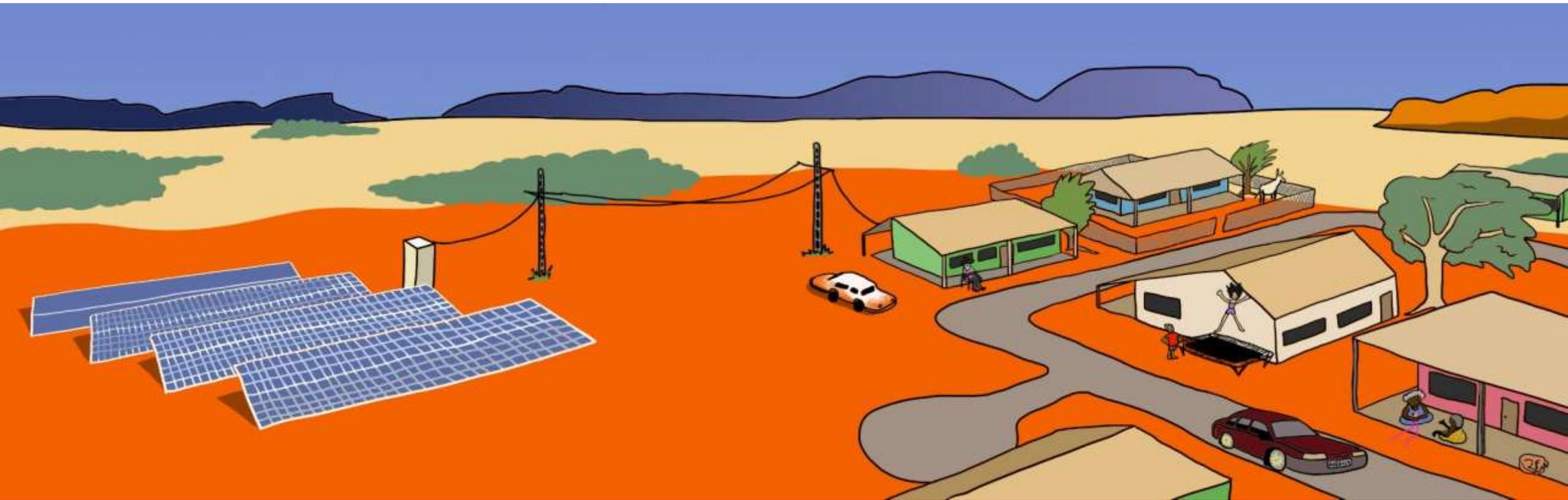


# POWER TO THE PEOPLE

A VISION FOR A FIRST NATIONS-LED ENERGY TRANSITION



# AUSTRALIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

There is a global renewables transition underway. The new Federal Labor government has promised to create jobs, cut power bills and reduce emissions by boosting renewable energy as part of its [Powering Australia](#) plan and for Australia to become a [renewables exporter to the world](#).

- Over a quarter of Australia's energy generation now comes from renewables
- Over 3 million households enjoy rooftop solar connection
- At this pace, Australia is set to surpass its renewable energy target of 50% by 2030.

This is driving a massive shift in Australia's energy system and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can and should benefit from this revolution, whether from small community-based projects to large scale, export focussed initiatives.



# AN UNEQUAL TRANSITION: FIRST NATIONS ENERGY CHALLENGES

- The implications of the climate crisis and the urgent need to transition to clean energy presents both risks and opportunities for First Nations communities in Australia.
- Energy services for a majority of First Nations communities in the Northern Territory, West Australia, North Queensland and now the APY Lands in South Australia are still accessed through a mandated pre-paid meter system where you purchase credit to top up your meter. When credit runs out, homes automatically disconnect.
- With an [absence of standard consumer protections](#) for households in hardship, [blackouts are common](#), and can last for days or weeks until residents can pool enough funds to reconnect.
- Upfront capital costs and an absence of local regulations codifying the ability to connect solar PV have long locked out these households from realising the benefits of energy transition, despite living in regions host to world class renewable energy generation potential.



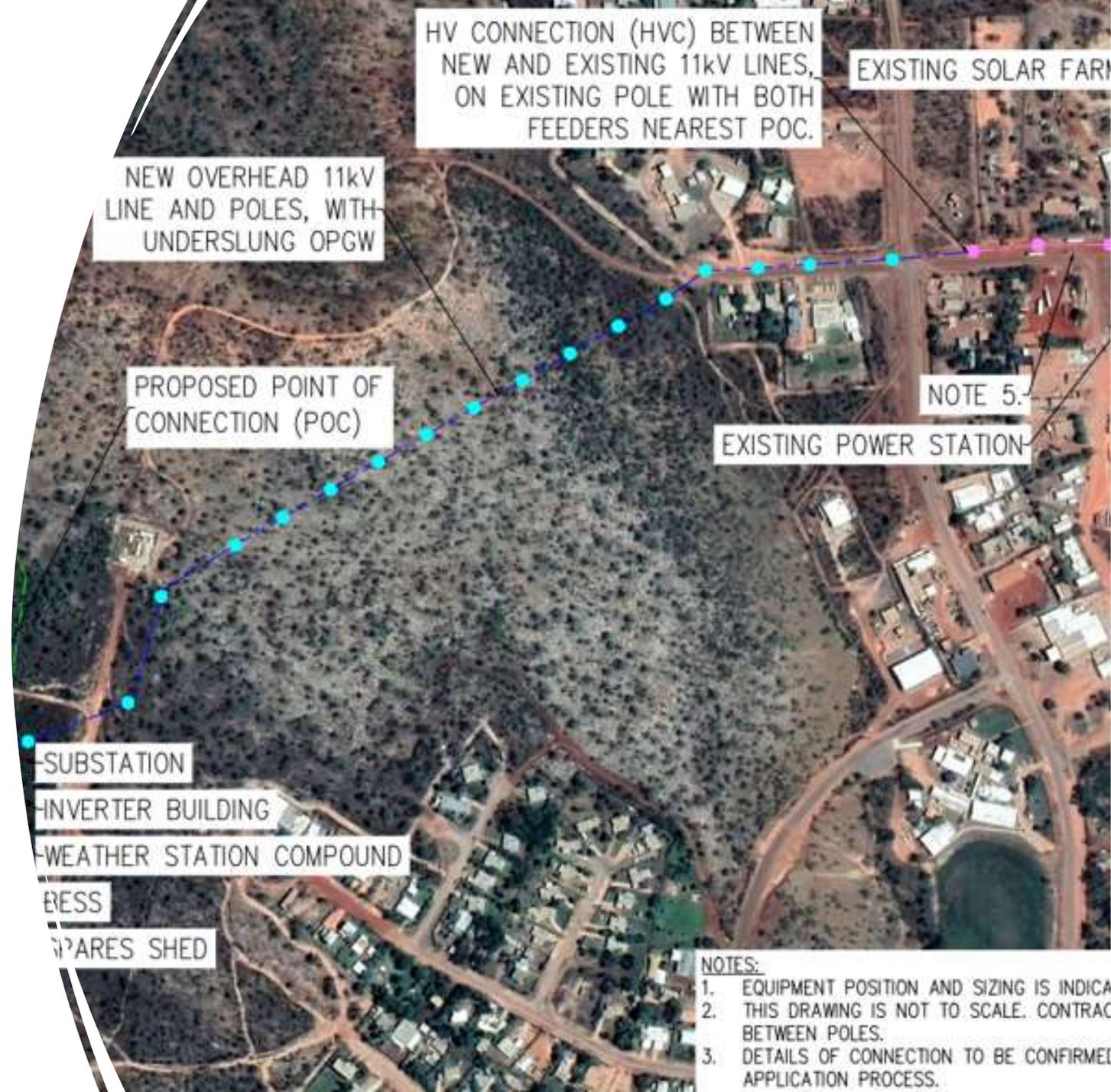
# BUILDING THE BLUEPRINT FOR COMMUNITY- CENTERED ENERGY

- Marlinja in the Northern Territory is set to become home to Australia's first 100% First Nations-owned and grid-connected solar microgrid.
- Located in the Barkly region, where temperatures reach mid-40s during summer and freezing in the Dry season, Marlinja is one of many remote First Nations communities in Australia experiencing extreme energy insecurity – exacerbated by overcrowded, poorly designed houses and now climate-induced warming.
- Community-led design and delivery has resulted in a 100kw solar array and 136kwh battery, set for commissioning in May 2024.



# BORROLOOLA'S NGARDARA PROJECT - A CASE STUDY IN COMMUNITY ENERGY

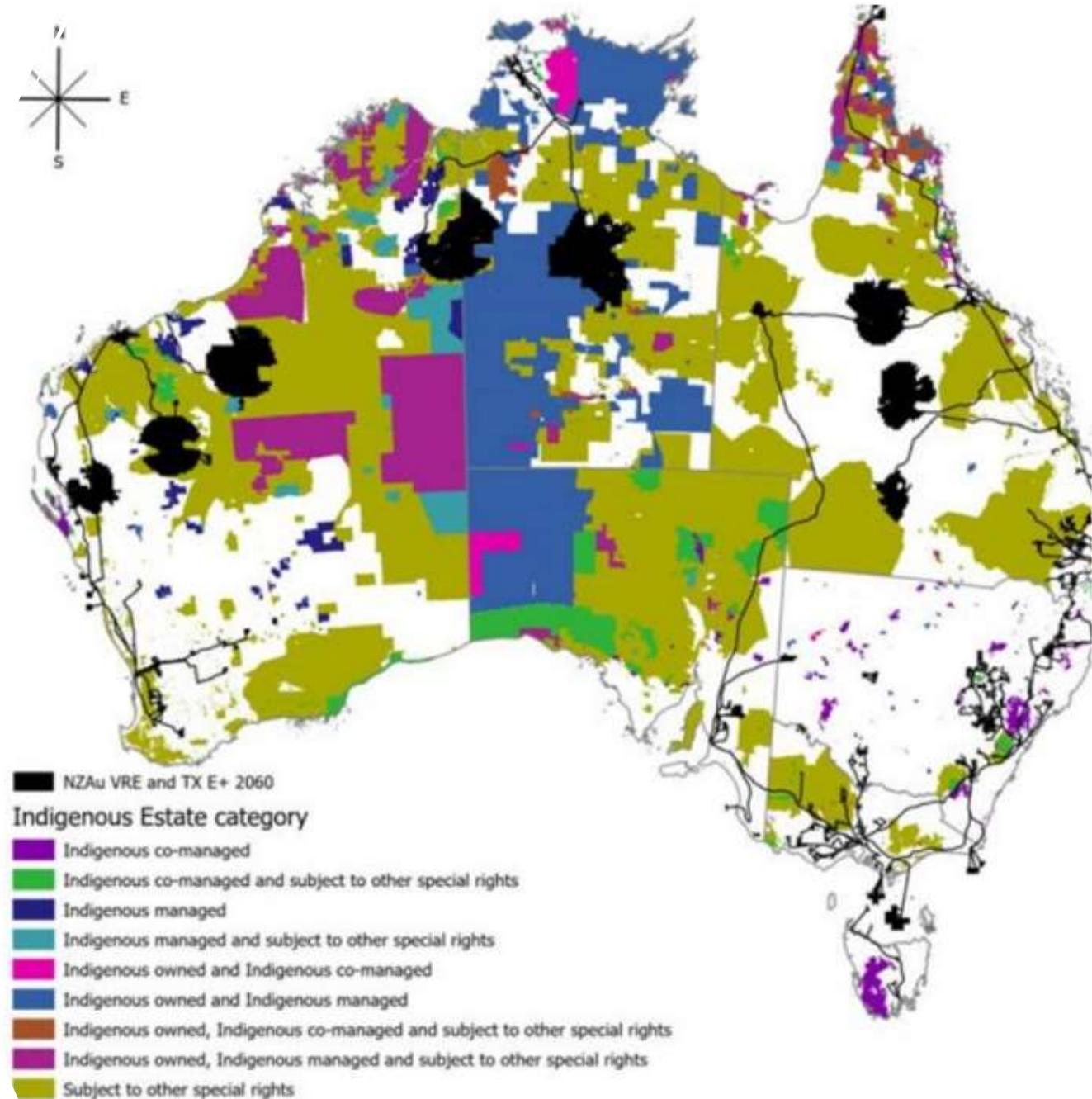
- 2.1 megawatt solar farm and 3.2 megawatt battery to be integrated with the NT Government's Power and Water run diesel power station.
- A community-owned and operated project, with a long-term supply and revenue contract with government.
- Over **1 million litres of diesel** saved per year
- **Achieve over 70% Renewable Energy Fraction** – achieving diesel off mode at some times of the day.
- Reduction in **energy poverty** through a unique **community ownership and benefit sharing arrangement**.
- **Around 25 jobs in construction of the microgrid, and ongoing work in operation and maintenance.**





# The “Indigenous Estate”

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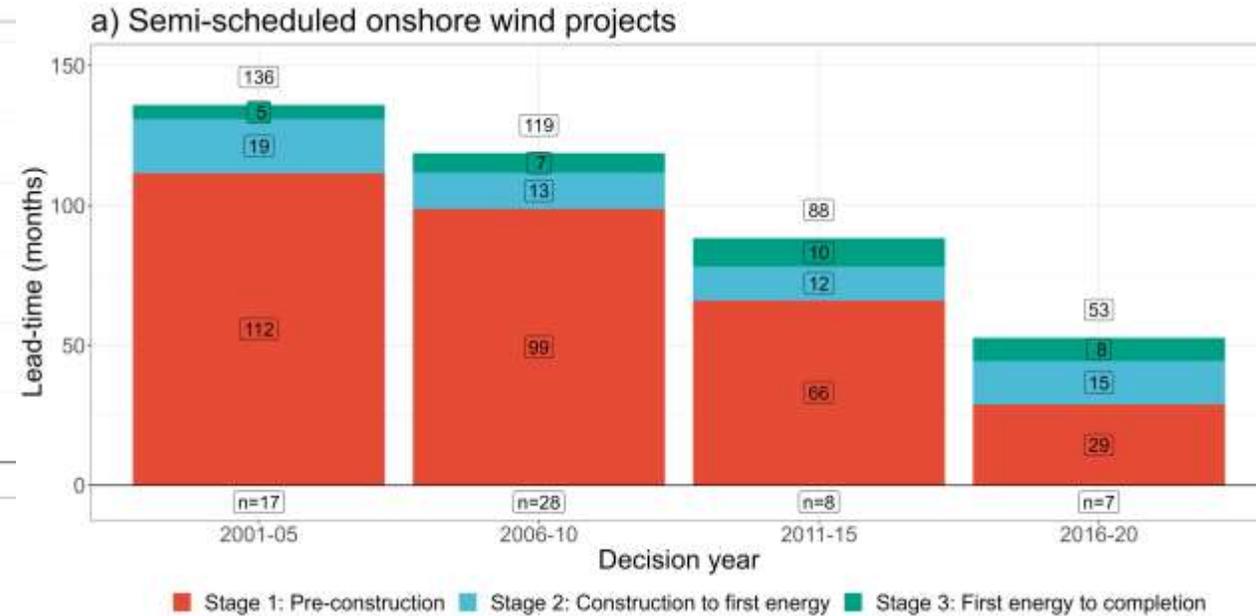
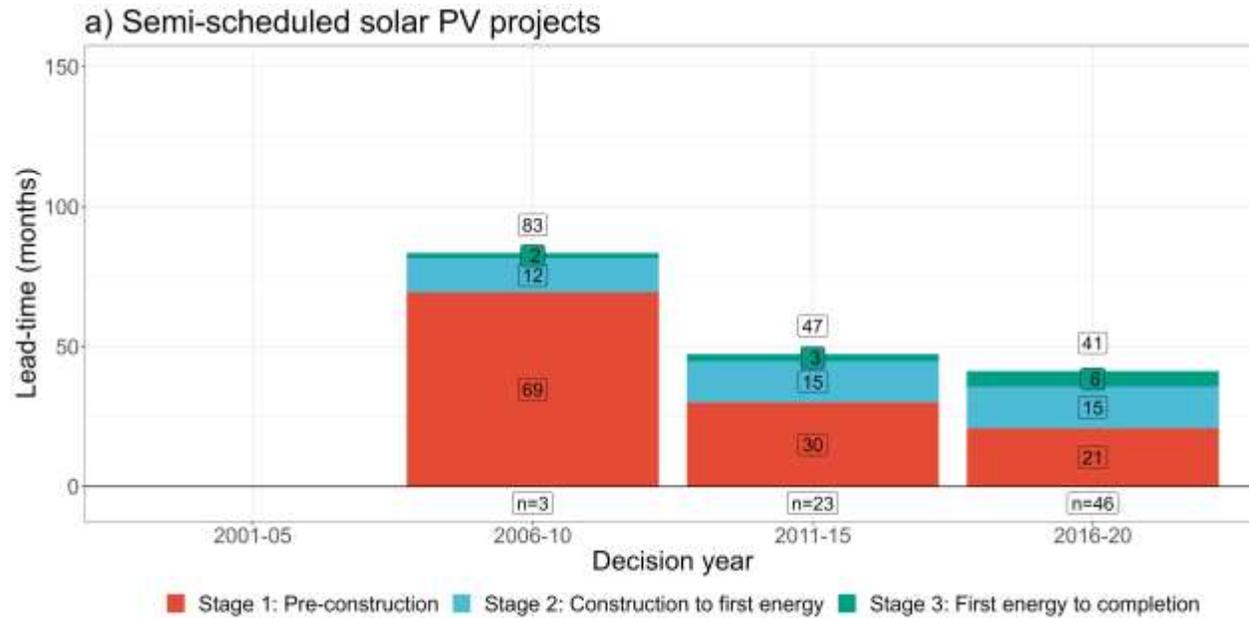


## The Albanese Governments' co-designed First Nations Clean Energy Strategy aims to remove regulatory and policy barriers and incentive partnerships and investment in First Nations clean energy initiatives

### We are working towards:

- Household renewable energy access and efficiency gains
- Incentives for Industry who follow best practice
- Additional federal grants for First Nations projects and changes to granting guidelines to include community benefits and partnerships
- Finance arrangements - supporting the capacity of Traditional Owners to become project proponents at all scales and mandating a percentage of First Nations ownership in new projects
- Currently negotiating new regulation to protect heritage
- Ensure Sea Rights are protected in offshore wind legislation for more sustainable projects
- Developing a package of education and training. Australia will need an estimated 500,000 new workers to fill critical renewable energy skills gaps.





This study investigates the determinants of lead-times for 170 [onshore wind](#) and [solar PV](#) projects completed in Australia between 2000 and 2023. We track multiple project stages and estimate the impacts of changes in ownership, experience, approval processes, rule changes, and a commissioning process that differs by size of generation. Australia has had a notable improvement in lead-times. Solar projects that commenced before 2010 had an average lead-time of 83 months (min: 63, max: 102). This decreased to 41 months for solar projects (min: 19, max: 75) that commenced after 2016. Onshore wind projects took longer to develop. Project lead-times were 136 months (min: 50, max: 200) when they commenced before 2005. This decreased to 53 months (min: 20, max: 85) for projects starting after 2016.