



KIMBERLEY ABORIGINAL CLEAN ENERGY FORUM

19 - 20 March 2026

University of Notre Dame
Broome Campus, WA



DAY ONE: Thursday 19 March

Community Day: Grounding in Country, Challenges & Opportunities

(Open to First Nations individuals and representative organisations only)

Time	Session	Presenters
8:30am	Smoking Ceremony & Welcome to Country	Smoking ceremony & Welcome to Country with Di Applebee , Yawuru
9:15am	Morning Plenary & Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions from Cissy Gore-Birch (Forum Facilitator) • Cherie Heslington (CEO, Aarnja Ltd) • Karrina Nolan, (Executive Director, First Nations Clean Energy & Original Power)
9:45am	Kimberley Energy Overview - Emerging themes in First Nations' energy access, affordability, participation and leadership in the clean energy transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloyd Pigram, Yawuru/Bardi, (Research Fellow, Nulungu Research Institute) • Ruby Heard (Founder, Alinga Energy) • Pat Greechan, Bard, (Chair, Amboranj Power) • Cissy Gore-Birch (Facilitator) <p><i>More to be announced</i></p>
10:30am	Morning Tea break	
11:00am	Local & Interstate Case Studies - Project snapshots from the Kimberley and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Iclvor (CEO, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation) • Jordan Ala'i & Martin (Kusi) Bin Rashid (The Karajarri Traditional Lands Association - KTLA) • Chantelle Johns & Ethan Godfrey (Marlinja Community, NT) • Cherie Heslington (Facilitator)

12:30pm

Lunch break

- 1:15pm** **Extreme Heat Responses in the Kimberley** How our households, communities and energy systems are coping in a warming climate
- **Professor Anne Poelina** (Martuwarra Council)
 - **Kalinda Palmer**, Nyikina/Jabbir Jabbir (Youth Climate Justice)
 - **Cissy Gore-Birch** (Facilitator)

- 2:00pm** **Afternoon Breakout 1: Clean Energy Negotiation Strategies**
- **Vanessa Elliot**, Jaru, (Consultant / Former Chair WA Chamber of Mineral & Energy Aboriginal Working Group)
 - **Dr Lily O'Neill** (Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne)
 - **Jordan Ala'i & Martin (Kusi) Bin Rashid** (The Karajarri Traditional Lands Association - KTLA)
 - **Cherie Heslington** (Facilitator)

- 2:00pm** **Afternoon Breakout 2: Lifting the hood: What does the data tell us about household energy costs & usage in the Kimberley. What are the research gaps we need to advocate for stronger outcomes?**
- **Dr Kathryn Thorburn, Steven Kinnane, Lloyd Pigram** (Nulungu Research Institute)
 - **Dr Tom Longden** (Senior Researcher, Western Sydney University)

3.00 pm

Afternoon tea break

- 3.15pm** **Community Energy Planning 101** - Tools and planning processes to support communities to design their own role in the clean energy transition
- **Madie Sturgess & Lauren Mellor** (Clean Energy Communities Co-Directors, Original Power)
 - **Jonathan Kneebone** (Director of Policy, First Nations Clean Energy Network)

- 3.45pm** **The Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Alliance** - Exploring the role of a coalition for clean energy development
- **Cherie Heslington** (Aarnja Ltd)

- 4.30pm** **Day 1 Wrap Up**
- **Cissy Gore-Birch** (Facilitator)

4:45pm

Day 1 Concludes

6:30 -
9:00pm

Networking Reception at the Mangrove Hotel



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DAY TWO: Friday 20 March

Community, Industry & Government: Turning Community Priorities into Action

Time	Session Title	Presenters
9:00am	Welcome to Country	Welcome to Country with Di Applebee , Yawuru
9:15am	Welcome and summary of themes from Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cissy Gore-Birch (Facilitator) • Cherie Heslington (CEO, Aarnja Ltd)
9:30am	Kimberley Clean Energy Landscape - Navigating the Challenges & Opportunities Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karrina Nolan (First Nations Clean Energy Network & Original Power) • Krystal Skinner (CEO, Horizon Power) • More to be announced
10:30am	<i>Morning Tea break</i>	
11:00am	Making Renewable Energy work for Kimberley Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Ala'i & Martin (Kusi) Bin Rashid (Karajarri Traditional Lands Association - KTLA) • Nathan Iclvor (CEO, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation) • Cissy Gore-Birch (Facilitator) • More to be announced
11.45am	WA Government Clean Energy Initiatives & the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA (Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE) • The Hon. Divina D'Anna, MLA (Member for Kimberley) • Karrina Nolan, (Executive Director, First Nations Clean Energy & Original Power)

12:45pm		Lunch break
1.45pm	Energy Access & Affordability in a Warming Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Mellor (Clean Energy Communities Co-Director, Original Power) • Lloyd Pigram (Research Fellow, Nulungu Research Institute) • Stephen Kinnane (Chair of Indigenous Studies, Nulungu Research Institute) • More to be announced
2:45pm	Afternoon Breakout 1: Building Healthier Homes and Futures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victor Hunter (Co-founder, Lyian Foundation) • Cherie Heslington (CEO, Aarnja Ltd) • More to be announced
2.45pm	Afternoon Breakout 2: Understanding the Clean Energy Money Story - Investment Opportunities, Balancing Risk & Reward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruby Heard (Founder, Alinga Energy) • Peter Yu, Yawuru, Vice-President (First Nations) at The Australian National University • James Larratt (CEO, Aten Advisory) • Jonathan Kneebone (Director of Policy, First Nations Clean Energy Network)
3.30pm		Afternoon tea break
3:45pm	Launching the Kimberley Clean Energy Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherie Heslington (CEO, Aarnja Ltd)
4:15pm	Day 2 Close: Working Together for a Clean Energy Kimberley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cissy Gore-Birch (Facilitator)
4:30pm		Forum concludes

The Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Forum is organised by

