



ENERGY

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# Firms must end rivalries to tackle energy woes

By [Tom Zaubmayr](#)



GHD's James Viray and Joep Vaessen

Rival companies will need to bury the hatchet to tackle myriad issues facing global energy supply while facing mounting pressure to take action on climate change.

That was a key takeaway for [GHD](#) global head of corporate sustainability James Viray out of the global professional services firm's Shocked energy transition report which canvassed 450 sector leaders about the state of the world's energy market.

Mr Viray said competitors would naturally see benefits in working together on energy solutions without need for government incentives.

"If you are trying to drive sustainability... within a supply chain of 15,000 suppliers it is really hard to do that on your own," he said.

"If you collaborate with them and with others using those same suppliers all of a sudden that task becomes much more manageable.

"It is going to be necessitated by societal and market conditions."

Mr Viray used the iron ore industry as an example where the world's largest players were working together to drive electrification of their mining equipment.

He said governments could help by reviewing policies which in some countries could hamper collaboration.

"There are for some industries regulations that are really important in terms of anti-trust (collusion), keeping companies from trying to manipulate the market," he said.

"But for some sectors it can be so prohibitive that it might prevent companies from being able to collaborate, even on what we would call pre-competitive issues not having to do with market share or prices... such as working with supply chains to improve performance or collaborating on innovations such as electrification of mining equipment.

"So take a look at anti-trust regulations and see if there is anything there that would prohibit this type of pre-competitive collaboration."

Mr Viray and [GHD](#) energy market leader [Joep Vaessen](#) presented findings from the Shocked report to a [Committee for Perth-run forum](#) on Friday morning.

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