

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES' RIGHTS WORKING GROUP



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia

Pre-Meeting Papers

First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group Meeting #3_26

Thursday 13 August 2026 | 9am – 10:30am AEST / 11am – 12:30pm NZST

By Zoom – Registered online attendees will receive a unique Zoom login by email at least 24 hours before the meeting.

In-person – Registered in-person attendees will receive the meeting location and arrival details before the meeting.

AEST	Item	Action required
9:00-9:05	1. Welcome (5 min) • Opening • Acknowledgement of Country • Minutes from last meeting • Principles of Participation	For information
9:05-9:45	2. Special presentation and Q&A – AICD First Nations Sector (40 min) • Justin Agale (First Nations Lead, Membership AICD)	For information and discussion
9:45-10:10	3. Industry and Working Group updates (25 min) • Aotearoa New Zealand (Temuera Hall TAHITO) (10 min) • First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance (Anirudha Nagar NNTC) (10 min) • RIAA Policy and Advocacy updates (Tori Huggins RIAA) (5 min)	For information and discussion
10:10-10:20	4. Workstream and Subgroup updates (10 min) • Workstream and Subgroup Updates (Jess Rowe RIAA)	For information
10:20-10:25	5. Any other business (5 min) • Opportunity for members to raise, share, or discuss any additional items not covered elsewhere on the agenda	For information and discussion
10:25-10:30	6. Closing (5 min) Key upcoming dates: • Aotearoa New Zealand ◦ 14–20 September – Te Wiki o te Reo Māori / Māori Language Week 2026. • International ◦ 13 September – Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Next meeting: Wednesday 21 October, 12:00am –1:30pm AEDT / 2:00 – 3.30pm NZDT	For noting

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact [Tori Huggins, Programs & Policy Officer](#).

Previous meeting's minutes

Meeting: 7 May 2026

Item	Action required
1. Welcome • Opening • Acknowledgement of Country • Minutes from last meeting • Principles of Participation	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Tori Huggins , (RIAA Programs & Policy Officer)
2. Special presentation and Q&A – Ngā Rauemi mō Te Ao Māori Resources for Understanding the Māori World View Presented by Temuera Hall (Director - Portfolio Manager, Tahito) Context and Purpose of the Presentation The presentation introduced a five-paper resource series - Ngā Rauemi mō Te Ao Māori - developed to support the investment community in better understanding Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view) and its relevance to investment, stewardship, and business practice. The presentation emphasised that the tools and assumptions of the current investment system were developed for a different demographic and cultural context, and that New Zealand's demographic, economic, and Treaty realities now require a different approach. Te Ao Māori was described not as a cultural "add-on", but as a fundamentally different intelligence system that shapes how value, time, relationships, and responsibility are understood. Te Ao Māori and Western world views The presentation outlined core differences between Māori and Western world views, including: • A collective rather than individual orientation, grounded in whānau, hapū, and iwi. • A relational understanding of the world, with whakapapa connecting people, land, environment, and all living things. • A cyclical view of time, where the past actively informs the future. • A "nature first" ethic, positioning people as kaitiaki (guardians) rather than extractors. • A focus on reciprocity, balance, and regeneration, contrasted with shareholder primacy and profit maximisation. Why this matters now Demographic change, the growing Māori economy, and the ongoing relevance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi were highlighted as key drivers. The presentation noted: • A rapidly growing Māori population, particularly among younger cohorts. • Increasing significance of Māori authorities and Māori-owned assets within the economy. • The expectation that investors and businesses operating in Aotearoa understand and respond to Māori values and Treaty principles. The five-paper resource series The resources were designed as a practical guide, moving from philosophy to application: • Te Ao Māori – The Māori World View: Foundational concepts, values, and ways of understanding the world. • Ngā Hapori Māori – Māori Communities: Guidance on Māori social structures, mandates, and how to engage appropriately.	To access the meeting papers and the recording, go on the RIAA website and select: 1. "Portal" (top bar, right-hand side), 2. "Member login" (<i>sign into the member portal</i>), 3. "Working Groups" (<i>Scroll down and select 'First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group'</i>) 4. "Past meeting papers and presentations" (<i>Scroll down and select the relevant meeting</i>) If you require any assistance, please contact Tori Huggins (Programs & Policy Officer, RIAA) Access Ngā Rauemi mō Te Ao Māori Resources for Understanding the Māori World View on RIAA website

- **He Aha Ai – The Why:** The social, economic, ethical, and legal rationale for integrating Treaty principles into investment.
- **Ngā Mātāpono o Te Tiriti – Treaty Principles:** Practical frameworks for partnership, participation, and protection.
- **Te Whakakotahi – Embedding Values:** Examples of how Māori values can be reflected in organisational practice.

Treaty principles in practice

A practical interpretation of Treaty principles was discussed, including:

- **Partnership:** Co-designing strategies with iwi in areas of operation.
- **Participation:** Ensuring meaningful Māori representation in governance and decision-making, beyond tokenism.
- **Protection:** Respecting and safeguarding cultural heritage, intellectual property, and natural resources.

Examples from companies such as Spark New Zealand and Meridian Energy were used to illustrate progress, as well as ongoing gaps and challenges.

Data, Measurement, and Accountability

- The presentation highlighted the availability of Māori-specific data in Aotearoa, including statistics on population, business activity, land ownership, and wellbeing. It was noted that while data availability is improving, questions of Māori data sovereignty and governance remain critical.

Key Messages and Conclusion

- Te Ao Māori represents a different way of understanding value, responsibility, and success, not simply a cultural overlay.
- New Zealand's demographic and economic realities create both an obligation and an opportunity for the investment sector to change.
- Meaningful engagement requires genuine commitment to long-term relationship-building and co-design, rather than compliance-driven or extractive approaches.

The resources are intended to support progress rather than perfection and to encourage a shift from extraction to regeneration, and from individualism to collective flourishing.

Discussion highlights (Q&A)

Approaches to integrating the Māori world view and good first steps

- Organisations are generally not starting from scratch, but many lack a clear, structured framework to guide integration of Indigenous world views.
- Frameworks that provide clarity, structure, and a pathway to test and mature approaches are seen as particularly effective for corporates.

Addressing “cultural load”

- There is growing recognition that cultural leadership and advisory responsibilities often fall disproportionately on a small number of staff, without adequate resourcing.
- This issue is not yet well addressed and requires further focus, research, and more equitable sharing of responsibility across organisations.

Role of leadership

- Strong top-down leadership is critical to meaningful integration of Indigenous perspectives.

- Board and senior executive commitment are essential to embedding change beyond compliance-driven or symbolic actions. Potential for RAP-style frameworks - Structured frameworks were viewed as useful tools for organisations seeking consistency, accountability, and a clear progression pathway. - Designing a single framework can be challenging due to the diversity of Indigenous groups and perspectives. - A staged approach, beginning at a foundational level and developing over time, supports learning, transformation, and deeper engagement. - RAP-style approaches were suggested to have potential as a global framework, provided they are adapted to local Indigenous contexts.	
3. Industry and Working Group updates Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Initiative, Sarah Hill HESTA - An update was provided on the Technical Working Group activities. - Stage 2 pilot projects are expected to be completed by the end of the financial year, with work underway to develop a reporting structure back to the Working Group. - A mapping exercise aligning DNBII with relevant global and industry standards is in the design phase, with updates to be shared once available. - Recent engagement activities included a virtual RAP gathering, generating strong interest in adapting Reconciliation Action Plans using the DNBII guides and exploring areas of overlap. - Representatives from the National Native Title Council were represented in Canada for the First Nations Major Projects Coalition. International learnings are informing thinking on Stage 3 of the initiative, including potential focus areas such as critical minerals. Update on Proposed Policy Mechanism – First Nations Certificate of Origin, Evan Leslie - An update was provided on progress of the First Nations Certificate of Origin, noting prior background shared with the working group. (See recording for previous presentation at working group for background information) - The Certificate of Origin forms the third pillar of the policy approach and has received strong support. Engagement with the Minister is a priority. - Updates on the certificate have been shared at industry forums receiving positive feedback. - Analysis is underway on the demand side, including price sensitivity and revenue impacts, with a focus on increasing returns to communities and supporting future project pipelines. - Letters of support have been received from a range of stakeholders, including investors, and are seen as critical to supporting engagement with government. (see Template letter of support for FNCO) - Investor perspectives highlighted the role of certification in improving project invest-ability, providing market signals, and increasing certainty of returns. - The proposed policy intent includes creating a price floor and long-term mechanism to provide revenue certainty through a top-up model. Policy and Advocacy updates, Tori Huggins RIAA Climate Change Authority – 2026 Evidence Platform - CCA is developing an Evidence Platform to track progress to net zero, currently focused on emissions metrics. - Future phases may include green growth, adaptation and enabling factors, including First Nations communities.	Any organisations interested in providing a letter of support for the Proposed Policy Mechanism – First Nations Certificate of Origin are encouraged to contact Evan Leslie.

• RIAA made a joint submission with IGCC, recommending flexibility to include non-climate sustainability data. • RIAA recommended a time-bound commitment to embed Dhawura Ngilan principles and publish the DNBII self-assessment tool. • Feedback on First Nations-related metrics was invited. <u>ACCU Scheme Amendments Consultation (closes 22 May)</u> • DCCEEW consulting on integrity and transparency reforms to the ACCU Scheme. • Key proposal: stronger consent requirements for projects on native title land. • Deep-dive webinar on native title held by DCCEEW on May 7. <u>National Environmental Standards (MNES) Consultation (closes 29 May)</u> • Exposure draft following earlier policy consultation. • Previous RIAA feedback included recommendations on First Nations engagement.	Members are encouraged to share recommendations on First Nations and non-climate sustainability metrics in response to the Climate Change Authority – 2026 Evidence Platform by contacting RIAA's Policy & Advocacy Team.
4. Workstream and Subgroup Updates • Workstream and Subgroup Updates, Jess Rowe – RIAA ○ Director education subgroup – 20th May meeting ○ Career Pathways subgroup – 5th June meeting ○ DNBII Investor subgroup – 12th June meeting ○ If you would like to sign up to join the subgroups, please use the following link - RIAA THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS 2026 SUBGROUPS/VOLUNTEERS – Fill out form RIAA Australia Conference: • Register here for the - RIAA Australia Conference 27 – 28 May in Melbourne	Any questions about the workstream and subgroups can be directed to Jess Rowe, (RIAA Manager of Working Groups).
5. Any other business • An update was provided on the recent announcement, Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is officially launching the Office of the Indigenous Economy (OTIE) to monitor and track the value and shape of Australia's Indigenous-led economic activity. See IBA Media Release: Australia's Indigenous-Led Economy - Indigenous Business Australia for more information. • An update was provided on an ATO review examining engagement with First Nations taxpayers, businesses and representatives, led by the Tax Ombudsman. Opportunities to contribute feedback include yarning circles, surveys, email submissions and presentations to organisations. See ATO engagement with First Nations taxpayers - Tax Ombudsman for more information • An update was provided on an upcoming event UNiting Business LIVE Australia 2026: Sustainability in Action - UN Global Compact Network Australia noting there will be a panel discussion focused on integrating Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Initiative (DNBII) principles into carbon markets. • Discussion on ongoing DNBII and FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent) work, including: ○ Broad awareness of FPIC principles across the sector, alongside continued challenges in practical application. ○ Pilot program feedback is currently under review, with further workshops planned to explore the consent and collaboration pillar in greater depth. ○ Recognition of the importance of policy settings in supporting consistent and workable FPIC implementation.	
6.Closing Key upcoming dates: ○ For Aotearoa New Zealand ○ 10 July – Matariki (The Māori New Year) ○ For Australia	RIAA members hosting National Reconciliation Week events are invited to contact Tori Huggins, (RIAA Programs & Policy

○ 26 May National Sorry Day ○ From 27 May to 3 June – National Reconciliation Week. 2026 theme: All In, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. - 27 May – Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum - 28 May – Anniversary of the Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk for Reconciliation - 29 May – Anniversary of the Torres Strait Islander Flag - 3 June – Mabo Day Next meeting: • Thursday 13 August 9:00am–10:30am AEST / 11:00am–12:30pm NZST	Officer) so these can be shared and promoted. Register here for the next meeting
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Action Register

Last Updated: Monday 10 August 2026

Ref	Action	Delegation	Status
<i>Previous</i>			
8/26	Next Meeting - Thursday 13 August 9:00am–10:30am AEST / 11:00am–12:30pm NZST – Register here .	All	Closed
7/26	RIAA members hosting National Reconciliation Week events are invited to contact Tori Huggins , (RIAA Programs & Policy Officer) so these can be shared and promoted.	All	Closed
6/26	Members are encouraged to share recommendations on First Nations and non-climate sustainability metrics in response to the Climate Change Authority – 2026 Evidence Platform by contacting RIAA's Policy & Advocacy Team .	All	Closed
5/26	Any organisations interested in providing a letter of support for the Proposed Policy Mechanism – First Nations Certificate of Origin are encouraged to contact Evan Leslie .	All	Ongoing
4/26	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Tori Huggins , (RIAA Programs & Policy Officer)	All	Closed
3/26	To send an email to the working group members regarding volunteers for subgroups	Jess	Ongoing
2/26	Next Meeting - Thursday 7 May 9-9.30am AEDT / 11-11.30am NZDT – Register here .	All	Closed
1/26	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Rikki-Lee Hanna , (RIAA – Senior Working Groups Officer)	All	Closed