

Media Release



Wednesday 27th November 2024

GLaWAC Welcomes the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Recommendations

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) welcomes the release of the *Inquiry into Economic Self-Determination and Opportunities for First Nations Australians* report by the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. This report underscores the pivotal role Aboriginal communities can play in fostering a sustainable and prosperous future for all Australians.

By acknowledging the depth of our culture and the strength of our traditions, the report aligns with GLaWAC's vision for policies that create meaningful economic opportunities for our people.

Gunaikurnai Country has long been central to Victoria's energy economy, yet the sector's history in Gippsland has left lasting impacts on our cultural heritage with little in return to remedy the impact to Country or our people.

As the renewable energy transition accelerates, our focus is on protecting and healing Country while ensuring economic, business, and employment opportunities directly benefit our community.

We the Albanese Government's commitment to developing the First Nations New Energy Strategy and view the report's recommendations as crucial to translate these policies into tangible outcomes. We seek robust partnerships with government and stakeholders to leverage our unique knowledge and experience, creating opportunities that drive prosperity and well-being for our community.

First Nations involvement in the renewable energy sector is essential. By prioritising equity and collaboration, we can drive prosperity for our community, while protecting the land and waters we all depend on.

Quotes attributable to Daniel Miller, CEO of Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation:

"We will play a pivotal role in this energy transition—not only as custodians of Country but as leaders shaping outcomes that benefit our community. Building a sustainable funding model is not just an ambition; it's our strategy for enhancing capacity, protecting Country, and ensuring our people thrive in this evolving landscape."

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Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

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