

WHAT'S GOING ON?

A series of public events with well-informed speakers on issues that are affecting us now and will determine how we live in the future

**MONDAY 31st AUGUST 2026, 6.00 FOR 6.30pm
BYRON SERVICES CLUB – 132 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY**

WHAT DOES THE AI DATA CENTRE BOOM MEAN FOR OUR COUNTRY?

SPEAKER: MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

With governments around the world embracing Big Tech's relentless rollout of 'hyperscale' AI data centres, communities everywhere are pushing back against their rollout that has a track record of dominating local electricity systems and water usage, derailing energy transitions and pushing up utility prices.

Despite the overseas experience, Australian governments look determined to 'fast track' data centre construction and follow countries such as Ireland, where these facilities now consume a whopping 21% of the country's metered electricity, with power prices for ordinary people soaring. There, rapid AI expansion has outrun energy planning, strained infrastructure and de-prioritised the needs of homes, transport and services in favour of the needs of Big Tech, with negligible benefits for many communities.

In Australia, NSW leads, with 90 data centres already operating and 44 new proposals in the pipeline, including a massive 1GW facility that will create the equivalent electricity demand to 700,000 homes. Where will this coming influx leave our state's energy systems with the renewable energy transition well behind schedule, and our remaining coal power stations that currently supply 70% of our state's energy needs due for closure in the next few years?

In this presentation, Michael will explain what is happening both globally and in Australia with a specific focus on NSW and lessons that we can learn.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We will also be joined by our founder, Councillor David Warth who will address the meeting, and run through an important initiative that he has underway.

Please come along, get clear factual information, and be part of the discussion.

Support the Byron Services Club and join for only \$5, or sign in at the desk.

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