

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the First Nations Clean Energy Program?

The Program is a key part of the Government's commitment to implement the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 2024-2030 (the Strategy).

The Commonwealth Government has announced \$70 million in funding over 3 years from 2025-26 for the First Nations Clean Energy Program (the Program). These funds will support design and delivery of the Program to empower and enable First Nations peoples' leadership and participation in the clean energy transformation.

What projects will be delivered as part of First Nations Clean Energy Program?

The First Nations Clean Energy Program (the Program) is intended to include:

- **The Pilot Project Pipeline**– targeted pilot funding to support a small number of First Nations proponents to progress their clean energy projects along the project development pipeline towards final investment decision; and build evidence of the critical investment barriers to support future program opportunities.
- **The Clean Energy Toolkit** – a suite of tailored clean energy information products and services to build First Nations peoples' knowledge of the energy transformation, support informed decision-making, and improved access to resources to support participation.
- **Clean Energy Advice Grants** – small scale, low barrier grants to support eligible First Nations applicants to access the independent professional expertise they need to participate in clean energy opportunities.

Please note: The Clean Energy Advice Grants are currently in development and are not included in this consultation process. To register your interest in upcoming grants, complete the Have your Say survey.

What is the target project size, scope and funding available for the Pilot Project Pipeline?

The Pilot Project Pipeline will be needs-driven and is intended to support a range of projects of varying sizes and with different funding needs, including community energy projects. It will also support projects at critical stages of development, and we will consider innovative approaches including batches of projects.

An estimated total of \$15 million is available over three years from 2025-26 for the Pilot Project Pipeline. Consultation responses will inform the design and delivery of this measure, including consideration of the amount of funding per project.

Why are you doing a design and delivery consultation for the Program?

This process aims to support our continuing commitment to First Nations leadership and participation in program design and delivery. We understand that not all traditional modes of Government Program delivery work for First Nations people and their communities, especially regional and remote communities.

The consultation process is also a way we can receive non-binding Expressions of Interest (EOI) to inform the design and delivery of the Program.

How do I respond to the design and delivery consultation?

Please read the consultation documents and provide your response by 11:59 pm AEST Sunday 31st August 2025 through the First Nations Clean Energy Program consultation page available at: <https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/first-nations-clean-energy-program>. Follow the instructions in the link provided.

An online webinar was held at 1.30pm AEST on Monday 11 August 2025 to provide an overview of the Program and the Have Your Say process. A recording of the **Webinar** and the **Survey – How to guide** are available on our [consultation page](#). This Frequently Asked Questions document also reflects key questions and answers discussed at the webinar.

For any outstanding questions related to the survey please contact fnces@dcceew.gov.au and include HYS EOI at the start of the subject line in your email.

How do I provide an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Pilot Project Pipeline and/or Clean Energy Toolkit measures?

Please refer to the consultation paper and complete the relevant template(s). When submitting your response to the design and delivery consultation there is an opportunity for you to upload the completed template. Please also listen to the recording of our **Webinar** and the **Survey – How to guide** available on our [consultation page](#).

How long will it take to complete the questions?

The timeframe will depend on how many questions you choose to answer and how much time you spend considering the questions.

Can I start a design and delivery consultation response and finish it later?

Yes, as long as you submit your response before the survey closes at 11:59 pm AEST Sunday 31st August 2025.

Once you start answering the survey questions there will be an option to 'Save your progress.' If you click this button, you will receive a website link that you can use to return to the survey and complete it later.

Could Program information be included in the design and delivery consultation change in the future?

Yes. We are currently developing the Program and are seeking non-binding Expressions of Interest (EOI) from service providers and project proponents to inform the design and delivery of the Pilot Project Pipeline and the Clean Energy Toolkit. Consultation documentation is indicative only.

What do you mean by 'service providers'?

'Service providers' is a broad term used to describe individuals and organisations with the capacity to develop and deliver components of the First Nations Clean Energy Program. This includes but is not limited to resources, training, energy mapping, translation and website development among other products and services. We recognise there are different types of services providers working on First Nations issues in the clean energy sector.

Can I give feedback on the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy through this process?

The consultation is focused on the design of the Program and does not include any questions on the Strategy. Any queries about the Strategy can be directed to fnces@dcceew.gov.au.

Is this a grant application process?

No. This is not a grant application process. The intended Clean Energy Advice grants will be launched separately on the Grant Connect website. You can register your interest in receiving a notification about upcoming grant opportunities through the Have your Say survey.

Is this a tender application process?

No. This is not a tender application process. We are seeking non-binding Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from service providers and project proponents to inform the design and

delivery of the First Nations Clean Energy Program. Responses will not be accepted as applications for future advertised procurement opportunities. You can register your interest in receiving a notification of any future procurement through the Have your Say survey.

How will my information and response be handled?

Your information and response will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy notice. When you commence the consultation process, the first pages are presented with details of the privacy policy and what will be disclosed.

Will the information I submit through the design and delivery consultation survey be considered for future grant rounds or tender applications?

No. We are seeking non-binding Expressions of Interest (EOI) from service providers and project proponents to inform the design and delivery of the Program. This is not a grant or procurement process. Responses will not be accepted as applications for future advertised grant or procurement opportunities.

Should I notify you now if I am intending on submitting a future grant or tender application?

You are not required to notify us. However, you can register your interest in receiving updates on future opportunities via the Have your Say survey.

Is submitting an EOI a precondition for responding to future Program tender opportunities?

No. However, we strongly encourage you to submit an EOI if you intend to apply for future Program opportunities because the EOI may inform the procurement design.

Is submitting a response to this design and delivery consultation binding in any way?

No. This design and delivery consultation process is non-binding on the Department or on respondents. Program information contained in the documentation is indicative only.

How can organisations and individuals participate in delivering the First Nations Clean Energy Program?

We anticipate the Pilot Project Pipeline and Clean Energy Toolkit measures may be delivered by First Nations-led service providers and organisations/businesses with the capability and experience to deliver one or more of the likely measures.

All delivery opportunities will be promoted and awarded in accordance with government protocols.

- Grants are delivered in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles (2024). Grant opportunity guidelines are published on Grant Connect (www.grants.gov.au). Individuals and organisations can register with Grant Connect to receive notifications about opportunities.
- Procurements are delivered in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. Procurement opportunities are published on AusTender (www.austender.gov.au). Individuals and organisations can register with AusTender to receive notifications about approaches to market.

Final decisions regarding grants and procurements are made by the Minister, the Department, or an appointed panel subject to the relevant Grant opportunity guidelines or procurement opportunity guidelines.

Am I required to include documentation that demonstrates community engagement when submitting an EOI?

No. Documentation demonstrating community engagement is not required for this EOI process. However, we strongly encourage authentic partnerships and First Nations leadership.

For this process, we would like to know if you have considered the stakeholders that your project will affect and what proposed engagement planning you have done.

Evidence of consultation and/or partnership with First Nations peoples may be required as part of future tender opportunities.

When will the Department start delivering the First Nations Clean Energy Program?

The Commonwealth Government committed \$70 million in funding for the Program over 3 years starting from 1 July 2025.

We are in the process of developing the Program and are now seeking non-binding Expressions of Interest (EOI) from service providers and project proponents to inform the design and delivery of the Pilot Project Pipeline and Clean Energy Toolkit. We will launch the Program as soon as possible in 2025-26.

Will there be a good geographic spread of resources across all states and territories to deliver the First Nations Clean Energy Program?

We will consider the geographic spread of resources across Australia but this will not be the only factor. Coordination with state and territory programs is ongoing to progress complementary work.

Why is it taking so long to deliver project funding?

We are looking to maximise the impact and benefit of the funding. We recognise that not all traditional modes of Government Program delivery enable appropriate access for First Nations people and their communities, especially regional and remote communities.

We are running this process to support our continuing commitment to enable First Nations leadership and participation, in line with the priority reforms of Closing the Gap.

Why is there no funding available right now?

Funds were received by DCCEEW on 1st July 2025, and we are now working hard to design and deliver the funding for maximum impact and benefit.

When will funding be available?

Funds will be available as soon as possible once the Program design is finalised and has been approved. We anticipate the design of the program to be informed by responses received through this design and delivery consultation process.

What is the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy?

Sponsored by the Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, and the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 2024–2030 (the Strategy) is a national framework to realise meaningful economic benefits and energy equity for First Nations peoples through the clean energy transformation.

Further information about the Strategy and how it was developed can be found at [First Nations Clean Energy Strategy | energy.gov.au](https://energy.gov.au/first-nations-clean-energy-strategy)

Why do we need the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy (the Strategy)?

First Nations peoples hold rights and interests in over 50% of Australia's land and seas.

They are also among the most energy insecure peoples in the world, with many households experiencing high rates of unplanned disconnections.

The energy transformation can be a catalyst for First Nations peoples' self-determination by creating opportunities for effective economic participation and leadership.