

## 2024 AARES WA Environmental Policy Lecture

### Towards a Fair, Equitable, and Sustainable Offshore Wind Industry for Australia

Associate Professor Michelle Voyer

#### Abstract

Equity is central to the global energy transition and the development of offshore renewable energy infrastructure. From an intergenerational equity perspective, we hold the responsibility not only to achieve decarbonisation and meet global net-zero targets, but also to ensure that these advancements are sustainable and equitable. Offshore wind, as a new and rapidly emerging industry, offers a unique opportunity to foster innovative, equity-driven approaches to infrastructure development. However, without careful governance, it risks perpetuating 'business as usual' practices. This presentation critically examines the policy frameworks shaping Australia's offshore wind sector, exploring how governance can unlock opportunities to optimise environmental, social, and economic outcomes. Emphasising the importance of interdisciplinary approaches—particularly the integration of social sciences—this talk underscores the need for holistic strategies to ensure offshore wind realises its full potential for people, the planet, and the oceans.

#### Event Details

Time: Wednesday, 6th of November at 4:00 PM AWST/Perth time.

Online webinar (registration required): [Register here.](#)

#### Associate Professor Michelle Voyer

Associate Professor Michelle Voyer is a Principal Research Fellow with the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) and the inaugural Keira Endowed Chair in Energy Futures at the University of Wollongong. Building on a ten year career in Australian state and federal government, Michelle's research focuses primarily on the human dimensions of marine conservation and resource management, and the nexus of social science and policy. Michelle investigates the governance challenges associated with the 'Blue Economy', with a particular focus on exploring opportunities for community and Indigenous input, engagement and codesign in emerging and established maritime industries.



#### About the Lecture

This Environmental Policy Lecture is an initiative of the Western Australian Branch of the [Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society \(AARES WA\)](#) and The University of Western Australia (UWA) [Oceans Institute](#). Each year, we invite a leading international speaker to discuss important environmental or natural resource issues. The series provides the opportunity for students, academics, policy and industry professionals, and members of the public to engage in topical environmental policy discussions.