



**VIRTUAL 294<sup>th</sup> AMEU HIGHVELD BRANCH MEETING  
THURSDAY, 29 JULY 2021, 10H00 – 12H15 (SA TIME)**

**[MEETING LINK](#)**

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. Welcome – **AMEU HIGHVELD Branch Chairperson**
2. AMEU virtual meeting etiquette and protocols – **Vally Padayachee, AMEU Strategic adviser**
3. AMEU Highveld Branch Matters and Presentation (**15 mins Branch Chair**)
4. AMEU Strategic Adviser's report/feedback **by Vally Padayachee (30 mins)**
5. Guest speaker presentation (**30 mins**):

**TOPIC:**

***Running to Stand Still.***

**Politics and Path Dependency in South Africa's Municipal Electricity Sector  
Presentation to the AMEU by Dr Theo Covary, PhD**

**Synopsis:**

To date, all attempts to understand how the country's Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) has evolved focus narrowly on Eskom, and especially since the 2006 electricity crisis. Commentators and analysts have paid little attention to Municipal Electricity Undertakings (MEUs) – the utilities responsible for distributing electricity at municipal level – which started operating in the early 1900's and who came together to establish the AMEU in 1915, almost a decade before Eskom was established. Drawing extensively from AMEU archives (annual meeting, research reports, conference papers); municipal accounts; and interviews, the research disentangles

the complex linkages that have developed between Eskom, MEUs, and the three spheres of government.

The 30-minute presentation will provide an overview of the key research themes but will focus specifically on the long and rich heritage of the Association. The adage 'history repeating itself' is particularly pertinent and South Africa should consider its past before plotting its ESI future.

***Dr Theo Covary has over 15 years' experience in advising international agencies and governments on sustainable-energy policy in South Africa and the subcontinent. In 2016, he won the South African National Energy Association's Energy Project of the Year award. He completed a PhD at the University of Cape Town's Energy Research Centre and his thesis forms the subject of this book.***

6. Affiliate Presentations:

**TGOOD, Mr Bryan Johnson –  
Switchgear Standards (20 min)**

**ZUTARI, Mr Deon Very –  
The 100 MW threshold and the potential impact on Municipalities (20 min)**

7. Closure