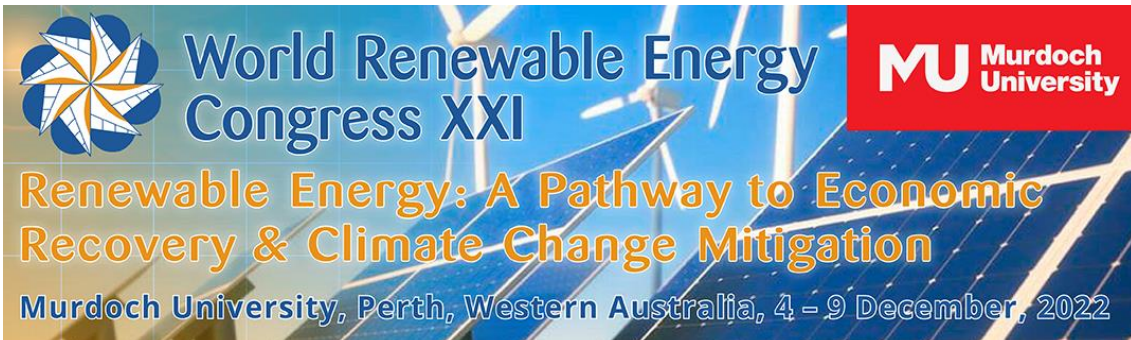
Date: Tuesday, 18 Oct and Thursday, 20 Oct 2022

Time: 6.00 – 9:00 AM AWST

Sustainable procurement is an integral part of delivering sustainable business practices within projects and organizations, driving better outcomes through reducing risk, adding value, and encouraging innovation. Done well, sustainable procurement adds positive environmental, social, and economic impacts throughout the whole lifecycle of an asset, goods, and services, and encourages cooperation, buy-in and better communication between purchasers, suppliers and stakeholders.

ISC has developed a virtual training course that enables participants to understand how they can implement a more sustainable approach to procurement aligned to the IS Rating criteria, with the aim of creating procurement outcomes that reduce negative externalities while supporting contractual requirements, financial targets, and risk management.

More information: <https://www.iscouncil.org/our-offerings/7-enabling-sustainable-procurement/region-AU/>



World Renewable Energy Congress XXI

MU Murdoch University

Renewable Energy: A Pathway to Economic Recovery & Climate Change Mitigation

Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia, 4 – 9 December, 2022

WORLD RENEWABLE ENERGY CONGRESS XXI

Conference hosted by Murdoch University

Date: 4 – 9 December 2022

Location: Murdoch University, 90 South St, Murdoch WA 6150, Australia

The World Renewable Energy Congress (WREC) and Network (WREN) is a non-profit company set up to help foster transfer of renewable energy technology from developed countries to developing countries.

The congress provides a platform for sharing ideas, presenting the latest research, and discussing renewable energy science, technology, policy and associated social issues. The source and nature of energy, the security of supply and equity of distribution, the environmental impact of its supply and utilization, are all crucial matters to be addressed by suppliers, consumers governments, industry, academia, and financial institutions.

Early bird registration: Until 18 September 2022

More information: <https://www.wrec2022.com/index.php>

BP LOOKS TO PRODUCE SAF AT AUSTRALIAN PLANT

BP is aiming to start producing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in Australia by 2025 after converting its oil refinery near Perth to produce renewable fuels.

BP has not disclosed what volume it plans to produce, but BP's Asia Pacific vice president of low-carbon solutions, Lucy Nation, told Reuters output would depend on demand as the facility would be able to switch day-to-day between producing SAF and biodiesel.

"We're lucky at Kwinana in that we're able to reutilise some of the processing equipment, the utilities and we have tanks ready to go," Nation told a briefing on the side-lines of the Sydney Energy Forum, hosted by the Australian government and the International Energy Agency.

Full article: <https://biofuels-news.com/news/bp-looks-to-produce-saf-at-australian-plant/>

ELECTRIC CAR DISCOUNT BILL INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT

The Government has introduced the Treasury Laws Amendment (Electric Car Discount) Bill 2022 into Parliament.

It implements the Government's plan to remove fringe benefits tax (FBT) to make electric cars cheaper so that more families who want them can afford them.

The legislation will amend the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986 to exempt from FBT the use of eligible electric cars made available by employers to employees.

This FBT exemption will apply to battery electric cars, hydrogen fuel cell electric cars and plug-in hybrid electric cars.

The exemption will be available for eligible electric cars with a first retail price below the luxury car tax threshold for fuel efficient cars (\$84,916 for 2022-23) first made available for use on or after 1 July 2022.

Full press release: <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/jim-chalmers-2022/media-releases/electric-car-discount-bill-introduced-parliament>

FORMER CARBON PRICING MASTERMIND GREG COMBET BACKS PROPOSED FIX FOR AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY CRISIS

The former federal minister who oversaw the introduction of a carbon price in Australia has backed calls for an insurance-like policy to help fix the crisis plaguing the nation's biggest power grid.

Greg Combet, a former union leader who served as climate change minister in the Gillard government, said ideology needed to be taken out of the debate about how to solve the problems affecting the national electricity market.

Mr Combet said businesses and households – particularly vulnerable ones – were suffering amid skyrocketing prices and warnings of rolling blackouts as the system struggled to cope with demand.

While he laid the blame for the "chaos" at the feet of the previous Coalition government, he said opposition to a proposed capacity market for energy would only prolong the problems.

Full article: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-22/former-climate-minister-combet-backs-proposed-energy-fix/101242512>

2021 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT RELEASED

Australia's environment is deteriorating, finds a landmark five-yearly report co-authored by 30 independent scientists from around Australia

Australia has produced a national state of environment report every five years since 1995. They assess every aspect of Australia's environment and heritage, covering rivers, oceans, air, ice, land, and urban areas. The last report was released in 2017.

The number of Australia's threatened species rose eight percent since 2016 and climate change is increasing pressure on every ecosystem. These are among the findings of Australia's highly anticipated 2021 State of Environment report, released last month by the federal government.

Full report: <https://soe.dcceew.gov.au/>

SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



WA SENG is giving companies a free opportunity to showcase their sustainable, innovative practices in our newsletter.

For a chance to be featured, please complete [this form](#).



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