



## Media Release

19 APRIL 2018

### **New members appointed to ARENA Board**

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) today welcomed the announcement by the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, of the appointment of three new members to the ARENA Board.

Outgoing board members Mr Jonathan Jutsen, Ms Maria Atkinson AM and Dr Katherine Woodthorpe AO will conclude their terms this week.

The new board members are:

- Ms Samantha Hogg is the chair of Tasmanian Irrigation and a current board member of Hydro Tasmania. Ms Hogg is the former CFO with Transurban Limited;
- Mr Dougal McOmish, Chief Executive Officer of Sundrop Farms, a pioneering sustainable agriculture company whose first facility is in South Australia; and
- Ms Stephanie Unwin, Chief Executive Officer of Phylogica, a biotech and medical devices company in Western Australia. Ms Unwin is a former general manager at retailer Synergy and general counsel at Verge Energy. She is a current board member of Zenith Energy.

The three new appointees join three current board members including ARENA Chair Martijn Wilder AM, Ms Meg McDonald and Ms Susan Jeanes who have been reappointed.

The ARENA Board is appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Energy to two year terms.

ARENA Chair Martijn Wilder thanked the outgoing board members for their contribution.

“I would like to extend my thanks to all our outgoing board members Maria, Katherine and Jonathan for their efforts over the last two years including their work to set the ARENA’s investment priorities which include grid security and reliability, accelerating solar PV, energy productivity and exporting renewables.

“In the last two years, ARENA has had a significant impact - running the \$92 million competitive round for large scale solar, a \$36 million demand response trial with AEMO and the NSW Government. ARENA has also contributed funding to major pumped hydro

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feasibility studies, grid scale batteries in Victoria and South Australia and early stage research and development of solar PV and hydrogen,” he said.

“We are delighted to welcome our new board members to ARENA, who bring with them many years of collective wisdom drawn from leadership roles across the energy sector and from working in innovative businesses across the country.”

ARENA Chief Executive Officer Ivor Frischknecht also thanked the outgoing board members for their contributions, and welcomed the new board members.

“ARENA has busy years ahead, with a very promising pipeline of projects ranging from virtual power plants to waste-to-energy projects, so we look forward to working with the new board to power ahead and continue building on what we’ve accomplished over the last six years,” he said.

“ARENA is sitting at the forefront of the transformation of Australia’s energy system, so this is an exciting time for a new board to join us on our journey to accelerate Australia’s smooth transition to a renewable energy future.”

“The new board members bring with them expertise in leading innovation in agriculture, biotechnology and the electricity sector so we’re excited for the future.”

**For further information, visit [www.arena.gov.au](http://www.arena.gov.au)**