Financing Green Transformations - Big and Small

11:30am - 1:00pm, Wednesday 29th April 2015
Theatre G02, Law Building (F8), UNSW Australia, Kensington campus

Synopsis
In an environment where public sector funding for investments in a low carbon transition is increasingly limited, private financing has to take on a more prominent role. However, despite broad community support for action on climate change, and the growing interest of institutional investors in socially responsible investment, there is considerable scope in Australia for the private sector to play a far more proactive and significant role in financing a green transformation. Innovations in finance at this level could prove to be a crucial element in the success of a range of initiatives (including community-based projects) in the Australian context aimed at driving the transformation of the energy sector, low carbon innovation and emissions reduction.

The two presenters in this seminar, Mark Fulton and Andy Cavanagh-Downs, have had extensive experience in capital raising and green finance and will discuss some of the barriers, opportunities and innovations for tapping into financial resources ranging from the ‘big’ (institutional investors such as superannuation funds) to those of the ‘small’ (households in community-based projects).

Mark Fulton
Mark has had 35 years international experience in financial markets, as an economist and market strategist at leading financial institutions including Citigroup, Salomon Bros and County NatWest and was head of research at Deutsche Bank Climate Change Advisors from 2007 to 2012. From 2010 to 2012 he was Co-chair of the UNEP FI Climate Change Working Group and was part of the technical committee of the UN Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All. Currently, Mark is an advisor to the Carbon Tracker Initiative; a Senior Fellow at CERES; a member of the Capital Markets Climate Initiative; UK Department of Energy and Climate Change; Advisor to the Carbon Disclosure Project; and the Climate Bond Initiative. Mark has a BA in Philosophy & Economics from Oxford University.

Andy Cavanagh-Downs
Andy is Executive Director of Embark, a not-for-profit organisation that assists community participation in renewable energy. Embark looks to create tangible community outcomes, such as Sydney Renewable Power Company. Andy joined Embark after working in finance for over 10 years in Zurich, London and Sydney. More recently, Andy was a Managing Director at UBS Wealth Management, where he headed the product team for the Australian operations and led the re-design of the IT platform. He has extensive experience in capital raising, project design, project implementation and strategy.

This event is jointly organised by the Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets (CEEM), the Visions & Pathways 2040 project of the CRC for Low Carbon Living, the Environmental Humanities Group within the School of Humanities and Languages, and the Institute for Environmental Studies (IES), all at UNSW Australia.

*Directions: All visitors are welcome. Theatre G02 is on the ground floor of the Law Building, close to the main Anzac Parade gate of the Kensington Campus. A map is available at http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/Maps/maps.html and the Law Building is located at F8.