



Renewables Factsheet

This factsheet was drawn from the Renewables Industry Discussion Paper drafted by Chris Croker, a Luritja man from Central Australia & Managing Director, Impact IP.

Australia's rich renewable energy resources underpin a growing industry. With access to and ownership of Country essential for developing and delivering renewable energy projects, the scope and scale of the opportunities the industry presents to Indigenous communities and organisations is linked to the security of Indigenous land tenure.

Renewable energy project development can be complex and there is potential for costs to outweigh benefits. Delivering commercially viable projects which cover operating costs, external financing costs, and the opportunity cost of the capital, if Indigenous capital is invested, remains a challenge. It is therefore critical that Indigenous groups have access to appropriate information to enable choices around their participation. Similarly, having relevant information and support for negotiations with project partners is critical to ensure positive outcomes for Indigenous communities and organisations are achieved.

Renewable energy projects require extensive skills, resources and experience to develop, construct and operate. It can be challenging to access the right type of advice and support at the right time, and to identify those skills that are transferable to community and those that may appropriately remain with specialist advisors.

Challenges

- Indigenous communities have limited experience and capacity to engage in or develop renewable energy projects, from rooftop through to large-scale multi-million-dollar commercial enterprises and investments. Lower-cost or pro-bono advisors may not provide the right support or they may lack the skills to progress the project in a timely fashion.
- Managing the type of role the Indigenous organisation/community wants to play in a project. The risk and reward associated with each of the stages of project development or ownership can vary considerably and costs can typically outweigh the benefits.
- Limited access to funding for early-stage project development. Government grants/support are predominantly tailored to later-stage project development rather than to assist early-stage pre-feasibility or feasibility for new projects where there is the greatest risk and uncertainty.
- Limited availability of Indigenous capital to partner or invest alongside experienced project developers. Indigenous-owned capital is often tied up under restrictive trust deeds or government-controlled investment mandates.



Ayers Rock
Resort, NT



Kooljaman at Cape
Leveque, WA



BIMA solar panels on
Turrbal and Jagera/
Yuggera country,
Brisbane, Qld

Opportunities

- Growing demand for clean energy by governments, corporations and households.
- Massive potential for suitable sites for renewable projects on Indigenous land from technical, environmental and regulatory planning perspectives as well as potential for 'behind the meter' style projects.
- Significant demand for technical and commercial feasibility stage (investment-ready) projects by Australian and international investors.
- Increasing focus on green hydrogen production. Green hydrogen can be utilised away from its source of generation, without expensive electricity transmission infrastructure. There are multiple renewable project opportunities across Indigenous lands for Indigenous communities and corporations.

Tell Us What You Need

How can the ILSC best support your participation in the renewables industry? Should we:

1. Provide information on where renewables industry opportunities exist and how to take advantage of those opportunities?
2. Help to build your business planning and capabilities? e.g. feasibility studies, capacity building, links to technical advisors and networks.
3. Link you with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and groups to learn from each other? e.g. sharing ideas, lessons and business models that work, supporting conferences etc.
4. Actively support Indigenous-led organisations, networks, alliances and initiatives to have a greater voice in industry development and government?
5. Provide funding support for projects?
6. Other suggestions?

Projects supported by the ILSC

The ILSC has supported a range of small-scale solar PV projects including:

- solar powered pumps for cattle station NT;
- solar panels on 98.9FM Brisbane Indigenous Media Association buildings with the savings reinvested in an Indigenous Trainer & Assessor;
- due diligence on the 4.9 MW Ramahyuck Solar Farm near Sale, Vic; and
- solar panels on Purnululu School buildings WA.

To find out more about what we do please go to www.ilsc.gov.au and check out our Project Profiles.



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Come along to one of our face-to-face sessions or join an online session. Visit our website to book in.



Complete the on line survey.



Phone us on 1800 818 490 for a confidential chat.



Email your submissions to NILSS@ilsc.gov.au to share your thoughts.



Get your full Information Pack: visit www.ilsc.gov.au, or email NILSS@ilsc.gov.au.



A feedback report summarising what we have heard from you and how we will use this important information will be available on the website.



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