



# AEMO estimates flawed as solar costs decline

Wednesday, 18 July 2018

Pilbara Solar, a 25 per cent Aboriginal owned renewable energy company, has questioned a national report on Australia's energy future after it failed to recognise WA's solar rich regions.

Yesterday's report by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), the nation's independent energy market operator, to COAG, stated that ageing coal-fired power plants would still deliver the cheapest electricity for the next 20 years.

Pilbara Solar Director, and renewable energy developer, Richard Finlay-Jones, said the report did not recognise regions like the Pilbara which had one of the greatest solar resources in the world, and was one of the most energy intensive locations in the country.

"WA is the most solar rich state in the nation, and, with the right support from all levels of government, the Pilbara has the potential to become a 100 per cent renewable Zero Emissions Zone within a decade," Dr Finlay-Jones said.

Dr Finlay-Jones said current investment in renewable energy had never been stronger in Australia, and the power source never cheaper, with states with the largest targets demonstrating the greatest investment benefits, and the cheapest power.

"Renewable energy deployment had been driving down the wholesale price of power, and wind and solar energy is now cheaper than coal and diesel," Dr Finlay-Jones said.

"The AEMO report to COAG actually states that Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimates about 90 per cent of the \$88bn forecast spent on adding power capacity in Australia will be outlaid on clean energy.

"It is imperative that regions like the Pilbara are recognised among the greatest solar resources in the world."

Pilbara Solar is 25 per cent owned by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC), which YMAC Chief Executive, Simon Hawkins, said represented Traditional Owners whose lands covered one million square kilometres in WA with some of the best solar resources in the world.

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## About Pilbara Solar

Pilbara Solar develops commercial renewable energy projects with an equity position for Traditional Owners. It strives for sustainable economic development that benefits Traditional Owners, business, government and the



community, with a low carbon footprint and high Corporate Social Responsibility. Pilbara Solar is developing a range of renewable energy projects in the Pilbara to provide power to industry in secure, long term, low-cost, fixed-price contracts. Short term goals include providing secure, long-term, low-cost solar power to local industry. Medium term goals include scaling up the solar industry in the Pilbara, and building the supply chain and expertise to develop globally cost-competitive solar power at scale adapted to local Pilbara conditions. Long term goals include exporting Australian solar energy in the decarbonized energy economy. Pilbara Solar is 25 per cent owned by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

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#### **About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation**

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for the Pilbara, Murchison, Mid-West and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC has a representative area of over one-third of WA and represents over 24 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions. YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors and provides a range of services to its members including claim and future-act representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development and natural resource management. For more information please visit [ymac.org.au](http://ymac.org.au)