

SafeREnergy Hub Annual Symposium 2026



Deakin Downtown
Level 12, Tower 2, 727 Collins Street, Melbourne



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

DAY 1 PROGRAM

9:00am - 10:00am	Welcome tea/coffee
10:00am - 10:15am	Symposium Opening / Welcome <i>Prof. Nick Birbilis, Executive Dean, SEBE, Deakin University</i> <i>Prof. Ying (Ian) Chen, Hub Director, Deakin University</i> <i>Housekeeping - Matthew Nye, Deakin University</i>
Session 1	Guest presenter + node updates Chair - Prof. Ian Chen
10:15am - 10:50am	Advanced Materials for Energy Storage Applications Invited speaker - Prof. Hongxia Wang, Australian Laureate Fellow & Professor, School of Chemistry & Physics, QUT
10:50am - 11:10am	University of Queensland Update Prof. Ian Gentle, Hub Deputy Director, University of Queensland
11:10am - 11:35am	University of Southern Queensland Update Prof. Ashok Nanjundan, School of Science, Engineering and Digital Technologies, USQ
11:35am - 12:00pm	University of Wollongong Update Assoc. Prof. Wei Kong Pang, Principal Fellow, Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, University of Wollongong
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch - served in-house
Session 2	Guest presenter + research discoveries Chair - Prof. Ian Gentle
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Nanostructured Carbon Based Materials for Clean Energy and Environment Invited speaker - Prof. Ajayan Vinu, Laureate Professor of Nanomaterials & Director of Global Innovative Centre for Advanced Nanomaterials, University of Newcastle
2:00pm - 2:20pm	Designing Lithophilic Interfaces for Robust Anode-Free Lithium Metal Batteries Dr Rizwan Ur Rehman Sagar, Associate Research Fellow, Institute for Frontier Materials, Deakin University
2:20pm - 2:40pm	Rechargeable Lithium-Sulfur Batteries: From Liquid to Solid Electrolytes Dr Qining Fan, Associate Research Fellow, Institute for Frontier Materials, Deakin University
2:40pm - 3:00pm	Recycled Si Battery Dr Srikanth Mateti, Research Fellow, Institute for Frontier Materials, Deakin University
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea - served in-house
Session 3	Node updates + research discoveries Chair: Prof. Yuan Chen
3:30pm - 3:50pm	Thick Carbon Electrodes for Hybrid Zinc Ion Capacitors Prof. Yuan Chen, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Sydney
3:50pm - 4:10pm	LiS Energy Project Update Dr Baozhi Yu, Senior Research Fellow, Deakin University
4:10pm - 4:30pm	Adelaide University Update Dr Sailin Liu, School of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering and Information Technology, Adelaide University
4:30pm - 4:50pm	Electrolyte Engineering for High-Performance Li-CO₂ Batteries Dr Fangli Zhang, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, RMIT University
6:00pm onwards	Symposium Dinner Platform 28 82 Village St, Docklands https://www.platform28.com.au/

DAY 2 PROGRAM

Session 1

Guest presenter + Industry forum

Chair - Prof. Ashok Nanjundan

10:00am - 10:35am

How Mechanistic Understanding of Materials and Function Leads to Better Batteries

Invited speaker - Prof. Neeraj Sharma, Professor and ARC Future Fellow, University of NSW

10:35am - 10:55am

University of Western Australia node - Introduction

Dr Bruce Lu, Senior Lecturer, School of Physics, Mathematics and Computing, Computer Science and Software Engineering, University of Western Australia

10:55am - 11:25am

Australian Wisdom Capital Group

Richard Li, Research Director, Australian Wisdom Capital Group

11:25am - 11:55pm

Panda Solar Update

Cheng Bi, Panda Solar

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch - served in-house

Session 2

PhD Student Presentations

Chair - Assoc. Prof. Wei Kong Pang

1:00pm - 1:20pm

3D Vertical Ultra-Sodiophilic Leaf-Vein-Like MXene/Sn@CNF Array of Structured Sodium Enabling High-Rate and Long-Life Sodium Metal Batteries

Zhenzhen Wang, PhD Candidate, Adelaide University

1:20pm - 1:40pm

Anodic High Li⁺ Conductivity Films as Robust Li Metal Anodes and Solid-State Electrolytes

Daoguang Bi, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

1:40pm - 2:00pm

Integrated Design of Sulfur-Carbon Cathodes and Electrolyte Environments for Advancing Aqueous Zn-s Batteries

Yilin Zhang, PhD Candidate, Adelaide University

2:00pm - 2:20pm

Electrochemical Evidence of Chiral Recognition Between Microperoxidase-11 and Cysteine-Modified Chiral Electrodes

Mengchi Wang, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

2:20pm - 2:40pm

Preparation of Li-Argyrodite Solid Electrolytes and the Influence of Carbon Additives on NMC-Based Solid-State Batteries

Muhammad Waseem Fazal, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

2:40pm - 3:15pm

Student award presentation, symposium closing remarks

Prof. Ying (Ian) Chen, Hub Director, Deakin University

Prof. Ian Gentle, Hub Deputy Director, University of Queensland

