

Introduction to the FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK

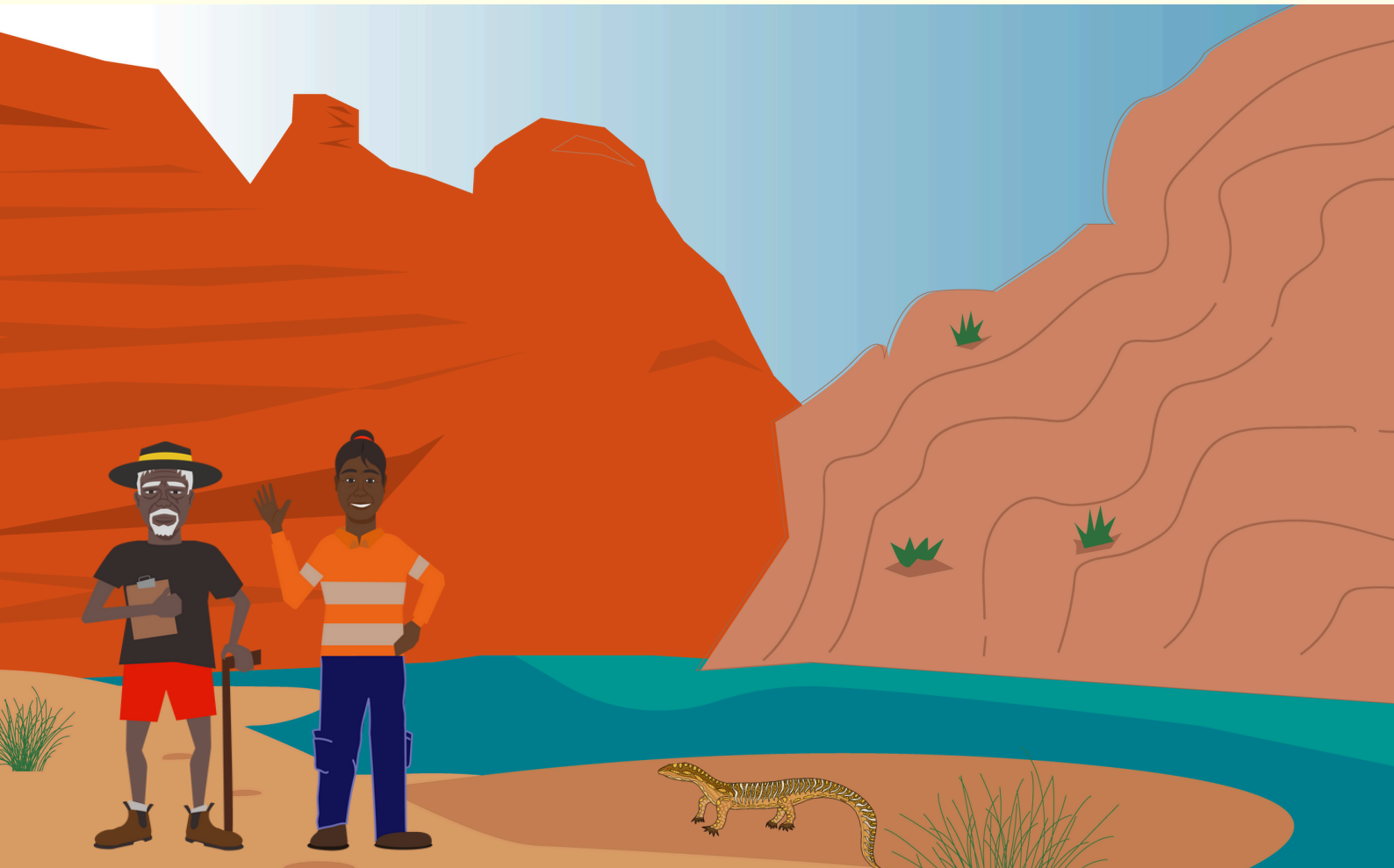


for Prescribed Body Corporations

Join the Movement for a Just and Sustainable Future

The First Nations Clean Energy Network is driving a future where First Nations groups lead, shape, and benefit from Australia's clean energy transition. As an initiative we amplify, share, and scale First Nations-led clean energy projects, ensuring our people are at the forefront of this historic shift.

Currently, we have over 1,000 First Nations members and thousands of supporters advocating for change and action in clean energy.



Why We Exist

The transition to clean energy requires vast land and water resources, yet First Nations have historically been left out of high level decision-making. We believe this transition must be just, fair, and beneficial to our people, protecting country, unlocking economic opportunities, securing energy access, and ensuring strong First Nations governance over projects on our lands.

The clean energy sector presents an unprecedented opportunity for First Nations to take ownership, shape policy, and create sustainable futures for our communities. Our work is deeply connected to Caring for Country. Renewable energy projects, when led by First Nations communities, align with traditional knowledge systems, ensuring that land, water, and ecosystems are protected while generating economic and social benefits. Our initiatives focus on ensuring that clean energy projects respect and enhance Country, rather than harming it.

Our Three Pillars of Action

1. Community

We support First Nations communities in accessing cleaner, more affordable energy, removing barriers, and building capacity for engagement and ownership. Programs like the **PowerMakers program** and the **Community Energy Planning Toolkit** equip communities with the tools to lead their own energy solutions.

2. Industry Partnerships

We work with companies and investors to implement **Best Practice Principles**, ensuring First Nations consent, benefit-sharing, and leadership in clean energy projects. Our collaboration with the Clean Energy Council has resulted in **industry-wide guidelines** for ethical engagement with First Nations.

3. Policy Reform

We advocate for changes to laws, regulations, and policies to create opportunities for First Nations in the energy transition. Through **submissions** and direct advocacy, we push for reforms that ensure First Nations people play a leading role in shaping Australia's energy future. This has achieved changes to critical legislation like the **Capacity Investment Scheme** and the Future Made in Australia Act.



What We've Achieved

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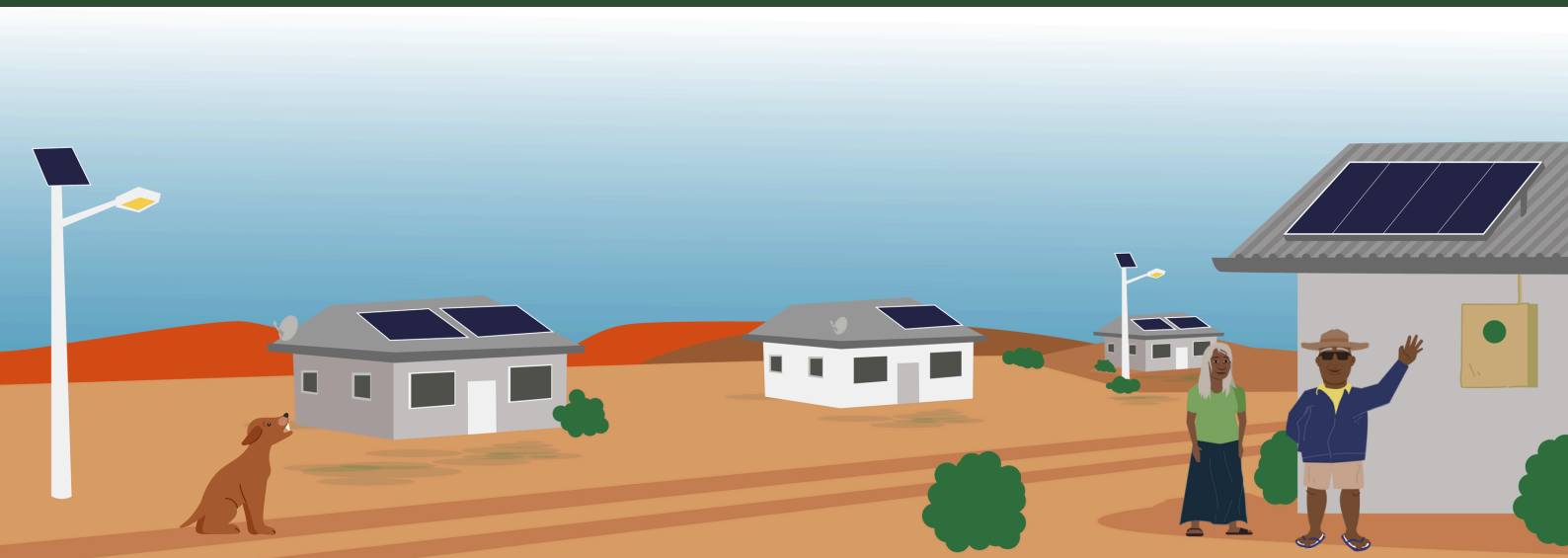
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First Nations Clean Energy Strategy

This initiative emerged in 2022, when we called for First Nations to play a central role in shaping Australia's energy future. As a result, Energy Ministers committed to developing a **First Nations Clean Energy Strategy**. Our work in this space includes:

- Co-hosting roundtables and consultations with First Nations communities across Australia.
- Providing a comprehensive response to the government's **consultation paper**.
- Advocating for legislative and policy changes to ensure First Nations benefit from energy investments.
- Engaging directly with government agencies to shape the future of clean energy policy.

This strategy is a critical step in ensuring First Nations communities are decision-makers in the energy transition, rather than bystanders.



Case Studies: First Nations Clean Energy in Action



Marlinja Community Microgrid

The Marlinja community faced unreliable and expensive electricity, making daily life challenging. Social housing arrangements also prevented the implementation of rooftop solar, so the Marlinja Microgrid was developed as a First Nations-owned clean energy solution, providing affordable, reliable, and sustainable power. This project not only reduces costs but also ensures the community has control over its energy future.

Ngardara Project

The Ngardara Project is another example of First Nations-led clean energy innovation, demonstrating the potential of Indigenous energy sovereignty. This initiative focuses on renewable microgrid solutions that reduce reliance on fossil fuels and create economic opportunities for the community.

It will also provide improved energy security for residents and businesses, job creation and skills development for local community members. The Community ownership ensures Traditional Owners maintain control and benefit economically from the project.



First Nations Project Tracker

Our First Nations Project Tracker showcases the transformative potential of First Nations-led clean energy projects across Australia. This tool highlights innovative initiatives undertaken by varying First Nations groups in Australia, providing insights into their progress, and helping to display new opportunities in clean energy.

Explore the [Project Tracker](#) on our website.



The Benefits for Your Community



- **Energy Independence:** Access to secure, cheaper, cleaner power.
- **Economic Growth:** New jobs, training, and business opportunities.
- **Cultural & Environmental Protection:** First Nations leadership ensures clean energy projects respect and enhance Country.
- **Climate Action:** Reducing reliance on fossil fuels lowers carbon emissions and supports climate resilience, protecting Country for future generations.
- **Stronger Voices:** Influence policies and decisions that impact your community.

How You Can Get Involved

We are here to support you and your community, please:

- **Join as a Member:** Membership is free and open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations.
- **Access Our Resources:** Use our guides, toolkits, and negotiation frameworks to strengthen your engagement in clean energy.
- **Attend Our Events:** Participate in training, roundtables, and symposiums to connect with other leaders.
- **Advocate for Change:** Work with us to push for policy reforms that support First Nations energy leadership.

The Network is a hub for learning about rights, clean energy, skills training, research, and community-led projects. Members gain access to resources, guides, and best practices for land use agreements, benefit sharing, and capacity building through online and in person workshops.

Simply follow the link to our **membership sign on page** - Join as either a First Nations member or supporter for your business or Prescribe Body Corporate. We will ask a few questions about your interest to ensure you are getting the right information when you need it.

Contact us



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