

Nyauwi Mutjeka

‘To keep the Sun’

Dja Dja Wurrung
Renewable Energy Strategy



Cover illustration by Daikota Nelson

A representation of energy going one way with the purpose of connecting.
Colours represent different energy types and an 'electric' feel.

The design also shows stars 'sitting together' with the sun.



Dja Dja Wurrung **Renewable Energy Strategy**

The Dja Dja Wurrung support the generation of and investment in renewable energy on Djandak, our country in Central Victoria.

Our Strategy sets out a pathway toward a modern energy future cognisant of our ancient knowledge and philosophy while providing sustainable, affordable and reliable energy for Central Victorians that choose to live on and visit Djandak.

Through this Strategy DJAARA is healing people, healing Country, and healing climate.

There is no mistaking
renewable energy is the
way of the future...

We've engaged the next generation of Djaara
to talk about what energy means to them and
throughout this document you'll see valuable
contributions from:

ROCCO LEWIS
Age 8

JAXON TERRENCE KERR
Age 8

AARAKAI NOWELL
Age 10

BRAYDEN ANDREW KERR
Age 5

INDI LEWIS
Age 10

**MADDISON ROSE
CHARLES**
Age 12

SOPHIA JACOBS
Age 17

JAYDA MAY KERR
Age 3

LIAM THOMAS KERR
Age 10

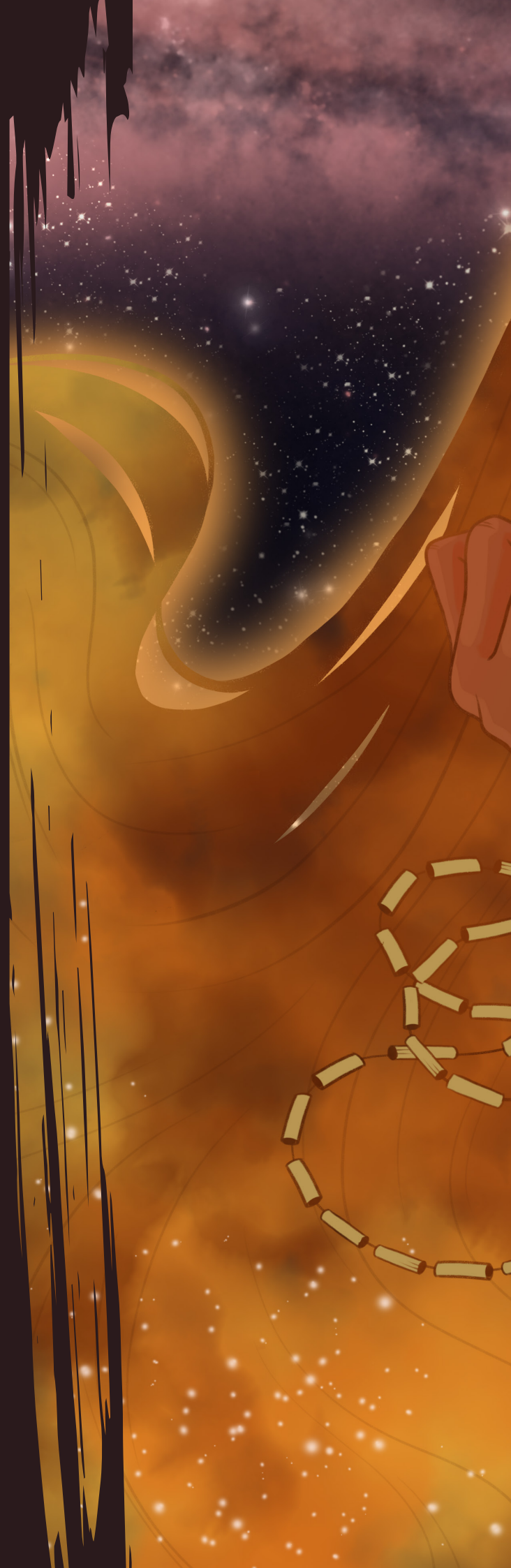




Illustration by Natasha Carter.
A representation of Nyauwi, the woman who is the spirit of the sun.



Every morning as the Sun then rises and shines across our Country our Ancestors would have woken to the warmth and energy it provided.

On behalf of DJAARA I am extremely pleased to provide this message for the Dja Dja Wurrung Renewable Energy Strategy.

Today we continue to be looking after our families, Dja Dja Wurrung people know how to get the best from Country and as modern people we are increasingly conscious of our demands on Mother Earth. We will through this Strategy effectively utilise the best that modern technologies can provide us, to ensure sensibility of our needs upon the natural world, as in our philosophy we will only take what we need and always take less than is available.

Life here in this area provided a place for Dja Dja Wurrung families and Elders to teach their children about how to survive, hand down and share stories, celebrate and live on Country.

This Strategy will allow us to learn new ways to be conscious of our demands upon the earth so that future generations will benefit from the decisions we make today.

Long after we have gone the sun will still shine upon our children and they will build upon and improve their own energy needs from the foundations we lay as we see our Country, people and creatures in a holistic way which survives and thrives through connection with each other.



Rodney Carter
Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO

WHERE DOES ENERGY COME FROM?

Power lines

Electricity

It should come from the sun or light

Our energy supply comes mainly from fossil fuels, with nuclear power and renewable sources

Water

Fossils

Sun

A power source, the sun, solar, wind farms, coal

Power

WHAT DO YOU PLUG INTO POWERPOINTS?

Cords, charger

Plugs

Phone charger cords, you can plug in anything like microwaves and kettles.

A large percentage of the power I use is to charge electronic devices and things such as laptops.

TV

Chargers

Xbox

Powerplugs, tvs, electrical stuff

My iPad and my TV

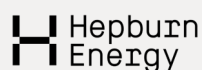
Our Industry Partners working with a shared goal

Cola Solar was grown on the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung over the last 12 years and is now part of the RACV Solar family.

We are proud of our home, proud of its people, and proud of just how far we have all come in adopting solar energy. However, we still have a huge opportunity, as individuals working together, to collectively reduce our carbon footprint, care for Mother Earth and achieve a cleaner energy future.

The harm we are causing Mother Earth will not stop as the result of one, 100, or even 1,000 people's actions. It is the result of everyone doing something small every day to decrease their carbon footprint. The Dja Dja Wurrung people taking this step towards energy independence shows the dedication, the commitment, and the responsibility that we need to see reflected within our community as a whole.

by Cola Solar/RACV Solar on behalf of industry



There is no mistaking renewable energy is the way of the future.

As people connect across communities, local voices are now being heard and Industry Leaders are being pushed to adopt responsible, renewable, and sustainable practices which will further encourage adoption across society.

Solar energy and battery storage not only delivers reduced energy costs, but it can also provide greater energy independence for households and businesses and contributes to a more sustainable future. The incredible connection that Dja Dja Wurrung (and our First Nation's People as a whole) have to their land is demonstrated through their commitment to renewable energy and education.

Caring for our world and building a sustainable future is paramount and it is truly wonderful to see this vital stewardship of the land demonstrated through the actions of Dja Dja Wurrung.

WHERE DOES THE SUN GO AT NIGHT-TIME?

To America and china

Near the planets

It stays in one spot you just can't see it, maybe it turns into the moon

Day or night, the Sun is fixed at its place in the solar system. It is the Earth's rotation and spinning that makes the Sun disappear

Visiting other countrys

The other side of the earth

To sleep

Otherside of the Earth

It goes to sleep



WHY DO WE NEED THE SUN?

To live, to get fresh air and to grow plants and vegetables and trees, because trees give you air

To see during the day and provide the sun

It helps things grow, it also helps solar panels.

Our energy supply comes mainly from fossil fuels, with nuclear power and renewable sources

So we don't have another ice age

Energy

For light

So we can see, be warm, to harvest food, plants can grow, we get our energy from the sun

To make it nice and sunny

We believe that education is a vital element in slowing (and hopefully, one day, reversing) the damage that has been caused to our planet.

We are humbled to help Dja Dja Wurrung along this path, through the implementation of their very own self-sustaining renewable energy system, including solar power and battery storage technology.

Dja Dja Wurrung has made an incredible step towards net-zero emissions. It is the efforts of millions of people and communities like ours, each doing whatever they can, that will create a better future and protect Mother Earth.

Cola Solar, now as part of RACV Solar, is ready to stand with the Dja Dja Wurrung and encourage everyone to give back to the land that has given us so much.

[The Renewable Energy Sector]

Our Vision, what needs to happen

Connection to Bap Djandak (Mother Country) and caring for country are tantamount to Aboriginality.

Connection to country encapsulates spirituality, language, lore, law, and kin (family) – the very essence of identity for Aboriginal people. We care for family and respect our lore, so it transfers to caring for our mother – our country.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people are committed to minimising its impact on the environment and pursuing opportunities for renewable, reusable, and sustainable energy which protects and supports our community and country.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people are committed to minimising our impact on the environment and pursuing opportunities for renewable and sustainable energy production and consumption

which protects and supports Djaara (People) and Djandak (Country). This is not only at the essence of caring for country, but it represents responsible business practice and delivers on our duty of care toward future generations.

We believe people and businesses have a responsibility to achieve good environmental practices and operate in a sustainable and considered manner on Djandak. Being environmentally and climate friendly by using renewable energy is a fundamental part of our connection to country, our culture, our business activity, and our operating practices.

The Strategy life/period is generational while aligning Dja Dja Wurrung's transition from fossil fuel-based energy (e.g. coal, oil and gas) to renewables with local, national and international best practice.

DJAARA's vision is to heal people, heal Country, and heal climate through clean and renewable energy.

HOW DOES THE SUN MAKE YOU FEEL

Happy and good and amazing, it is better for your health

Hot and sweaty

Warm, when it's cold you like to sit in the sun

The sun makes me feel happy, warm, confident

Tired & hot

Warm

Good

Happy, the sun is always in the sky in the daytime

Makes me feel hot and want to go swimming

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE HAD NO ELECTRICITY (POWER)?

You won't be able to charge anything or watch anything, and it would be very cold, you would need a wood heater.

You wouldn't see or have technology

You can't use internet, nothing turns on, there's no lights. You wouldn't have any cold food and couldn't use a fridge.

Electricity is such an important thing in our everyday modern life. Without it we would still be living the way society did one hundred years ago

No lights at night

Cant play machines

It would be dark.

We would have to rely on generators, or go back to olden times

I wouldn't be able to charge my iPad

WHY SHOULD WE NOT BURN COAL AND GAS?

It makes people sick, makes the air smokey, and people can't breathe

To save our solar system

Fossil fuel comes from animals like dinosaurs and old fish and leaves. It is bad for the environment and makes people sick. Gas can cause earthquakes, and it's bad to cut down allot of trees to make materials for houses and building

Along with adding to greenhouse gas pollution, burning coal emits toxic and carcinogenic substances into our air, water, and land, severely affecting our health

Pollution

Its bad for animals

It stinks

The emissions that they give off polutes our air and makes our planet sick

Smoke in the sky

Actions, speak louder than words

CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP)

The United Nations steers the international community on climate action and renewable energy uptake through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Annual conferences known as the Conference of Parties (COP) are held around the world focused on increasing ambition to reduce emissions. In 2015, the 21st COP (COP21) meeting was held in Paris where 196 countries agreed to keep global warming to below 1.5°C (known as the Paris Agreement).

Under the agreement, governments are required to submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce emissions and review their targets every 5 years.

Energy production and use is the source of the most greenhouse gas emissions today and has been a central focus at COP meetings. Transitioning to clean, sustainable and renewable energy is crucial to addressing climate change and ensuring a safe climate future for Djaara and Djandak while aligning with the Paris Agreement.

The Dja Dja Wurrung wish to make a commitment as others have done nationally and internationally for a Clean Energy Future that our descendants can be proud of. By 2030 we want to be neutral in the harm our energy use causes to people, nature and the climate. Our commitments are to ensure our activities at Djandak heal Country, people and climate by:

- Developing policies and guidelines to reduce the energy impacts of our operations including from our buildings and vehicle fleet.
- Revisiting our own capacity to support people on Country with energy systems that align with the broader community transition to clean energy.
- Exploring opportunities to collaborate with government and industry on Djaara led renewable energy and battery storage projects.

The Dja Dja Wurrung commend all governments for targets that help to reduce impacts upon people and Country, and we look forward to working with them towards a better future.

The Victorian Government is committed to generating 50% of the state's electricity from renewables by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

Djaara's actions at Djandak will help to drive this transition and achieve these targets while creating many social, economic and environmental co-benefits.



LANDSCAPE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCING OPTIONS

Table 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led renewable energy projects

PROJECT	STATE	DETAILS
Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation solar farm	Victoria	4.9-megawatt solar panel system construction in Sale (here)
Borroloola's Ngardara Solar Microgrid Project	Northern Territory	Feasibility study to design and build their own solar microgrid (here)
Electric Superhighway	Northern Territory	The Territory's first Electric Superhighway powering our clean energy economy and future (here)
Marlinja Community Solar Project	Northern Territory	Solar-powered community centre to secure lower cost, clean energy future for Marlinja residents (here)

USEFUL TOOLS

Current and future policies will affect renewable energy costs, incentives and availability. Keeping abreast of industry changes with technology improvements can also be helpful in assessing how regulations could affect your renewable energy choices where we live. Through this Strategy DJAARA hopes to heal people, heal Country and heal our climate. Energy justice for Djaara and all First Nations people is critical for this healing process and our approach to renewable energy.

A practical way DJAARA can work towards energy justice through healing is by supporting Dja Dja Wurrung and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on Djandak in accessing rebates, subsidies and programs to switch to more sustainable, clean and renewable sources of energy in their homes, businesses and vehicles while saving money and contributing to emissions reduction.

Table 2: Renewable energy programs, incentives and rebates available on Djaara Country

PROGRAM/ SCHEME	OFFERED BY	DETAILS	SCHEME PERIOD	POTENTIAL SAVINGS/BENEFIT
Solar rebate scheme (panels or hot water)	Victorian Government	\$1,400 rebate available for households who can apply for solar panels or a 50% rebate up to \$1,000 for solar hot water	May 2022 until 2032	Up to \$400 per year per household from solar energy savings
Solar for Business program (here)	Victorian Government	Businesses can apply for solar panel rebates of up to \$3,500 and an interest-free loan to reduce upfront costs of between \$1,000 and \$5,000.	May 2022 until 2032	
Solar panels for rentals (here)	Victorian Government	\$1,400 plus the option of an interest-free loan of also up to \$1,400	May 2022 until 2032	Up to \$400 per year
Battery rebate (here)	Victorian Government	Households eligible can get up to \$3,500 discount to install a solar battery	June 30 2022	Installing a battery can help a household save up to \$640 a year

Zero emissions vehicle subsidy (here)	Victorian Government	\$3,000 for eligible new zero emissions vehicles	For purchases on or after 2 May 2021.	Estimated annual savings of \$1,600 equating to over \$10,000 in the first five years
Home heating and cooling upgrade (here)	Victorian Government	Save \$1,000 when you upgrade to an energy-efficient heating and cooling system	June 30 2022	
Virtual Power Plant (VPP) (here)	Victorian Government	The VPP pilot program connects household batteries and solar systems, offering higher solar battery rebates at a fixed rate of \$4,174 towards the upfront cost of a solar battery	June 30 2022	
Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (here)	Federal Government	Households and small businesses installing small renewable energy systems such as solar, wind, hydro, solar water heater and heat pumps can receive financial support for upfront costs or by selling tradable credits.	From 2017 to 2030	
Victorian Energy Compare & \$250 Power Saving Bonus (here)	Victorian Government	Free online tool that can be used by all Victorians to assess how cost effective their current gas/electricity plan is compared with other available plans	VEC tool open indefinitely PSB Extended until June 30 2022	\$250 upfront payment and can save \$330 on energy bills annually by switching their retailer or plan.
The Green Electricity Guide (here)	Greenpeace	Comparison tool of all energy (electricity and gas providers) with a focus on sustainability, pollution and contribution to climate change	Open indefinitely	Take climate action, reduce your own carbon footprint and send message to energy companies about need to transition

COLLABORATION WITH DJAARA LEADING

While achieving renewable energy outcomes individually can be challenging, working together through partnerships and collaboration can help to overcome barriers in terms of uptake and cost and achieve multiple additional benefits.

Therefore, the Dja Dja Wurrung are becoming actively engaged in the renewable energy discussion lending a Cultural Perspective that governments, businesses and communities at both global and local levels who are striving towards a clean energy future can draw from.

And particularly for achieving renewable energy outcomes in Central Victoria. DJAARA can lead and be partnered with on renewable energy projects. Collaborating with others can help us all achieve a localised strategic approach to renewable energy objectives and climate action while minimising the barriers to further uptake.

Such partnerships could take various forms. One available option would be to partner with a group of companies or organisations with regional operations and enter into a shared renewable energy procurement arrangement, known as a consortium aggregation. This approach can be beneficial for a mix of users with varied energy demands and encourage wider collaboration on pathways to net zero emissions beyond individual organisations, businesses or communities.

Other opportunities exist for Dja Dja Wurrung offices and operational facilities to install our own renewable energy and storage onsite. As part of the development of this Strategy, Dja Dja Wurrung has initiated discussions with a local company to supply and install a commercial solar and battery solution at our premises to be used as a demonstration and training facility. This includes solar panels, battery storage and monitoring. This is an initial small step by us for beginning of our own renewable energy journey which we hope will be positively looked upon by future generations as a defining moment for Dja Dja Wurrung.

Community bulk buy opportunities and rebates for Dja Dja Wurrung community also exist. All industry should pride themselves on being able to be community-focused (first and foremost) but to also meet the expectations of our contractors. Community bulk buys provide DJAARA and Djaara a pathway to transition to net zero by walking and healing together through local and mutually beneficial partnerships.

HOW CAN OTHERS HELP US LOOK AFTER COUNTRY?

Taking everything with them when they leave camping and don't litter

Clean up rubbish and respect our country

Stop building buildings that we don't need, and stop digging it up to look for gold. Recycling and not littering because the rubbish goes into the ocean and kills the sea life.

Educating others on the importance of country and encouraging volunteer work from all ages.

Use solar energy.

By listening to what
Dja Dja Wurrung people say.

Teaching

More recycling, pick rubbish up when in the bush/ forest. Leave no trace

Stop air pollution

PARTNERS THAT SHARE OUR VISION

DJAARA has partners that share our vision for healing people, healing Country and healing climate through the transition to sustainable, clean and renewable energy systems.

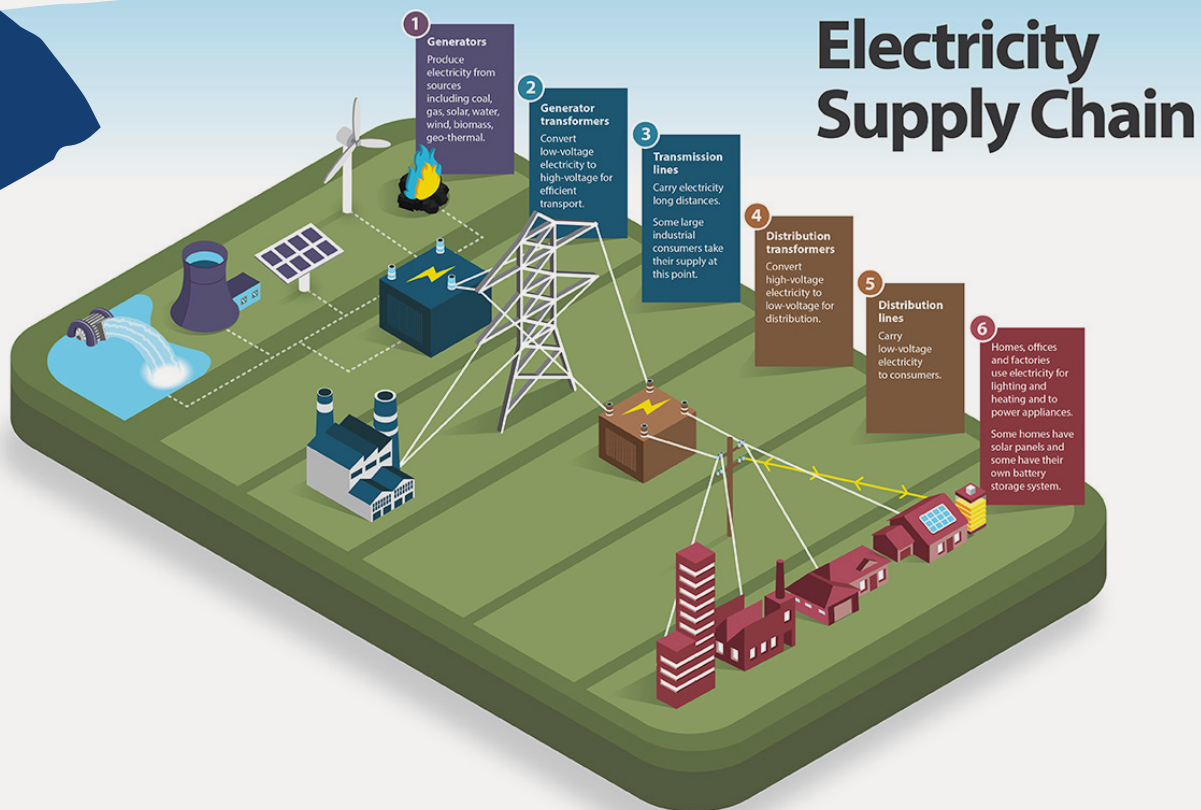
Through this Strategy we will leverage upon the Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement and the regional partners that support us.

VICTORIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY 2022

In 2022, the Victorian energy mix included 4673 Megawatts of brown coal and 2272 Megawatts of gas, the remainder of supply is made up by a mix of renewables with Victorian wind power generation the highest in Australia:

- Hydroelectricity – 2264 Megawatts (16%)
- Wind – 3698 Megawatts (26%)
- Grid Solar – 951 Megawatts (7%)
- Battery – 124 Megawatts (1%)
- Other – 50 Megawatts (<1%)

Source: AER



SOCIAL LICENCE AND LAND TENURE

Dja Dja Wurrung Country has an abundance of sun and the capacity to support the transition to renewable energy through upgrades to the transmission network.

The poles and wires, and new renewable energy generation and storage will be on Djandak and DJAARA is committed to ensuring our community and our Country benefit from it.

Dja Dja Wurrung want to work with companies and government to ensure renewable energy developments on Djandak benefit Djaara and avoid negatively impacting Country, Native Title, Cultural Heritage, land rights and Dja Dja Wurrung's Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA). Companies and government

entities should work transparently and in good faith with Dja Dja Wurrung through planning, construction and ongoing operation of renewable energy projects as well as for upgrades to the transmission network.

DJAARA expects to be engaged from the beginning and at each section of a project from the generation sites (e.g. solar panels and wind turbines), storage and transmission lines to the transformers, distribution and road infrastructure when located on Djandak.

Together we can create a sustainable and clean energy future that elevates Djaara biocultural knowledge and connection to Country and through genuine partnerships with Djaara can heal people, Country and our climate.



Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
Trading as DJAARA
PO Box 1026 Bendigo VIC 3552

DJAARA: 13-15 Forest Street
Bendigo VIC 3550

DJANDAK: 3/204 Strickland Road
Strathdale VIC 3550

T: +61 (03) 5444 2888
F: +61 (03) 5441 6472

djadjawurrung.com.au

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation ICN: 4421