



First Nations
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry

ABN: 70 950 889 789

Welcome Message

On behalf of the First Nations Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it is our pleasure to officially invite you to participate in our 2nd annual conference, the **FNCCI Summit '24**. This year's summit is being held from 26-27 November at the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre.

We will continue our focus on meaningful First Nations participation and engagement in economic development and decarbonisation, by exploring the art of possible and showcasing best practice examples and leading models by both the government and private sector, in partnership with Traditional Owners and First Nations businesses.

As leaders from governments and private sector make commitments to meet net-zero obligations, all levels of government in Australia are making bold commitments to decarbonise our nation through a transition to renewable energy sources. Multi-billion-dollar investments and plans have been created, including the Hydrogen Head Start Program and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Major project development approvals have also been granted.

However, outside of an acknowledgement to country, or minimal native title and cultural heritage obligations being met, these plans lack any real detail, commitments, or meaningful investments to ensure equitable First Nations participation in largescale economic development. To close the gap and also achieve the critical objective of net zero emissions by 2050, Australia cannot afford to overlook the contribution of First Nations people and the role we need to play.

Now, more than ever, engagement with First Nations people cannot be an afterthought if true economic participation is the goal. We need to see positive change and timely action from all levels of government, including the development of enabling legislation, guiding policy and equitable investments that enable Traditional Owners and First Nations businesses to meaningfully participate in major projects. This must start with the engagement of Traditional Owners and First Nations businesses at the planning and inception phases of these projects, in Front End Engineering and Design and pre-Financial Investment Decision phases.

Government and the private sector must shift their mindsets to see Traditional Owners as key stakeholders who can help greenlight major projects by removing regulatory blockers and helping to address native title, land access, environmental social governance (ESG) and human rights obligations.

This two-day event aims to bring together Traditional Owners, First Nations businesses, government and private sector representatives to explore best practice in participation and engagement for economic development, not just within the renewables industry but also the broader economy.

We look forward to your participation in this national opportunity to make a positive impact.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Hollingsworth
Executive Lead – FNCCI

Matthew Cooke
Chairperson – FNCCI