

Industry PhD Scholarship open now!

Industry PhD project title

Developing appropriate and robust community management strategies to support successful renewable microgrid energy solutions in off-grid Indigenous communities

Short description

Community-driven approaches to manage the technical, social, economic, cultural and governance aspects are critical to a resilient microgrid energy supply in Indigenous communities. A rapid review will collate and critically analyse trials, pilots and larger roll-outs of renewable systems in



off grid Indigenous communities. Formative research via key informant interviews and surveys will underpin the co-creation of strengths-based tools and activities targeting the successful adoption and ongoing operation and management of renewable microgrid energy technologies. The final stage will be to test, monitor and evaluate some of the tools and activities to determine the efficacy of the approaches.

This PhD is funded by a 3-year scholarship by the RACE for 2030 Collaborative Research Centre (RACE) and Horizon Power and Western Power are the industry partners associated with the project.

Project description

The importance of appropriate engagement and community-led energy management approaches cannot be overstated as a pivot point to the success or failure of essential service infrastructure roll-outs. This PhD will aim to identify and test appropriate, community-driven approaches to deliver a whole-of-system energy solutions to communities, that is, not just the technical solution but broader social, economic, cultural and governance aspects that are critical to a resilient and sustainable energy supply

This PhD will be supported by an Industry Reference Group throughout the project.

This PhD will be completed through a PhD by publication/compilation or thesis with a minimum of three peer reviewed publications and will commence with an industry focused [Rapid Review](#).

This PhD project is supported by a scholarship provided by RACE for 2030. RACE for 2030 aims to accelerate the transition to Reliable, Affordable, Clean Energy by 2030 through innovation focused on energy end users and the networks that supply them. The Industry PhD Program is engaging industry and universities to train future leaders and specialists through practical, demand driven research projects. Industry partners, in conjunction with academia, provide the Industry PhD research agenda based on their societal knowledge of pressing needs and issues. You can find out more about the RACE for 2030 Industry PhD Program [here](#).

Funding

RACE for 2030 will provide three years of funding at \$38,000 per annum (tax exempt) via a scholarship. RACE will also supply up to \$3,000 per annum for expenses for the candidate, for items such as a computer, publishing fees, travel or conference costs.

Eligibility

1. Scholarships are available for Australian residents and citizens. We encourage female identifying and Indigenous applicants.
2. Applicants should have a first-class honours or masters degree or equivalent in a related discipline, OR a combination of an upper second-class honour's degree or equivalent in a related discipline together with a minimum of five years equivalent full-time professional work experience in a relevant field.
3. Applicants must be eligible for enrolment in their chosen course at a participating RACE for 2030 university partner. It is recommended that students obtain relevant postgraduate information from the relevant university before pursuing a scholarship inquiry.
4. Applicants must be studying full time.

Skills and experience

In addition to the eligibility criteria, candidates should also have the follow skills and/or experience:

- Undergraduate degree in environmental engineering or environmental science; or natural resource management; or environmental and public health; integrated resource management; or equivalent
- Knowledge of principles of sustainability and triple bottom line approach is preferred
- Ideally previous experience in working in remote Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island communities
- Experience with community engagement approaches an advantage
- Experience with systems thinking approaches an advantage

Contact details

To register your interest please send a one page covering letter and your CV (including two references) to:

Name: Associate Professor Cara Beal

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Phone: 07 3735 9215

Organisation/Department: [Cities Research Institute](#), Griffith University

Application closing date

30th July 2021