

# National Reconciliation Week

## Taking action

2022 National Reconciliation Week means a lot to us at ACEN Australia and this year we're **taking action**. We're excited to share that we've started the process of developing our first national **Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**. This marks the start of our journey to take meaningful actions to provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to actively participate in our renewable energy projects, and to **share in the benefits** that Australia's growing renewable energy industry offers.

### Our journey so far

While the majority of our projects are still in development phase, New England Solar in NSW is now in construction, allowing the project's Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) namely the *Anaiwain* and *Gumbaynggirr* nations to commence the realisation of their aspirations set out in the project's cultural heritage management plan.

Central to this is the delivery of scheduled cultural awareness sessions by local Aboriginal groups for the project construction workforce as part of mandatory site induction activities. Further, the protection of a grinding groove site located within the solar farm project area is critical. At the request of Aboriginal representatives, activities are taking place to preserve the site and share the history, including the establishment of access tracks to the site so that Aboriginal people can access it in a safe and controlled way once the solar farm is operational.

Also discovered during these survey works was a scar tree within the solar farm project area and at the request of the RAPs, it was recently carefully

and respectfully relocated to the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place for permanent display. This milestone was celebrated at a small event with Aboriginal representatives and landholders.

We know that our RAP is a long journey, and it takes leadership to wholeheartedly embrace it and commit to long-term implementation. As our business continues to grow across NSW, VIC and TAS, we're excited by the opportunities it will bring for our business, but importantly, Aboriginal people and communities in the regions where we seek to operate.

### The future

As a developer seeking to harness resources for energy today, this National Reconciliation Week we reflect on the knowledge of First Nations gained over thousands of years, but importantly look forward to meaningful participation with First Nations groups to support the protection of country, culture, and the development of their aspirations. We'll be keeping you updated on the development of our RAP and its ongoing implementation as we put our commitments into action.

