ROYAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES

1337th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 6:00pm

Michael Crouch Room, Level 1, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW,
(enter from the Shakespeare Place entrance)

The 1337th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW will take place at **6:00 pm on Wednesday 3 December 2025** in the **Michael Crouch Room, Level 1, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney**, followed by an open lecture. Registration and refreshments will be from 5:30 pm.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
President, Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN.

2. MINUTES
Minutes of the 1336th Ordinary General Meeting will be reviewed.

3. CONFIRMATION OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP
At its meeting on 26 November 2025, Council, on the recommendation of the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee, agreed to propose the following candidates for admission as Fellows and Members.

FELLOWSHIP

Jennifer Laffan
Laudation – Jennifer Laffan has made a substantial contribution to Australian agriculture.

Professor Margaret Morris
Laudation – Margaret Morris has made an international contribution to pharmacology and its life impacts.

Professor Bronwyn Fox
Laudation – Bronwyn Fox has made a significant contribution to advanced manufacturing and materials science.

Professor Dale Dominey-Howes
Laudation – Dale Dominey-Howes is a geoscientist who has made a significant contribution to disaster risk reduction.

Professor Sophie Primig
Laudation – Sophie Primig has made a substantial contribution to engineering in the field of metallurgy.

Professor Ali Abbas
Laudation – Abi Abbas is an internationally regarded leader on engineering of the circular economy.

Professor Bamini Gopinath
Laudation – Bamini Gopinath has made an international contribution in the field of public health, notably in the area of sensory loss.

Professor Wenjie Zhang
Laudation – Wenjie Zhang has made significant contributions to the field of computer science, notably in the areas of big data analytics and artificial intelligence.

Susanne Steigler-Peters

Laudation – Susanne Steigler-Peters has made a distinguished contribution to public service in NSW.

Dr Kristen Sharp
Laudation – Kristen Sharp is internationally recognised for her leadership in the arts, with particular expertise in contemporary Asian art.

MEMBERSHIP
Dr Isabella Ludbrook
Dr Nguyen Chanh
Jerzy Maciejak
Professor Zoe Terpening
Dr Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson
Dr Sophia Moscovis
Professor Marian Baird
Erin Gao

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES
The President will present certificates to new Members and Fellows whose nominations were tabled at the previous OGM or who were unable to attend previously and have notified the Secretariat of their attendance.

5. ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AWARDS 2025
The President will announce the winners of the Royal Society of NSW awards for 2025.

6. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL
The President will update membership on the key activities underway for 2025.

7. OPEN LECTURE

"A Future Made in Australia"

Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN

Principal, Grassick SSG Pty Ltd

A Future Made in Australia is a major federal government program that establishes a policy framework called the National Interest Framework that imposes rigour on government decision-making on public investments, particularly those that need to attract large-scale private investment. The program will see investment of $22.7 billion over the next decade, focused on two major streams:

- Net zero transformation; and
- Economic security and resilience

Net Zero Transformation – this stream will identify and support 21st-century technologies that will enable Australia to participate in the reindustrialisation needed to achieve global greenhouse gas emissions targets. The stream has three major areas of focus: *Renewable hydrogen* – utilising Australia's abundant renewable energy resources to produce green hydrogen, particularly as an input to the manufacture of green metals such as iron, steel, alumina/aluminium. *Green metals* – the established production technologies for iron, steel, alumina and aluminium require very large amounts of energy. Worldwide, this mostly comes from highly carbon-intensive sources such as coal and natural gas. Renewable hydrogen has a very low emissions footprint when compared with current production technologies that are mostly based on petroleum or natural gas. Hydrogen can also be used to replace metallurgical coal to make green iron, although the technology, which appears quite simple, this very complex and has yet to be commercialised at a competitive cost. *Low-carbon liquid fuels* – Australia's large land mass and advanced farming practices require large quantities of liquid fuels, all of which are based on petroleum or natural gas. Development of large-scale, low-carbon-intensity liquid fuels will be critical to Australia's prosperity and contribute to the world achieving its greenhouse gas emissions targets.

Economic Resilience and Security – this stream identifies sectors that are critical to Australia's economic resilience, vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions or require government support to attract sufficient private investment capital.

In the 2024-25 budget, five industries have been identified and aligned with the National Interest framework. These are:

- Renewable hydrogen
- Critical minerals processing
- Green metals
- Low-carbon liquid fuels
- Clean energy manufacturing, including battery and solar panel supply chains

The 'Future Made in Australia' challenges are by no means trivial and must not be underestimated. Donald Hector will explore some of these issues and what needs to happen in Australia for this substantial government investment to be successful.

About the speaker

Donald Hector is a chemical engineer with extensive experience in large-scale industrial processing, engineering design and the evaluation and commercialisation of new technologies. Currently, he is a co-founder and director of Reverse Ore Corporation, a company established to commercialise patented critical minerals beneficiation technology developed at the Australian National University. He was a co-founder and director of Gelion Technologies Pty Ltd, a start-up company that developed and commercialised novel battery technology invented at the University of Sydney. In 2021, the company was listed as Gelion plc on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange.

Donald was managing director of Dow Corning Australia and the executive director responsible for the Australian/New Zealand, ASEAN and Indian subsidiaries of Dow Corning Corporation, a high-technology American multi-national specialty materials company. He was also managing director of Asia Pacific Specialty Chemicals Ltd, an ASX-listed specialty materials and food additives company. He is a former non-executive chairman of Coote Industrial Ltd (ASX-listed), a heavy engineering, mining equipment and defence company. He was a non-executive director of Engenco Ltd (originally ASX-listed, recently in privately owned) and was the independent non-executive chairman of SEMF (now COVA Group), a privately owned engineering consulting firm. He has also been on the boards of several other private companies and not-for-profit organisations. Donald has a PhD in engineering and is a Fellow and former global vice-president of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (London), is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia and of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a past President of the Royal Society of NSW and served on its Council for 14 years.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

8. CLOSE

Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN

Secretary