

Regional Leaders Summit 2026 The Empire, Toowoomba QLD					
Day:	Tuesday 15 Sept			Wednesday 16 Sept	Thursday 17 Sept
	The Empire			The Empire	OPTIONAL DAY - MacIntyre Wind Farm Tour
Time					
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome from Andrew Bray, National Director, RE-Alliance Welcome to Country (representatives TBC)			Welcome from Mayor Geoff McDonald, Toowoomba Regional Council QLD ----- Panel: Leveraging local power for regional prosperity With communities taking back control of the energy shift, this panel focuses on how leaders are using that momentum to deliver tangible, long-term prosperity. They'll unpack how local influence is being channelled into new industries, workforce pathways, infrastructure investment and community-owned outcomes. Expect stories of innovation, strategic thinking and bold regional ambition. Host: Lu Allan, Advocacy Director, RE-Alliance	7:45am - Meet at bus pick-up location 8:00am sharp - Depart <i>1.5 hour travel</i>
09:30 - 10:00	Panel: Growing our power and getting the job done This panel spotlights leaders who are designing the tools, frameworks, policies and relationships that give their communities real influence over how the energy shift unfolds in their region. They'll unpack how they're building local power, shaping development and delivering results on the ground — from directing developer behaviour and ensuring effective impact mitigation through to economic development goal realisation. Expect honest insights, inventive approaches and a sense of what's possible when locals lead with confidence, creativity and a clear mandate to lead the localised energy shift on their terms.				
10:00 - 10:15	Host: Andrew Bray, National Director, RE-Alliance Panellists: 1. Kylie Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Flinders Shire Council QLD 2. Regina Razumovskaya, Manager Community & Economic Services, Shire of Narrogin WA <i>Others panellists to be announced soon</i>			Panellists: 1. Anthony Holzwart, Manager Economic Development, Toowoomba Regional Council QLD 2. Andrew Smith, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council QLD <i>Others panellists to be announced soon</i>	
10:15 - 10:30				Announcements and introduction to the state-based workshops	
10:30 - 11:00	Morning tea			Morning tea	Tour
11:00 - 11:50	Ask a developer - panel incl Acciona Q&A Discussion	Worker accommodation that benefits communities in the long term Case study #1 (10mins) Discussion (40mins)	Training and workforce solutions that maximise local involvement Case study (10mins) Discussion (40mins)	Connect, align, act: state-based workshops Session #1 Purpose: ~ Make new connections with peers across regions ~ Get a clear picture of priority issues and opportunities ~ Agree on next steps and areas for collective focus	9:30am - 10:30am - Morning tea and presentation 10:30am - 12:30pm - Tour
12:00 - 12:50	Ask a developer - panel incl Acciona Q&A Discussion	Worker accommodation that benefits communities in the long term Case study #2 (10mins) Discussion (40mins)	Aligning stakeholders to manage cumulative impact Case study from Uralla Shire Council NSW (10mins) Discussion (40mins)		Lunch 12:30pm - 1:00pm
12:50 - 13:30	Lunch			Lunch	1:00pm sharp - Depart <i>1.5 hr travel</i>
13:30 - 14:00	First Nations Panel: Project development and relationships at the local level This panel examines the local-level relationships that make or break project development involving First Nations communities. Leaders will unpack examples of effective collaboration, alongside situations where relationships faltered, to identify the conditions, practices and governance approaches that lead to better outcomes for communities, councils and developers alike.			Connect, align, act: state-based workshops (continued) Session #2 Purpose: ~ Make new connections with peers across regions ~ Get a clear picture of priority issues and opportunities ~ Agree on next steps and areas for collective focus	Arrive back at base (Toowoomba CBD) 2:30pm
14:00 - 14:30	Host: First Nations Clean Energy Network <i>Panellists to be announced soon</i>				
14:40 - 15:00	Social Impact Assessments: What they are and what they are not Host: First Nations Clean Energy Network	Regional leadership in an era of energy transition This experiential session shifts the focus from technical solutions to explore what it takes to lead through uncertainty, bridge differences and create shared purpose during complex change. Leaders will explore: ~ how people see, experience and process change; ~ how to work across different perspectives and turn tension into possibility; ~ how trust, relationships and collaboration can help communities shape their future through uncertainty and systemic change. Host: Australian Rural Leadership Foundation	Strategies for council-community collaboration on community benefits Intro (10mins) Discussion (40mins)	Workshops report-back	
15:00 - 15:15				Wrap up and formal close (3:15pm)	
15:15 - 15:30					
15:40 - 16:30	Understanding battery storage: facts, risks and regional opportunities Case study (10mins) Issues and myths (10mins) Discussion (30mins)		Working towards nature-positive renewables Case study (10mins) Discussion (40mins)		
16:40 - 16:50	Announcements and wrap up				
16:50 - 17:00	Group photo				
17:00 - 19:00	Relaxed evening drinks with canapés and shared plates				

We are deeply grateful to the following organisations who are financially supporting the Summit:



Department of
**Energy and Economic
Diversification**



PoweringWA



**TOOWOOMBA
REGION**



The Summit is supported by leading organisations in regional development, local government (represented by the Australian Local Government Association) and energy shift:

