

Energy 21C Media Release  
June 2007

## Sydney conference will provide valuable insights into change in the energy industry

Mounting international concern about global warming and changing consumer attitudes towards environmental sustainability will be key drivers of change in the energy industry over the next decade.

The Energy 21C conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 11 to 14 November 2007 will provide expert insights into how energy networks may respond to the drivers of change, including governments, key geopolitical organisations, business leaders and consumers.

Conference Chairman, Bob Smith, said media attention and political policy direction was now firmly focused on a greenhouse gas abatement solution through price signalling and market discipline of a carbon trading system.

However, he said networks would need to embrace a range of strategies to satisfy new demands in the “shadow of the greenhouse giant.”

“The conference will explore how innovative new directions in network demand management, energy efficiency and customer incentives may be incorporated into a future in which carbon trading moves to centre stage,” Mr Smith said.

Energy 21C organisers have dedicated an opening summit and a principal stream of the conference to the climate change challenge.

Climate change authority, internationally acclaimed scientist, author and Australian of the Year, Professor Tim Flannery, will be one of the keynote speakers and a person who will shape the strategic planning of energy networks.

Professor Flannery is the author of the best selling book, *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing The Climate And What It Means For Life On Earth*.

“We are thrilled to have a person of Professor’s Flannery’s calibre involved in Energy 21C to demonstrate the commitment of the energy sector to a sustainable future,” Mr Smith said.

“The Prime Minister, John Howard, and the Opposition Leader, Kevin Rudd, have also been invited to participate in the conference opening summit, along with responsible State and Territory Ministers.”

Mr Smith said the summit would be followed with a plenary session addressing the topic of changing customer needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“We are in an industry in which technological and regulatory changes are both rapid and continuous,” he said.

“Environmental issues are adding momentum to this change factor and Energy 21C will bring key people in the industry together to address the current and emerging challenges and help define the future.”

Hosted by EnergyAustralia and Integral Energy, Energy 21C is the premier electricity and gas transmission and distribution conference in the southern hemisphere, and the Sydney conference is expected to attract over 2,000 national and international delegates.

The seven principal streams of the conference are:

- 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.

For more information, visit [www.energy21c.com.au](http://www.energy21c.com.au) or contact the Conference Managers, Waldron Smith Management, by telephone (03) 9645 6311 or e-mail [energy21c@wsm.com.au](mailto:energy21c@wsm.com.au)