

# Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands

## SEIAPI Chair's Update



A warm welcome to SEIAPI's eight new members. In the Manufacturing Category, Bluetti Energy (Australia) has joined us. In the Industry Category we welcome Island Solar (Fiji) Pte Ltd (Fiji), Green Technology (Solomon Islands) and SOS Technical Service Inc (Palau). New Associate members are Elementary New Energy Inspections (New Zealand), Berry's Energy Services Pty Ltd (Australia), Kean Energy Pty Ltd (Australia) and ComAp Australia Pty Ltd. SEIAPI now has 50 members across the Pacific.

The holiday period has been very busy for SEIAPI. Following discussions with, and support from, the Smart Energy Council (Australia), several members prepared a submission for consideration by US-based philanthropic foundations for three years of financial support aimed to help SEIAPI transition from a mainly voluntary-led organisation to a professionally managed industry association which can provide expanded services and is largely financially independent. It is premature to suggest the timing and quantity of support, or even whether it will happen, but we hope to have more concrete news before our March conference. Grateful thanks to Executive Committee members Rob Edwards and Harry Chami and Executive Officer Geoff Stapleton who worked hard with me to finalise the proposal which was submitted on January 5th.

As members know our first SEIAPI Conference is scheduled for 24-25 March at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. The conference committee comprising Geoff Stapleton, Sandip Kumar, Rob Edwards and conference organiser, Sydel Whippy have worked tirelessly to develop the programme and encourage sponsorship. At the time of writing, we have ten confirmed sponsors. Australia's REnew Pacific programme for support of off-grid solar systems will host a side event linked to the Conference. Our thanks to the sponsors and to the organising committee for their hard work behind the scenes.

**Peter Johnston, Chair**  
SEIAPI Executive Committee

## SEIAPI March Conference Update

The SEIAPI Conference organising committee has been working strenuously to blend a constructive, inclusive and interesting agenda for the event. The organising committee has been approaching development partners, government departments, international speakers and delegates and solar EPC and manufacturing companies to confirm session presenters/topics to make this conference a memorable event. The interest is growing with a total of 11 organisations coming on board as sponsors and with 50+ registrations received so far. Please visit the SEIAPI website for more details: <https://www.seiapi.com/seiapiconference2026/>

Early bird registrants (by 28th February) are **guaranteed** to get a conference bula shirt. Our sponsors list has grown and we would like to acknowledge our sponsors for supporting this industry conference. Our sponsors are as follows:

- AC Solar Warehouse
- BLUETTI Energy Pty Ltd
- CBS Power Solutions
- Its Time Foundation - Women in Solar Group
- Pacific Engineering Projects
- PCREEE - Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- PCS Ltd (Vanuatu)
- REnew Pacific (Australian government funded project)
- Smart Energy Council (Australia)
- Superfly Ltd
- Berrys Energy Services Pty Ltd



**SEIAPI**  
Sustainable Energy  
www.seiapi.com

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Sponsors :**


**SEIAPI MARCH 2026 SOLAR CONFERENCE**

Theme: Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands

**March 24-25, 2026**

**Start 8.30 AM**

**Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji**

More details are available from the SEIAPI website, visit:  
<https://www.seiapi.com/seiapiconference2026/>

Email address: [secretariat@seiapi.com](mailto:secretariat@seiapi.com)

Follow SEIAPI on LinkedIn:  
Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/104983544/admin/page/posts/published/>

## SEIAPI MARCH CONFERENCE 2026 ANNOUNCEMENT

*Theme: Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands*

After 15 years since its formation, the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) is pleased to announce our first ever SEIAPI Conference to be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva (Fiji) on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March 2026, with the theme Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands.



**The venue: Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva**



**SEIAPI supported training centre at USP Pacific TAFE**

The SEIAPI Solar Conference will bring together SEIAPI members, non-members, solar and other sustainable energy companies and stakeholders for a two-day event featuring technical presentations, product exhibitions, and networking opportunities. About 100 participants are expected including energy departments from Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), key development agencies assisting PICTs with sustainable energy, financial and industry stakeholders. The conference will include presentations from local and international experts, solar companies and development agencies. There will be a small exhibition from the conference sponsors.



**Buakonikai Primary School (Rabi) Courtesy Its Time Foundation**

The conference aims to showcase local innovations, foster collaboration, and explore global perspectives to strengthen the Pacific's transition to sustainable energy and enhance the visibility of the Pacific's solar industry. It will address some of the key issues faced by the solar industry within the PICTs including:

- Challenges facing solar companies in the Pacific
- Policy and regulatory barriers
- Labour shortages and capacity building needs of workforce
- Pacific women in solar energy
- Case Studies
- The renewable energy transition



**Tuvalu Airport Terminal: Courtesy CBS Power Solutions**

The conference fee is lower for those registering early.

**Early bird.** Register before 28th February 2026:

**FJD 300** SEIAPI members, development agencies, Government agencies, NGOs

**FJD 700** Non SEIAPI Members from Industry

**Late registration** after 1st March 2026:

**FJD 400** SEIAPI members, Development agencies, Government agencies, NGOs

**FJD 800** Non SEIAPI members

The registration fee includes morning/afternoon teas, lunches and a networking reception at the end of day 1.

**For further information or if you would like to register or obtain a copy of the sponsorship package, please visit: <https://www.seiapi.com/seiapiconference2026/> or contact SEIAPI on [secretariat@seiapi.com](mailto:secretariat@seiapi.com)**

## SEIAPI Plans Tonga and Samoa Workshops

SEIAPI Executive Officer, Geoff Stapleton has scheduled industry workshops for Tonga and Samoa in February and March respectively. These will be similar to those held in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The workshop in Tonga is planned for 11th February from 9am to 12 noon at the MEIDECC Conference Room (Department of Energy), Tonga. These workshops have received positive feedback from the industry since they can discuss issues affecting them and receive updates on revised PPA/SEIAPI off-grid and grid-connect PV system guidelines. The Samoa workshop will be held in March. SEIAPI will be sending notices in the coming weeks to the Samoan stakeholders.

## Australia announces Solar Panel Recycling Pilot



Source: Smart Energy Council

On 16th January, the Albanese Government officially announced AU\$24.7 million in funding over three years to deliver a National Solar Panel Recycling Pilot.

Key Highlights of the Announcement:

- **Funding:** AU\$24.7 million investment over three years.
- **Strategic Goal:** The pilot will directly inform the development of a permanent national solar panel stewardship scheme.
- **Operational Testing:** The project will test various transport options and engage with recyclers to identify and solve practical challenges, ensuring a future scheme is economical, effective, and sustainable.
- **Data Collection:** It will gather vital national data on recycling costs across different regions, specifically addressing the high cost of logistics.

Building on their successful Queensland pilots, this pilot is the essential next step in protecting their recycling industry from stagnation and ensuring that the 95% of precious resources contained in solar modules - like copper, silver, and aluminium - are recovered rather than sent to landfill.

A request for information (RFI) process will commence soon to appoint an Administrator, with collection services starting as soon as practicable thereafter.

Click below for the media release:

[The announcement of a national solar panel recycling pilot](#)

## What is Vehicle to Load (V2L) for electric vehicles?

Reproduced from: <https://www.racv.com.au/>

Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) have brought with them a whole new world of terms and functions. One of them is Vehicle to Load, or V2L. Here's what V2L means for EV owners.

It sounds complicated, but all V2L really means is using the high-voltage battery pack of your EV or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) to power an external appliance. There is a huge variety of things here, including laptops, e-bikes, power tools and refrigerators. You could even recharge another electric car with a flat battery!

Electric cars make a great choice for motorists wanting to downsize their car to reduce operating and maintenance costs, or maximise renewable energy from a home solar system. V2L is pretty straight forward. Just plug in the extension cord to your electric vehicle and the appliance you want to power, and away you go.

It's accessible by a V2L adaptor fitted to the external charge port or via an orthodox 240V three-pin socket inside the cabin. Note that not all EVs and PHEVs have V2L capability. Power utilisation depends on the output of the vehicle's battery pack and the power draw of what you're connecting it to.



Source: [www.racv.com.au](http://www.racv.com.au)

As noted below, for the PICs, an EV with V2L capability can supply moderate loads such as lighting, internet and refrigeration during power outages, of particular benefit during cyclones or flooding events.

## When disasters strike, home batteries could be a lifeline

Extreme weather will become more common and more extreme as the climate changes. Traditional power grids are often vulnerable to disasters. Trees fall on power lines, torrential rains cause outages, and bushfires can melt transformers.

Electricity is essential for emergency services, medical clinics, evacuation centres and communications systems to function during these events. Maintaining a reliable supply is a challenge.

Tapping into household (and small business) batteries could solve this problem by supplying electricity at local scale for hours or days, even if the grid goes down. It will take work to make this a reality, but the payoff during disasters could well be worth it.

Household batteries are usually used to cut electricity bills by storing excess solar energy during the day – or grid electricity when cheap – and using it later when prices are higher. The large batteries in electric vehicles are also proving their worth during disasters. When Cyclone Alfred triggered blackouts in southeast Queensland in early 2025, some EV owners used their cars to power essential items in their homes.

Home batteries and other local energy storage methods can also be used as lifelines for communities. They can switch to a standalone “islanding” mode, where they power essential household appliances without drawing on the grid. Some can be relocated to evacuation centres or temporary accommodation to supply critical needs such as lighting, refrigeration and communications.

Edited and summarised from When disasters strike, home batteries could be a lifeline (22 Dec 2025 / <https://theconversation.com/when-disasters-strike-home-batteries-could-be-a-lifeline-264698>)

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Power Association Conference and Trade Exhibition

19-22 October 2026

Shangri-La Hotel, Sigatoka, Fiji.

Visit: <https://www.ppa.org.fj/>

### International Conference

6th International Conference on Solar Technologies and Hybrid Mini-Grids to improve energy access

SAVE THE DATE

8-10 April 2026, Mallorca, Spain

[www.energy-access-conferences.com](http://www.energy-access-conferences.com)

## Standards Corner

In recent months, SEIAPI has been conducting webinars related to the current Australia and New Zealand Standards. We plan similar webinars for the USA National Electrical Code. To supplement these webinars, the newsletter includes this 'standards' corner highlighting an installation issue identified during a site visit that could be improved to meet relevant standards, SEIAPI guidelines or international best practices.



The above photo shows the conduit containing the array cable entering the top of the enclosure. The following standard states:

- AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 4.4.7.2 Cable glands, conduits and fittings shall not enter/exit the top face of the enclosure.
- AS/NZS3000 Clause 1.5.3 & 1.5.14 Protection shall be provided against shock current arising from contact with parts that are live in normal service or parts that become live under fault conditions.

Any disconnecter in a dedicated individual enclosure must not have top entry conduit or glands. If the number of cable entries to the enclosure is two or less, the entries are on the lower entry face of the enclosure.

Furthermore, the figure above shows that there is missing insert (filler plate) for the circuit breaker enclosure and therefore there is a gap which would allow fingers to enter that enclosure. This must have the insert (filler plate) installed. SEIAPI plans to prepare a technical guide with photos to show good and poor installation methods.

For more updates, please visit <http://www.seiapi.com> or email on [secretariat@seiapi.com](mailto:secretariat@seiapi.com). Follow us on LinkedIn - Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands - SEIAPI LinkedIn page