



# Nikki's Story: From Resources to Renewables

## CENTRAL QUEENSLAND



I'm a Guugu Yimithirr, Kalkadoon and Nyamal woman, living and working on Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda Country. I'm currently the Senior First Nations Engagement Advisor for Stanwell and Chair of the Queensland Renewable Energy Council First Nations Working Group. My passion for cultural heritage and Country shaped my career journey.

For the last 10 years, I've worked in the coal industry with BHP and ran my own jewellery business where I supplied the official merchandise for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games! In this time, I learnt a lot about the commercial world and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).

I often felt conflicted and saw the environmental impact of open-cut mining and this motivated me to do something different. I started working in the renewable energy sector at Fortescue's Green Energy Manufacturing Centre in Gladstone and when an opportunity with Stanwell came up, it perfectly aligned with my passion for connecting with community and caring for Country.



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In my job, I help to build cultural capability in the organisation and shape policies and strategies that improve First Nations engagement in the renewable energy sector. Trust, consistency, humility and transparency are essential when engaging with Indigenous peoples and I encourage Stanwell to continually assess their cultural consciousness. By listening to and addressing the needs of First Nations communities, renewable energy companies can create meaningful partnerships that drive both economic and cultural benefits.

Outside of work, I'm part of the First Nations Clean Energy Network's PowerMakers Program and I'm working to increase renewable energy literacy among Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples, empowering them to take part in conversations on their terms.

Sadly, there's still not a lot of mob working in the renewable energy sector. I'd like more First Nations people to know about the diverse jobs and understand how their existing skills can often be easily transferred. There are many more opportunities in renewable projects, including employment, supply chain participation, co-creation of projects and being able to stay and work on Country, which has a positive effect for whole communities.

I hope that through my work and advocacy, I'm helping to ensure First Nations communities are not only part of the renewable energy transition in Central Queensland but are also shaping its future.

***"By listening to and addressing the needs of First Nations communities, renewable energy companies can create meaningful partnerships that drive both economic and cultural benefits."***



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