
Leadership Forum on energy transition

Forum Member Profiles

Professor Ian Jacobs (*Chair*)

President and Vice-Chancellor, UNSW Australia

Ian came to Australia from the UK, where he had a distinguished career as a leading researcher in the area of women's health and cancer, and in university leadership. Immediately prior to joining UNSW Ian was Vice President and Dean at the University of Manchester and Director of the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, a partnership linking the University with six healthcare organisations involving over 36,000 staff.

Ian is the Principal Investigator for the Cancer Research UK and Eve Appeal funded PROMISE (Prediction of Risk of Ovarian Malignancy Screening and Early Detection) programme and on several large multicentre clinical trials including the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer and the UK Familial Ovarian Cancer Screening Study.

Ian established and chairs the Uganda Women's Health Initiative, is founder and Medical Advisor to the Eve Appeal charity, a Patron of Safehands for Mothers, founder and non-Executive Director of Abcodia Ltd and patent holder of the ROCA (Risk of Ovarian Cancer Algorithm).

Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM

President, Australian Conservation Foundation

Geoff is an Australian community leader, businessman, environmental activist and writer. As an environmental activist he is best known for his successful campaigns to stop the Gunns pulp mill in Tasmania and the proposed Woodside gas hub in the Kimberley.

Geoff's distinguished business career has included Chief Executive roles in advertising and media and positions on a number of public company boards including PBL, the Seven Network, Hoyts Cinemas group, NM Rothschild & Sons Limited and Telstra. His many achievements include leading the George Patterson Company while it was Australia's largest advertising agency, and overseeing the building of the Optus network.

Geoff is also a community leader and art-lover, the founding chair of the kids' cancer charity Starlight Foundation and Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art, and a published novelist.

In 2014, Geoff was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the community.

Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO

Former Governor-General of Australia

Quentin has enjoyed a rich and distinguished career as an academic, lawyer, community and human rights advocate, senior public officer, university college principal, and vice-regal representative in Queensland and for Australia. Across life Quentin has been involved in a wide range of government and non-government organisations including The National Women's Advisory Council, The National Breast Cancer Advisory Council, President of Women's Cricket Australia and the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

In September 2008, Quentin was sworn in as Australia's twenty-fifth Governor-General. As the first woman to take up the office, she was a pioneer in contemporary Australian society, and yet one who brought more than 40 years of experience in reform, community building and leadership to the role.

Most recently she has chaired the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. The Taskforce's report and recommendations were handed to the Queensland Premier on 28 February 2015.

Quentin's contribution to advancing human rights and equality, the rights of women and children, and the welfare of the family was recognised in her appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988 and a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2003. Also in 2003, she was invested as a Dame of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. On 25 March 2014, Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced that Quentin had become a Dame in the Order of Australia.

Ms Jillian Broadbent AO

Chair, Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Swiss RE Life and Health Australia

Jillian has had a distinguished career in the banking sector, in domestic and international banking, financial markets and risk management, principally with Bankers Trust Australia. Jillian serves on the board of Woolworths Limited, is Chair of the board of Swiss Re Life and Health Australia Limited, the Chancellor of the University of Wollongong and Chair of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Jillian was a member of the board of the Reserve Bank from 1998 to 2013, and has held directorships on the boards of ASX Limited, Special Broadcasting Corporation (SBS), Qantas Airways Limited, Westfield Property Trusts, Woodside Petroleum Limited and Coca-Cola Amatil Limited.

In 2003, Jillian was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for service to economic and financial development of Australia and the community through administrative support for cultural and charitable groups.

Mr Andrew Vesey

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, AGL Energy

Andy has over 30 years' experience in the energy industry including strategic and commercial leadership of large energy organisations, and working in complex regulatory and political environments. His experience extends across the energy supply chain, including power development, generation, distribution and retail businesses. Prior to commencing with AGL as MD and CEO in 2015, Andy was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of The AES Corporation, a global power generation utility company with businesses in 20 countries.

Andy has a strong understanding of generation technologies and operational excellence programs in a wide variety of generation types, including coal, gas, hydro, solar and wind. He also has experience in research, development and commercialisation of new technologies that are likely to shape the future of electricity markets.

Andy's role at AES included chairing wholly owned subsidiary Daytona Power and Light, which operates competitive electricity retail businesses in Ohio and Illinois.

Mr David Thodey

Chair, CSIRO

An innovative, high profile businessman and pioneer of corporate venturing in Australia, David also has over 20 years' experience working in Asia. Formerly CEO of Telstra, he has been credited with significantly increasing Telstra's share price and doubling the value of the company, while playing a central role focusing the company on customer service. Prior to that, David had a 22 year career with IBM, working in senior marketing and sales positions, including CEO of IBM Australia/New Zealand.

David is Chair of JobsNSW and on the Board of the GSM Association. Previous board memberships include co-chair of the Infrastructure and Investment Taskforce of the B20 leadership group, and Chairman of IBM ANZ, TelstraClear, Information Technology (IT) Skills Hub, Industry Groups and Basketball Australia.

Ms Maria Atkinson AM

Sustainability Strategist and Co-Founder, Green Building Council of Australia

Maria is an internationally recognised leader in sustainability, green building, corporate responsibility and impact investment, advising governments, NGOs, academic and research institutions.

Maria co-founded the Green Building Council of Australia and served 5 years as its Founding CEO, overseeing the creation of the Green Star environmental rating system for buildings, and establishing education and advocacy platforms that have been instrumental in driving the greening of the property industry in Australia and beyond.

In 2012, Maria was awarded a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for "service to the construction and real estate sector, particularly as a leader and contributor to environmentally sustainable building development in Australia".

In addition to consultancy services, Maria sits on a number of Boards and Advisory Councils, her most recent appointment being to the Board of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), and also invests time and money in innovative start-ups and philanthropic interests.

Mr Mark Burrows AO

Managing Director & Vice Chairman, Global Investment Banking Capital Markets, Credit Suisse

Mark's extensive career has included the Executive Chair of Baring Brothers Burrows Australia, the Executive Deputy Chair of ING Barings London, Managing Partner of Lazard in London, and Chairman for the inauguration of Lazard's business in Australia.

Mark has been the principal financial adviser on hundreds of major transactions, a number of which were widely recognised as transformational, including BHP Billiton, News Corporation, National Australia Bank, and the Australian Treasury and New Zealand Government on their first major privatisations.

Mark has significantly influenced the development of Australian public policy, leading the development of Australia's national uniform corporate law and financial market regulation in the 1990s that resulted in the creation of ASIC, and co-authoring the report that was the framework for the Australian Compulsory Superannuation Industry.

In 2007, Mark was awarded The Order of Australia for his contribution to financial reform and to the arts.

Mark's directorships have included Chairman/Deputy Chairman of Brambles, Telstra and Fairfax Media. He was recently appointed a Director of the Asian Board of The Nature Conservancy.

Since 2010, Mark has been a continuing Australian Treasury representative at the B20/G20 Summits and was a member of the Australian B20 Leadership Group for the Australian G20 Presidency in 2014. In 2014, he was appointed a Special Adviser to UNEP FI (United Nations Environmental Programme). In this role Mark has been active in promoting sustainable development and its alignment with global financial institutions.

Mr Alex Malley

Chief Executive Officer, CPA Australia

Alex is the Chief Executive of CPA Australia, one of the world's largest accounting bodies with 19 offices globally and more than 155,000 members worldwide. He also heads its financial services subsidiary, CPA Australia Advice.

As a respected global leader in the accounting profession, Alex has been included on The Accountant magazine's Global Accounting Power 50 List; addressed the National Press Club Australia on issues impacting Australia's economic competitiveness; and currently serves on The Prince of Wales Accounting for Sustainability Project and the International Integrated Reporting Council.

In addition, he is the host of the Nine Network Australia series The Conversation with Alex Malley, author of the best-selling book The Naked CEO and provides career mentoring to young people via thenakedceo.com.

Ms Sam Mostyn

Chair, Australian Council for International Development and Citibank Australia

Previously holding senior executive roles at Insurance Australia Group, Optus Communications and Cable & Wireless plc, Sam is a widely sought after non-executive director and sustainability adviser.

Sam is Chair of Citibank Australia and the Australian Council for International Development. She is a non-executive Director of Virgin Australia Holdings Limited, Mirvac, Transurban Holdings Limited and Cover-More Group Limited. Sam served on the Chief of the Defence Force's Women's Advisory Group and was a member of the Human Rights Commission Review of the Treatment of Women in the Australian Defence Force.

Sam has long been involved in sustainability issues, serving on the boards of ClimateWorks Australia, the NSW Climate Change Council and 1 Million Women. She has served on the National Sustainability Council, the advisory board of the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship and the National Mental Health Commission.

Sam is also a member of the Australian Faculty of the Cambridge University Program for Sustainability Leadership. She is currently Deputy Chair of the Diversity Council Australia, and is Chair of the Advisory Council for the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU. Sam is also a Director of the Australia Council for the Arts and the Chair of Carriageworks. Sam was also the first woman appointed as an AFL Commissioner, where she served from 2005 until 2016.

Ms Indira Naidoo

Chief Executive Officer, The Edible Balcony

During 25 years as a journalist and TV presenter, Indira became one of Australia's most popular broadcasters, hosting and reporting for news and current affair programs including ABC's Late Edition and SBS World News Tonight.

Indira is a well-known environmental activist, author and community advocate. She is CEO of The Edible Balcony, a Garden design and consulting business specialising in corporate and community food gardens. Her first book 'The Edible Balcony' was awarded 'Best Garden Product' in the 2014 Green Lifestyle Magazine Awards. A member of the international Slow Food movement, Indira lectures in Australia and internationally on food sustainability issues.

She is an ambassador for Sydney's Wayside Chapel, conducting weekly gardening classes on its rooftop vegetable garden for its homeless visitors.

Indira has worked as a media manager and spokesperson for consumer advocacy group CHOICE, and as a Geneva-based sustainability communications consultant with the United Nations' trade development arm – The International Trade Centre. In 2009 she was selected from 200 applicants to be trained by former US Vice President Al Gore as a climate change presenter.

Indira is also co-owner of FitzGerald Productions, a boutique communications business.

Mr Martijn Wilder AM

Partner, Baker & McKenzie; Chair, Australia Renewable Energy Agency; Board Member, Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Martijn is head of Baker and McKenzie's Global Environmental Markets and Climate Change practice specialising in climate change, international carbon and broader environmental markets, climate and conservation finance and conservation projects. He is also Chair of the Baker & McKenzie Law for Development Initiative.

His other roles include Professor of Climate Change Law at the Australian National University and an Affiliate, Cambridge Centre for Climate Change Mitigation Research Department of Land Economy University of Cambridge. Martijn is Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and a Director of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, WWF (Australia) and the Climate Council. He holds advisory roles as Chair of the NSW Climate Change Council, a Governing Board Member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) and is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. He is also the Deputy Chair of the Private Sector Roundtable of the Asia Pacific Rainforest Recovery Plan. Martijn recently Chaired the Independent Review Committee of the Victorian Climate Change Act. He was formerly Chairman of Low Carbon Australia and for many years chaired TRAFFIC (Oceania). He has written widely especially on climate change law, environmental law and Antarctica.

In 2012, Martijn was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition for "service to environmental law, particularly in the area of climate change through contributions to the development of law, global regulation, public policy and the promotion of public debate, and to the community".

Mr Wilder holds a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the University of Sydney, LLB Honours from the Australian National University, LLM from the University of Cambridge and has studied at the Hague Academy Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations. He is also a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr Miles George

Managing Director, Infigen Energy and Chair, Clean Energy Council

Miles George is the Managing Director of Infigen Energy and has over 20 years' experience in the infrastructure and energy sectors in Australia, the US and Europe.

Over the past 15 years his focus has been on development, investment, financing and management in the renewable energy industry.

Miles jointly led the team which established the renewable energy business now known as Infigen Energy, and was appointed as Managing Director in 2009.

He was elected as Chairman of the Board of the Clean Energy Council in 2013, and also serves as a member of the Reliability Panel of the Australian Energy Markets Commission. Miles holds degrees of Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Business Administration (Distinction) from the University of Melbourne.

Dr Simon Longstaff AO

Executive Director, The Ethics Centre

Simon's distinguished career includes being named as one of AFR Boss True Leaders for the 21st century, with Carol Schwartz noting; "I don't know one CEO or chairman in corporate Australia who has not worked with Simon Longstaff". Simon has a PhD in Philosophy from Cambridge University where he lectured and consulted to the Cambridge Commonwealth and Overseas Trusts. He worked in the Northern Territory in the Safety Department of BHP subsidiary, GEMCO before becoming the inaugural Executive Director of The Ethics Centre in 1991.

Simon was also inaugural President of The Australian Association for Professional & Applied Ethics, and serves on a number of boards and committees across a broad spectrum of activities. He is a Fellow of the World Economic Forum.

Simon's longstanding commitment to ethics was honoured with an Order of Australia in the 2013 Queens Birthday Honours.

Ms Anna Skarbek

Chief Executive Officer, ClimateWorks Australia

Anna has led ClimateWorks Australia since its inception in 2009, guiding the organisation's work in analysing emissions reduction opportunities and partnering with business and government in unblocking barriers to their implementation.

Anna is also a director of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and a trustee of the Sustainable Melbourne Fund. She is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and a member of the Grattan Institute's Energy Program Reference Panel. She was a member of the South Australian Government's Low Carbon Economy Expert Panel, the Victorian Climate Change Act Independent Review Committee, the Australian Government's Energy White Paper Reference Panel, and former Australian Government's Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board and NGO Roundtable on Climate Change. She is a former director of the Carbon Market Institute and of the Linking Melbourne Authority.

Anna is an experienced investment banker, policy adviser and qualified lawyer. Before ClimateWorks she was working in London's carbon markets as Vice President of Advisory with Climate Change Capital, a specialist investment manager and advisor dedicated to raising and deploying capital for low carbon activities. Anna's previous roles in Australia included senior policy adviser to the Victorian Deputy Premier, investment banker in Macquarie Bank's energy and utilities team, and solicitor with the national corporate law firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques.

She also served on the board of The Big Issue and the board of Amnesty International Australia for six years in roles including National Treasurer and Victorian President.

Anna holds First Class Honours Degrees in Commerce and Law from Monash University. She is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has completed leadership studies at the Oxford University Said Business School and the Melbourne Mt Eliza Business School. In 2014 Anna was a double finalist in the Victorian Telstra Business Women's Awards, for Business Innovation and Community & Government.

Professor Merlin Crossley

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) UNSW

A highly distinguished molecular biologist and former Rhodes Scholar, Merlin worked at Oxford, Harvard, and the University of Sydney before joining UNSW in 2010 as Dean of Science.

Merlin has been recognised by numerous awards, including the Australian Academy of Science's Gottschalk Medal. An enthusiastic teacher and science communicator who frequently writes and comments on issues of science, education and policy, Merlin is currently deputy chair of the board of the Australian Science Media Centre and an editorial board member of *The Conversation*. He also serves on the Trust of the Australian Museum and the boards of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science and UNSW Innovations.

Ms Kelly O'Shanassy

Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Conservation Foundation

Kelly came to ACF after several years as the Chief Executive Officer of Environment Victoria, the state's leading independent environment group.

Kelly's achievements in the environmental sector include establishment of world-first environment protection policies, authorship of Victoria's Framework for Environmental Sustainability, the setting of ambitious water conservation and sustainable supply actions for Melbourne, and significant work towards safeguarding fragile ecosystems, such as Victoria's rivers, from overuse.

Believing strongly in the power of people to advocate for a better, safer environment and future, under Kelly's leadership, Environment Victoria was awarded the coveted Eureka Award in 2011 for communicating climate change. Kelly was recognised amongst the top 100 business women in Australia in the 2013 Telstra Business Women's Awards.

Kelly has advised a number of business organisations on their journey towards sustainability, created The Future Economy Group in partnership with CEOs of responsible businesses and has chaired environment and community committees for government. Kelly is a past Director of Tipping Point Australia, past member of the Commissioner for Sustainability's Advisory Board, and a current member of the Advisory Board of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute.