



Indigenous
Energy
Australia

Indigenous & Community- Led Projects

Lani Johns

20min + 10min Q&A

Acknowledging Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia – and the Traditional Owners of Country where we meet today – the **Gadigal of the Eora Nation**.

We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters, and communities, and we pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

We are genuinely privileged that you have cared for our Country for so long and continue to do so.



Terry Olsen on board the *Tribal Warrior* before a smoking ceremony, looking towards the Sydney Harbour Bridge (photograph courtesy Amanda James)



Source: City of Sydney - baraNi barrabugu yesterday tomorrow

Our shared history

Barangaroo, New South Wales

August 2009

December 2024

Named for an influential Aboriginal woman of pre-colonial Sydney, Barangaroo is a globally significant waterfront renewal project that redefines Sydney Harbour.

Celebrating indigenous heritage and Australian art



The station a



ega columns supporting the building above the station.

Who we are



**Indigenous
Energy
Australia**





**Indigenous
Energy
Australia**

**Advocate.
Consultant.
Advisor.**

The pace of change

- Global renewable energy capacity must triple in the next six years.
- Just transition = Commitment to Indigenous Peoples' rights and transformative approaches designed to deliver **shared prosperity**, aligned with self-determined priorities
- In Australia, 'big build' (infrastructure pipeline) - biggest opportunity we have ever been offered to come together. Opportunity to address Australia's colonial legacy and Close the Gap
- This requires strong relationships with communities to '**lasso the rocket**'

Current state – Australia

Largest and most transformational infrastructure challenge in its history.

Our renewable energy sector is >95% private investment. These figures reflect the global norm.

- **Communities are experiencing a unprecedented scale and pace of project delivery, with over 71% of Australia's urban population expected to be directly impacted by the current project pipeline.**
- **Bigger, more complex projects are being delivered closer together than ever before.**
- **This shifting dynamic raises important questions about **the role of private investment in delivering public good**, and in how governments guide and regulate these investments, including to ensure **social benefits** that spread across social groups and locations.**

Indigenous and community led projects

Indigenous-led projects exemplify a **shared prosperity model** where our communities thrive by harnessing our knowledge and resources, ensuring that the benefits of renewable energy are felt by all, fostering resilience, empowerment, and a sustainable future for generations to come.

Adrian Lasimbang, Executive Director, Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

Case studies



Canada

Dokis First Nation and the Okikendawt Hydro Power project, Canada



Aotearoa / New Zealand

The Nga Awa Purua Geothermal Project, Rotokawa, Aotearoa / New Zealand



Mexico

Renewable energy development by Indigenous Peoples, Mexico (in Spanish only)

What does it mean for a project to be 'Indigenous led' or 'community led'



- Local ownership
- Participatory decision making
- Empowerment over aid
- Collaborative partnerships
- Cultural and contextual alignment

Benefit sharing

- The right to fair and equitable benefit-sharing refers to both procedural dimensions (fair) and substantive dimensions (equity) of justice.
- **Fair procedures** require that there is a good-faith dialogue, aimed at developing a genuine partnership with Indigenous Persons, including mutual understandings across different worldviews and supporting agency, rather than top-down approaches to benefit-sharing.
- **Equity** requires that all parties treat each other as equals, and that benefit-sharing improves choices and capabilities, leading to improved well-being and empowerment.
- Such benefits may improve Indigenous Persons control over their natural resources or enhance capabilities to freely pursue their development priorities and way of life in accordance with their own worldviews.

What's missing from the conversation?

Outcome over asset – A voice to infrastructure



Consider

**Generational infrastructure
Outcome over asset**

Q&A



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