



**KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BREAKFAST FORUM  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HUNTERNET  
WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
TREEHOUSE ROOM, Shortland Building, University of Newcastle**

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<b>TIME</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
8:00 AM	SIGN-IN AND BREAKFAST SERVED WELCOME, HOUSEKEEPING	Mr Boris Novak <i>HunterNet</i>
8:10 AM	NEWH2 UPDATES	Ms Clare Sykes <i>NewH2</i>
8:20 AM	AUSTRALIAN HYDROGEN COUNCIL: OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE	Dr Fiona Simon <i>Australian Hydrogen Council</i>
8:40 AM	PORT OF NEWCASTLE: GREEN HYDROGEN HUB	Mr Ashden Saeger <i>Port of Newcastle</i>
8:55 AM	SEATA: AN EMERGING HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY	Mr Craig Bagnall Mr John Winter <i>SEATA</i>
9:15 AM	Q&A SESSION	Ms Clare Sykes <i>NewH2</i>
9:30 AM	CLOSE	Ms Clare Sykes <i>NewH2</i>

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# BIOGRAPHIES



## **Mr Boris Novak, Industry Advisor, Hunternet**

After a career as a RAAF Electrical Engineering Officer specialising in Tactical Communications-Electronics deployments and air traffic navigational aids and radars, Boris established a systems engineering company that serviced the Defence and Defence Industry for nearly 20 years in specialised command and control systems, big data analytics and machine learning, training and test ranges instrumentation, and held leadership positions in national rapid prototyping and development. Since exiting his business, he has supported HunterNet and is involved in nurturing opportunities around Energy, Resources, Infrastructure & Asset Management, Environment & Sustainability, Defence, Medtech. Boris Chairs the Hunter Hydrogen Technology Cluster.



## **Ms Clare Sykes, Cluster Manager, NewH2: Hunter Hydrogen Technology Cluster**

An Engineer with a background in resources and associated industries, Clare has worked at both operational and executive levels across both public and private sectors for more than 25 years. As Managing Director of LarkinSykes, Clare provides executive consultative services on strategy and innovation development for the resources and associated sectors. Prior roles include General Manager International Markets with METS Ignited, and senior roles within NSW Department of Industry. In March 2021, Ms Sykes was appointed Cluster Manager for NewH2.



## **Dr Fiona Simon, CEO: Australian Hydrogen Council.**

Fiona Simon is the CEO of the Australian Hydrogen Council (AHC), the peak body for the Australian hydrogen industry. AHC connects the hydrogen industry and its stakeholders in building a secure, clean and resilient energy future based on hydrogen. AHC's members are from a range of sectors, including energy, transport, consulting, banking and technology. Prior to joining the Australian Hydrogen Council, Fiona worked for close to 20 years in energy policy and regulation, specialising in energy retail competition and consumer protection matters. Fiona holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Melbourne. She has published a well-regarded academic book on retail energy regulation in Australia.



## **Ashden Saegel Port of Newcastle**

Ashden is the Commercial Manager at the Port of Newcastle and leads the energy precinct developments including the Port of Newcastle Green Hydrogen Hub. Ashden brings a broad range of commercial and infrastructure experience, and has passion for logistics and energy. Prior to joining the Port of Newcastle, Ashden project managed the rail haulage deal process at Pacific National in the commercial and pricing team. Prior to that, Ashden spent 5 years in professional services covering Corporate Finance, Insolvency and Restructuring. Ashden holds a Bachelor of Applied Finance and is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.



## **Mr John Winter, Director Engineering and Technical SEATA Group**

John is a consulting chemical and process engineer with over 25 years in heavy industry, and is the inventor of a number of patented processes including SEATA thermal treatment technology, the Continuous Leach Process, and processing of metal chloride solutions including a novel method for the reduction of iron. He has been involved with the development of a number of minerals beneficiation technologies including fluid bed roasting, calcination, agglomeration, gasification and pyrohydrolysis. Also a 5th generation farmer, John has both a practical and academic appreciation for the critical importance of carbon in soils, and its pivotal potential role in mitigating climate change. His current focus is on economical processing of sustainable and wasted resources into hydrogen and functional carbon commodities to assist agriculture, animal feedstocks, and many engineering applications.



## **Mr Craig Bagnall, Director Environment & Regulatory, SEATA Group**

Craig leads environmental approvals for SEATA and development of market applications for carbon commodities and drawdown. He is a consulting engineer with over 25 years in mining, industrial and solid waste sectors, and serves on the Technical Advisory and Executive Boards of the *Australian and New Zealand Biochar Industry Group*. Craig led the industry's submissions to the national Bioenergy and Technology Investment Roadmaps; submissions for new CCUS methods for the Emissions Reduction Fund; and assisted development of the new ANZ Code of Practice for sustainable production, classification and use of carbon chars. He is a proud Novocastrian and graduate of the University of Newcastle and loves working with inspired people. Craig has two young children who regularly provide the drive to act on climate change



*NewH2 – Hunter Hydrogen Technology Cluster is part of a national initiative and works to support the emerging hydrogen economy in NSW by facilitating connections and knowledge sharing throughout the state and beyond*

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