



First Nations & The Energy Transition Forum

by informa...

30 November – 1 December 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Waterfront, Perth

Partnering and collaborating with First Nations to achieve Australia's net zero targets

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Rob Grant, *Managing Director - Energy, Pollination Group*



Katina Law, *Co-Founder & Non-Executive Director, IPS Management Consultants*



Cameron Wood, *Executive Director, Project Strategy & Delivery - Executive Lead, IPS Management Consultants*



Lily Mitchell, *Legal Director, AEMC*



Kate George, *Principal Consultant, Claypan Services Pty Ltd*



Cat Holland, *Senior Consultant, Indigenous Energy Australia*



Dominic Da Cruz, *Executive ESG & Stakeholder Engagement, Zenith Energy*



Mick Doherty, *Chief Executive Officer, Tjiwarl*



Jop van Hattum, *Chief Executive Officer, Gingerah Energy Pty Ltd*



Nathan McIvor, *Chief Executive Officer, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation*



Natasha Guerinoni, *Head of Social Performance & Approvals, Western Power*



Gero Farruggio, *Founder, PowerAid & Partner, Rystad Energy*



Stephen Land, *Chief Investment Officer, Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)*



Nicole Walton BA Comm (Murd), *EMBA (UWA), Engagement & Change Advisory Practice Leader, Australia, Aurecon*



Shannon O'Rourke, *CEO, Powering Australia*



Sean Fletcher, *Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Victoria Plains*



Roanna Edwards, *Partner, Yamagigu Consulting*



Tamara Brooker, *Chief Development Officer, Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation*



Tom Weaver, *Principal, Weaver Strategic Advisory*



Troy Eaton, *Co-Chair, Nyamal Aboriginal Corporation*



Carl Binning, *Executive General Manager Scheme Operations Division, Clean Energy Regulator*



Christopher Marchesi, *Partner, Gilbert + Tobin*

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First Nations & The Energy Transition Forum

Monday 30 November 2026

DAY 1

9:00 Welcome to Country

9:10 OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair

9:20 Investing in the Energy Transition

- Discover NAIF's role, Investment Mandate and contribution to Australia's energy transition
- Explore case studies of NAIF-backed energy projects across northern Australia
- Learn how we partner with Traditional Owners to support Indigenous participation in the energy sector

Stephen Land, *Chief Investment Officer, Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)*

9:45 Changing the rule-maker to change the rules: how the AEMC can empower First Nations communities in the energy transition

- How the AEMC, as an organisation, has developed its understanding of reconciliation in the energy sector
- What that organisational change means for the AEMC's role as rule maker for the energy sector
- How changes to the energy rules could assist First Nations communities in the energy transition.

Lily Mitchell, *Legal Director, AEMC*

10:10 A Regulator's Perspective: First Nations and the Energy Transition

Carl Binning, *Executive General Manager Scheme Operations Division, Clean Energy Regulator*

10:35 Networking and refreshment break

11:10 Four years of the Aboriginal Clean Energy Partnership – our lived experience

- The partnership
- The project and
- The progress and benefits

Rob Grant, *Managing Director - Energy, Pollination Group*

11:35 Building Energy Sovereignty: A First Nations Model for Community-Led Renewable Development

- The Sun Turtle Project — Transitioning Djarindjin from diesel dependency to community-owned solar and microgrid infrastructure
- Community ownership and operation — How local control of energy systems drives economic independence and builds internal capacity
- Integration with broader development — Connecting energy projects to airport operations, housing, logistics, and complete community infrastructure
- Overcoming funding barriers — Navigating pre-feasibility stage challenges and building projects
- Learning from communities, not fixing them — Why external partners need to shift from consultation to genuine collaboration with First Nations-led initiatives

Nathan McIvor, *Chief Executive Officer, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation*

12:00 Beyond Contracting: Building First Nations Ownership in the Energy Transition

The Tjiwarl Katu Power journey

- From contracting to ownership
- Building the right partnership
- Investing in capability

- Taking the first steps
- The long-term vision

Dominic Da Cruz, *Executive ESG & Stakeholder Engagement, Zenith Energy*

Mick Doherty, *Chief Executive Officer, Tjiwarl*

12:30 Lunch and networking break

13:30 One battery a minute - is Australia's fastest-ever energy transition reaching the households that need it most?

- Where Australia's energy transition actually stands, and where it goes next
- Half a million home batteries in thirteen months: who is signing up to the Cheaper Home Batteries Program, and is any of it reaching our remote First Nations communities?
- Two clocks compared: a suburban battery energised the same day, a community microgrid taking years from concept to energizing
- How a volunteer-delivery NFP works at building scale, and how industry can plug in

Gero Farruggio, *Founder, PowerAid & Partner, Rystad Energy*

13:55 Turning opportunity into investment: First Nations participation in Australia's energy transition

Australia's energy transition is creating new opportunities for First Nations groups and project developers to establish commercially viable projects and partnerships. Realising these opportunities starts with understanding the aspirations and objectives of First Nations communities and potential project partners, then designing and establishing the legal and commercial arrangements to deliver them. Decisions made during these formative stages shape both the project and the partnership over the long term.

Christopher Marchesi, *Partner, Gilbert + Tobin*

14:20 From Consultation to Integration: Beyond the Silo of First Nations Engagement

- The importance of integrating First Nations engagement during the project lifecycle
- The pitfalls of treating First Nations engagement as a siloed workstream
- How better outcomes will be achieved if the engagement aligns with, and feeds into the complexities of the workstreams around it

Nicole Walton BA Comm (Murd), *EMBA (UWA), Engagement & Change Advisory Practice Leader, Australia, Aurecon*

14:45 Technical Capacity Building and Workforce Development in First Nations Energy

15:10 Networking and refreshment break

15:40 Economic return, investments, incentives and opportunities

Kate George, *Principal Consultant, Claypan Services Pty Ltd*

16:05 Indigenous Energy Australia

Cat Holland, *Senior Consultant, Indigenous Energy Australia*

16:30 PANEL DISCUSSION | Beyond consultation: Achieving genuine First Nations leadership and ownership in energy transitions

Troy Eaton, *Co-Chair, Nyamal Aboriginal Corporation*

Tom Weaver, *Principal, Weaver Strategic Advisory*

17:00 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:05 Networking Function



First Nations & The Energy Transition Forum

Tuesday 1 December 2026

DAY 2

9:00 OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair

9:10 First Nations Workforce in the Clean Energy Transition

- Outsized opportunity for First Nations in clean tech across renewables; manufacturing; services
- Delivering the industry growth opportunity
- Workforce development challenges and solutions for First Nations

Shannon O'Rourke, *CEO, Powering Australia*

9:30 YEC's journey from project development to construction of the Jinbi Solar Project

Tamara Brooker, *Chief Development Officer, Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation*

9:50 From Participation to Power: What Will the Energy Transition Leave Behind on Country?

- Explore how the energy transition can move beyond consultation, employment and procurement to create opportunities for partnership, equity, ownership and enduring First Nations economic participation
- Consider what needs to change in the way projects are designed, structured and delivered so that First Nations communities can determine how they participate and build lasting capability, assets and economic opportunity

Katina Law, *Co-Founder & Non-Executive Director, IPS Management Consultants*

Cameron Wood, *Executive Director, Project Strategy & Delivery - Executive Lead, IPS Management Consultants*

10:10 Networking and refreshment break

10:40 From Consultation to Legacy: First Nations, Host Communities and the Energy Transition

- Why the energy transition needs to be approached as long-term community stewardship, not simply the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure
- The importance of engaging Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal organisations early and meaningfully, with First Nations priorities helping shape community benefit planning rather than being added later in the process
- Lessons from Victoria Plains on building trust through transparent information, place-based engagement and governance involving local government, Traditional Owners, communities, government and developers
- Moving beyond short-term compensation towards lasting outcomes in areas such as employment and skills, housing, local procurement, community infrastructure and cultural and economic opportunity
- How strong, locally anchored governance and benefit-sharing arrangements can leave a genuine intergenerational legacy while supporting community confidence and successful project delivery

Sean Fletcher, *Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Victoria Plains*

11:00 Session to be advised

Jop van Hattum, *Chief Executive Officer, Gingerah Energy Pty Ltd*

11:20 Bridging culture and clean energy development

Roanna Edwards, *Partner, Yamagigu Consulting*

11:40 JOINT Q&A

11:50 Closing remarks from the Chair

12:00 Lunch & End of Conference

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

Reconnect and re-engage with your industry peers at the First Nations & The Energy Transition Forum.

There are many opportunities for networking, including social events such as networking drinks, refreshment breaks and lunches, making this not just a conference... but an all encompassing industry "experience".

To see what is on offer, please contact:

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Pricing Details

Register Early & Save	Early Bird Rate				Standard Rate		
	Book & pay by 31 October 2026				Book & pay from 1 November 2026		
Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Two day conference	\$2,695	\$269.50	\$2,964.50	\$200	\$2,895	\$289.50	\$3,184.50

There is a limited number of discounted conference passes available for eligible First Nations-owned small businesses (less than 10 employees).
For more information, please email richard.beattie@informa.com.au

For full terms and conditions, please visit:
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VENUE DETAILS

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