

## The big picture - a major shift to a new energy system

We are transitioning how energy is being made and used in Australia and around the world. People and countries are turning away from dirty energy made from fossil fuels like coal, oil, diesel and gas. These fuels are accelerating climate change causing an increase in extreme weather events, like floods, heat waves, fires, and droughts.

Instead, we are **shifting towards clean renewable energy** – sourced from the sun, wind and water and using batteries and other technology to store that electricity and provide it when it is needed.

Many of our communities are experiencing the impacts of climate change and also struggle with unreliable and expensive power. If done the right way renewables could provide great opportunities.

As we transition - regardless of the technology: solar, wind or water - projects will need to access First Nations lands and waters for development. These projects will need the consent and agreement of Traditional Owners and communities.

**First Nations people must be able to have a say and participate in clean energy projects.** Our people are critical to sustaining country and culture, making us best placed to determine or manage lands that could host clean energy resources.

## Who is the First Nations Clean Energy Network and what is this First Nations Clean Energy Strategy?

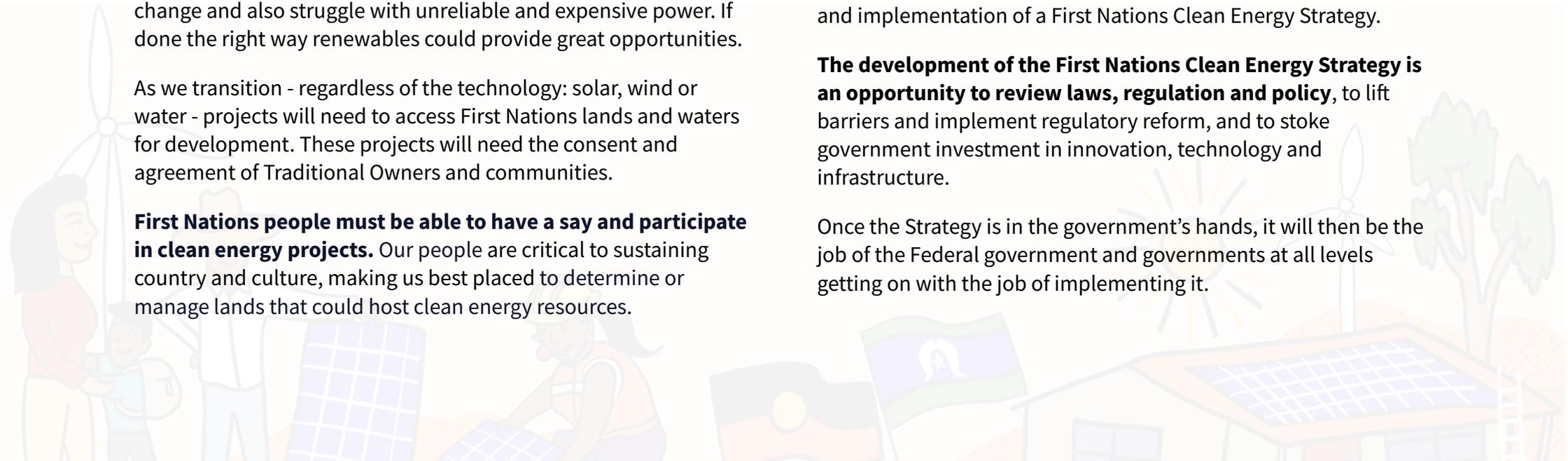
The [First Nations Clean Energy Network](#) is made up of First Nations people, community organisations, Traditional Owners, land councils, unions, academics, industry groups, technical advisors, legal experts, renewables companies and others working in partnership.

**The First Nations Clean Energy Network is led by a Steering Group of First Nations leaders**, with the aim that First Nations people be central to and share in the benefits of the clean energy transition.

At the Network's urging, the Federal Government, State and Territory Energy Ministers agreed in [August 2022](#) to the co-design and implementation of a First Nations Clean Energy Strategy.

**The development of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy is an opportunity to review laws, regulation and policy**, to lift barriers and implement regulatory reform, and to stoke government investment in innovation, technology and infrastructure.

Once the Strategy is in the government's hands, it will then be the job of the Federal government and governments at all levels getting on with the job of implementing it.



## What might we aim for in a First Nations Clean Energy Strategy?

Our people should have **energy security - including energy efficient houses** through solar and batteries to make electricity cleaner and more affordable. This means we could power all of our homes, outstations and homelands.

We should **have a say before anything is planned and built**. We want our **land and cultural rights to be respected**.

We should be able **to manage our own energy projects and businesses**, and to build capacity so that people can participate in **jobs and training** and **business opportunities**.

There needs to be **investment in and support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate and our Traditional owner entities** to ensure capacity to engage in renewable energy developments, as well as do visioning and country planning.

Through the Strategy, the Federal Government could encourage industry to adopt **First Nations Best Practice Principles**.

Investors and Government should **prioritise best practice and First Nations businesses** in financing decisions and project approvals.

And we should have the option to **develop clean energy projects** which could include the development of a specific First Nations fund or access to finance for development.

**First Nations perspectives integrated up-front** into long-term energy planning processes and system design will ensure better engagement in the energy transition across all parts of the energy value chain.

We want new **policy and laws that respect our land and treat First Nations as trading partners and key participants**.

***The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy can ensure action around these issues happen.***

## What's the purpose of the roundtable?

The roundtables are an opportunity for First Nations people to **come up with recommendations for actions, policies and programs** that Governments should implement as part of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy.

We want to hear about **what is important to you and what are some of the barriers** for you, your community, and your nation.

In developing the Strategy, there will be face-to-face workshops, online webinars to discuss specific issues, and other ways to feed in your big ideas. We want to make sure the Strategy results in action and change, and that our clean energy vision for what we want for our communities is made real.

**For more information and support contact the First Nations Clean Energy Network**. Visit [here](#) to join us in driving Australia's clean energy revolution and to help ensure First Nations people play a central role and harness the opportunities from Australia's renewables boom.

