

FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY STRATEGY ROUNDTABLE – ACT & RURAL NSW

23 & 24 AUGUST

First Nations Clean Energy Strategy | ACT Roundtable

Location: Canberra, ACT, Ngunnawal Country

Dates: 24 August

Participants: Approximately 80

What is the purpose of the Roundtables?

The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy (the Strategy) roundtables provide an opportunity for First Nations peoples and organisations to discuss what is important from their perspective and to outline the barriers and opportunities so they can meaningfully share in the benefits of the clean energy transition.

The roundtables also provide a forum for government and industry to better understand First Nations perspectives and collaborate on actions, policies, and programs that could be implemented as part of the Strategy.

Key emerging themes from the ACT Roundtable

1) A range of clean energy opportunities exist at varying levels of scale.



- a) Integrate solar installations into communities to decrease reliance on traditional power sources and promote cleaner energy generation.
- b) Insulation upgrades will improve housing energy efficiency, leading to reduced heating and cooling expenses.
- c) Retrofitting of housing and upgrading homes to meet modern energy efficiency standards will result in lower energy consumption.
- d) Pilot programs will help to test and evaluate various energy security measures through smaller-scale pilot projects.
- e) There should be a focus on creating awareness among First Nations communities around varying energy solutions and the opportunities for First Nations participation within the clean energy transition.

2) Trust and engagement are key to realise clean energy opportunities.

- a) Establish and maintain trust by fostering strong relationships with tenants based on respect and mutual understanding.
- b) First Nations autonomy and sovereignty requires respect of the self-governance and decision-making authority of First Nations communities.
- c) Investing in a First Nations workforce by training local individuals to take on roles in renewable energy implementation, will help to create ongoing and reliable employment opportunities.
- d) Create energy market incentives and structures through favourable conditions in the market to encourage investment in clean energy initiatives.
- e) Increase culturally safe and equitable data capture and reporting to enable informed decision-making and transparency.

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- 3) There are real barriers and challenges which need to be addressed to ensure equity of access and opportunity.**
- a) Address inconsistent communication by improving collaboration between government and industry.
 - b) Increase meaningful involvement of First Nations communities in energy decisions.
 - c) Overcome skill gaps and financial limitations to promote renewable energy adoption.
 - d) Provide education and support to empower communities in making informed choices and increase decision-making autonomy of First Nations.
 - e) Upgrade existing inadequate infrastructure to ensure equitable energy access.
- 4) Indigenous rights and consent should be maintained throughout the clean energy transition.**
- a) Clearly outline the principles of free, prior and informed consent for project implementation and policy implications (formal and non-formal policy).
 - b) Incorporating FPIC principles and assessment processes into the evaluation of also land and energy projects.
 - c) Recognise and action First Nations communities' authority to accept or reject projects affecting them.
 - d) Secure government commitment to explicitly prioritise the implementation of FPIC.
 - e) Overcome challenges in implementing FPIC on a larger scale through careful planning and a collective whole-of-industry approach.
- 5) Clean energy policy should address and drive the outcomes of equity, collaboration and accountability.**
- a) Implement actions to securing the basic right to reliable and affordable energy, starting by formally acknowledging energy access as a fundamental right, especially for First Nations communities.
 - b) Develop policies and programs in collaboration with First Nations communities to align with their current and future goals.
 - c) Partner with First Nations communities for infrastructure development on their lands, where consent is given.
 - d) Consider social benefits alongside economic success in contracting processes

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Appendix B: Invited Organisations

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans Association Indigenous Corporation
ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)
ATSI ICT Aboriginal Corporation
Australian National University
Bodella Local Aboriginal Land Council
Burrunju Aboriginal Corporation
Buru Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation
Canberra and District NAIDOC Aboriginal Corporation
Canberra Indigenous Business Network
Capital Workplace
Gadi Naraganawali Aboriginal Corporation
Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia
Ginninderra
Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
Indigenous Allied Health Australia
King Brown Tribal Group
Koomurri Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation
Leadership Institute for Positive Futures
Mirrabee
Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council
Narragunnawali Aboriginal Corporation
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners
Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council
Ngarigu Currawong Clan
Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation
NSW Aboriginal Land Council
Sisters In Spirit Aboriginal Corporation
Thunderstone Aboriginal Cultural and Land Management Services
Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
University of Technology, Sydney
Yeddung Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corporation