

First Nations & The Energy Transition Forum

5 - 6 December 2024 | Double Tree by Hilton Perth Waterfront



CONFERENCE DAY ONE | Thursday 5th December 2024

08:15 Registration

09:00 **OPENING** | Opening remarks from the Chair

Clare Pope, *Partner*, **Gilbert + Tobin**

09:05 **Welcome to Country**

Kevin Fitzgerald, *Cultural Counsel*, **South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council**

09:15 **Effectively partnering with Traditional Owners to deliver clean energy projects – key learnings**

- Energy development on Native Title lands
- Forming a partnership
- Co-designing, and progressing development together
- Designing and embedding benefits

Erica Lampropoulos, *Executive Director*, **Pollination Group**

Trisha Birch, *Director*, **Balangarra Ventures Limited**

09:40 **Insights on how the intersection of technology, contracts, and compliance can support advancing First Nations roles in Australia's clean energy transition**

- Embedding First Nations Suppliers in Procurement Practices
- Ensuring Compliance and Managing Risk in Advanced Technology
- Mitigating Bias in AI and Automation Technologies
- Including First Nations Opinion in AI Adoption and Assessment
- Utilising AI and Automation Technologies in Clean Energy Projects

Courtney Parker, *Senior Category & Contracts Specialist*, **Western Power**

10:05 **The importance of understanding the value of native title in Australia's energy transition**

- Native Title and Renewable Energy.
- Valuing Native Title in energy projects – understanding the economics, designing strong agreements and practical issues to consider in negotiations.
- Role of critical minerals and green hydrogen projects- the desalination issue.

Nick Llewellyn-Jones, *Principal*, **Norman Waterhouse**

10:25 **Navigating the Legal Landscape of Renewable Energy Projects: Implications for Indigenous Communities**

- The project lifecycle from a legal perspective
- Structuring renewable energy projects for community benefit
- Competing land use issues in renewable energy projects and new legal frameworks for indigenous participation and engagement

Matt Baumgurtel, *Partner, Head of Energy*, **Hamilton Locke**

Margot King, *Partner*, **Hamilton Locke**

10:45 **Networking and refreshment break**

11:10 **Yarning about how renewable energy projects can deliver meaningful outcomes for First Nations communities**

- Common ingredients & three examples:
 - Kaban Green Power Hub on Jirrbal country – employment & business outcomes
 - Goyder South Wind Farm on Ngadjuri country – National Park co-management
 - Culcairn Solar Farm on Wiradjuri country – cultural heritage video & training

Lisa Stiebel, *Head of Engagement*, **Neoen Australia**

Julie-Ann Lambourne, *First Nations Engagement Advisor*, **Neoen Australia**

11:35 **Energy Queensland's clean energy big yarnin**

- Who is Energy Queensland
- Decarbonisation journey to date
- Reconciliation connection and commitment
- What the future looks like

Chris Samuelsson, *Senior Advisor First Nations Programs*, **Energy Queensland**

Glenn Springall, *General Manager Renewables and Distributed Energy*, **Energy Queensland**

11:55 **Empowering First Nations Renewable Energy: Yindjibarndi and ACEN Partnership on Yindjibarndi Country**

- Who is Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC)
- Pathway to partnership
- Overview of current YEC Projects
- Yindjibarndi participation to date

Tamara Brooker, *GM Project Development*, **Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation**

12:15 **PANEL DISCUSSION | Empowering First Nations: Unlocking Economic & Investment Opportunities in the Energy Transition**

- Exploring the economic return on investments in renewable energy projects within First Nations communities.
- Incentives and opportunities for First Nations to actively participate in the energy transition.
- Case studies of First Nations engaging in energy projects and the resulting economic benefits.
- Potential partnerships and collaborations that can further enhance economic returns and opportunities for First Nations in the energy sector.

Noel Prakash, *National Head of Indigenous Business and Community*, **National Australia Bank**

Christopher Marchesi, *Special Counsel*, **Gilbert + Tobin**

Frank van Rooyen, *Senior Director Investments*, **Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)**

12:50 **Lunch and networking break**

13:50 **IPP Engagement with Traditional Owners – The Northern Goldfields Case Study**

- Origins of engagement
- Overview of the engagement agreement – a sector first
- Early results
- Next steps

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

14:15 Horizon Power's key initiatives for First Nations Engagement to develop energy projects – key learnings & best practices

- Traditional Owner engagement in a fast-paced clean energy transition
- Exploring community participation models in regional and remote WA
- Addressing energy equity with the Kimberley Communities Solar Saver program

Aaron Matthews, *Manager TO Relationships & Reconciliation*, **Horizon Power**

14:40 Successful and Respectful Partnerships - Achieving Shared Benefits and Economic Development

Roanna Edwards, *Partner*, **Yamagigu Consulting**

15:05 Networking and refreshment break

15:45 Culture's Role in Infrastructure

Culture plays a central role in shaping infrastructure projects that deliver generational outcome.

We will unpack Indigenous Energy Australia's work on the Engagement and Planning for the Yarrabah Microgrid Project and other Community Energy Strategies. Tommy will discuss how embedding culture within the planning, design, and implementation phases is essential for creating sustainable, community-driven infrastructure.

The approach highlights the importance of cultural protocol, data sovereignty, and community engagement in fostering genuine agency and long-term success. By aligning projects with place-based cultural values and aspirations, infrastructure development moves beyond physical assets to deliver lasting cultural, social and economic benefits. Through this lens, we look at how 'Outcomes over Assets,' advocates for infrastructure that respects the cultural fabric of communities and supports self-determination.

Tommy Hicks, *Head of Culture & Community*, **Indigenous Energy Australia**

16:10 Powerhouse Renewables Group – First Nations Renewable Transitions Overview

- Who is Powerhouse Renewables Group
- Energy challenges in Remote Aboriginal Communities
- Overview of Martu Community energy study
- Proposed trial for Jigalong Community

Brigitte McDowell, *CEO*, **Powerhouse**

16:35 Empowering communities with Energy security and independence

James Stephens, **Aboriginal Beatta Terra**

16:55 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:00 Networking Function



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CONFERENCE DAY TWO | Friday 6th December 2024

09:00 OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair

Raquel Todd, Co-Founder, **Blak Line**

09:10 Windlab's approach to engaging, working and partnering with Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop projects

Bianca Graham, *First Nations Manager, Community*, **Windlab**

09:35 The BioCultural Futures Approach for Effective Energy Projects

- The BioCultural Landscape as a driver for Energy Projects
- Co-designing the BioCultural Landscape
- Establishing a BioCultural Blue-Green Infrastructure
- Mapping and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) Model
- Culturally informed Land and Water Use Planning and Energy Project guidelines

Raquel Tardin-Coelho, *Associate Professor, Ph.D., Curtin Institute for Energy Transition – IET, Faculty of Science and Engineering*, **Curtin University**

09:55 Bridging the Gap: Leveraging Resources Industry Learnings for Meaningful First Nations Engagement in the Energy Transition

- How are legal pathways different and what does this mean for your engagement approach
- How to prepare to manage risk
- More haste, less speed – a guide to successful engagement

Jack Cullity, *Director*, **Mining + Heritage Legal**

10:20 Restoring Country Shared Learnings

- Work to do - building trust and for industry to establish consistent good performance
- Indigenous participation – cannot be an 'afterthought'
- Building your engagement
- Land use transitions and risk

Caroline Williams, *Engagement Manager (First Nations)*, **CRC TiME**

10:40 Networking and refreshment break

11:20 Strengthening Partnerships with Traditional Owner Groups as CS Energy Transitions from Coal to Renewable Energy

- Engaging with Prescribed Body Corporations (PBCs)
- Ensuring Correct Representation
- Utilizing PBC-affiliated Organizations
- Community Engagement after Formal Consultation
- Prioritizing Tender, Employment and Opportunities for First Nations Businesses:

Neville Hoehne, *Indigenous Engagement Advisor*, **CS Energy**

11:40 Plans to develop Renewable infrastructure projects across Northern Australia

Bevan Mailman, *Co-Chair*, **Desert Springs Octopus**

12:00 Developing Large-Scale Renewable Energy Hub on Karajarri Country

- Partnership and Indigenous Collaboration
- Focus on Renewable Energy
- Socio-Economic Benefits

Jop van Hattum, *CEO*, **Gingerah Energy Pty Ltd**

Martin Bin Rashid, *CEO*, **Karajarri Traditional Lands Association**

12:25 PANEL DISCUSSION | Collaboration and Trust Building for the Energy Transition: Creating Partnerships with First Nations

- Empowering Indigenous communities in decision-making processes related to energy transition projects.
- Establishing transparent communication channels
- Building trust through mutually beneficial partnerships and agreements
- Exploring models of collaboration
- Building Partnerships with First Nations Communities

Annie Ashworth, *Indigenous Business & Community Banking WA, SA & NT*, **National Australia Bank**

Katina Law, *Co-CEO and Co-Founder*, **IPS Management Consultants**

Natalie O'Malley, *GM Corporate Affairs & Government Relations*, **ATCO**

13:00 Closing remarks from the Chair & Lunch

14:00 END OF CONFERENCE



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