

## **DRIVING THE RURAL ECONOMY: INNOVATION; CLEAN ENERGY AND SMART THINKING**

**Andrew Beveridge, Director, Time4Change**

### **Abstract**

Many communities feel marginalised and threatened by the combined effects of climate change, population drift to the cities, and major challenges such as succession planning. However, there is a ray of hope! Given Australia's abundant natural sources of renewable energy, coupled with hypersaline groundwater, this combination offers the opportunity to create sustainable business ventures in regional areas. Andrew's presentation will show that by using creative thinking; world's "Best Practice" techniques and technologies; innovation platforms; capital and above all, passionate people, we can start to turn the tide. Using examples from a diverse range of industries, Andrew will illustrate how communities can work together, catalysed by smart thinking and entrepreneurial leadership, to help transform Australia into the vibrant, fantastic country we all desire.

### **Biography**

Mr Beveridge is a strategic thinker, change agent and a specialist in technology innovation and commercialisation. Cutting his Engineering teeth in the UK, he worked for the UK Ministry of Defence, private industry and also the University sector on a wide range innovation and technology-driven ventures. Moving to Perth in 1999, Andrew worked initially for the WA State Government on an Innovation programme for the SME sector. This was followed by a 6 year spell, commercialising Intellectual property developed by researchers at the University of Western Australia. Andrew currently works as the Director of Time4Change. He was recently working as the Business Development manager for the Research Institute for Sustainable Energy, a Centre of Murdoch University. Seeing tremendous opportunity for rural and regional communities, Andrew is working with a wide range of stakeholders across Australia to assist in the dramatic development of the 'Clean-Tech' sector.