

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Job title	Community Engagement Lead (NSW)
Reports to	Director, First Nations Clean Energy Network
Works closely with	National First Nations Clean Energy Network Team
Status	Full-time (1.0 FTE) or Part-time (0.06), fixed-term contract (1–2 years), subject to funding.
Direct reports	Nil
Date updated	29 July 2026
Salary range	\$110 – \$130,000 pro rata full time equivalent (based on experience), plus 12% superannuation and access Salary Sacrifice up to \$15,900 pa
Location	Work from home or co-working space, New South Wales

This position is designated as a First Nations Identified Position. The filling of this position is intended to constitute a special measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth), and s 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) and s 8(4) of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)

Original Power

Original Power is a community-focused, First Nations led organisation that builds collective power and backs the leadership, skills and capacity of First Nations peoples to achieve genuine self-determination in community and on Country.

We provide strategic advice, campaign support and capacity building, and connect communities to drive change. Our work is grounded in climate justice, community control and the right of First Nations peoples to determine our own futures.

Our current priorities are: supporting the new First Nations Clean Energy Network to grow; defending Country, particularly in the Northern Territory, by supporting communities to decide which projects they give consent to; and advocating for strong cultural heritage and sacred sites protection for generations to come.

We support First Nations peoples and communities to work together to build collective power, to share lessons and campaign together on shared issues.

Original Power is a growing organisation with staff working around Australia.

First Nations Clean Energy Network

The First Nations Clean Energy Network (the Network) is a national First Nations-led coalition working to ensure First Nations communities share in the benefits of Australia's clean energy transition.

Launched in November 2021, the Network brings together First Nations people, community organisations, land councils, unions, academics, industry bodies, renewable energy companies, and legal and technical experts. It is led by a Steering Group of First Nations leaders.

The Network exists to support First Nations peoples and communities to participate in, benefit from, respond to and shape renewable energy projects affecting land, waters and Sea Country.

Its work includes:

- supporting clean energy projects that deliver direct community benefit, including more affordable and reliable power
- promoting best-practice approaches to consent, land use and benefit sharing
- building community capacity through training, employment and participation in the renewable energy sector
- advocating for policy reform and greater investment in the infrastructure, technology and innovation needed for a just transition.

The Network supports communities to tackle barriers to clean, affordable and reliable energy, while creating opportunities for strong local economies, good jobs and community-led clean energy development.

Alongside auspicing the Network, Original Power also supports a number of clean energy demonstration projects, helping build practical evidence for policy reform and future on-ground expansion.

The Opportunity

New South Wales is experiencing unprecedented investment in renewable energy, transmission infrastructure, storage, and community energy initiatives. As Renewable Energy Zones, transmission projects and new government investment continue to expand, there is increasing demand for trusted First Nations engagement, community capacity building and strategic leadership.

The NSW Community Engagement Lead will establish and grow the First Nations Clean Energy Network's presence across New South Wales by working alongside Traditional Owners, Aboriginal organisations, government, industry and community partners.

The role combines strategic engagement, community organising, project leadership and relationship management to ensure First Nations communities are informed, connected and positioned to influence and benefit from the clean energy transition.

The position plays a leading role in building community capability, supporting self-determined clean energy aspirations, strengthening partnerships and advocating for equitable participation in the renewable energy transition.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Community Leadership

- Lead the Network's engagement across New South Wales.
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with Traditional Owners, First Nations communities and Aboriginal organisations.
- Support communities to identify their clean energy priorities, aspirations and opportunities.
- Develop regional engagement strategies and long-term relationship plans.
- Grow participation in the First Nations Clean Energy Network.
- Represent the Network at conferences, forums, government meetings and community events.

Project Leadership

- Lead community engagement activities supporting renewable energy, transmission and infrastructure projects.
- Plan and deliver community meetings, workshops and regional engagement activities.
- Coordinate community consultation processes.
- Manage projects to ensure outcomes are delivered on time and within budget.
- Monitor project risks and emerging opportunities.
- Support communities to progress community-led clean energy initiatives.

Stakeholder Engagement | Develop productive relationships with:

- Australian, state and local governments
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Native Title organisations and Traditional Owner groups
- Renewable energy developers, transmission companies, utilities and retailers
- Investors and industry bodies
- Universities and research organisations

Community Capacity Building

- Coordinate community energy literacy, negotiation and agreement-making programs.
- Support communities to understand renewable energy developments, Renewable Energy Zones, transmission projects, community-owned energy opportunities, benefit-sharing arrangements and relevant government funding opportunities, including the Capacity Investment Scheme.

- Connect communities with legal, technical, financial and commercial expertise.
- Mentor community leaders and support local capacity development.

Strategic Communications

- Develop community information resources, presentations, newsletters, briefing papers and stakeholder updates.
- Monitor relevant NSW policy and renewable energy developments and maintain stakeholder engagement records.
- Contribute to media, advocacy and public communications, including acting as a Network spokesperson in NSW where appropriate.

Policy and Advocacy

- Monitor renewable energy policy, legislation and government programs, and identify emerging issues affecting First Nations communities.
- Undertake research and analysis to inform Network priorities, policy development and advocacy.
- Contribute to state and national strategic initiatives.

Collaboration

- Work collaboratively with the national First Nations Clean Energy Network team to deliver programs, campaigns and strategic priorities.
- Build partnerships across government, industry and the community sector.
- Contribute to organisational planning, reporting and grant delivery.

Selection Criteria

About You | You are:

- Passionate about First Nations self-determination and community-led development.
- A trusted relationship builder who enjoys working alongside communities.
- Politically aware and able to navigate complex stakeholder environments.
- Community-focused, culturally capable and collaborative.
- Organised, proactive and outcomes-driven.
- A confident communicator who can translate complex issues into practical opportunities.
- Adaptable, resilient and comfortable working across multiple projects.
- Motivated by achieving lasting outcomes for First Nations communities.

Essential Skills and Experience

- Demonstrated experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Strong experience building trusted stakeholder relationships across government, community and industry.
- Experience leading community engagement and consultation programs.
- Demonstrated project management and coordination skills.
- Strong facilitation and public presentation skills.

- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to explain complex policy or technical information in practical terms.
- Experience coordinating workshops, meetings and community events.
- Strong organisational, planning and administrative skills.
- Experience managing multiple projects and competing priorities.
- Current driver's licence and willingness to travel.

Desirable Experience

- Knowledge of renewable energy, electricity systems and climate policy.
 - Experience working with Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal governance structures.
 - Experience supporting infrastructure, transmission or renewable energy projects.
 - Understanding of community benefit-sharing, agreement-making and clean energy partnerships.
 - Experience working across government, industry and the not-for-profit sector.
 - Experience in policy development, advocacy or strategic communications.
 - Experience with grant-funded programs and reporting.
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Interested in applying?

We are accepting applications until **11.59 pm (AEST), Sunday 30 August 2026**.

To apply, please include:

- A cover letter of no more than two pages addressing the selection criteria.
- A copy of your current CV.

Please apply through the EthicalJobs portal, or email your application to **recruitment@firstnationscleanenergy.org.au**.

For questions about the role or the First Nations Clean Energy Network, please contact:

Rebecca Halliday

Director, First Nations Clean Energy Network

Phone: 0428 686 606