

January/February 2024



**MACQUARIE**  
University  
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

**SMART GREEN CITIES  
RESEARCH CENTRE**



## NEWSLETTER

### Executive Update

#### Members join us for our inaugural Smart Green Cities event for 2024!

2023 was a great year for Smart Green Cities. Our funding program supported 5 seeding grants and 10 summer student scholarships. Activities included 4 workshops, 4 Thought Leadership discussions, 3 Industry events and co-hosting an international guest speaker with MQ Transforming Energy Markets.

*2024 is going to be even better!*

We welcome new and existing members to join us for our **2024 Kickoff meeting, 27 February, 1000-1230 in 25WW C1.22 (Arts Precinct)**. We will hear updates on 2023 initiatives, launch the 2024 program, and of course there will be plenty of opportunity to meet and network.

**Want to join us?** If you received our calendar invite, please respond for catering purposes (morning tea and lunch provided). Alternatively, RSVP to [smartgreencities@mq.edu.au](mailto:smartgreencities@mq.edu.au) with any dietary requirements. New members welcome so please invite colleagues and students who may be interested!

#### Member Survey

We want to hear about your 2023 experiences with Smart Green Cities. Did you enjoy the events and activities? Find new partnership opportunities? Get some great research ideas? Please complete the 2-minute survey ahead of kick-off discussions 27 February, *particularly if you are unable to attend*.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LN9VGKL>

#### Strategic Plan

Inspired by our early workshops, the Executive Group has continued to develop the Centre's strategic plan and governance structure. We look forward to sharing an update with members at the 2024 Kick off and hearing your input and feedback as we prepare to roll out activities and programs in 2024.

#### Executive Team update

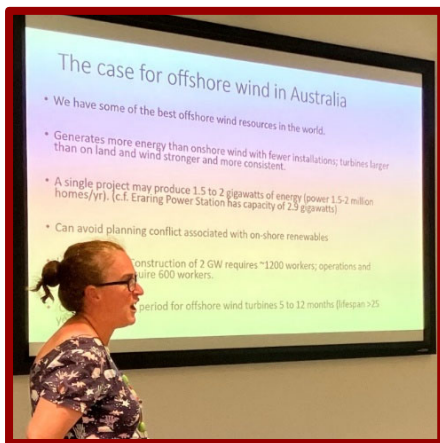
We take this opportunity to thank Professor Darren Bagnall as he steps down from his role on the Executive Team at the end of 2023. Darren came onto the team as Sustainable Energy Leader. We wish him well for a very busy year in the UK.

# Activities:

## Drone Technology & Applications – An Industry Workshop: Professors Richard Han & Michael Sheng

We were excited to host the Drone Technology Workshop on 22 November 2023. Over 80 staff and Industry guests heard more about the use of drones in Smart Green Cities, exchanging ideas and thoughts around both recent Drone developments and Industry challenges.

The DroneLab prototypes presented attracted a lot of enthusiastic questions and answers on the day.



## Thought Leadership - Offshore Energy: Professor Melanie Bishop

Our final 2023 event considered our oceans' tremendous potential to provide clean energy and was a wonderful introduction to offshore renewables. The benefits and challenges were extremely interesting with an overlap on so many of our themes. We are looking forward to seeing how Australia embraces these technologies going forward and what we can contribute to this discussion.

# Diary Dates – Upcoming SGC activities

**27 February 2024, 10.00am-1pm 25WW C1.22 (Arts Precinct)**

## 2024 Kick Off – 2024 Brainstorming

Current and new members join together in our annual workshop looking to the year ahead. Bring your cross disciplinary project and event ideas to share. Discuss suggested priorities for workshops and funding with the view of aligning activities to our Strategic Plan. Morning tea & lunch provided.

**21 March 2024 TBC**

## AI & Data Security – An Industry Workshop – Professor Michael Sheng

Macquarie University & Industry Staff will talk about AI technology and applications for Smart Green Cities, highlighting the University's unique research capabilities and the pros and cons of AI. Details TBC

## Other Opportunities:

### NSSN Sensing the West Forum



Wednesday 13th March, Western Sydney University, Parramatta City campus. The forum will explore [smart sensing opportunities for Western Sydney and NSW](#). Government, industry and academic participants will together identify smart sensing project concepts that address identified needs in four broad thematic areas: planning, development and construction, service delivery and people and the environment.

The [SmartNSW Case Study Library](#) has resources and opportunities to help you create vibrant smart places. Currently **Transport NSW Vibrant Streets Package** will support local councils with up to \$150,000 to temporarily close streets to vehicles and open them up for free community events and activities to support community connection. Applications close 30 April 2024.

Greener Spaces Better Places is a movement that brings together community, growers, government, business, and everyday people just like you to make our homes, streets, and suburbs the greenest in the world. <https://www.greenerpacesbetterplaces.com.au/> has plenty of ideas to help you create a greener home or suburb.

## Member News:

**Distinguished Professor Michelle Leishman** talked to Craig Reucassel about recycled water use on [702 ABC Sydney](#) about a new project poised to deliver the formula to safely recycle water into gardens and wetlands at scale. This article also appeared in [The Lighthouse](#).

**Which Plant Where?** The Saturday Age plugged free online climate-ready plant selector tool developed by Macquarie University, University of Western Sydney & Hort Innovation. [From the ground up](#) | The Saturday Age (Jan 27, 2024)

**Professor Melanie Bishop** talked to Australian Geographic about the *Living Seawalls Project* <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2024/02/new-spaces-for-ocean-life/> **Australian Geographic** (Licensed by Copyright Agency)

**Associate Professor Paul Beggs** is celebrating the #1 paper in Macquarie University's Altmetric Scores for December 2023. The [paper](#) most shared, mentioned, read & reviewed online including social media. *Romanello M, di Napoli C, Green C, et al. The 2023 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: the imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms. The Lancet 2023;* published online Nov 14. <https://lnkd.in/qkdDkDdF>

**Professor Cathy Sherry** wrote about the rise of private residential communities in relation to Sydney's housing crisis. [Two missing words explain why Sydney's making a terrible housing mistake](#) **The Sydney Morning Herald** (Licensed by Copyright Agency.)

**Professor Cathy Sherry** talked about the risk of e-bikes in apartment building fires  
Print: [Strata bodies seek bans on electric bicycles, scooters](#) | The Sydney Morning Herald (Feb 05, 2024 )

You can contribute to the Smart Green Cities Newsletter by emailing stories and events to: [smartgreencities@mq.edu.au](mailto:smartgreencities@mq.edu.au)