

# FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES' RIGHTS WORKING GROUP



Responsible Investment  
Association Australasia

## Pre-Meeting Papers

### First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group Meeting #1-26

Thursday 12 February 2026 | 12pm to 1:30pm AEDT / 2pm to 3:30pm NZDT

**By Zoom** - Those registered to attend will receive a unique login from Zoom at least 24 hours prior to the meeting – please see your email inbox.

#### Agenda

Time (AEDT)	Item
12:00 - 12:05	<b>1. Welcome (5 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Opening</li><li>○ Acknowledgement of Country</li><li>○ Minutes from last meeting</li><li>○ Principles of Participation</li></ul>
12:05 – 12:40	<b>2. Special presentation and Q&amp;A – First Nations Investment Market Research: Charting the Path (35 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Caleb Adams, Lead Author: <a href="#">Charting the Path</a>.</li></ul>
12:40 – 1:15	<b>3. Industry and subgroup updates (35 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Aotearoa New Zealand, Temuera Hall   TAHITO (10 min)</li><li>○ Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Initiative (10 min)</li><li>○ First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance, Anirudha Nagar   NNTC (10 min)</li><li>○ Policy and Advocacy updates, Tori Huggins   RIAA (5 min)</li></ul>
1:15 - 1:25	<b>4. Working Group and Subgroup Updates (10 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Workstream and Subgroup Updates, Jess Rowe – RIAA (10 min)</li></ul>
1:25 - 1:30	<b>5. Closing (5 min)</b> <p>Key upcoming dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ For Aotearoa New Zealand<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 6 February: Waitangi Day</li></ul></li><li>○ For Australia<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 13 February: Anniversary of National Apology Day</li></ul></li></ul> <p>RIAA Australia Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ RIAA Australia Conference 27 – 28 May in Melbourne</li></ul> <p>Next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thursday 7 May 12-1.30pm AEST / 2-3.30pm NZST</li></ul>

## Previous meeting's minutes

Meeting 14 October 2025

Item	Action required
<b>1. Welcome - Co-Chair – Phil Vernon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opening</li> <li>○ Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>○ Minutes from last meeting</li> <li>○ Principles of Participation</li> </ul>	<p>Submit any amendments to the Minutes to <a href="#">Jess Rowe, (RIAA Manager of Working Groups)</a>.</p>
<b>2. Special presentation and Q&amp;A – First Nations Certification of Origin</b>  <b>NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Clare McHugh (CEO) and Daniel Byers (General Counsel) NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Evan Leslie (Advisor)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presentation commenced with an overview of the NSW ALC. NSW ALC established in 1974. The first all-Aboriginal statutory body holding freehold title to Aboriginal land in NSW. The NSW ALC aims to protect the interests and further the aspirations of its members and the broader Aboriginal community.</li> <li>• NSWALC renewables strategy approved in Sept 2024 by the NSWALC Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To create the first and largest portfolio of renewable energy generation and storage.</li> <li>○ Statewide, 100% owned &amp; operated by First Nations, 100% not-for-profit, 100% benefits flow back to community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The three pillars (pilot projects, &gt;1GW statewide portfolio and First Nations Certificate of Origin) of the NSW ALC were presented with a focus on Pillar 3: First Nations Certificate of Origin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The First Nations Certificate of Origin (FNCO) is proposed as a new certification designed to incentivise the development of renewable energy projects that are owned by First Nations organisations in Australia.</li> <li>○ Modelled on the mechanics of the Large-Scale Generation Certificate (LGC), the FNCO adds an additional layer of cultural and social value to energy generation by ensuring projects are developed in partnership with, or under the control of, First Nations communities. The FNCO aims to support economic empowerment, promote environmental sustainability, and align energy generation with Indigenous cultural stewardship.</li> <li>○ FNCOs would serve as a tradable asset, representing 1 MWh of electricity generated by Indigenous-owned renewable energy projects. These certificates can be purchased by corporates, governments, and retailers seeking to meet Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments or Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) obligations.</li> <li>○ FNCO's purpose is to make First Nations equity central to clean energy projects. It creates a trusted certificate that proves real ownership and fair benefit-sharing, unlocking investment while ensuring communities build wealth, protect Country and shape decisions about projects on their land.</li> <li>○ FNCOs aim to be tradeable and to be purchased by corporates, governments, and energy retailers.</li> <li>○ The FNCO is a market-based instrument to unlock capital to enable First Nations opportunities in the energy transition. That is, an incentive designed to influence decision-making and change behaviours. It is similar to a government subsidy (such as subsidies provided to make solar panels more affordable for households). However, the revenue comes from the free market – incentivised through government policies – rather than direct government investment.</li> <li>○ There are 3 main pathways for communities to be involved in renewable energy projects on their Country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minority Interest (Land-only contribution and/or gifted equity)</li> <li>▪ Joint Venture (shared ownership mode such as 50:50 or similar)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>For questions related to the NSW ALC First Nations Certificate of Origin please reach out to <a href="#">Daniel Byers, General Council</a>.</p> <p>To access the meeting papers and the recording, go on the <a href="#">RIAA website</a> and select;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>“Portal”</b> (top bar, right-hand side),</li> <li>2. <b>“Member login”</b> (sign into the member portal),</li> <li>3. <b>“Working Groups”</b> (Scroll down to ‘First Nations Peoples’ Rights Working Group’ and click ‘learn more’)</li> </ol>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% First Nations ownership (Fully owned by a First Nations organisation)</li> </ul>	
<b>3. 2026 Workplan approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2026 Working Group Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was presented to the group based on the survey input, deep dive discussions and further member meetings.</li> <li>At this stage the Terms of reference for the working group which includes the purpose statement will not be updated as we take further time consider changes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reflections from Will and Phil on this new workplan</li> <li>Motion to approve the workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to approve the workplan put forward by Phil Vernon</li> <li>Jackie Radsich, Future Group seconded the motion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Access the approved workplan for 2026 <a href="#">here</a></p>
<b>4. Industry Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy and Advocacy updates (Nayanisha Samarakoon, RIAA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIAA's AU Treasury – climate-related transition planning guidance submission accessible <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030 consultation due 15 October – more information regarding the consultation is available <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Initiative (Jess Rowe, RIAA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantial update made in the previous section highlighting the Investor workshop taking place on Monday October 20 on Gadigal Country, furthering the work of the initiative to encourage uptake, awareness and education of the pillars and principles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Any feedback on the workplan can be provided to <a href="#">Jess Rowe, (RIAA Manager of Working Groups)</a>.</p>
<b>5.Closing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 20 February 12-1.30pm AEDT / 2-3.30pm NZDT</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Register here</a> for the next meeting</p>

## First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group's Action Register

Last Updated: Thursday, 14 October 2025

Ref	Action	Delegation	Status
<i>Previous</i>			
13/25	<b>Next Meeting</b> - Thursday 12 February 12-1.30pm AEDT / 2-3.30pm NZDT – Register <a href="#">here</a> .	All	Closed
12/25	Access the approved workplan for 2026 <a href="#">here</a>	All	Ongoing
11/25	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to <a href="#">Jess Rowe, (RIAA Manager of Working Groups)</a> .	All	Ongoing
10/25	<b>Next Meeting</b> - Thursday 14 October 12-1.30pm AEDT / 2-3.30pm NZDT – Register <a href="#">here</a> .	All	Closed
9/25	To share your thoughts on what you would like the core outputs of the working group to be for 2026, fill the workplan survey <a href="#">here</a> .	All	Closed
8/25	To access the self-assessment tool for businesses, please go on the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance website by clicking <a href="#">here</a>	All	Ongoing
7/25	Submit any amendments to the Minutes of the second First Nations Peoples' Right Working Group meeting to <a href="#">Jess Rowe, Manager of Working Groups</a> .	All	Closed
6/25	To register for RIAA Australia Conference 2025, visit <a href="#">RIAA's website</a> .	All	Closed
5/25	To access RIAA's Policy Platform Australia 2025, visit <a href="#">RIAA's website</a> .	All	Ongoing

4/25	<b>Next Meeting</b> - Thursday 1 May 12-1.30pm AEST / 2-3.30pm NZST – <a href="#">Register here</a>	All	Closed
3/25	To volunteer for a subgroup, please fill in <a href="#">this volunteering form</a>	All	Closed
2/25	Any feedback on the workplan can be provided to <a href="#">Jess Rowe, Manager of Working Groups</a> .	All	Closed
1/25	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to <a href="#">Shelina Fernando, RIAA Working Groups Officer</a> .	All	Closed