

# Remaking renewable energy in the Blue Pacific



**Hugo Temby**

Final presentation

10 October 2025  
3–4:30 pm (AEDT)

Seminar Room D  
HC Coombs Building  
9 Fellows Rd, Acton

Or join by Zoom

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Energy shapes our lives but is largely invisible. Recently, it has become a pressing concern for policymakers, who are engineering an urgent transition to renewable energy as a solution to worsening climate change. In the Blue Pacific, governments have set a series of increasingly ambitious climate targets over the past decade, with development partners increasing support for renewables in response. Yet the introduction of the new technology has been uneven: targets have been missed, and several projects have failed or contributed to harms.

The social dimensions of renewables have, meanwhile, been largely ignored by researchers, especially in the Pacific. Hugo's interdisciplinary doctoral thesis, *Remaking renewable energy in the Blue Pacific*, contributes to this gap. Drawing on Laura Nader's call for 'upwards' anthropology, the thesis explores three case studies, including a regional energy policy conference in Vanuatu, a

large electric transport project in Sāmoa, and a smaller, Pacific-led effort to develop an alternative battery chemistry.

Policy-relevant findings include, first, that Pacific practitioners are actively contesting harmful approaches to renewable energy. Second, renewables projects can be understood as moves in wider serious games. Third, more equitable renewables projects are already being designed and delivered in the Pacific, underpinned by inclusive cosmologies, expansive conceptions of sustainability, and fresh approaches to resourcing, governance, and practice.

## **Biography**

Hugo is a PhD candidate in energy anthropology at ANU's School of Engineering. His research aims to support a socially sustainable energy transition and draws on 10 years' prior experience in government managing large climate and energy projects.