

The five experts we have invited to this panel are key players in New Zealand's efforts to align itself with the UN's SDG 7. They include:

- **Stephen Batstone**, Director of Whiteboard Energy, who will be talking about the evolution of the energy system in New Zealand, including its status now of being almost 85% renewable electricity, and the policy choices the country now faces. (steve@whiteboardenergy.co.nz)
- **Cristiano Marantes**, CEO, Ara Ake, who will be talking about energy innovation in New Zealand and considering how innovation is moving the country closer to its goal of net zero. (cristiano.marantes@araake.co.nz)
- **Antonia Burbidge**, Manager - Climate Change Commission, will talk about the role of energy and energy policy in New Zealand's efforts to address climate change and global warming. (antonia.burbidge@climatecommission.govt.nz)
- **John Campbell**, CEO and Founder, Our Energy, and **Jenny Van der Merwe**, Renewable Energy Lead at Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, who will discuss the challenges of energy hardship and justice in New Zealand, and the role of renewable energy technologies and innovation in addressing them. (john.campbell@ourenergy.co.nz and Jennifer.VanderMerwe@kaingaora.govt.nz)

Stephen Batstone is an independent strategic advisor, analyst, and educator. His work at senior management level in the private sector, consulting and local government spans energy, decarbonisation, network infrastructure, governance, and conservation. His current advisory work sees him involved at both a local and national level in investment, electricity market design, demand side flexibility, future scenarios and regional development, all through the lens of decarbonisation. In 2011 Stephen cofounded Whiteboard Energy Ltd, with a focus on rapidly improving the understanding of the electricity market and wider industry through. He and Whiteboard cofounder David Reeve also produced the four-part documentary "Powering New Zealand", a unique look at New Zealand's historical leadership in the development of energy systems, available at whiteboardenergy.co.nz/powering-nz/.

Cristiano Marantes is the CEO of Ara Ake (New Zealand's Future Energy Centre), a role he started in September 2020. Having worked in different international markets, Cristiano is a highly experienced energy sector leader with an extensive engineering background and an informed worldview on the potential of technologies and business opportunities that will likely emerge in a low emissions energy future. He has a life-long passion for enabling this future, through strong leadership, innovation, and knowledge of new low emissions energy solutions.

Antonia Burbidge manages the Buildings, Industry, Transport and Energy team at the Climate Change Commission. Her career has been in the public service, specifically focused on energy and climate change policy, both in Aotearoa New Zealand and in the UK. The Climate Commission provides independent, evidence-based advice to Government on mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects. The Commission also monitors and reviews the Government's progress towards its emissions reductions and adaptation goals.

John Campbell leads Our Energy, creator and designer of an online local energy market platform. Our Energy's software and service matches small-scale generators of clean energy with customers in their local communities in real time, providing an easy way to buy, sell and gift clean, local energy. Our

Energy stands for a better, fairer, cleaner and more local energy future and his team are passionate about creating a world where community-driven energy is affordable, reliable and sustainable for all. John is a committed advocate for more open, flexible and equal access electricity markets as a key part of New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy. In 2015, a summertime run, a roadside box of butternut pumpkins, and a lifestyle block kitted out with solar panels and a small wind turbine led John to ask: if a farmer's pumpkins can be sold to the local community, why can't energy?

Jenny van der Merwe is a public housing professional and Renewable Energy Lead at Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities. A background in Industrial Engineering, Public Management and a passion for the environment have shaped Jenny's approach to the development of the renewable energy programme at Kāinga Ora.