

# Newsletter

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS SRI LANKA

*Western Australia Chapter*

*March 2026*



## Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka – Western Australia Chapter 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) – Western Australia Chapter successfully held its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm at the Centenary Pavilion, Centenary Avenue, Wilson WA. The AGM provided an opportunity for members to reflect on the chapter's activities over the past year, review progress, and discuss plans and initiatives for the coming year.

The meeting brought together members of the engineering community in Western Australia, highlighting the chapter's continued commitment to professional networking, knowledge sharing, and community engagement. During the meeting, the executive committee presented reports on the chapter's activities, achievements, and financial performance for the year.

The Executive Committee for the 2025/2026 year was confirmed as follows:

- President: Darshani Thotagamuwage
- Secretary: Nandika Mirihana
- Vice President: Mathanga Perera
- Treasurer: Nadeesha Dilrukshi
- Editor: Chamara Pathirana
- Ex-Officio: Tilak Marakkalage

The following members serve on the Committee:

- Mahesh Kariyawasam
- Senaka Welideniya
- Saadiq Akbar
- Vihanga Jayarathne
- Sampath Godawitharana
- Amila Basnayaka
- Lenin Fernando
- Prasanna Monaragala
- Kasun Jayarathne.

The Appeal Committee members are:

- Bandula Samarasinghe
- Nimal Jayarathne
- Janaka Dharmabandu.

## This issue:

Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka – Western Australia Chapter  
12th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

PAGE 01

Driving Progress:  
Highlights from IESL WA  
Committee Meetings

PAGE 03

Strengthening Ties with  
the IESL Mother Chapter

PAGE 04

Congratulations to Eng.  
Chirantha  
Weerawardena!

PAGE 05

LNG Investment in Sri  
Lanka: A Risky Road  
Ahead

PAGE 06

Webinars Conducted

PAGE 08

Announcements, Events,  
and Updates

PAGE 09

# Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka – Western Australia Chapter 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The chapter also acknowledged Mrs Susila Marakanda, who serves as the Honorary Auditor, for her valuable contribution in maintaining transparency and accountability in the chapter's financial processes.

The AGM concluded with appreciation expressed to all committee members and volunteers for their dedication and service to the chapter. Members reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening professional collaboration and continuing the growth and impact of the IESL Western Australia Chapter in the years ahead.



# Driving Progress: Highlights from IESL WA Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee of the IESL Western Australia Chapter continued its active engagement throughout the year by holding a series of committee meetings aimed at strengthening the chapter's operations and future direction. These meetings provided a platform for committee members to discuss ongoing initiatives, review progress, and plan strategic activities that support the growth of the organisation.

The following committee meetings were held during the period:

- Committee Meeting 1 – 9 November 2025 at The Kauphy Place
- Committee Meeting 2 – 11 December 2025 conducted via Zoom
- Committee Meeting 3 – 8 February 2026 hosted at Vice President Mathanga Perera's residence

During these meetings, the committee focused on several key initiatives designed to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the chapter.

One of the main priorities is the upgrade of the IESL WA website, which aims to improve accessibility, communication, and the overall digital presence of the chapter. The upgraded platform is expected to better serve members by providing updated information, event details, and resources in a more user-friendly format.

Another important initiative is the updating of the existing membership database and the launch of a membership campaign. This effort seeks to reconnect with current members, attract new members within the engineering community in Western Australia, and strengthen the professional network associated with the chapter.

In addition, the committee has begun drafting the "IESLWA Governance & Operations Manual." This comprehensive document is intended to serve as a guiding framework for the chapter's operations. It will outline key procedures, protocols, event and program management guidelines, as well as strategies for succession planning and continuity. The manual will help ensure consistency, transparency, and sustainability in the chapter's activities for future committees.

Through these initiatives and regular meetings, the Executive Committee continues to demonstrate its commitment to building a strong, well-organised, and forward-looking IESL WA Chapter that effectively serves its members and the wider engineering community.



## Strengthening Ties with the IESL Mother Chapter

On 23 December 2025, members of the IESL WA Chapter paid a visit to the IESL. The meeting was attended on behalf of IESL by President Eng. Kosala Kamburadeniya, President-Elect Eng. Prabodha Jenasena, CEO Eng. Neil Abeysekera, Vice President Eng. Samantha Gunawardana, and Treasurer Eng. Manjula Samarasinghe. Representing IESL WA were President Eng. Darshani Thotagamuwage, Secretary Eng. Nandika Mirihana, and Committee Member Eng. Lenin Fernando. Past President of IESL WA, Eng. Tilak Jayantha, also joined the discussion later via phone.

The meeting aimed to introduce the IESL WA team and explore how the chapter could contribute to the long-term rehabilitation efforts following the post-Ditwah catastrophe. After presenting an overview of IESL WA's activities and areas of professional expertise, discussions focused on how the chapter could support rebuilding initiatives. Potential areas of collaboration were also explored, including contributions to the National Engineering Conference and support for developing training programs aligned with Australian regulations and engineering standards.



# Congratulations to Eng. Chirantha Weerawardena!

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Australia, Ms. Yasoja Gunasekera, officially presented the Commission of Appointment to Eng. Chirantha Weerawardena as Sri Lanka's new Honorary Consul in Perth on 19 December 2025 at the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra. His consular jurisdiction covers Western Australia.

<https://www.themorning.lk/articles/KtbBuNx1Yfmucnn059oO>

Eng. Chirantha is a distinguished mining engineer with over 33 years of experience in the industry, holding academic qualifications from both the University of Moratuwa and Curtin University. He is also a proud and longstanding member of IESL WA, having been actively involved since its establishment in 2013. He served as President of IESL WA in 2016 and again in 2019, and has been a pillar of strength behind many of the chapter's activities over the years.

Despite his demanding professional commitments, it is a pleasure to see Chirantha continuing to engage actively with our IESL WA activities. We look forward to working closely with him in his new role as Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul in Perth.

We sincerely appreciate his dedicated service to IESL WA and value his continued support as a mentor, patron, and advisor to IESL WA.

Congratulations, Eng. Chirantha, we are proud of you!



# LNG Investment in Sri Lanka: A Risky Road Ahead

Author – Nalin Gunasekara



Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has increasingly been discussed as a possible solution to Sri Lanka's growing energy demand and the need to reduce reliance on expensive fuel oil for power generation. While LNG is often promoted as a cleaner and more efficient transitional fuel, experts caution that large-scale LNG investments in Sri Lanka could involve significant economic, technical, and strategic risks if not carefully planned.

Over the past decade, several LNG-related proposals have been introduced in Sri Lanka. These include plans for floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs), LNG import terminals, and gas-fired power generation facilities. However, many of these initiatives have struggled to move beyond the proposal or negotiation stage. Changes in policy direction, financing challenges, and complex contractual arrangements have contributed to delays and uncertainty surrounding LNG development.

One of the primary concerns associated with LNG investment is the substantial upfront cost required to establish the necessary infrastructure. LNG projects typically require specialized terminals, storage facilities, pipelines, and regasification units. These projects are often supported by long-term contracts and financing arrangements that commit the country to fixed payments or supply agreements over many years as seen on Table 1. If demand projections change or projects fail to operate at full capacity, these long-term obligations could place additional financial pressure on the national economy.

Another key challenge lies in the technical and operational capacity required to manage LNG infrastructure. Sri Lanka currently has limited experience in developing and operating LNG import facilities and associated supply chains. Establishing a reliable LNG system requires careful coordination between shipping, port infrastructure, gas distribution networks, and power generation facilities. Without adequate technical expertise, regulatory frameworks, and operational planning, the implementation of LNG projects could face significant difficulties.

Energy planning must also consider long-term sustainability. While LNG produces fewer emissions than coal or heavy fuel oil, it is still a fossil fuel. As global energy systems increasingly shift toward renewable sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, there is a risk that large LNG investments could become stranded assets in the future. Countries that invest heavily in gas infrastructure today may face challenges transitioning to fully renewable energy systems later.

# LNG Investment in Sri Lanka: A Risky Road Ahead

For Sri Lanka, a balanced and well-coordinated energy strategy is essential. LNG may have a role as a transitional energy source, particularly in stabilizing the power system while renewable capacity expands. However, any investment decisions should be based on transparent evaluation, clear national policy direction, and careful financial analysis. Strong regulatory oversight and long-term energy planning will be critical to ensure that infrastructure investments align with the country's economic and environmental goals. Ultimately, Sri Lanka's energy future should focus on reliability, affordability, and sustainability. While LNG presents certain advantages, policymakers and stakeholders must carefully weigh the benefits against potential risks before committing to large-scale developments.



**Table 1 - Receiving Infrastructure Cost of LNG**

Cost Component	Typical Range (USD/MMBTU)	Description
Port Modifications & Dredging	0.10 – 0.30	Works to accommodate LNG carriers and FSRU at port.
Jetty & Pipeline Construction	0.20 – 0.40	Jetties for mooring and pipelines to transport gas to shore.
FSRU Lease/O&M	0.40 – 0.80	Leasing, O&M of the floating regasification unit.
Regasification & Onshore Facilities	0.20 – 0.50	Regasification process and onshore receiving/storage infrastructure.
Operation & Maintenance	0.10 – 0.25	Staffing, maintenance, insurance, and regulatory compliance.
<b>Total Fixed Added Cost</b>	<b>1.00 – 2.25</b>	<b>Total additional cost per MMBTU above basic LNG price</b>

*Note: These are indicative. Actual costs will vary depending on project size, location, financing, and local conditions. For Sri Lanka, higher risk and smaller scale will push costs towards the upper end of the range.*

# Webinars Conducted

IESL WA has conducted many webinars for member professional development as well as for sharing knowledge. This has been very successful due to good participation of many practicing engineers joining these webinars from Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and many other countries. The zoom platform has provided a greater opportunity to join seminars immaterial of their physical location.

## FutureReady Stormwater & Flood Modelling: Mining, Landfill, and Urban Development Lessons Learned

Presenter:

Amila Prasad Basnayaka

Principal Water Resources Engineer | Fellow of Engineers Australia | CPEng | RPEQ | NER  
MPhil| BSc Eng (Hons)| GradCertResComm



DATE: Thursday 29th of January 2026

TIME: 6.00pm AWST; 3.30pm SL Time

MODE: Webinar Zoom

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81170971421?pwd=zM91mbLFF31Yl6Xq9x7rp8u6xBsRyp.1>



### Presentation Highlights:

- Advanced water balance, flood, and dam break modelling for mining sites
- Effective landfill and closure capping stormwater management
- Urban stormwater management
- Climate change best practices for hydrological studies and designing future-ready, resilient infrastructure

### About the speaker

Amila is a Fellow of Engineers Australia, Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng), and Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ), also listed on the National Engineering Register (NER). With over 18 years of design and consultancy experience in water resources engineering, Amila leads the National Surface Water Team within WSP's Geo-Environmental Business Unit.

Amila has successfully delivered and led a wide range of surface water studies and design projects—including flood risk assessments, drainage infrastructure, environmental impact statements, erosion and sediment control, water balance and reliability studies, and stormwater management—for clients across Australia and internationally. His cross-sector expertise spans landfill and waste management, mining, renewable energy, land development, and all levels of government, with a client list including Cleanaway, SUEZ, Rio Tinto, BHP, Chevron, Iluka, and numerous local governments.

Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka-Western Australia Chapter

The first webinar of the year was held on

**Date:** 29 January 2026

**Presenter:** Eng Amila Basnayaka

**Title:** Future-ready Stormwater & Flood Modelling: Mining, Landfill, and Urban Development Lessons Learned.

## Tackling net-zero in the Building Sector : Challenges and Opportunities

Presenter:

Eng. Nalin Nanayakkara



DATE: Thursday 26th of March 2026

TIME: 6.00pm AWST; 3.30pm SL Time

MODE: Webinar

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85095291808?pwd=ysD0eYnCaXgc1NPenSp2bZ0ggtB9Qa.1>

Meeting ID: 850 9529 1808 Passcode: 989730



### Presentation Highlights:

- The Scale of the Challenge - Net zero is an operational challenge, not just a design goal
- Key Barriers to Net Zero - Existing buildings are the biggest opportunity (and hurdle)
- Emerging Opportunities & Solutions - Data and transparency unlock performance
- The Path Forward (Action Framework)

### About the speaker

Nalin Nanayakkara is a Chartered Professional Engineer with over 15 years' experience in building services design, energy efficiency, building automation and asset analytics. His career has included working in the Pacific region, across sectors including commercial office, industrial, retail, health, hospitality and mixed-use buildings.

He is currently a Principal Consultant with Geronimo Advisory, a boutique consultancy providing Building Performance Services, Decarbonisation pathways, Climate Change Adaptation strategies and Energy Auditing.

Nalin is an Accredited NABERS Assessor, and is also an accredited CBD Assessor. His unique skill set, combining mechanical, electrical and controls engineering with a keen focus on sustainability, enables him to work at the forefront of decarbonisation, energy efficiency and asset optimisation solutions for existing, operational buildings and portfolios.

Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka-Western Australia Chapter

The second webinar is scheduled on

**Date:** 26 March 2026

**Presenter:** Eng Nalin Nanayakkara

**Title:** Tackling net-zero in the Building Sector: Challenges and Opportunities.

# Announcements, Events, and Updates

## Upcoming Events

### Pathways to Success in Australia: A Development Forum for Sri Lankan Engineers & Community

- Date : May 24 Sunday
- Time: 9am-3pm

### 13th Engineers Night

- Date: 8 August 2026

Reserve the dates, further details will be announced !

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