

AGENDA

Tuesday 17 November 2026

Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney

OPTIONAL BREAKFAST – Australia’s data centre landscape

7:45 am	Australia’s data centre landscape: Current state, opportunities and sustainability considerations This optional breakfast session examines where the market is heading, the opportunities and constraints shaping future development, and why sustainability considerations now extend far beyond operational energy efficiency. Gain a broad understanding of the forces influencing investment, growth and industry performance.
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8:45am	Close of breakfast
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MORNING PROGRAM

8:30am	Arrival and networking
8:50am	Opening remarks from the Chair Jamie Wallis - Senior Manager, Sustainable Finance and Performance, Green Building Council of Australia
8:55am	Welcome to Country
9:00am	Icebreaker – An informal session to build your network
9:10am	Welcoming remarks from GBCA and Data Centres Australia Davina Rooney - CEO, Green Building Council of Australia and Belinda Dennett - CEO, Data Centres Australia
9:15am	Industry leaders’ panel: Growth, responsibility and the future of data centres With market demand accelerating and expectations evolving, data centre leaders face a complex mix of opportunity and responsibility. This panel of senior industry leaders will explore the biggest drivers shaping the sector and share their perspectives on where sustainability can create competitive advantage, resilience and long-term value. Kane Thornton - Head of Strategic Impact, CDC Davina Rooney - CEO, Green Building Council of Australia (Moderator) Further panellists to be confirmed
9:50am	Panel: What do government frameworks and policies mean for growth and sustainability Said Hirsh - Head of Strategy, Planning and Innovation, NSW Infrastructure David Earl - Acting Branch Head, Data Centre Energy Taskforce National Energy Transformation Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Katy Dean - Senior Policy Advisor, Green Building Council of Australia (Moderator) Further panellists to be confirmed
10:25am	Launch of GBCA’s Sustainable Data Centres Issues Paper Developed through collaboration across industry, the Sustainable Data Centres Issues Paper

identifies the sector's most significant sustainability opportunities, challenges and unresolved questions. This session formally launches the paper and explores the insights that emerged during its development, providing a foundation for discussion throughout the day.

Jorge Chapa – Chief Impact Officer, **Green Building Council of Australia**

10:50am

Morning tea

11.20am

Panel: The cost of data – the energy, water and infrastructure contribution of data centres

The rapid growth of digital infrastructure is creating new demands on energy systems, water resources and essential infrastructure. This panel discussion explores the broader impacts of data centre development and operation, examining how the sector can balance growth with responsible resource management, community expectations and long-term resilience.

Jeffrey D. Van Zetten – Chief Engineering and Design Officer, **NEXTDC**

Dena Jacobs - Executive Director – Strategy, Planning and Innovation, Infrastructure, **NSW Infrastructure**

Jamie Wallis - Senior Manager, Sustainable Finance and Performance, **Green Building Council of Australia** (Moderator)

Further panellists to be confirmed

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

12:00pm

BREAKOUT 1: The sustainability balancing act – water, energy and cooling trade-offs

Sustainability outcomes rarely exist in isolation. This session presents real-world examples and discussion with several rapid presentations including:

The energy-water nexus: Insights shaping the next chapter for NABERS

Magali Wardle - Head of Market Development, **NABERS**

Case Study: Finding the balance

Jeffrey D. Van Zetten – Chief Engineering and Design Officer, **NEXTDC**

BREAKOUT 2: Sustainable finance and investment – what will the market reward?

As sustainability expectations continue to evolve, investors, lenders and asset owners are increasingly seeking credible evidence of long-term value and risk management. This session examines the growing relationship between sustainability performance and capital allocation.

Michael Puli - Director of Sustainable Solutions Group – Australia Lead, **ING**

Michael Dolan - Senior Manager, Climate and Sustainability Practice, **Australian Sustainable Finance Institute**

Moderator: Jamie Wallis - Senior Manager – Sustainable Finance and Performance, **Green Building Council of Australia**

12:50pm

Lunch

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:55pm	BREAKOUT 3: Sustainability innovations changing data centres Innovation will play a critical role in delivering the next generation of sustainable data centres. Through a series of fast-paced presentations, industry experts address some of the sector's toughest sustainability challenges. Presentations include: Innovation 1 - The site selection tool integrating planning zones, energy, water, fibre connectivity and potential community impacts into one platform Professor Priya Rajagopalan - Associate Dean (Research and Innovation), RMIT Innovation 2 - Designing out embodied carbon Evan Smith - National Sustainability Manager - Sustainable Construction, Holcim Australia <i>Further presentations to be confirmed</i>	BREAKOUT 4: Workshop session - from social licence to community value As data centres become increasingly visible in communities across Australia, it is essential to consider true community consultation and engagement. This interactive workshop explores how sustainability initiatives can create meaningful local benefits through employment, skills development, infrastructure, resilience and community partnerships. Delegates will work together to consider what it means for a data centre to be recognised not only as essential infrastructure, but as something of value. <i>Facilitator: Kylie Cochrane - Principal, Engagement and Change Advisory, Aurecon</i>
2:45pm	Afternoon tea	
3.15pm	Solutions exchange roundtables Attendees select a relevant topic. The discussion will be curated and facilitated to focus upon possible solutions and the opportunities ahead. Roundtable topics include: • Working with the grid • Cooling innovation • Backup power • Embodied carbon and materials • Circularity • Nature • Community impact, value and local benefit • Investment, finance and ESG performance <i>Roundtable facilitators include:</i> Prameena Karunairja -Senior Sustainability Manager, Goodman Tanzin Authoi - Sustainability Manager, A W Edwards Suzi Davies - Manager - Climate Change and Sustainability Services, EY Gary Wertheimer – Director, GIW Environmental Solutions Callum Burgess – Senior Sustainability Engineer, Perspektiv	
3:50pm	Roundtable report back: Insights from the room A rapid report back capturing the strongest opportunity, barrier and insight from each table.	

4:05pm

Panel: Designing and building the next generation of sustainable data centres

What will a leading sustainable data centre look like in 2035? This future-focused plenary explores how designers, operators, developers and sustainability leaders are rethinking energy, cooling, embodied carbon, water, resilience and nature considerations to create facilities that are ready for the demands of an increasingly digital world. Delegates will hear how today's decisions can shape the next generation of high-performing, future-ready data centres.

Panellists include:

Stacey Johnson - Associate Director, **Sustainability, AirTrunk**

Simone Concha - Head of ESG, **Richard Crookes Construction**

Jorge Chapa – Chief Impact Officer, **Green Building Council of Australia** (Moderator)

4:45pm

Reflections for the future: From conversation to impact

Davina Rooney – CEO, **Green Building Council of Australia**

5:00pm

Networking drinks reception and industry connections
