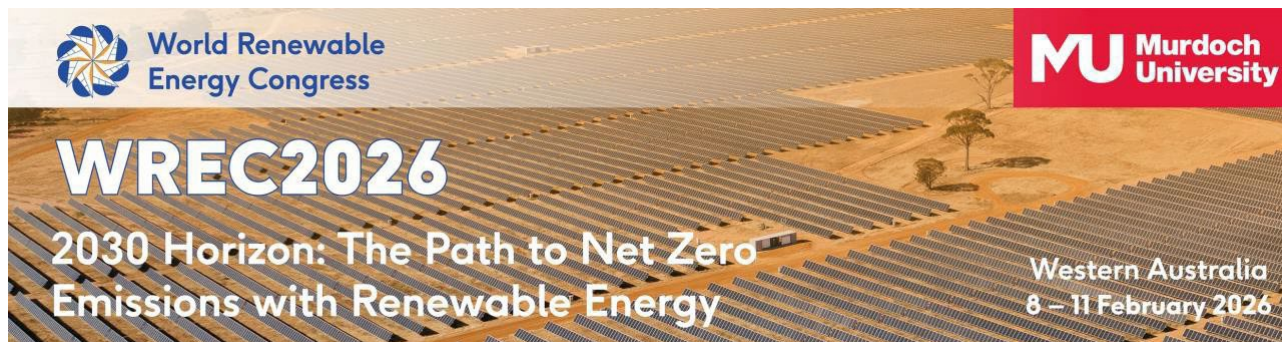




Are we ready to take the plunge?

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 (9GW by 2040) by the Victorian government, and preliminary offer of a feasibility license for a Bunbury Offshore Wind Farm. 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 from key organizations and consultants:

- 'Australian offshore wind, the journey so far' - Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR),
- 'Offshore wind in Australia: a global Industry meets a local opportunity', Tim Sawyer, Consultant
- 'Cross over between oil and gas IMR and lessons learnt from North Sea transition' - Subsea Innovation Cluster Australia (SICA)
- 'Insights into the multidisciplinary challenges faced by offshore wind and a structure to address them' - Australia Centre of Offshore Wind Energy (ACOWE)
- 'Optimised foundation engineering for the offshore wind sector' - Fugro

 75-min Presentations + 20-min Q&A

Latest research from Australian Universities

Topics include:

- Research to inform design and reduce risk for OWT foundations and anchors in Australian carbonate sediments
- Simulations of a 15MW OWT with jacket foundation in the Bunbury Offshore Wind Zone
- Nonlinear wave loads on monopiles foundations in Australian waves
- Beneath the turbine: Why jacket structures matter for Australian offshore wind, and how to make them cheaper.

 60-min Presentations + 20-min Q&A

Interactive Panel Discussion

What are the offshore wind industry's needs over the next 5-10 years and how can research grow to meet these needs?

 30-min Panel + 15-min Wrap-up

Workshop Organiser and Facilitator:



Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Whale

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.

 Sue McCarrey	Sue commenced her role as Chief Executive Officer in February 2023, representing both NOPSEMA and OIR. Prior to this, she served for eight years as the Chief Executive at the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. Sue has held a range of roles across Education, including time as a school principal, the Public Transport Authority and as Deputy Director General of Policy, Planning and Investment at the WA Department of Transport. In these roles, Sue developed experience and expertise in government policy and regulatory frameworks and risk management in safety and environmental management, which she applies in her current role.
 Tim Sawyer	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).
 Dr Colin McIver	Colin has over 30 years' experience with global consulting firms in engineering, resources and management consulting. Colin holds an engineering degree and PhD from Kings College, London. He has spent a significant part of his career establishing and running Knowledge Management and Innovation initiatives for several international companies. He has been the Cluster Manager for Subsea Innovation Cluster Australia (SICA) for several years establishing it as the trusted broker in facilitating complex collaborative subsea innovation projects.
 Prof. Christophe Gaudin	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.
 Marcelo Silva	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.
 Prof. Phil Watson	Phil is the Shell Professor of Offshore Engineering and Director of the ARC TIDE Research Hub at the University of Western Australia. He is a Fellow of ATSE and Engineers Australia, and current Chair of ISSMGE Technical Committee 209 'Offshore Geotechnics'. Phil is passionate about aligning industry and academia to solve challenges facing the offshore sector – and training tomorrow's generation of geotechnical leaders.

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.

Abstracts are due 1st September. Please submit at <https://www.wrec2026.com/abstract.php>

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