



5th annual

WOMEN in ENGINEERING SUMMIT 2026

20-22 October
Sydney
Masonic Centre

Developing the skills and overcoming the barriers to drive engineering excellence

Speakers include:



Sydney
WATER

Louise Beer
Head of Water, Environment &
Infrastructure
Sydney Water



agl

Demi Athanasopoulos
Head of Engineering &
Projects (Gas & Renewables)
AGL



Cochlear

Alex Stonehouse
Director of Manufacturing
Cochlear



JOHN
HOLLAND

Michael Marix-Evans
Chief Engineer
John Holland



western
power

Janica Lukas
Acting Head of Grid
Transformation
Western Power



NSW
Transport
for NSW

Upuli Indigahamaditta
Senior Manager Asset
Strategy (Power & Energy)
Transport for NSW



Downer

Sylvia Iskander
Electrical Engineering
Discipline Manager
Downer



Resmed

Jennifer Fishburne
Director - Materials
Engineering
Resmed



smec

Helen Baxter-Carter
Technical Principal -
Engineering Geologist
SMEC



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Katherine Richards
Chief Engineer
Engineers Australia



CITY OF SYDNEY

Michaela Kemp
Chief Engineer
City of Sydney



AECOM

Heidi Sick
Managing Director - Energy
AECOM



PacificBlue

Niluksha Herath
Executive Manager -
Engineering
Pacific Blue Australia



InfraBuild

Erika Karbassi
Senior Environmental
Engineer
InfraBuild



bp

Beatriz Toribio López
Head of Asset
Management - APAC
Lightsource bp

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Group discounts up to 25% apply!

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The **Women in Engineering Summit** returns for its fifth year, and this year the conversation goes deeper.

Shaped by candid interviews with engineering leaders across Australia, the 2026 program moves beyond career tips and inspiration to address what is happening in the profession: where women stall, why the numbers fall off at senior levels, and what organisations and individuals can do to genuinely change the outcomes.

Over two days in Sydney, you will hear from women who have navigated these realities first-hand. Not to present a polished version of success, but to share the decisions, detours, and the clarity that shaped their careers. The program is structured around six themes that cut across disciplines, seniority levels, and industry sectors.

This is an event for engineers at every career stage, from those early in their careers looking for honest guidance, to those further along who know there is still work to do.

Our Advisory Board:



Stephanie Hart
Mechanical Engineer
Resmed



Kristina de Ambrosis
Head of Business
Systems Assurance
Acciona



Sonia Holzheimer
Principal Building
Services Engineer
Sequal Consulting



Jennifer Fishburne
Director - Materials
Engineering
Resmed



Eva Cheung
Head of School, Professional
Practice & Leadership
UTS



Gowthami Gade
SAP Functional Specialist
Sydney Water



Nina Lee
Senior Associate - Structures
BG&E



Helen Baxter-Carter
Technical Principal -
Engineering Geologist
SMEC



Upuli Indigahamaditta
Senior Manager
Governance and Control
Transport for NSW



7 Reasons to Attend

- 1 Hear from engineers who have navigated the real barriers to seniority, not just those who made it look easy
- 2 Get practical strategies for building visibility in environments not designed with you in mind
- 3 Understand where women commonly stall in their careers and what changes the outcome
- 4 Engage with the conversations the industry needs to be having, in a room where they can be said honestly
- 5 Connect with peers across disciplines and industries working through the same challenges
- 6 Leave with a clearer sense of where the profession is heading and the role you can play in shaping it
- 7 Deep dive into emerging industry disruptions such as climate risk, and the role of AI in the future of engineering

Additional speakers include:



Jennifer Fishburne
Director - Materials Engineering
Resmed



Ingrid Fuentes
General Manager - Enterprise Risk & Resilience
Energy Queensland



Felicity Galluzzo
Director of Power & Energy
WSP



Praema Ranga
ACEA Product Services Manager
Boeing Defence Australia



Madeeha Arsalan
Senior Structural Engineer
Elecnor Australia



Nina Lee
Senior Associate - Structures
BG&E



Emily She
Lead Process Engineer
Atlas Engineering Group



Maliha Alam
Senior Telecommunications Engineer
Electranet



Stephanie Hart
Mechanical Engineer
Resmed



Vaishali Haria
Overhead Line Equipment Engineer
Donnelly Rail System



Melissa Taylor
Lead - Asset Management System & Standards
TasNetworks



Monique Alfris
Manager - Net Zero Plan 2035 Taskforce
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Hilda Lee
Senior Project Manager
AtkinsRéalis



John Georgaklis
Senior Mechanical Engineer | Project Manager
Stantec



Emma Doherty
Senior Director (Transport)
KBR



Lorraine Welsh
Electrical Engineering Team Lead - BlueScope Steel
BlueScope



Olivia Miraz
Associate Dean - Engagement, Faculty of Engineering, Computing & Science
Western Sydney University



Karen Whelan
Associate Dean - Teaching & Learning (Faculty of Engineering & IT)
University of Technology (UTS)



Manju Puthanveetil
Senior Manager - Civil & Structural Design
Transgrid



Alison Every
Director - STEM
Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering (ATSE)



Stacy Curtis
Director - Civil & Transport Infrastructure
ADG Engineers



Yatong Nie
Digital Engineering Manager
Gamuda Australia



Rick Kreeck
Director - Specialist
BG&E



Meg Fanning
Advisor
ConnellGriffin



Jade Loyzaga
Senior Engineering Director
Canva



Bronwyn Williams
Keynote Speaker, Mentor, PhD Researcher



Amireh Amirmazaheri
Chief Executive Officer & Founder
PMO Solutions



Olga Mikhaylova
Engineering Director- VIC & TAS
CPB Contractors



Agenda Day 1 ► Wednesday, 21 October 2026

08:15 Registration & welcome coffee

08:50 Opening remarks from the chair



Jennifer Fishburne
Director - Materials Engineering
Resmed

09:00 **How to build a career where your leadership potential is never wasted**



Janica Lukas
Acting Head of Grid Transformation
Western Power

09:30 Panel Discussion: **The mid-career moment: where engineering careers stall and what changes the outcome**

Moderator:



Madeeha Arsalan
Senior Structural Engineer
Elecnor Australia

Panellists:



Demi Athanasopoulos
Head of Engineering & Projects (Gas & Renewables)
AGL



Nina Lee
Senior Associate - Structures
BG&E



Emily She
Lead Process Engineer
Atlas Engineering Group



Maliha Alam
Senior Telecommunications Engineer
Electranet

10:20 Morning tea and networking

What retention vs advancement looks like

11:00 **Highlighting what organisations are doing to support gender equity when the obvious policies are already in place**



Stephanie Hart
Senior Mechanical Engineer
Resmed

11:30 Panel Discussion: **How women are finding ways to remain in technical roles rather than drifting into support functions**

Moderator:



Upli Indigahamaditta
Senior Manager Asset Strategy, Power & Energy
Transport for NSW

Panellists:



Sylvia Iskander
Electrical Engineering Discipline Manager
Downer



Erika Karbassi
Senior Environmental Engineer
Infrabuild



Overhead Line
Equipment Engineer
Donnelly Rail Systems



Melissa Taylor
Lead - Asset Management System & Standards
TasNetworks



Katherine Richards
Chief Engineer
Engineers Australia

12:20 Lunch and networking

Insights into building a non-linear career

13:20 **Building a career on instinct, courage and calculated risk**



Monique Alfris
Manager - Net Zero Plan 2035 Taskforce
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Beyond the toolbox: what moves the needle on careers

13:50 Panel Discussion: **Visibility by design: getting seen for the right work at the right time**

Moderator:



Jennifer Fishburne
Director - Materials Engineering
ResMed

Panellists:



Emma Doherty
Senior Director (Transport)
KBR



Jade Loyzaga
Senior Engineering Director
Canva



Beatriz Toribio López
Head of Asset Management APAC
Lightsource bp



Kate Leone
Procurement Lead and Project Engineer
UGL

14:30 Afternoon tea

Developing credibility on your own terms

15:00 **Building authority without becoming someone you're not**



Olga Mikhaylova
Engineering Director - VIC & TAS
CPB Contractors

15:30 **Finding your way into the networks that matter: when 30 years of shared projects isn't your starting point**



Helen Baxter-Carter
Technical Principal - Engineering Geologist
SMEC

16:00 Fireside Chat: **What I'd do differently: an honest, unscripted conversation about the decisions, detours and moments of clarity that shaped the careers in this room**

Facilitator:



Hilda Lee
Senior Project Manager
AtkinsRéalis

Special Guest:



Michaela Kemp
Chief Engineer
City of Sydney

Special Guest:



Meg Fanning
Advisor
ConnellGriffin



Emily Louie
Senior Structural Engineer
Northrop Consulting Engineers

16:50 Closing remarks from the chair

17:00 Networking drinks

18:30 Networking dinner



REGISTER TODAY!

Groups discounts up to 25% apply!

Agenda Day 2 ▶ Thursday, 22 October 2026

08:15 Registration & welcome coffee

08:50 Opening remarks from the chair



Praema Ranga
ACEA Product Services Manager
Boeing Defence Australia

09:00 **Building credibility on your own terms: what it takes to be seen, heard and advance in your engineering career**



Alex Stonehouse
Director of Manufacturing
Cochlear

Changing the room

09:30 Panel Discussion: **How to bring the people who most need to hear this conversation into the room**

Moderator:



Louise Beer
Head of Water,
Environment &
Infrastructure
Sydney Water

Panellists:



Heidi Sick
Managing Director
Energy
AECOM



Lorraine Welsh
Electrical Engineering
Team Lead - BlueScope
Steel
BlueScope



Felicity Galluzzo
Director of Power &
Energy
WSP



Olivia Miraz
Associate Dean -
Engagement, Faculty of
Engineering, Computing
& Science
Western Sydney University

10:20 Morning tea and networking

11:00 **Allyship in practice versus what it looks like on a values statement**



Rick Kreeck
Director - Specialist
BG&E

11:40 Panel Discussion: **Strategies for having the ally conversation in a way that moves things forward**

Moderator:



Praema Ranga
ACEA Product Services
Manager
Boeing Defence Australia



Karen Whelan
Associate Dean Teaching &
Learning (Faculty of
Engineering & IT)
**University of Technology
(UTS)**



Manju Puthanveetil
Senior Manager -
Civil & Structural
Design
Transgrid



Michael Marix-Evans
Chief Engineer
John Holland



John Georgaklis
Senior Mechanical
Engineer | Project
Manager
Stantec

12:30 Lunch and networking

Engineer. Full stop.

13:30 **Authenticity as a professional strategy: why audiences, clients and colleagues are increasingly drawn to the real over the polished**



Alison Every
Director - STEM
**Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering
(ATSE)**

14:00 **Focusing on how to keep momentum inside your organisation when the external climate is working against you**



Stacy Curtis
Director - Civil & Transport Infrastructure
ADG Engineers

14:30 **Mastering risk management: how to make better decisions when the stakes are real**



Ingrid Fuentes
General Manager - Enterprise Risk & Resilience
Energy Queensland

15:00 Afternoon tea & networking

Emerging trends and the future of engineering

15:30 **How AI is changing the playing field for engineers: What you need to know, and what you need to do**



Yatong Nie
Digital Engineering Manager
Gamuda Australia

16:00 **From planning to delivery: Navigating system resilience in large-scale transmission and renewable energy projects**



Niluksha Herath
Executive Manager - Engineering
Pacific Blue Australia

16:30 Closing remarks & conference adjourns



REGISTER TODAY!

Groups discounts up to 25% apply!

Pre-Summit Masterclasses

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Separately
Bookable

Available to book separately or as part of your 3-day conference pass.

Masterclasses run 9:00 to 17:00 and include morning and afternoon tea and a one-hour lunch break.

MASTERCLASS A:

Mentoring and sponsorship in the workplace: How to build the relationships that advance careers

Women in engineering develop strong technical foundations, but the relationships that determine whether that capability translates into advancement are rarely taught and almost never formalised well. The engineers who move furthest are not always the most technically accomplished. They are the ones who built the right relationships at the right time, and understood the difference between a mentor, a sponsor and a supporter before it mattered.

This one-day masterclass provides practical, skills-based training in building and managing mentoring and sponsorship relationships, tailored to the specific dynamics and career challenges of engineering environments.

Learning outcomes:

- Examining the critical distinction between mentorship, sponsorship and general support to understand which type of relationship you need at each stage of your career and why conflating them costs you time and opportunity
- Analysing your current professional relationships to identify where you have genuine mentors and sponsors, where you may have mistaken supporters for one or the other, and where the gaps are that are most limiting your advancement
- Building mentoring relationships organically through problem-solving conversations and genuine rapport to create the trust that formal mentoring arrangements rarely replicate
- Understanding how sponsorship is generated rather than requested to develop the visibility, track record and relationships that make advocacy a natural outcome rather than an awkward transaction
- Leaving with a personal relationship development plan identifying your highest-leverage connections to build or deepen and the specific actions that will move each relationship forward



Bronwyn Williams
Keynote Speaker, Mentor,
PhD Researcher



MASTERCLASS B:

Smart project management for engineers: mastering efficiency, influence and outcomes

Back by Popular Demand

In engineering, precision matters and so does how you manage your time, energy, and decisions. Yet too often, talented engineers are overwhelmed by complexity, unclear priorities, and overcommitment. The solution? Learning to think like a project leader, strategically, decisively, and efficiently.

This masterclass is designed for women in engineering who want to build real project leadership capabilities while embracing a “work smarter, not harder” mindset. You will gain practical insights and proven strategies that help you lead technical projects with confidence, influence stakeholders with clarity, and deliver outcomes without burnout.

More than just a project management lesson, this is a career-enabling experience designed to elevate how you work and live while learning project management basis.

What you will master:

Strategic planning without the overload

- Learn projects planning with a lean and outcome-driven approach
- Learn prioritisation techniques
- Smart communication that keeps projects moving forward
- Design communication techniques that reduce noise and rework
- Learning how to tailor messages based on the audience: techniques in assessing the culture and audiences

Teams & stakeholders dynamic

- Build techniques to collaborate across disciplines, manage expectations, and resolve conflicts constructively
- Lead without authority using trust, clarity, and structured delegation
- Risk-based thinking for better decisions
- Apply qualitative and quantitative risk assessment to prioritise actions smartly
- Learn the art of knowing when to act - and when not to

Performance Management without micromanagement

- Define relevant, realistic KPIs and progress measures that drive decisions, not just reporting
- Implement lightweight tracking systems for early intervention and better results

Quality Without perfectionism

- Ensure deliverables meet standards without overengineering or burnout
- Learn when “fit-for-purpose” is enough and how to explain that to stakeholders
- Reflective practice for Continuous Growth
- Learn smart techniques for project reviews and personal growth
- Use project thinking to elevate your career decisions and life planning

Three main takeaways:

- Learn a smarter approach to leading engineering projects
- Build confidence in planning, prioritising, and influencing
- Take away practical tools for both work and life



Amireh Amirmazaheri
Chief Executive Officer & Founder
PMO Solutions

Who Should Attend



General
Manager,
Engineering



Director
/ Head of
Engineering



Senior
Manager



Principal
Engineer



Senior /
Lead Project
Manager



Graduate
Engineer

Why sponsor and exhibit

The Women in Engineering Summit offers a platform to build meaningful relationships and position your organisation as an employer and solutions provider of choice. We develop consultative partnership programmes tailored to your objectives before, during and after the event, whether that is thought leadership, brand visibility, lead generation, targeted attendee introductions or informal social networking.

Key benefits of partnering:

- 1 Get in front of the senior engineers and technical leaders shaping the future of the profession and cut your sales and marketing lead time in the process.
- 2 Demonstrate your product or service, make immediate face-to-face connections and receive real-time feedback from a highly engaged audience.
- 3 Network with your target market across two days of structured and informal interaction, from main stage sessions through to the networking dinner.
- 4 Position your organisation as a genuine leader on diversity, inclusion and the future of engineering, in a room where those credentials are tested, not just announced.

For more information on ways to engage with delegates at **Women in Engineering**, please contact **Lewis Halliday** on lewish@questevents.com.au or call **+61 (0) 412 678 218**.



Registration

3 Day Standard Package

20-22 OCTOBER

Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions

One pre-conference masterclass

All networking sessions

\$4,595

2 Day Standard Package

21-22 OCTOBER

Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions

All networking sessions

\$3,595

Pre-Summit Masterclass only

21 OCTOBER

Full access to one masterclass

\$2,195

3 Day Emerging Engineering Leaders Package*

21-22 OCTOBER

Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions

One pre-conference masterclass

All networking sessions

\$3,595

2 Day Emerging Engineering Leaders Package*

21-22 OCTOBER

Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions

All networking sessions

\$2,595

Official Event Dinner

21 OCTOBER

\$225

*Emerging Leaders pricing is only available to engineering professionals with 6 years or less total experience. This will be verified by the Quest team, based on LinkedIn profile. Approval for this pricing is at the sole discretion of Quest Events.

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