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Curtin University



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

# WA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Road to Low Carbon Energy:  
Impacts on WA Households

## PROGRAM

Friday 17 June 2016  
from 8:45am to 12:00pm  
Bankwest Place  
300 Murray Street  
Perth, WA 6000



@BankwestCurtin

#EnergyPoverty

[business.curtin.edu.au/bcec](http://business.curtin.edu.au/bcec)

# About the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is an independent economic and social research organisation located within the Curtin Business School at Curtin University. The centre was established in 2012 through the generous support from Bankwest (a division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia), with a core mission to examine the key economic and social policy issues that contribute to the sustainability of Western Australia and the nation, and the wellbeing of households both in WA and nationally.

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is the first research organisation of its kind in Western Australia, and draws great strength and credibility from its partnership with Bankwest, Curtin University and the Western Australian government.

The centre brings a unique philosophy to research on the major economic issues facing the state. By bringing together experts from the research, policy and business communities at all stages of the process – from framing and conceptualising research questions, through the conduct of research, to the communication and implementation of research findings – we ensure that our research is relevant, fit for purpose, and makes a genuine difference to the lives of Australians, both in WA and nationally.

The centre is able to capitalise on Curtin University's reputation for excellence in economic modelling, forecasting, public policy research, trade and industrial economics and spatial sciences. Centre researchers have specific expertise in economic forecasting, quantitative modelling, micro-data analysis and economic and social policy evaluation. The centre also derives great value from its close association with experts from the corporate, business, public and not-for-profit sectors.



# Program

8:30am – 8:45am	Registrations open	
8:45am – 9:00am	Arrival Tea & Coffee	
9:00am – 9:10am	Welcome	<b>Professor Alan Duncan</b> Director Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
9:10am – 9:40am	Presentation	<b>Dr Tom Houghton</b> Director of the MBA (Oil and Gas), Curtin University
9:40am – 10:10am	Presentation	<b>Professor Peter Newman</b> John Curtin Distinguished Professor Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute  <b>Ms Jemma Green</b> Research Fellow Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute
10:10am – 10:40am	Morning Tea & Networking	
10:40am – 11:00am	Response from Policy/Industry	<b>Mr Chris Twomey</b> Director of Social Policy WACOSS  <b>Dr Ray Challen</b> Deputy Director General Department of Finance Government of Western Australia
11:00am – 11:30am	Panel discussion and Q&A	
11:30am – 11:45am	Close	<b>Associate Professor Rachel Ong</b> Deputy Director Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre



# Welcome from Professor Alan Duncan



Welcome to our 'WA in the Spotlight' Workshop on *The Road to Low Carbon Energy: Impacts on WA Households*.

Energy poverty is a prevalent and growing issue affecting the wellbeing of millions of households across the globe. Access to affordable energy services is frequently seen as a pre-requisite for economic growth in developing countries and has been associated with improvements to health and social mobility in more developed economies.

The energy sector is undergoing an unprecedented transformation with potentially profound implications for the most vulnerable of Australian households in terms of economic security, social integration and health.

This workshop will feature key findings from Dr Tom Houghton, Director of the MBA (Oil and Gas), Curtin University and seeks to provide insights into the extent of energy poverty in Western Australia and expand the evidence base with respect to the effects of energy poverty on households. The report draws on unique data gathered through face to face interviews and an online survey of over 4,000 individuals to better understand the needs and practices of individuals facing the challenges posed by rising energy costs.

Tom will discuss the impact that efforts to lower carbon emissions are having on WA households. Many are benefiting from a "climate change dividend" as they switch to more energy efficient appliances and install solar panels as a means to reduce energy consumption and bills. By contrast, the most vulnerable in society are often unable to access these benefits, owing to their income status or housing tenure, and may actually see their energy bills increasing as fuel prices rise and measures to price carbon take effect.

Other featured speakers include Professor Peter Newman and Ms Jemma Green from the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute, who will discuss the barriers to decarbonisation.

The presenters will be joined by Director of Social Policy, WACOSS, Mr Chris Twomey and Deputy Director General, Department of Finance for the Government of Western Australia, Dr Ray Challen in a panel discussion.

Please enjoy the presentations and networking with friends, colleagues and new acquaintances.

**Professor Alan Duncan**  
Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre  
Curtin Business School, Curtin University



# Key presentation



**Dr Tom Houghton**  
Director, MBA (Oil and Gas),  
Curtin University

**D**r Tom Houghton is Director of the MBA (Oil & Gas) at Curtin Graduate School of Business and was previously a Research Fellow at the University of Strathclyde. His principal field of research is sustainable energy economics and he has a keen interest in energy for development, having established training program in Renewable Energy for Developing Countries with UNITAR. Tom is a Visiting Professor at Nagoya University of Commerce and Business where he provides courses in sustainable energy to MBA students. Before joining Strathclyde he spent more than 5 years in power industry and a further 8 in the banking sector, latterly as director at the Japanese bank, Nomura. With colleagues in Asia and the US, he established a consulting company in the renewable energy sector in 2011. Tom holds an MEng from Imperial College, an MBA from London Business School and a PhD from the University of Strathclyde.

**Energy Poverty in Western Australia:  
A Comparative Analysis of Drivers and Effects  
Dr Tom Houghton**

*Director of the MBA (Oil and Gas), Curtin University*

Despite the widespread interest in energy (or fuel) poverty across the globe, relatively little research into the subject has been undertaken in Australia. This is especially true in WA, where our understanding is particularly sketchy. Through an analysis of both primary and secondary data, this study sought to understand both the drivers and effects of energy poverty in the state and how these compared with other Australian states. Where appropriate, international comparisons were also made. Secondary data was drawn primarily from Australian Bureau of Statistics reports while primary data was obtained from 18 face-to-face interviews and a survey of around 4300 householders across WA, Queensland and New South Wales.



# Presenters



**Professor Peter Newman**  
John Curtin Distinguished  
Professor  
Sustainability Policy  
Institute, Curtin University

**P**eter Newman is the Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University. He has written 16 books and over 300 papers. His books include 'The End of Automobile Dependence' (2015), 'Green Urbanism in Asia' (2013) and 'Sustainability and Cities: Overcoming Automobile Dependence' which was launched in the White House in 1999. Peter was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Virginia Charlottesville and was on the IPCC for their 5th Assessment Report. In 2014 he was awarded an Order of Australia for his contributions to urban design and sustainable transport. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Technological and Engineering Sciences Australia. Peter has worked in local government as an elected councillor, in state government as an advisor to three Premiers and in the Australian Government on the Board of Infrastructure Australia.



## Presenters



**Ms Jemma Green**  
Research Fellow  
Curtin University  
Sustainability Policy  
Institute

Jemma Green was born in Perth and raised in the eastern hills. She received a bachelor of Commerce in Finance at Murdoch University in Perth, before beginning work as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan's London office in the early 2000s. Around this time, banks were realising the need for a greater focus on corporate social responsibility in business and began recruiting young professionals with fresh minds to assist with the transition. Jemma was chosen to help setup J.P. Morgan's Global Environmental and Social Risk Management office. It was during her work here that she began to realise the full potential for increasing ethics and responsibility in corporate organizations. During this time, she completed two postgraduate diplomas and a Masters in Sustainability at Cambridge University. Her research centred around corporate credit ratings and environmental risk.

In 2013, Jemma left J.P. Morgan and returned to Australia. Jemma also is an independent councillor at the City of Perth, a board member of Heritage Perth and Carbon Tracker. Jemma has made over 400 appearances as a commentator on transport, energy, housing and finance.



## Panellists



**Mr Chris Twomey**  
Director of Social Policy  
WACOSS

**C**hris Twomey is the Director of Social Policy for the Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS). He leads a small team developing policy and undertaking research and advocacy on the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable Western Australians, and the sustainability and effectiveness of the community services that assist them. He represents a community voice on a number of advisory panels and boards. Chris previously worked as a senior Federal policy advisor on portfolios including community services, social justice, Indigenous issues, natural resource management and marine policy. He has a broad and varied background that includes science communications, Aboriginal education, natural resource management, and educational multi-media production. He has an honours degree in psychology and was the founding convenor of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) in WA.





# Panellists



**Dr Ray Challen**  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Finance  
Government of Western  
Australia

**R**ay Challen is Deputy Director General in the Department of Finance with responsibility for the Public Utilities Office. Ray is currently chairing the Steering Committee for the Western Australian Government's Electricity Market Review which is implementing wide ranging reforms to the regulatory and market arrangements that apply to the electricity system in the south west of Western Australia.

Prior to joining the Western Australian public sector in 2012, Ray led an economics and policy advisory group in PricewaterhouseCoopers. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Western Australia.



# Attendees

## Cr Tim Barling

Councillor  
City of Melville

## Ms Bronwyn Bell

Student  
Curtin University

## Professor Harry Bloch

Emeritus Professor  
Curtin University

## Dr Steven Bond-Smith

Research Fellow  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

## Ms Ruth Brennan

Policy Officer  
Department of the  
Premier and Cabinet

## Ms Michelle Brent

Environmental Policy Officer  
WALGA

## Mr Leigh Burns

Environmental Manager  
Seaforce

## Mr Mathew Clarke

President, WA  
Hong Kong Australia Business  
Association

## Miss Dannielle Coates

Graduate Project Officer  
Housing Authority

## Ms Shirley Collins

## Mrs Lisa Cooke

Acting Principal Strategic  
Environmental Planner  
City of Perth

## Mr Simon Dawkins

Student  
Curtin University Sustainability  
Policy Institute

## Dr Tim Dymond

Researcher  
UnionsWA

## Ms Jenita Enevoldsen

State Director  
Wilderness Society



# Attendees

**Mr Michael Fabiankovits**  
Perth Coordinator  
350.Org

**Mr Graham Hansen**  
Policy Officer  
Western Australian Council  
of Social Service

**Ms Cristyn Fielding**  
Environmental Projects Officer  
Eastern Metropolitan Regional  
Council

**Mr Travis Hargreaves**  
Director  
Sunday Energy

**Ms Janine Freeman**  
Member for Mirrabooka  
Parliament of Western Australia

**Mrs Kumesh Haripersad**  
Business Manager  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

**Ms Carissa Gautam**  
Research & Executive  
Administrative Officer  
UDIA WA

**Ms Erin Harrison**  
Environmental Projects Officer  
Eastern Metropolitan Regional  
Council

**Mrs Chantel Gelmi**  
Owner Director  
Sunny West Lifestyle Village

**Mr Peter Heath**  
Head of External Communication  
Bankwest

**Ms Jemma Green**  
Research Fellow Curtin University  
Sustainability Policy Institute

**Mr David Hilditch**  
Business Manager  
Curtin Graduate School of  
Business

**Ms Allison Hailes**  
Chief Executive Officer  
UDIA WA



# Attendees

**Dr Tom Houghton**  
Director, MBA (O&G)  
Curtin University

**Dr Therese Jefferson**  
Associate Professor  
Curtin Graduate School of  
Business

**Dr Chris Johansen**  
Events Coordinator  
Sustainable Energy Now

**Ms Amanda Joseph**  
Environmental Sustainability  
Specialist  
RAC

**Ms Amanda Kheng**

**Miss Chantelle  
Kietzmann**  
Admin Officer  
Bankwest Curtin Economic Centre

**Ms Christie Kingston**  
Councillor  
Shire of Goomalling

**Mr Peter Kleins**  
Design Manager  
SF Design Engineering  
Consultants

**Ms Michele Kwok**

**Mr Alan Langford**  
Chief Economist  
Bankwest

**Mr Brenton Laws**  
Strategy  
Western Power

**Ms Calene Lee**  
Student  
Curtin Graduate Business School

**Mr Alastair Leith**  
Director  
Useful Design

**Ms Lilian Lubo**  
Graduate Project Officer  
Government of Western Australia  
Housing Authority

**Professor Peter Moore**  
Executive Director, Strategic  
Engagement  
Curtin University

**Ms Rebecca Murphy**  
Advisor Woodside Energy

as at 14 June 2016



# Attendees

**Professor Peter Newman**  
Professor  
Curtin University Sustainability  
Policy Institute

**Mr Toan Nguyen**  
PhD student  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

**Mr Francis Norman**  
Director  
Ulfire Pty Ltd

**Associate Professor  
Rachel Ong**  
Deputy Director  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

**Ms Jessie Parrish**  
Switch your thinking Coordinator  
Switch your thinking

**Mrs Catherine Patterson**  
Operations Manager  
Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund

**Miss Caroline Perks**  
Environment Officer  
City of Perth

**Mr Robert Pullella**  
Executive Director Access  
Economic Regulation Authority

**Mr Russel Rebello**  
Student  
Curtin University

**Mr Brian Rettinger**  
Tour Director  
South West Tourist Services  
(SWTS)

**Mr Jason Robertson**  
Housing Director  
Master Builders Association  
of WA

**Mr Asif Siddiqui**  
Program Coordinator, SDGs  
Implementation  
Curtin University

**Mr Chris Smith**  
General Manager Business  
Development  
Foundation Housing Limited



# Attendees

## Mr Craig Spencer

Head of Community Engagement  
Bankwest

## Dr Annabelle Stewart

Environmental Policy Advisor  
WA Local Government  
Association (WALGA)

## Ms Anne Still

General Manager, Public Policy  
RAC

## Mrs Claire Thompspon

Principal Policy Officer  
Housing Authority

## Mr Richard Titelius

Administrative Coordinator  
Department of the Attorney  
General

## Mr Chris Twomey

Director of Social Policy  
WACOSS

## Mr Frank van der Kooy

General Counsel  
Horizon Power

## Mr Anthony Vella

Head of Strategy and  
Transformation  
Bankwest

## Miss Louise Wang

Founder  
Green Philosophy  
Health & Beauty Studio

## Ms Marion Ward

President  
National Council of Women  
of Western Australia (Inc)

## Ms Vicki Ward

Project Manager  
Curtin University

## Dr Yixiao Zhou

Lecturer  
School of Economics and Finance,  
Curtin University

as at 14 June 2016





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## Contact

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