



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Hunter, New South Wales

## What is the renewable energy transition?

This means changing from using coal power to using renewable energy like wind and solar power. New industries based on renewable energy and Australia's resources will help grow the economy. This will create new jobs and opportunities, especially in regional areas.

## What are the opportunities and benefits for First Nations communities?

There are many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples around Australia working with government and businesses to ensure First Nations communities benefit from this transition now and into the future. Existing skills can be transferred to renewable energy projects and there are lots of opportunities, such as employment, supply chain participation, co-creation of projects and being able to stay and work on Country.

## What is net zero?

Net zero is about using cleaner energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that harm the environment. Reaching net zero means making sure the amount of emissions we put into the air is the same as the amount we take out.



Australian Government

Find more information about the renewable energy transition at [futuremadeinaustralia.gov.au](https://futuremadeinaustralia.gov.au)

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## Why is renewable energy important?

Caring for Country has always been important for First Nations communities and the renewable energy transition will help to take action to stop the worst effects of climate change. Building renewable energy projects like wind, solar and green hydrogen gives communities opportunities and cleaner energy.

## Does this mean the end of mining?

No – we will still need to mine, but for different things. More mining will be needed for resources and minerals used in renewable energy technology. For example, Australia is the biggest producer of lithium, which is used in batteries and electric cars.

## What are examples of new industries and jobs?

New industries are growing, such as:



Renewable energy projects like wind, solar, hydrogen and batteries



Renewable energy technology, for example solar panels



Using hydrogen as a fuel that produces no emissions



Mining important minerals for clean energy



Producing "green" metals



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## Why is the renewable energy transition happening in the Hunter?

The Awabakal, Worimi, Wonnarua and surrounding peoples have always cared for Country throughout the Hunter. It's also a place where things are made and sent around the world. As Australia moves towards renewable energy, the Hunter is in a good position for new projects, technology and jobs. First Nations communities will be part of this and be able to access jobs.

## What are other examples of First Nations renewable energy projects?

### FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK

This is a network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, community organisations, land councils, renewables companies and others, working in partnership to ensure that First Nations communities share in the benefits of the renewable energy transition.

Learn more about First Nations energy projects here: [firstnationscleanenergy.org.au](https://firstnationscleanenergy.org.au)

### FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY STRATEGY

The Australian Government has developed the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in renewable energy opportunities. This strategy aims to:

- Ensure First Nations peoples have a voice in energy policies
- Support First Nations economic participation
- Review and improve laws and regulations
- Remove barriers to clean energy access
- Guide government investments in technology and infrastructure

The Strategy has been developed over a period of 12-18 months and will be released before the end of 2024. The goal is for First Nations communities to lead, and benefit from the shift to renewable energy.

Learn more about the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy here: [energy.gov.au/first-nations-clean-energy-strategy](https://energy.gov.au/first-nations-clean-energy-strategy)

## Where can I get more information?

Find more information about the renewable energy transition at [futuremadeinaustralia.gov.au](https://futuremadeinaustralia.gov.au)