

MARTIN THOMAS AM FTSE HonFIEAust HonFAIE

Martin Thomas qualified in Mechanical Sciences from Cambridge University in 1957 with Class 2 (1) Honours. After early years with British Petroleum in London he joined Merz and McLellan in the UK, migrating with his family to Perth in 1967 to join Merz Australia, managing several isolated power generation projects for developing mining companies.

He has a lifetime career in energy consulting, moving to Sydney in 1976 and specialising in industrial energy conservation in Australia and overseas. He managed the firm's Sydney office for many years before retiring as a Principal of Sinclair Knight Merz. He was appointed founding MD of the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Renewable Energy in 1995 and was appointed chairman of Dulhunty Poles P/L in 2006, a role he still holds.

Former roles include chairmanships of industry association Austenergy from 1988-94; the NSW Electricity Council from 1988-95 and the 2000 Olympic Energy Panel from 1994-00. He was deputy chair of distribution utility Australian Inland Energy from 1996-03. In 2007 he chaired CSIRO's Energy Technology Expert Review Committee. He has held directorships in many listed and unlisted energy technology companies.

He was the Institution of Engineers Australia National President in 1991-92 and chaired the Mechanical College Board from 1985-88. He was President of the Australian Institute of Energy (AIE) from 1999-2001. In 1992 he was elected to Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE), serving first as Vice-President and then as founding chair of the ATSE Energy Forum from 2008-14. In 2000 he was a founding member of the Energy Committee of The Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering, a role still actively held. In 2006 he served on Prime Minister Howard's Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review (aka UMPNER or the Switkowski Report).

In 1997 he received the AIE's Institute Medal and in 2008 the Peter Nicol Russell Memorial Medal, Engineers Australia's highest award.

In 1992 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to energy and engineering. In 2003 he received an Australian Centenary Medal.

In 2015 he received the AGM Michell Medal, the highest award of Engineers Australia's College of Mechanical Engineers.