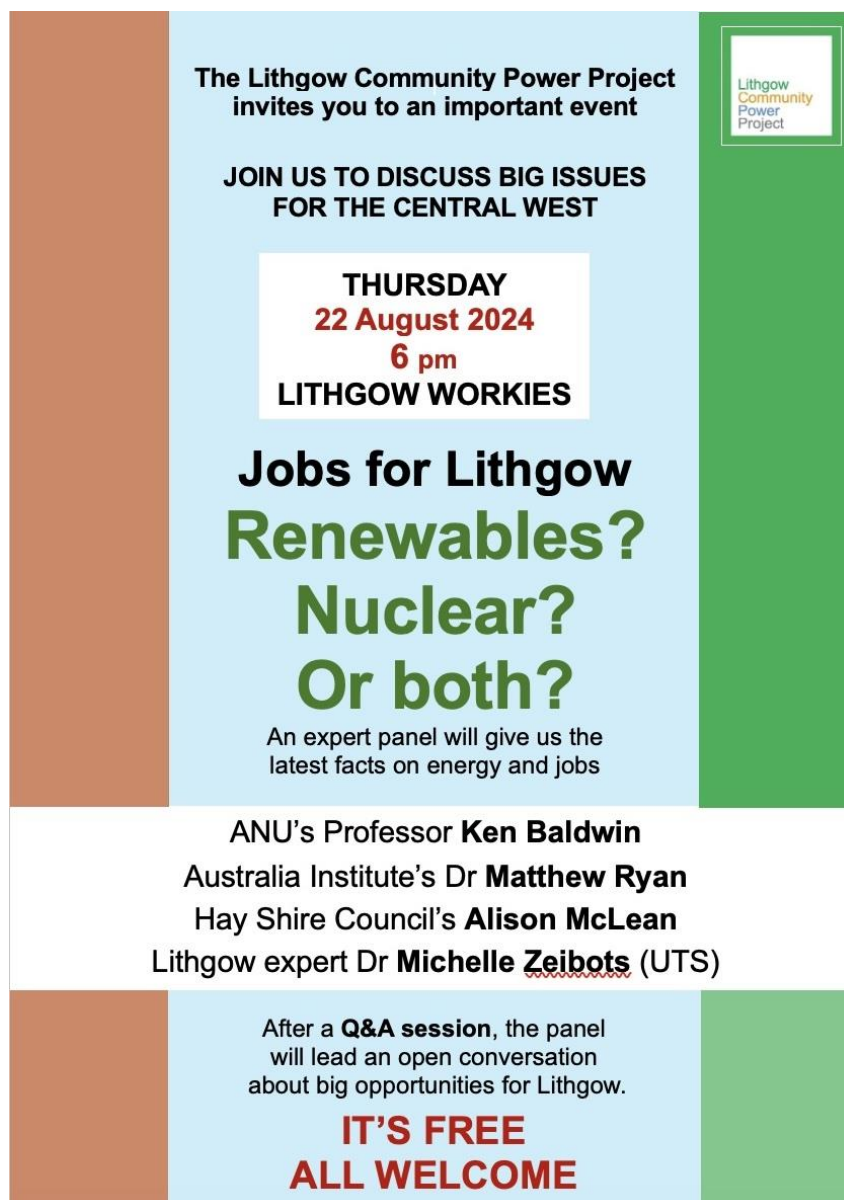


## Outstanding expert panel for 22 August event

Professor **Ken Baldwin** researches future energy at the Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions at **ANU**. He was the inaugural Director of the Energy Change Institute and founding Director of the ANU Grand Challenge: *Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific*. He is a graduate of the ANU (BSc Hons 1977, MSc 1979) and Imperial College, London (PhD, DIC 1983), and of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (2021). In 2021 he was recognised by the ANU with the Chancellor's award for Distinguished Contribution to the University. The main focus of his current work is to help drive the energy transition, particularly for Australia's future export industries based on renewable energy.



The Lithgow Community Power Project invites you to an important event

JOIN US TO DISCUSS BIG ISSUES FOR THE CENTRAL WEST

**THURSDAY**  
**22 August 2024**  
**6 pm**  
**LITHGOW WORKIES**


**Jobs for Lithgow  
Renewables?  
Nuclear?  
Or both?**

An expert panel will give us the latest facts on energy and jobs

ANU's Professor **Ken Baldwin**  
Australia Institute's Dr **Matthew Ryan**  
Hay Shire Council's **Alison McLean**  
Lithgow expert Dr **Michelle Zeibots** (UTS)

After a **Q&A session**, the panel will lead an open conversation about big opportunities for Lithgow.

**IT'S FREE**  
**ALL WELCOME**



**Dr Matthew Ryan** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Climate & Energy Program of the **Australia Institute**. Matthew's research background is in political economy and environmental history. He has written on Australian political economy, neoliberalism, environmental justice, and energy transitions. Prior to joining the Australia Institute, he worked as a sessional academic and researcher at several Australian universities. Matthew holds a PhD in Political Economy from The University of Sydney, as well as degrees in politics, and economic history, from the universities of New England and Cambridge.

**Alison McLean** is economic development manager at **Hay Shire Council**. Her council was in one of five declared NSW renewable energy zones where projects would be concentrated. Alison knew that millions of dollars in developer funds for the local community might follow. For her region of marginal land, with a proud farming history but also a shrinking population, McLean saw this as a big opportunity, maybe the biggest since Hay was founded on the Murrumbidgee River more than 150 years ago. For her town of 3000 people to have any say over the juggernaut coming down the highway, Alison realised that there had to be a plan, and not just a council plan. So the council invited 12 well-known locals to a meeting to discuss how the whole community might respond to the REZ. The council then sought community feedback to produce a set of principles to guide negotiations with renewables companies. Rather than being overrun by companies making competing offers, the council also decided to write a 10-year strategy for the region. It has asked residents to propose "generational change" projects, perhaps in education, health or aged care, that a potential \$2 million in annual community benefit funds might support. In a bold move, the council invited nine developers – including big multinational and Australian companies – to a meeting and asked them to back its 10-year strategy. All agreed (Excerpt from SMH Good Weekend, 20/7/24).

Dr **Michelle Zeibots** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney (**UTS**) in the School of Civil Engineering where she teaches transportation planning and engineering. Her current research focuses on the need for rapid electrification of Australia's transport networks given rising oil prices. She is the lead author of Lithgow City Council's electric vehicle strategy and is working with the Lithgow Community Power Project to advocate for faster and higher frequency rail services for Lithgow and the Central West.