

Energy 21C Conference, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre
Media Alert for 8.30 am Monday 12 November 2007

Critical issues about powering Australia's future as we confront climate change

The energy industry's response to the rising spectre of climate change and development of new, more efficient models of electricity and gas delivery will be the focus of a major conference starting in Sydney on Monday morning (November 12).

The Energy 21C conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre will address Australia's need to develop world-class infrastructure and advanced power systems as new environmental and regulatory demands come into effect.

It is the premier energy conference in the southern hemisphere with more than 1,400 industry leaders from around the world gathering in Sydney to probe new frontiers in the reliable and secure supply of gas and electricity.

Conference Chairman, Robert Smith, said issues being discussed at the event would impact on the lifestyles and energy choices of all Australians.

Environmental issues will be at the fore of this conference with an opening summit dedicated to mounting international concern about global warming and changing consumer attitudes towards environmental sustainability.

Internationally acclaimed scientist, author and Australian of the Year, **Professor Tim Flannery**, will be the keynote speaker of the introductory summit with interaction between State Ministers responsible for energy and industry leaders.

The Energy 21C summit will be from 8.30 am to 10.30 am on Monday in the Parkside Auditorium at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Media representatives are invited to attend this summit and to film in the Parkside Auditorium as critical issues in energy supply and delivery are addressed and debated by key decision makers.

Please come to the Energy 21C registration desk in the foyer of the Convention Centre before 8.30am on Monday.

Professor Tim Flannery will be available for a short time after the opening summit (concluding at 10.30 am) to address questions from media representatives.

Contacts:

**Conference Chairman, Robert Smith, on 0407 412 181
Energy 21C Media Relations, Trevor Gill on 0418 821948**

Insights into Prof. Flannery's address to Energy 21C

Professor Tim Flannery is the author of the best selling book *The Weather Makers*, which has been translated into more than 20 languages.

In 2007, Professor Flannery co-founded and was appointed Chair of The Copenhagen Climate Council, a coalition of community, business, and political leaders who have come together to confront climate change.

At the Energy 21C conference, Professor Flannery will outline scientific understanding of climate change, and how quickly it is occurring.

"The problem is worse than we thought, even from a few months ago," he said. "The pollution burden in the atmosphere is occurring at a rapid rate, and time is running short to make substantial emission reductions."

Professor Flannery will reflect on global emission control treaties and highlight strategies to stay within risk parameters.

"We have to look at the challenges confronting the transmission sector as we start to diversify into other forms of energy generation including solar, wind, wave, geothermal and possibly nuclear," he said.

"The efficiency of the energy sector is also a critical consideration. It is a highly regulated industry, and networks must consider how they can remain profitable while seeking to make efficiency gains, including asking customers to use less electricity.

"We also need to focus on what sort of capital investments can be made by governments to improve energy grids in Australia to meet customer expectations."

Hosted by EnergyAustralia and Integral Energy, the Energy 21C conference will be presented in the following streams:

- Asset management and forecasts of future demand and infrastructure needs;
- Business and regulation against the spectre of climate change;
- Demand management and advanced metering infrastructure;
- Customer expectations and solutions;
- Energy delivery capability with a particular focus on the development and sustainability of professional and technical skills and capacity;
- Technical regulation and standardisation; and
- Gas network management.

The conference will run from Monday morning to Wednesday afternoon. For more information on the conference go to www.energy21c.com.au

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