

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



Monday, 24 July 2023

TRADITIONAL OWNERS TO HARNESS THE POWER OF RENEWABLES

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting Traditional Owner Corporations to get new renewable energy and emissions reductions projects up and running.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio today announced five applicants were successful in the first round of the First Peoples Adoption of Renewable Energy (FPARE) program.

Traditional Owner Corporations (TOCs) have mapped out innovative plans to benefit from Victoria's energy transformation and will use this funding to put those plans into action.

Projects include piloting an energy generation agreement with a host business site; supporting the transition to an electric vehicle; developing a renewable energy statement; and providing dedicated staff to lead on renewable energy initiatives.

The FPARE program has built on the inaugural Traditional Owner Renewable Energy Program (TOREP), incorporating feedback from TOCs to address gaps and support their priorities under renewable energy interests.

The successful applicants are Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), First People of Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

A total \$450,000 in funding was allocated in this round, made up of \$75,000 and \$100,000 grants.

The program allows projects to develop TOC-specific energy initiatives, create resources to share energy knowledge and assist in accessing government programs, as well as build on projects funded under the TOREP program.

The Labor Government acknowledges the right to self-determination and recognises that only when First Peoples are central to the decision-making processes that affect their lives, will sustained and long-term changes in wellbeing and the health of Country be achieved.

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio

"We're working with Traditional Owners to shape how renewable energy is developed in their communities, protecting Country while delivering renewable power, jobs and economic opportunities."

Quote Attributable to the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Gabrielle Williams

"Traditional Owners are leading the way in Victoria's transition to renewable energy, bringing benefits to their communities, the environment and all Victorians."