

# Pilbara Solar to Present at the Northern Australia Investment Forum



Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd (Pilbara Solar) is advancing solar energy production in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. This region has been recognized as having some of the best solar resources in the world. This enterprise enacts the recommendations of the report, *“Evaluating the potential to export Pilbara solar resources to the proposed Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) grid via a subsea high voltage direct current (HVDC) interconnector,”* launched in August 2017 by Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC (WA Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade).

The Pilbara Solar corporate structure includes equity ownership by the Traditional Owners of the land in the Pilbara and aims to grow Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal leadership opportunities for a new, clean, responsible industry.



The Pilbara Solar Board of Directors have a combined skill set to encompass all areas from the technical aspects of solar energy production, to native title and tenure security, capital raising, project development, and implementation.

Pilbara Solar has lodged a funding proposal to the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy for the project "*Indigenous Ownership within the Pilbara Solar Industry: Building Capacity, Scaling Up and preparing for Export*". This is a three-year project. If granted, the funding would act as seed funding to implement in excess of 200 MW of solar power capacity to supply local industry. This is the first stage of a solar scale up that aims to establish a renewable energy export industry. The project will initiate potential export and commercial research relationships in the ASEAN region and complete an initial engineering design for a HVDC subsea cable and overland links.

With a focus on trade, Indigenous enterprise, economic diversification and new infrastructure and innovation, Pilbara Solar's project aligns extremely well with the goals of the Office of Northern Australia. In the transition toward the zero carbon economy, Pilbara Solar has significant competitive advantages. These advantages include the world's best solar resource, close relationships with Traditional Owners, a large industrial load, and three potential pathways to export (High Voltage Direct Current technology (HVDC), hydrogen and attracting energy intensive industry).

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is a partner in Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd, providing legal and business development support to the Traditional Owners who will participate in the Pilbara Solar project.

The unique selling points of the Pilbara Solar business model have caught the attention of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Pilbara Solar will be presenting at the Northern Australia Investment Forum hosted by Austrade and to be held in Cairns next week. The Northern Australia Investment Forum is an invitation-only event hosting senior leaders from international and Australian companies.



Media Release

Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd

The Forum will provide delegates with the opportunity to better understand the diversity and scale of investment opportunities available across Northern Australia. The Forum will be hosted by Minister The Hon. Mr Steven Ciobo, MP Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment.

Mr Simon Hawkins, YMAC CEO and Director of Pilbara Solar said, “What makes the Pilbara Solar business model so attractive is not merely the aspirational aspects of empowering Aboriginal communities for capacity building, it is a commercially viable business with real-world economic benefits for industry and the Australian government.”

Mrs Raylene Button, Kariyarra Traditional Owner and Director of Pilbara Solar said, “Pilbara Solar gives Aboriginal people equity ownership of commercial projects. This puts us at the centre of project development and we can decide on the path for economic development and self-reliance. It is different from the old paradigm of mining benefits because there are so many strings attached to those agreements.”

View the Pilbara Solar video: <https://youtu.be/WELEFCVidtl>

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