



World Renewable
Energy Congress

MU Murdoch
University

WREC2026

2030 Horizon: The Path to Net Zero Emissions with Renewable Energy

Western Australia
8 – 11 February 2026

Are we ready to take the plunge?

The status of Offshore Wind Energy industry and research in Australia,

11 February 2026, 8:30 am – 1pm

Join Us for an Exclusive Workshop on Offshore Wind Energy

The Australian Offshore Wind Industry is in its infancy but there are promising developments, with feasibility licenses around Australia totalling 28 GW, an offshore wind target by the Victorian government (9GW by 2040), and two preliminary feasibility licenses for the Bunbury Offshore Wind Zone. This half-day workshop explores the exciting potential of offshore wind in Australia. The presentations will document the story of offshore wind in Australia, share lessons learnt from the oil and gas industry in the North Sea transition to offshore wind and will showcase some of the offshore wind research that is currently being undertaken in Australia, with an emphasis on research at local Universities. The panel will discuss the status of the Australian Offshore Wind Industry, industry's needs over the next 5-10 years and how research can grow to meet these needs.

What you will experience

Industry insights

Hear about the story of offshore wind in Australia:


- 'Insights into the multidisciplinary challenges faced by offshore wind and a structure to address them' – Prof. Christophe Gaudin, Australian Centre of Offshore Wind Energy (ACOWE)
- 'Australian offshore wind, the journey so far' – Zoe Jones, Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR),

Hear from professionals with experience from the UK offshore industry:

- 'Offshore wind in Australia: a global Industry meets a local opportunity', Tim Sawyer, Consultant
- "Looking at the interaction between offshore wind development and the marine environment requires different disciplinary perspectives' – Andrew Gill, Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)

Hear about the engineering involved in offshore wind turbines:


- 'Optimised foundation engineering for the offshore wind sector' – Marcelo Silva, Fugro

 Each presenter will have 15 minutes plus 5 minutes questions

Latest research from Australian Universities


Topics include:

- 'Research to inform design and reduce risk for OWT foundations and anchors in Australian carbonate sediments', Dr Juliano Nietiedt, Research Fellow in Geotechnical Engineering, University of Western Australia
- 'Simulations of a 15MW OWT with jacket foundation in the Bunbury Offshore Wind Zone', Mr. Shane Richardson, Master of Renewable and Sustainable Energy student, Murdoch University
- 'Beneath the turbine: Why jacket structures matter for Australian offshore wind, and how to make them cheaper', Aidan Archer, PhD candidate in Offshore Engineering, University of Western Australia


 Each presenter will have 15 minutes plus 5 minutes questions

Interactive Panel Discussion






What lessons learnt from the UK Offshore wind industry are relevant to the UK? What are the Australian offshore wind industry's needs over the next 5-10 years and how can research grow to meet these needs?

 30-min Panel + 10-min Wrap-up




Workshop Organiser and Facilitator:

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Whale</p> | <p>Jonathan Whale is an Associate Professor in Energy Studies at the School of Engineering and Energy, Murdoch University and a wind turbine researcher in the Harry Butler Institute. He holds a PhD in wind turbine aerodynamics from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is an Associate Editor of Wind Energy Science, journal of the European Academy of Wind Energy. He was part of the Technical Committee that revised the IEC Standard for small wind turbine design and has been a researcher in the International Energy Agency Wind R&D Tasks on small wind turbine testing and labelling, urban wind and distributed wind energy.</p> |
|---|--|

Industry Presenters:

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Prof. Christophe Gaudin</p> | <p>Christophe Gaudin is a Professor of Geotechnical Engineering at the University of Western Australia and Director of the Oceans Institute. Christophe has been working with industry, federal and state government, and communities over the past few years to support the development of offshore wind in Australia, leading to the creation of the Australian Centre for Offshore Wind Energy (ACOWE) which he co-founded with colleagues at the University of Melbourne.</p> |
|  <p>Zoe Jones</p> | <p>Zoe Jones is a Regulatory Specialist with the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR), based in Perth. The OIR has regulatory oversight of the offshore renewables industry in Australia with the primary functions in relation to work health and safety, infrastructure integrity, and environmental management. Zoe has over twenty years' experience in the Australian public service at Commonwealth and State levels with extensive experience in development of risk-based regulatory frameworks and is currently working for the OIR on establishment and implementation of the regulatory frameworks for offshore renewables activities.</p> |
|  <p>Tim Sawyer</p> | <p>Tim Sawyer is a Perth based freelance consultant focused on seeing offshore wind flourish in Australia and the Asia Pacific. After starting his career in oceanographic research in the UK, Tim has specialised in onshore and offshore renewable energy for the last 25 years several offshore wind, wave and tidal projects in Australia, the UK and Asia Pacific. More recently, he was Managing Director of Flotation Energy Australia and Chief International Officer of Flotation Energy Plc, setting up, building and leading its subsidiaries in Australia, Taiwan, and Japan. He holds a Bachelors (Honours) in Oceanography and Physical Geography and a Master of Business Administration (MBA).</p> |
|  <p>Andrew Gill</p> | <p>Andrew is a fish/fisheries behavioural ecologist, and has a 32+ years career, principally in applied science within the University sector. Andrew has recently been appointed as Senior Research Scientist in Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) within the UWA-led Oceans Institute. He is currently the co-Chair of ICES Working Group - Offshore Windfarm Developments and Fisheries (2020 - to date) and was a lead on the development of the regional initiative, the ICES ORE Roadmap to address future integrated science and advice on offshore renewables, fisheries and ecosystem-based interactions.</p> |
|  <p>Marcelo Silva</p> | <p>Graduate of Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the University of Cambridge, UK, with over 19 years of experience in offshore geotechnics. Currently employed at Fugro as deputy technical director, his responsibilities include supervision of the technical output of Fugro's APAC geoconsulting team. He also acts as Technical Authority on numerous projects with responsibility for guiding, reviewing and approving the geotechnical work done. Most recently, Marcelo has been appointed as Fugro's Global Geotechnical Design Solution Lead, to drive geo-data analysis and strengthen Fugro's consulting and site investigation opportunities.</p> |

Research Presenters:

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Dr Juliano Nietiedt</p> | <p>Dr Juliano Nietiedt is a Research Fellow in Geotechnical Engineering at the University of Western Australia, specialising in anchoring solutions for floating offshore wind. He has over a decade of industry and research experience, having worked as a geotechnical engineer in Australia and Brazil on offshore energy infrastructure and major onshore projects including dams, highways and railways. His work bridges practical field engineering and academic research across onshore and offshore environments. Juliano is also an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Physical Modelling in Geotechnics.</p> |
|  <p>Shane Richardson</p> | <p>Shane Richardson recently completed a Master of Renewable and Sustainable Energy at Murdoch University, achieving top academic results. His strong focus on advancing Australia's emerging offshore wind sector combined with practical offshore experience, equips him with a unique insight into the engineering and operational challenges of large-scale offshore energy projects. Currently in the role as an Offshore Maintenance Planner, Shane is looking to more-fully support Australia's clean energy transition. He also holds a Graduate Diploma in Energy and Carbon Studies from Murdoch University and a Bachelor of Arts from Edith Cowan University.</p> |
|  <p>Aidan Archer</p> | <p>Aidan is a PhD candidate at the University of Western Australia in offshore engineering, developing predictive models that will improve how forces from extreme ocean waves and currents impact offshore wind turbine structures. This will drive down costs of offshore developments. To tackle this complex problem, Aidan draws on experience delivering analytical projects across academic and industry settings, employing advanced techniques such as machine learning, numerical simulation, and optimisation.</p> |

Spaces are limited. Register now.

Fees: The workshop is free for registered attendees of WREC2026. To register for the WREC2026, please visit <https://www.wrec2026.com/registration.php>

To register for the workshop only, please visit <https://www.wrec2026.com/workshops.php>. Workshop-only registration: AU\$220 (incl. GST)

Workshop presenters are not required to submit an abstract and paper but can do so if they wish their work to be included in the WREC2026 proceedings.

Further information: J.Whale@murdoch.edu.au