



First Nations Clean Energy Symposium

FINAL REPORT

First Nations Clean Energy Network

September 2026

Overview

The First Nations Clean Energy Network, supported by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, hosted our [First Nations Clean Energy Symposium](#) on Wadawurrung Country, Djilang (Geelong, Victoria) from 18-20 August 2026.

It was our largest symposium ever with 500 people attending the gathering of First Nations leaders, Traditional Owners, communities, government, unions, academics, community organisations, industry and allies driving real outcomes for First Nations in Australia's clean energy transition.

This Symposium was about **Powering Action** and **Working Together**.

There are now some 30 First Nations clean energy partnerships, a testament to the determination of our communities to seize opportunities, drive change, and make clean energy work for us.

The 2026 Symposium was a forum where we discussed how to build on this progress and drive the change still needed - as a collective, leaving no-one behind.

We focussed on delivering real outcomes, from energy efficient solutions in homes and communities, to strong agreements for benefit-sharing and co-ownership, to removing structural barriers and opening the doors to clean energy development, by us and with us.

The Symposium welcome, gala dinner and performances were a highlight, offering a unique and meaningful collaboration of connection, culture and celebration.

Contents

Overview	1
Summary of proceedings	3
Photos	21
Media and Social Media	21
Some of your feedback	21
APPENDIX: Knowledge Capture – State/Territory breakout session	23

Summary of proceedings

Thank you to Wadawurrung Elders Uncle Alby Zantuck, (Chair Wadawurrung Council of Elders, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation) and Uncle Norm McPherson who generously welcomed us to Wadawurrung Dja (Country) and discussed emerging opportunities in the energy tradition.

Thank you also to Ash Skinner from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation who led the Cultural Walking Tour, Corrina Eccles at the Welcome Reception, and Wadawurrung dance performances with Macaylah Johnson and Talia Hart, as well as songs by Wadawurrung singer Talia Hart at the Symposium Dinner MC'd by Leon Filewood. Where we also enjoyed a powerful performance by Emma Donovan and band and finished the night with local Wadawurrung DJ Greg aka Tricky.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM DAY ONE

SYMPOSIUM OPENING - POWERING ACTION

Opening the Symposium, we reflected on how far we've come, the progress driven by First Nations leadership, and the action now needed to shape what comes next.

Speaking in this session, **Karrina Nolan**, co-Chair of the First Nations Clean Energy Network's Steering Group, and **Joe Morrison**, Group CEO of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation emphasised the following points:

- When First Nations lead, everyone benefits.
- First Nations people are critical to the implementation of the clean energy transition. It cannot be done at scale without us genuinely giving our consent and also benefiting from some of the large scale projects – it's a really strong piece of leverage that we have.
- First Nations communities are leading the way, showing what genuine partnerships can generate, and what further investment and commitment from all levels of Government and investors could realise.
- There is more work to do – despite this progress, financiers and governments are yet to create the right policy conditions and lift the amount of investment to ensure First Nations are front and centre.
- First Nations people on prepaid meters are still being disconnected on a regular basis - they can't afford to keep lights on, fridges working, medicines safe, all those really basic essential services and necessities that make us who we are.
- Many remote First Nations communities on the frontline of climate change impacts still rely on expensive, insecure and often unreliable diesel to power homes, and have some of the highest energy costs in the country. A federal investment towards new clean energy generation could alter these communities' wellbeing for generations to come.

- We need to build up our Traditional Owner entities and invest in our community organisations.
- We need to collectively continue to shift the policy and investment environment, change the story on capital, and ensure investment in First Nations equity stakes – reforming how we finance, build pathways for co-ownership, and back community-led clean energy projects offering reliable affordable electricity. We need a blend of capital and finance to make sure that we can actually build an economic base for ourselves.
- With some clean energy projects likely to be 70 years long, we're the most stable partners investors are going to have. Economically working with our communities really early on, and genuinely engaging, means the projects are put in the right places, the approvals can be done quicker, and projects have a longer lasting benefit for communities.
- People are not wanting to approve and to consent to developments on their Country – people want equity and real stakes in the development and the future of, not just themselves but the nation as well.
- Today, five years on from when the Network started, we're now considering being proponents ourselves, not just responding to people coming onto our Country, and we're seeing this as a potential opportunity to generate wealth for our communities over the long-term.
- The decisions we make now will shape whether First Nations communities are leading, owning and benefiting from the opportunities ahead. We must move forward as a collective, influencing policy, governments, and finance, ensuring no-one gets left behind.
- The transition is now an Indigenous-led movement of Indigenous people around the country – let's keep this going. We are stakeholders, we are absolutely landowners, we are rights holders, and collectively, we are going to do something about the transition that Australia has committed to.

⇒ Presentation by Joe Morrison, *ILSC* [DOWNLOAD](#)

LOCALLY POWERED - Victorian TOs and communities, coming together to shape the energy transition

This session welcomed a panel of highly esteemed First Peoples from Victoria, actively engaged in the state's clean energy transition through collective negotiation power, setting standards for proponents, and building First Nations place-based strategies reflecting rights and interests, local needs and aspirations.

Panel speakers included **Kaley Nicholson** (Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations), **Greg Robinson** (Director, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation), **Macaylah Johnson** (Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation), **Beaudine Clark** (Business Manager Renewable Energy, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation), and **Uncle Troy McDonald** (Gellung Warl), with the session facilitated by **Tegan Miller** (Victoria Policy and Engagement Lead, First Nations Clean Energy Network).

The speakers highlighted a range of points, including:

- There's a case for Traditional Owner involvement in, and leadership of, development on-Country, and for collaboration between First Nations groups as a means for building collective power and leadership.
- The development of First Nations-led frameworks, guiding strategies and principles can direct engagement with proponents and developers on Country. Necessary effort is needed to produce such and get everyone on board so that a unified voice and clear vision and aspirations are presented to proponents, governments and other stakeholders.
- First Nations groups can look at renewable energy in a number of ways:
 - Assessing your own energy use and assets and how to progress renewable energy solutions there, which includes learning what it actually takes to procure, install, operate and manage renewable energy infrastructure, in addition to exploring how to provide energy rebates to members and some energy bill relief.
 - Finding ways to engage in the much larger energy transition beyond benefit sharing arrangements towards co-ownership / equity in projects, and having the right partners and developers.
- Structures are needed to insulate Traditional Owners from what's happening in our regions, including around the geopolitical impacts of what's happening on Country (eg. critical mineral mining funded by overseas interests).

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FROM NEAR AND FAR - Building power and an energy system that works for us

The session was designed to review the momentous work already underway in building community power, unlocking institutional finance and removing significant policy barriers, to demonstrate the important role First Nations people and communities are playing in shaping how projects are developed and managed aligned with community priorities and aspirations, locally and globally, and to unlock common themes facing Indigenous people and in that, recognise where knowledge can be shared and built upon.

The session brought together an inspiring panel of invited international speakers from Turtle Island (Canada), United States and Aotearoa (New Zealand) sharing knowledge and learnings with us, including **Anahera Nin** (Co-founder, Four Directions Fund), **Wahleah Johns** (Founder and Managing Director, Four Directions Fund), **Mihskakwan James Harper** (Board Member, Indigenous Clean Energy, Canada), **Mana Newton** (Group CEO, Tauhara North No.2 Trust, New Zealand), **Tim Nuvangyaoma** (Vice President of Tribal Engagement, Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy, United States), **Alexandra Thomson** (Indigenous Clean Energy, Canada), **Chris Deschene** (Navajo Nation, United States) and facilitated by **Karrina Nolan** (Co-Chair, First Nations Clean Energy Network & Original Power).

Panel speakers shared a number of significant learnings, including:

- Governments should measure themselves by megawatts energised and homes powered in communities, not by programs launched – there's a gap between intent and implementation.
- Energy sovereignty matters to Indigenous self determination, and community wellness, healing and connection to land must remain central to our energy futures. A just energy transition can play a role in creating a different path forward, one that advances Indigenous leadership and ownership while helping to repair and renew relationships.
- Sustaining this movement means investing not only in projects, but in people – building the knowledge, skills, and leadership that enable communities to lead for generations. Indigenous young people are not simply the workforce of a clean energy future - they are the leaders, innovators, and knowledge carriers who will shape it.
- Indigenous communities can develop their own blueprint for clean energy development and climate resilience, based on what's needed and local aspirations.
- Our ability to thrive, not survive, as Indigenous peoples relies on our ability to partner with the right people sharing equal values, and build partnerships and relationships. AI is important – the Ancestral Intelligence and traditional knowledge we bring to the table.
- Building trust and relationship between developers and Indigenous communities is the biggest risk mitigation when it comes to developing and delivering projects.
- Bringing First Nations in as owners and partners at the start means the risk is removed rather than paid for later. Leaving First Nations out makes the transition slower and more expensive. Projects stall, consent is contested, and costs climb.
- When Indigenous Nations have a real stake in projects built on our lands and territories, we create stronger projects and share benefits more equally. First Nations know their community better than others. If you're partnering with a company or state-owned body, a leverage point is saying, if you give us the equity opportunity, we will take care of our community, and we will give returns to the community.
- Access to capital is a huge barrier, and government, industry, investors and philanthropists have an important role to play here to meet First Nations clean energy aspirations and to address the lack of early capital available.
- At the same time, First Nations groups must be ready to access any capital that does come, through good governance, strategies, clear aspirations, being ready to negotiate, and so on, to position our groups and nations in a place of power.
- If a nation or group has little or no money but wants to enter an equity partnership, they can separate out the ownership of the resource from the ownership of the development, and spell out that the First Nations group wants to be seen as equal partners. Then negotiate to participate in the development at the cost of the development, not at fair market value. (This relies on the First Nations group having some maturity in their balance sheet, or being able to access capital funds.) Such a move removes the risk of pre-development capital, the risk of development capital, and the risk of any of the business operations for the agreed time period, as the First Nations group is participating at the original cost.

- As Indigenous peoples, maintaining strong relationships with global kin allows us to share what is working, learn from one another, and ensure this transition advances both Indigenous empowerment and our collective responsibility to care for Country.
- Across many oceans we're all facing the same messages and the same stories – we're not alone. There are similar underlying principles we can take from each other. For example, Australia's First Nations Clean Energy Strategy is groundbreaking, a blueprint for us all.

⇒ Presentation by Chris Deschene, **Knowledge Exchange From Near and Far – Building Power and Energy Systems That Work for Us** [DOWNLOAD](#)

⇒ Presentation by Anahera Nin, **Four Directions Fund: Global Indigenous Renewable Energy Fund** [DOWNLOAD](#)

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND - Affordable, clean power for all First Nations households

Too many First Nations households – especially those in social housing, community housing, rental homes and remote communities – are still locked out of rooftop solar, batteries and other clean energy upgrade benefits.

This session asked what energy justice looks like at the household level, and what it will take to make sure First Nations people can access affordable, reliable and clean power where they live. The focus was on what is working, where the emerging success stories are, and what needs to change so that solutions are not just short-term pilots or one-off installations.

Panel speakers included **Aleeta Dixon** (Secretariat, Marlinja Bujbu Cooperative), **Chantelle Johns** (Community Coordinator, Original Power), **Eddie Newchurch** (Chairperson, Point Pearce Aboriginal Community), and **Michael Tuckwell** (Chief Executive Officer, Ekistica Pty Ltd), with the session facilitated by **Cissy Gore-Birch** (First Nations Clean Energy Network).

Key points from the session included:

- In remote communities with housing infrastructure controlled by governments, there can be many barriers hindering rooftop solar installation, with governments seeing it as a risk, not a benefit. Communities may want to explore other solutions, such as microgrids or standalone power systems, or alternative renewable energy pathways.
- The Point Pearce rooftop solar and battery project came about through the community's relationship with utility AGL, which resulted in most of the community's houses being a part of the project and now enjoying cleaner, cheaper energy.
- In remote areas, renewable technology is not the problem, but finance and ownership structures are. Who will own the infrastructure? Who will maintain it?
- Communities and groups (such as independent homelands) coming together may provide for additional opportunities such as building businesses and enterprises founded in those communities and regions, attracting better opportunities for investment in those businesses. Building regional capacity in organisations is essential.

- Energy security and energy access on homelands, and the services that people need to live on Country, are key concerns. Hybrid renewable energy upgrades in homelands installed 20 years ago through the Bushlight program are in need of upgrading with many still highly reliant on costly diesel.
- There's a need for coordinated governance and investments, transparent data practices, and proactive fit for purpose remote area asset management to improve First Nations (and Homelands) energy outcomes.

⇒ Presentation by Chantelle Johns, **Marlinja Microgrid Project** [DOWNLOAD](#)

⇒ Film about **Marlinja microgrid and energy efficiency upgrades** [WATCH](#)

⇒ Read a report by Ekistica: **Homelands Energy Service Delivery Model Project, Knowledge Sharing Report: Aboriginal Homelands Power Supply – Current State Of Delivery (2025)** [DOWNLOAD](#)

COMMUNITY OWNED SOLUTIONS - Why, When, How

While community ownership of projects is a means to exercise local control and care for Country, there are also challenges. This session asked those communities taking the lead, why did you do it and what are the challenges, risks and benefits.

Panel speakers included **Ellie Kamara** (CEO, Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation), **Jumeka Saunders** (Ranger and Energy representative, Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corporation), **Vonda Malone** (Chief Advocate, Indigenous Energy Australia), **Kallum Clarke** (Chief Operating Officer, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC), **Scotty McDinny** (Senior Community Organiser - Borroloola, Original Power), **Madie Sturgess** (Co-Director, Clean Energy Communities, Original Power), with the session facilitated by **Rebecca Halliday** (Director, First Nations Clean Energy Network) .

Key points from these community clean energy leaders included:

- The Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project includes supply reliability and affordability drivers for Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation to undertake this high impact project. There's uncertainty and a lack of readiness of local utilities to engage community proponents, seen as the major challenge to the timely progress of the project that will provide considerable benefit to their community.
- A brief video was shown of Nipapanha's journey to date in undertaking community energy planning. The community is working to determine what options they have to secure lower energy costs, robust climate resilience, and local jobs in the Flinders Ranges including a community-led approach and public-community partnerships.
- Indigenous Energy Australia shared on their collaboration with the community of Yarrabah for the development of a microgrid, and further projects including a governance model for the Murray-Darling Basin, First Nations merit criteria built into SA's renewable energy licences, and the development of an engagement strategy and reporting of Capacity Investment Scheme outcomes for TagEnergy's portfolio of projects.

- Borroloola's Ngardara Community Microgrid Project is more than planning for an asset and bill savings in the community. Being led by an endorsed community benefits plan, Ngardara Co-operative has built a project that includes training and workforce development objectives, meaning that despite the microgrid's development timeline delays due to a lack of fit for purpose utilities' processes, community members who have undertaken construction training will still be able to offer some homeland services in the near term due to intentional design for workforce readiness.
- There is benefit in having a strong representative organisation which has already invested in the community, in engagement, and in management of native title lands, thereby building trust among community members for progressing clean energy solutions, and trust in investors willing to provide finance for a clean energy project.

⇒ Presentation by Ellie Kamara, *Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project* [DOWNLOAD](#)

⇒ Presentation by Jumeeka Saunders, *Nipapanha Aboriginal Community Energy Story* [DOWNLOAD](#)

⇒ Presentation by Vonda Malone, *Powering our Future* [DOWNLOAD](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN

Clean energy is becoming the foundation for an entirely new industrial economy, enabling critical minerals, battery manufacturing, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence and data centres. These industries present new opportunities, and also potentially different pressures on land, water, culture and communities.

This session explored how First Nations communities are navigating this changing landscape.

Our panel of speakers included **Brian Bero** (Associate Professor and Principal Lawyer, Mabo Centre), **Miriam Lyons** (Australian Energy Transformation Program Director, Sunrise Project), **Martin Bin Rashid** (CEO, Karajarri Traditional Lands Association), with facilitation by **Cissy Gore-Birch** (First Nations Clean Energy Network).

Key points included:

- Australia is at the beginning of a major data centre boom. Around 160 data centres are already operating and more than 90 are proposed, with data-centre capacity projected to grow substantially over the coming decade. New data centres can be vastly more energy-intensive than earlier facilities, creating significant new demand for electricity.
- Data centres can also have significant water impacts. They require large amounts of energy to keep servers operating and computer chips cool, and there can be a trade-off between water and electricity use: cooling systems that use less water can require more energy.
- We know what economic booms can look like - "a lot of cash, a lot of cowboys". But there is an opportunity to shape this boom before development becomes locked in. Community pressure has already influenced governments and projects, and there is a window now to establish strong and enforceable standards for how data centres are developed.

- The Federal Government intends to legislate mandatory national AI standards, including water and energy standards, in early 2027. Public Interest Principles developed by a coalition of unions, environmental, community and renewable energy organisations provide a model - these point out that data centres should be powered by 100% additional renewable energy, strengthen rather than undermine grid stability, use water responsibly, operate transparently, minimise environmental impacts, and earn and maintain social licence.
- Data centres should be powered by 100% renewable energy, be sited in collaboration with First Nations whose land and water are impacted, and should commit to ongoing social licence and First Nations outcomes. First Nations communities must be able to participate, and share in the benefits of data centres, while minimising risks - it's an opportunity for renewable energy equity and co-ownership pathways and benefit sharing frameworks.
- First Nations rights and interests need to be built more strongly into these standards, including through strengthened principles around Free, Prior and Informed consent. Communities have power to shape whether and how this new infrastructure is developed.
- There are already examples demonstrating what happens when development does not meet these principles. Proposed projects include a gas-powered data centre linked to Beetaloo Basin gas in the Northern Territory, likely to impact Larrakia and Kungarakana Country; while in Boorloo/Perth, a proposed 120MW data centre at Hazelmere was withdrawn following resistance from the Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association and others.
- Data centres can also create opportunities for First Nations ownership and economic participation. The Karajarri People are partners in Project Meridien, a proposed large-scale AI compute campus on Karajarri Country in the Kimberley. Karajarri Energy holds a one-third interest in the Gingerah Energy joint venture alongside Longreach Renewable Energies and Fugro Exploration, with an Indigenous Land Use Agreement underpinning the development.
- Project Meridien illustrates a different model of First Nations participation: rather than Traditional Owners simply being consulted about infrastructure developed on Country, Karajarri are positioned as co-owners of the development itself. The project is proposed to scale beyond 1GW and combines data-centre development with large-scale on-site energy generation.
- Data centres are only one part of a much larger clean energy supply chain. Critical minerals are fundamental to the technologies on which the transition depends. As Brian Bero illustrated, even something as commonplace as a mobile phone contains many different critical minerals. Without access to these minerals, there can be no clean energy transition, while disruption to critical-mineral supply chains creates significant economic and strategic risks
- This raises fundamental questions for First Nations people about the next wave of development on Country: who decides, who controls, who benefits and who determines? As demand for critical minerals and new clean-energy industries grows, First Nations need to be part of decisions about how those resources are developed and how value created through the supply chain is shared.

- The clean energy supply chain therefore presents both risk and opportunity. The challenge is not simply to respond to projects once they arrive, but to shape the rules governing these emerging industries and create pathways for First Nations participation, partnership and ownership from the outset.

⇒ Presentation by Miriam Lyons, **Data Centres 101** [DOWNLOAD](#)

HOW COMMUNITIES ORGANISE TO SHAPE THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Through examples like [The Right to Power Report](#) and emerging youth leadership on Iwupataka solar installations, this session explored how communities build the relationships and strategies needed to influence decisions on our own terms. It explored what it takes to organise effectively, build leverage and exercise self-determination throughout the clean energy transition.

Panel speakers included **Rene Dingo** (WA Clean Energy Projects and Engagement Lead, Original Power), **Vivianne Mckenzie** (Director, Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation), **Jason Bilney** (Steering Group member, First Nations Clean Energy Network), **Aleeta Dixon** (Secretariat, Marlinja Bujbu Cooperative), **Tshara Rigney** (Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation), and **Andrew Bray** (National Director, RE-Alliance Limited), with **Alexandra Thomson** (Indigenous Clean Energy Canada) facilitating the session.

Key points from the speakers included:

- Right now there's an opportunity for government to partner with communities, and support change across the country.
- Clean energy solutions are a way to self determine and gain community control of energy, while creating pathways for employment and skills development, building economic empowerment, strengthening community-led organisations, positioning First Nations communities as leaders, and complementing other initiatives like Ranger and caring for Country initiatives.
- Communities wanting to put in renewable solutions need to get prepared as there are several challenges – expect long time frames, expect to be pushed back, and that you might not always get the answers you like. Getting a clean energy project up is the first step, then maintenance will be needed once it's operating.
- Advocacy, community-led decisions, whole of community engagement, lots of workshops and more, assist in getting community-led projects off the ground, assisted by including a diverse range of people with different skills and contacts.
- Good partnerships are also so important, and it's worth approaching industry and government to see if they're willing to build a partnership – often they have no idea where to start.

- Negotiating well, educating yourself, talking to community, and being confident, are key. Seek out native title lawyers and commercial lawyers to negotiate on a group's behalf in small to large scale opportunities. Find ways to future-proof your Country by looking at the energy and infrastructure landscape and putting in place mechanisms to ensure proponents and government come to you first. Remember, benefits can be negotiated even when native title is absent.
- Many of our homes were built in a way to colonise us and do not reflect our ways of being or our land. They leak energy so our electricity bills are very high. Homes should be upgraded and employ clean energy solutions to suit local climatic conditions and national housing standards to reduce energy costs and improve well-being.
- Communities on prepaid meters may be able to take advantage of solar revenue from rooftops or microgrids, getting prepaid meter credits added automatically. With Marlinja's community-owned microgrid, households involved are now seeing a ~70% bill reduction.
- Around 65,000 First Nations energy customers (14,800+ households) are on mandated prepayment systems in NT, WA, QLD and SA. Prepayment systems lack consumer protections, hardship programs, and proper regulatory oversight, and create structural inequities in energy access for First Nations households. [The Right to Power](#) report provides a clear, evidence-based roadmap for action – showing that communities want fairer protections and access to solar and microgrids. Without reform, First Nations communities risk being left behind in the clean energy transition.

⇒ Presentation by Rene Dingo, **Original Power: Working on energy inclusion and renewable energy solutions across Australia's north** [DOWNLOAD](#)

⇒ Read Original Power's report: **The Right to Power – Keeping First Nations communities on prepayment connected** [DOWNLOAD](#)

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM DAY TWO

COLLECTIVE ACTION

Day two of the Symposium began looking at what comes next. We watched an inspiring short film showing solar installation on **Iwupataka Homelands** outside of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

We also watched a video message from **The Hon Chris Bowen MP**, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, where he announced up to \$10 million in funding for up to two First Nations organisations to support projects with an expected capacity over 1 megawatt (MW) beyond feasibility and towards financial close.

We heard from **Aunty Lena** and **Julie Gibson** from Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), and they talked about:

- The launch of their new [Energy Strategy](#) and revisiting their [Pathways to Partnerships: Gunaikurnai and Major Projects](#) framework at the Gippsland New Energy Conference in August 2026
- Community engagement, where the community is brought along to ask questions of proponents, and proponents really listen and understand and learn about what we need, can ensure partnerships are really meaningful.
- Bringing young people into the picture is important – they want to be involved and want to learn about renewable energy, and they want opportunities such as jobs.
- GLaWAC have engagement agreements and are working towards partnership agreements with four proponents – with other proponents there's a lot more work to do.
- One of the offshore wind developers they're working with described how the engagement partnership de-risks their project on three levels:
 - At the shareholder level - via the ESG reporting that they're able to do and they're able to embed that into their business practices, which includes having those ESG expectations with their contractors as well
 - At the social licence level - in acknowledging native title for the Gunaikurnai, they're acknowledging that Gunaikurnai are rights holders and have a legal right, so that enables the proponent to develop a social license, and so that's another de-risking
 - At the project level - that early sharing of knowledge and respectful knowledge transfer helps them de-risk their approval processes, enabling working together around supply chain opportunities that go above and beyond minimum requirements, setting stretch targets, and engaging early and over a long time.
- One of the other developers they're working with said their partnership with Gunaikurnai is about lasting intergenerational thinking, and to them that's a gift – it takes them away from short-term project thinking and really grounds them.

⇒ *Iwupataka Solar Homelands Story* [WATCH](#)

⇒ *Video message by The Hon Chris Bowen MP* [WATCH](#)

POWERING OUR ECONOMY - Creating the conditions for First Nations Economic Power

With Australia undergoing a massive energy and economic transformation, now is the time to invest in our communities, entities and people to participate in this transition so we can shape it and benefit from it for generations to come.

Yet too many First Nations projects still struggle to access the right capital at the right time, leaving gaps between early ideas, feasibility, investment, construction and long-term ownership.

This session brought together First Nations project leaders, philanthropists, government agencies, impact investors and commercial financiers to unpack what needs to change, exploring the policy settings, investment architecture, public finance, infrastructure planning and First Nations-led financial institutions needed to move beyond project-by-project participation and build genuine economic power.

Our panel of speakers included **Peter Yu** (Vice-President (First Nations), The Australian National University), **Jason Bilney** (Steering Group member, First Nations Clean Energy Network), **Danny Kennedy** (Senior Adviser, Sunrise Project), **Michelle Steele** (Chief First Nations Officer, Paul Ramsay Foundation), **Megan Humphries** (Director, Wambal Bila), **Mana Newton** (Group CEO, Tauhara North No.2 Trust), and **Darren Godwell** (Chair, Indigenous Business Australia), with the session facilitated by **Karrina Nolan** (Executive Director, First Nations Clean Energy Network & Original Power).

Key points that came out of this session included:

- When the clean energy transition is done right, we don't just power the grid, we empower our people. Let's recognise the fundamental link between economic development and empowerment to self-determination.
- When you're in the driving seat, you've got the cards. A conversation from the very start builds good relationships. It takes a long time, sometimes years, to build a meaningful equitable partnership with an energy company.
- Commercial negotiations in First Nations interests are best assisted with the right trusted partners at the table: financial, commercial, legal. [First Nations Energy Partners](#) is a new organisation being set up by the First Nations Clean Energy Network, so First Nations can be empowered to participate in projects.
- Capital is also an issue. We've got the technology in Australia, we've seen it working, it's happening. The money is there, it's available – it just requires a political commitment by the government. The government needs to focus on looking at access to available and the right type of capital.
- We've piloted enough. Let's stop talking about scaling as a process of piloting, and then doing it at some point in the future. When people are getting \$7000 bills and it costs \$7000 to build a system, then the payback is instant, and there should be credit available.
- It's time to roll out rooftop solar and microgrids around the country, particularly in remote area communities, using capital available in the government's special investment vehicles (SIVs). Alternatively, government should set up a dedicated special purpose investment vehicle with its own balance sheet, with investments carved off from available funds under existing SIVs, and then coordinate the national roll-out over the next 10 years to achieve accessible and affordable energy.
- Access to capital is easy for some and hard for others. There is a capital problem to be solved, and then moving forward on terms that are agreeable to us.
- There are leverage points for communities:

- First Nations are in a very strong position because we have a very solid land/water asset base, in addition to our other assets, which can be leveraged to attract private and public investment.
 - If there's a lack of First Nations funds upfront, equity positions are possible with innovative preference/finance models that return equity in a project over the medium to long term, in addition to revenue sharing leading to wealth building.
 - First Nations can hold companies accountable on Country by negotiating the right deal for community, getting their expertise, having the right lawyers, and knowing the value of what the project, and the land and waters, are worth. This can happen with or without native title, but requires First Nations groups to push the bar and get an understanding of the commercial and energy landscape.
 - First Nations can use their cultural capital (rights, interests, aspirations) to create competitive advantage opportunities, but doing it alone is very difficult. Creating collective cultural capital or capability can be turned into a competitive commercial advantage. That means looking at connections to other groups and working out together how you can support each other, and then using that advantage to negotiate competitive terms around projects, and creating a cluster of capital. This strategy can bring other groups along that have never invested in energy, or who are looking to invest into energy, then turn that into competitive commercial realities. Creating a cluster of groups builds investor confidence because due diligence has been done.
- For the ambition to be ownership, we need to change the way in which investment systems, including philanthropy, operate. Investors look at risk when considering funding for a project. Are our investment vehicles ready to back the First Nations' ownership bid? Investors need to ensure our systems of capital, finance, policy and investment are prepared to back First Nations in.
 - Philanthropy can start by building trust and relationships that allows investors to understand what communities want to invest in, rather than asking communities to fit into their investment strategies. Philanthropy can provide patient capital that wears the risk others will not take, by investing early and supporting organisations with community capabilities.
 - There's a huge influx of capital coming to Australia to invest in renewable energy, and groups have to be ready to get that piece of the equity – true ownership and wealth building opportunity stakes, rather than just consultation and employment.
 - If First Nations are not looking at ways to participate in the capital-raising for energy projects, and to secure your ownership or equity in those projects, those projects will be funded without you. If you've got a project you want to participate in, not in procurement but in equity and ownership, talk with IBA, philanthropists, and other institutional investors.

WHEN THE RULES GET IN THE WAY - How Utilities can support First Nations outcomes

This session brought together utilities, regulators and community leaders to explore where the rules are helping—and where they are holding communities back, examining what needs to change so utilities can become stronger partners in delivering a faster, fairer and more community-led energy transition.

Panel speakers included **Mihskakwan James Harper** (Board Member, Indigenous Clean Energy), **Josiah Fajardo** (Sector Lead - Project Development, Ekistica) and facilitated by **Madie Sturgess** (Co-Director, Clean Energy Communities, Original Power).

Key points from the session included:

- Even if money is sourced for community energy projects, and the community is on board, there's still issues around some of the connection processes.
- Negotiating contracts for the first time when utilities are used to doing it alone is hard, and not currently fit for purpose, leading to slower project development and increased complexity. If community proponents are driving the show, they then pick up the tab.
- Utilities have legal obligations they have to maintain which are not set by them. How do we work within this current environment? How do we identify the pain points, and what interim contracts, solutions, and partnerships can we put in place?
- This isn't just a technical issue, it's multidisciplinary and requires coordination between a lot of parties to get it right, and it's going to take time – meanwhile some solutions can be looked at to keep projects going while we're also landing that big piece of work.
- Examples from Canada suggest starting with the numbers and the technical design, and then some logic, but the thing that gets you over the line is policy and politics and relationships, and that's really hard.
- An ongoing forum is needed to start identifying the issues, with cross-jurisdictional, cross-disciplinary voices in the room, to make sure it gets solved as quickly as possible. AEMC put their hand up and offered help to move it along.

STATE-BASED BREAKOUTS

The clean energy transition looks different in every state and territory. From policy and regulation to renewable energy development and community priorities, each jurisdiction is navigating its own opportunities and challenges.

A breakout space was provided for each jurisdiction to share local experiences, explore practical solutions and identify the actions needed to strengthen First Nations leadership across each region.

See **APPENDIX: State-based breakout sessions**

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF POLICY FOR A FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Over the past few years, First Nations communities and organisations have shifted what is possible — from the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy, to changes in the Capacity Investment Scheme, Future Made in Australia, and growing attention on prepayment, energy access and community benefit.

The challenge now is turning these commitments into lasting change. This session looked at what the next phase of reform needs to focus on.

The panel of speakers included **Leah Armstrong** (Interim Director, First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance), **Matthew Brine** (Deputy Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water), **Bec Halliday** (Director, First Nations Clean Energy Network), **Karrina Nolan** (Co-Chair, First Nations Clean Energy Network), and **Jonathan Kneebone** (Director of Policy and Engagement, First Nations Clean Energy Network), with the session facilitated by **Cissy Gore-Birch** (First Nations Clean Energy Network).

Key points brought forward included:

- This is a moment to reform policies, laws and processes to ensure First Nations participate in and benefit from the transition.
- Clean energy represents a radically different opportunity for ownership of energy resources and for First Nations-led proposals. There is great potential for large-scale projects to be done differently.
- Investors can benefit from partnering with First Nations, through faster project approvals, improved access to capital, offtake advantages, secondary market premiums, and local workforce and cost efficiencies. Investors need to embrace First Nations partnerships and ownership as a strategic advantage, and engage early, transparently, and with a long-term vision.
- We are deploying billions of dollars towards essentially restructuring our economy around an energy system, and through The Future Made in Australia Act, we managed to change the way they do a tick box assessment so that whenever government is thinking about how they're deploying money through the Act, they have to identify how First Nations outcomes are going to be achieved. That's not just about clean energy, that's about how workforces have transitioned, how coal plants are shut down, and so on.
- The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy is endorsed by all Australian energy ministers in a moment of bipartisanship, and it's a strategy we can't forget. We need to be pulling it out at every moment because it has incredible things in there. It even talks about, in an earlier draft, that access to energy is a basic human right.
- First Nations policy has too often been built around objection and delay rather than shared value creation. While policy framing in the energy system has changed somewhat (eg. Future Made in Australia, Capacity Investment Scheme, First Nations Clean Energy Strategy), the system has not. Where is the implementation?

- The Capacity Investment Scheme has been very beneficial in getting companies to the table to discuss and to provide benefits to groups. However, some proponents are setting First Nations targets in their tender applications without first talking to the First Nations communities likely impacted to understand local rights, interests and aspirations, so the company's commitments don't necessarily meet the needs of the particular community being dealt with. Also, a lot of the time, the groups don't actually have the capacity to take up those opportunities because they're not developed in those aspects of their businesses, and there are other benefits that might be more beneficial to where they're at. (Any examples you can send through to the Department, they can address in the next tender – that would be super helpful.)
- First Nations outcomes committed to by proponents through the Scheme must be followed up to ensure proponents are actually meeting them.
- The Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) has demonstrated government market design can influence investment behaviour. As governments prepare to transition beyond the CIS to the longer term framework – the Electricity Services Entry Mechanism (ESEM) presents an opportunity to build on CIS progress. It needs to support the vision set out in Australia's [First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 2024-30](#) and continue CIS momentum.
- The Electricity Services Entry Mechanism needs to be drawing on what the First Nation Clean Energy Strategy says, and there is absolutely a role for the Commonwealth in there to play a guiding hand about the sorts of principles that we want to see this investment coming in because it is indeed going to be a race to the bottom if that doesn't happen.
- States and territories are winding back their commitments on so many different policy and regulatory areas, including care and protection of cultural heritage. To have those programs go back into the states and territories and be at the whim of state and territory budgets, changes in leadership, changes in investment pressures and the like, and influence, is a real and tangible risk.
- In some areas of Australia, developers are making an agreement with local government, the council or the regional council, with all the monies going straight into their coffers. There's no dedicated First Nations benefits, and the regional council gets to decide whether any portion of those community benefits funds are going to be invested in First Nations priorities, aspirations and often, critical needs.
- Satisfying certain minimum standards, determined by the relevant state or territory, is "a race to the bottom". States setting really high expectations against those setting low expectations will lose investment, so that's a risk. The Commonwealth will lead on this and hold states and territories targets accountable.
- The Federal government is trying to be ambitious around the economic agenda. There will be in the next month or so an opportunity to have people give input on what an overarching economic framework or strategy for Australia looks like for First Nations peoples. This roadmap will be the guiding policy platform, and is based on what the Prime Minister announced two years ago in Garma. The commitment's there, but we've got to follow up with the policy action afterwards.

- The Right to Power report has recommendations on the upcoming heat wave in regards to 'do not disconnect' for utilities managing prepaid meters. The federal government agreed to cover costs associated with that with the retailer (initial modeling is ~\$1.5 million for the 12 hour window not to be disconnected for 36 degrees in some places, and then 40 degrees in others). Since then, the federal government has been working with state and territories to deliver a response, noting jurisdictional issues holding back progress including the funding required to do that, and the level of ambition. Question the Federal government is debating is, do we do a short trial or do we try to fix this issue permanently? The Federal government needs to get state and territory colleagues across the line before they can act. A lot of the utility companies managing prepaid metering systems are owned by the state and territory government, so without them, it's hard to do too much.
- Through the clean energy transition, there's lots of opportunities to create change. There's a lot of problems that people talk about, but very few people are taking action and demonstrating what the solutions are, so that's where the opportunity lies.

⇒ Presentation by Jonathan Kneebone, **Clean Energy & Self-determination: Risks and Opportunities**
[DOWNLOAD](#)

COMMUNITY BENEFIT OPTIONS - A menu of options for creating lasting value

Too often, community benefit discussions focus on a narrow range of outcomes, such as community funds or a small number of local jobs. In reality, projects can create many different forms of benefit (or value), from equity ownership and long-term revenue to workforce development, cheaper energy, cultural outcomes, and caring for Country.

This session explores the growing "menu of options" available to communities, proponents and governments.

Panel speakers included **Justin Coburn** (Director, Empower CBR), **Louise Austin** (Director, Wambal Bila), **Keiyana Guihot** (Director, Wambal Bila), **Alexandra Thomson** (Indigenous Clean Energy Canada), **Simone Jordan** (Board member, Awabakal LALC), **Julie Gibson** (Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation), and **Lena Morris**, (Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation), facilitated by **Ruby Heard** (Director, Alinga Energy Consulting).

Key points that arose included:

- We've missed out on benefiting from massive energy projects on Country over the last 60-70 years and we've got catching up to do. We're moving from exclusion to inclusion at the same time as extractive industries are moving to renewable industries, also on Country.
- It's about building sovereign wealth, health and prosperity, healing Country, and economic empowerment – partnering and owning some of these renewable energy projects happening on Country.

- Renewable Energy Zones require First Nations groups to educate themselves on what's happening and get into a position to negotiate and work together, collaboratively. That might include forming alliances with our other groups or Local Aboriginal Land Councils and working collaboratively towards a better result for each, and also the region generally.
- There are land give-back opportunities from renewable energy projects. Proponents sometimes purchase land, and sometimes purchase more than they need. Getting some of that land back into First Nations hands could be a game changer.
- First Nations commitments made by proponents through things like the Capacity Investment Scheme, Long-Term Energy Service Agreements (LTESA) or access rights agreements must be honored. As they more often haven't engaged with First Nations to co-design targets with mutual benefits, proponents may not know how to meet the First Nations targets they've set. Regardless, we need to keep the pressure on for companies to not just honor but exceed their commitments, some of which are 30 years long.
- Proponents often offer jobs and training and other things that never eventuate. Let's be clear. Jobs are expected. Proponents must employ from our community. Jobs need to be jobs First Nations want, and help us fulfill our cultural commitments to Country. For example, projects have to create environmental offsets, and those offsets have to be managed into perpetuity. First Nations people could play a role here.
- If proponents haven't consulted on their projects, First Nations may be able to halt those projects, gather information, engage with community, and then return to proponents with clear expectations and aspirations. The First Nations Clean Energy Network can provide information to communities that haven't been consulted effectively.
- First Nations want to be acknowledged as rights holders, not as mainstream community. The term 'benefits' often lumps mainstream benefits together with First Nations benefits (our sovereign benefits).
- We're interested in how we share in the benefits and profits from a project. Having an equity partnership raises the bar and our expectations of what we have and what we want out of proponents.
- Communities can make the decision to enter an equity partnership collectively and then create the structure to make sure that decisions are carried forward, by our people, for our people. And involve youth so that they can manage the finances and equity going forward, and also to negotiate future deals.
- Equity partnerships can have a real impact in a community. Income flows create intergenerational wealth, and self-determination comes from having money to put back into the community. We get to decide how to spend income.
- Let's look back in 30 years' time and see we have really made a difference, that we're all working with the proponents to get the best outcomes for each and every individual community, and we've paved the way for future generations.

CLOSE OF SYMPOSIUM

Participants were invited to apply for [PowerMakers](#) happening in October 2026 – a First Nations Clean Energy Network leadership program building the next wave of First Nations clean energy leaders.

Photos

Our professional photographer took lots of photos. You can access them [here](#).

Please note, do not share or use personally or commercially any photos taken of Wadawurrung ceremony including the smoking, talks and dances.

Media and Social Media

Various media outlets including The Guardian, National Indigenous Times, and Renew Economy attended this year's Symposium. The Symposium was additionally reported on by First Nations News, National TalkBlack radio, National Indigenous Radio Service and Community Broadcasting Association.

Discussion about the Symposium also featured widely in social media including LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook, shared by hosts and participants.

Some of your feedback

"This symposium is a fantastic demonstration of First Nations ingenuity. The sky = the limit."

"The symposium was an exceptionally valuable forum for learning, reflection and connection, and I felt very fortunate to hear directly from First Nations leaders, industry representatives and others contributing to the clean energy transition."

"My cup is so full from the symposium!"

"Each Symposium seems to somehow out-do the previous one."

"I came away humbled by the experience and hugely impressed by what the First Nations Clean Energy Network has built."

"Such a fantastic event!"

"I was inspired by what has been achieved and what is possible."

"What an amazing experience to be among 500+ people sharing knowledge and exploring how First Nations participation in the energy transition can shift from a "consultation" approach to ownership and self-determination."

"It was a privilege to hear stories of communities organising and shaping the clean energy transition and ensuring no one is left behind."

"The symposium further strengthened my respect for the work of the Network and the role it plays in advancing First Nations leadership, participation and self-determination within Australia's clean energy future."

"You mob have under promised and over delivered on many fronts".

"Seldom have I had the privilege I had last week, when I got to share the stage with Indigenous community leaders. Their stories of using their own ingenuity and drive to make life better for their own communities, basing all their work in culture and care for Country, were absolutely inspirational."

"The symposium was easily one of the most meaningful conferences I've attended over the past few years."

"Congrats on pulling off another symposium. Bloody amazing."

"It was a really rich set of conversations, a real privilege to listen and learn from all this great work."

"Feeling inspired for the second half of 2026 and the work ahead to create better outcomes for Australians and First Nations people in the energy space."

"Huge congratulations to the team at First Nations Clean Energy Network for running this excellent and inspiring event."

"Thank you to the First Nations Clean Energy Network for hosting such an important gathering and creating a space for collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective action."

"We wanted to congratulate you on an amazing summit. We valued being there – listening, learning, and being among the community. We're already looking forward to attending again next year."

APPENDIX: Knowledge Capture – State/Territory breakout session

New South Wales

- Challenges identified included:
 - Need to build capacity amongst all members of First Nations communities.
 - Proponents going out to 'shop around', instead of approaching the peak body of a community as their first option.
 - Investigate who/what maintains and holds our sovereign data.
- Some of the actions identified that could be taken included:
 - Deliver the Network's PowerMakers and other programs to support First Nations.
 - Hold state-based gatherings hosted by the Network, and for participants to contribute learnings to future Symposiums.
 - Mandate that site work on Country be done by local people, on Country, and by Traditional Owners.

Northern Territory

- Challenges identified included:
 - Load hosts, limitations at remote power stations constraining economic development opportunities.
 - Too much government focus on risky fossil fuel developments, ignoring local opportunities for clean energy investment in clean energy generation.
 - No clear and transparent processes for technical and commercial assessments with government-owned utilities and retailers creating risk and delay for microgrid projects in development.
 - Investment uncertainty for large First Nations organisations due to unclear government approval processes, meaning they can't access the capital they need to create equity in projects.
 - A huge 'prepayment for power reform' process is needed, with more spotlight on energy insecurity.
 - The need for targeted investment and consumer protections for prepaid and First Nations customers.
- Some of the actions identified that could be taken included:

- Working together.
- Addressing challenges in community-led solutions through more First Nations clean energy ownership.

Queensland

- Some of the challenges identified included:
 - Jobs – not just short term but ongoing.
 - Opportunity to help choose locations for projects to avoid impact to sacred sites and Country.
 - Housing - and how project worker construction builds could be returned to First Nations once projects are completed.
 - Ensuring early engagement.
 - Lack of knowledge of policy changes and ways to get involved.
 - Clarity about what sorts of benefits could be delivered by projects, and pursuing equity.
 - Knowledge to make decisions on these projects, including around Social Impact Assessments (SIA) or Community Benefit Agreements (CBA).
 - Need better relationships with Councils.
- Some of the actions identified that could be taken included:
 - Undertaking community energy planning, etc.
 - Build a "what communities have secured elsewhere" resource with real examples of jobs, housing, equity, revenue sharing, so that people have a reference point for what to ask for.
 - Develop a plain-english explainer on ongoing complex Queensland policy like SIA and CBA: what they are, when they happen, where First Nations can influence them, and when direct agreements with proponents are more suited.
 - Fund and support a small number of communities to do their own energy or benefit plans, so that priorities exist before proponents arrive.
 - Hold more Network PoweringUp Workshops (PUPs) in Queensland, specifically targeted at knowledge levels of participants; understand what training or accreditation community members need.
 - Develop a clear position on IP and data ownership for assessments.
 - Ensure early notification of projects in the pipeline, so that communities aren't the last to know.

- Look at whether ownership, planning, or transfer is feasible – is there any precedent? If it stands up, it could become a standard thing to pursue.
- Map alternative pathways where the Council relationship isn't working, and utilise working relationships with proponents to achieve benefits without Councils through direct proponent–community agreements.
- Encourage proponents:
 - To employ or train local community members: to undertake Impact Assessments so Community can do it themselves, and additionally own the IP for these assessments; with a focus on upskilling community members.
 - To employ First Nations persons for engagement with First Nations groups.
 - Where projects are in Council areas, to not only talk to Council, but engage with Traditional Owners and/or the broader community.

South Australia

- Some of the challenges identified included:
 - Ways to circulate the Point Pearce solar and battery partnership model wider, and also the opportunity of clean energy.
 - How to attract investment from industry, similar to how AGL provided investment for the Point Pearce project.
 - Not owning land causes some issues.
- Some of the actions identified that could be taken included:
 - Translate the Point Pearce solar and battery partnership into an opportunity for each community.
 - Employ the productive model of working together, like in the Point Pearce model, and include non-Aboriginal interests, lawyers, and other industry stakeholders.
 - Ensure projects are community-driven, which in turn allows for resources to come in.
 - Do community engagement for community projects for better understanding, better education, and better willingness to do it together.
 - Develop a state clean energy strategy with a framework, and clarity around how to implement it.

Victoria / Tasmania

- Some of the challenges identified included:

- Access to land.
- Finance and funding.
- Sharing benefits.
- Social licence priorities at risk, with misinformation and pushback by companies.
- Lack of meaningful and early engagement, lack of recognition of Country plans, no accountability, no understanding of expectations.
- How Traditional Owners work together.
- Some of the actions identified that could be taken included:
 - Targeted practical information needed, including guidance around value sharing and benefits, and technical knowledge about energy.
 - Establish a new form of title called 'sovereign title' where First Peoples are controlling the land and the equity – owning the resource.
 - Establish a partnership between Landback and Traditional Owners and State government and a pathway to share benefits and also transfer land back to Traditional Custodians that could hold mid-scale renewable energy installs.
 - Set a benchmark for value sharing: set the quantum (beyond compensation); that doesn't regulate self-determination; and with government and industry backing it in and setting the standard; TOCs share information collectively, and collectively bargain.

Western Australia

- Some of the challenges identified included:
 - Over 130 individual nations in WA with their own challenges and opportunities, including systemic disadvantages in remote communities.
 - A shortage of accessible, coordinated information.
 - A risk that projects will occur on Country without meaningful ownership or lasting benefit.
 - Uneven access to technical, commercial, legal and project-development capability between communities, and uneven community capability and negotiating power, leading to severe commercial power imbalances during negotiations between corporate developers and Traditional Owners.
 - Lack of providers and tailored local training options to community.
 - Complex native title laws.

- Need for a WA First Nations Clean Energy Fund to support feasibility, early-stage development, community equity and investment readiness.
- Some of the actions identified that could be taken included:
 - Translate national goals in the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy into a practical State agenda with a strategic framework that defines priorities, responsibilities and measures of success underneath the vision: ONE STATE. MANY NATIONS. A SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE.
 - Convene a WA-specific First Nations Clean Energy Symposium focused on creating a unified, First Nations-led approach that connects communities, projects, information, funding, government, utilities and industry across the State.
 - Develop a State-based forum, body or mechanism to coordinate and amplify the authority of Traditional Owners, PBCs, Aboriginal corporations and communities.
 - Develop a WA funding strategy, including government, industry, philanthropy and impact-investment pathways.
 - Develop a digital WA hub to include project, funding and opportunities register for advice, feasibility, finance and delivery support.
 - Strategically deliver regional information-sharing roadshows.
 - Build demonstration projects in different WA regions to prove community ownership and benefit-sharing models.
 - Develop a First Nations Clean Energy Project Standard covering Country, consent, ownership, economic benefit, jobs, capability and long-term legacy.
 - Develop an independent project advice pool so communities can obtain technical, legal and commercial advice before signing agreements.
 - Coordinate regular engagement with State and Commonwealth governments, utilities, industry and investors.
 - Develop a First Nations business and workforce register to connect projects with Aboriginal suppliers, professionals, apprentices and workers; build First Nations business, workforce and procurement pipelines; and track outcomes in ownership, equity, jobs, procurement, energy reliability and community benefit.
 - Produce an annual 'State of First Nations Clean Energy in WA' report to measure progress and expose gaps.