



Stakeholder Engagement Report

Summary for the period Jan 2024 – July 2025

August 2025



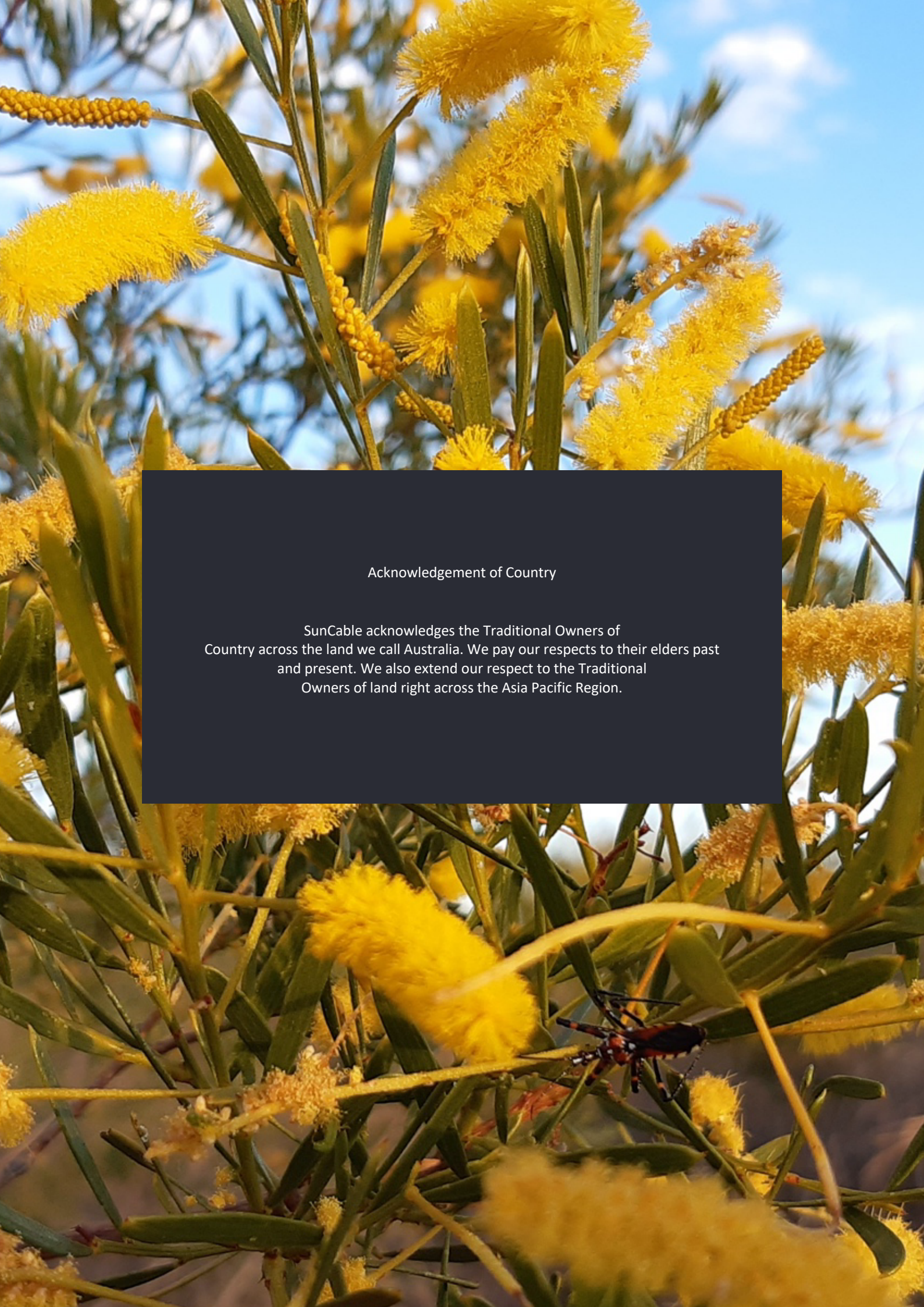
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A close-up photograph of yellow wattle flowers (Acacia) with green leaves and a dark grey text box overlaid in the center. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. A small insect is visible on a branch in the lower right corner.

Acknowledgement of Country

SunCable acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country across the land we call Australia. We pay our respects to their elders past and present. We also extend our respect to the Traditional Owners of land right across the Asia Pacific Region.

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Executive Summary

This Stakeholder Consultation Report summarises engagement and consultation activities leading up to the lodgement of Referrals to commence the environmental assessment and approvals process for SunCable's Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal. The report outlines the engagement activities and communication tools used by SunCable to engage with identified stakeholders and provides a summary of comments and feedback received during the reporting period of January 2024 to June 2025.

Stakeholder engagement and consultation are informed by SunCable's *NT Engagement and Communications Plan*. The objectives for general engagement and communication are:

- provide community and other stakeholders with timely, accurate and relevant information
- tailor consultation methods and materials to the needs of diverse stakeholders
- inform scoping and project planning, through the life of Austral Asia Power Link (AAPowerLink)
- provide SunCable and regulators with confidence that people and communities' attitudes, beliefs, values and concerns are well-understood
- inform balanced decision-making by giving equal weight to community knowledge and technical studies; and
- provide feedback to stakeholders on how their input influenced regulatory and project decisions.

Key engagement activities during the reporting period included community displays, site visits, letters, emails, presentations, briefings, community meetings and industry events. Supporting communication tools included a flyover project video, factsheets, newsletters, maps, presentations, media releases, project website, FAQ, project email and ICN project gateway page.

Key stakeholders engaged during the reporting period included Aboriginal organisations, Traditional Owners and their representatives, business and industry representatives, local, Territory and Federal governments, host landowners, and affected communities.

SunCable collected feedback from key stakeholders throughout the reporting period from over 300 engagement and consultation interactions.

Stakeholders feedback generally focussed on the following themes:

1. workforce development, training and employment
2. project development, operations and approvals
3. community benefits.

Much of the feedback from host landowners is subject to confidentiality agreements and therefore detailed engagement information and feedback has not been included within this report. However, feedback broadly focused on the project's impacts to host landowners' individual properties and the agreements process.

1. Introduction

1.1. OVERVIEW

This Stakeholder Engagement Report has been prepared to support SunCable's Referral for the Muckaty Solar Precinct Proposal under the Northern Territory (NT) *Environmental Protection Act 2019* (EP Act) and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The report demonstrates SunCable's efforts to identify and engage with stakeholders regarding the Muckaty Solar Precinct Proposal as well as the Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink) project more broadly. Feedback and comments from stakeholders have helped SunCable to identify key areas of concern, interest and agreeance and will help to guide project development.

1.2. BACKGROUND

The AAPowerLink Project, first proposed by SunCable in 2020, will supply renewable power sourced from the Barkly region to industrial customers in Darwin and Singapore. Environmental approvals for the foundation components of the project were secured in July/August 2024, encompassing a solar generation site at Powell Creek Station in the Barkly region, overhead transmission line (OHTL) to Darwin and section of subsea cable system through Australian waters. Stakeholder engagement undertaken over the four-year period from 2020-2024, supported project development and approvals, and is summarised in Section 3.1 below.

The Muckaty Solar Precinct is being proposed by SunCable to further underpin investment in the AAPowerLink. The proposal is for additional large-scale solar generation sites that will position the company to respond to forecast and emerging growth in renewable energy demand. Stakeholder engagement in relation to the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal commenced in 2024.

1.3. SCOPE OF REPORT

This report summarises engagement activities undertaken by SunCable during the reporting period of January 2024 to June 2025, including engagement for the AAPowerLink Project and specifically for the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal.

As the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal is in the early stages, consultation activities focused on seeking consent from Traditional Owners to commence studies on their land ahead of SunCable submitting Referrals to initiate the environmental approvals process.

Broad engagement as part of the AAPowerLink Project continued during the reporting period to help SunCable communicate changes to ownership and development objectives that occurred in late 2023.

Engagement and negotiation with Traditional Owners and host landowners for AAPowerLink's Powell Creek solar generation site also continued and are captured in this report.

2. Statutory Framework

The primary pieces of legislation that will govern the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal are the Commonwealth *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976* (ALRA), EPBC Act and NT EP Act. Primary approvals are required under these Acts ahead of seeking any other project consents, referred to as secondary approvals and permits. Stakeholder engagement is a central component of the regulatory frameworks.

2.1. LAND ACCESS APPROVALS

The Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal project area is on Aboriginal land governed by the ALRA. The Act provides a framework for progressing social, commercial and economic development activities on Aboriginal land on behalf of Traditional Owners. The Section 19 agreement process under the Act gives Traditional Owners an opportunity to consider, develop terms and conditions and the right to consent or reject proposals on their land. Section 19 agreements are facilitated by the Northern Land Council (NLC) who carry out consultation and negotiations on behalf of Traditional Owners and are responsible for ensuring that land use is fair and equitable.

SunCable holds a Section 19 licence under the ALRA to conduct studies to assess the feasibility of future solar and/or wind resource development opportunities on Muckaty. Following consultation held with the land trust members in Tennant Creek in November 2024, the Traditional Owners of Muckaty gave their consent for SunCable to undertake certain permitted uses on their land subject to complying with the licence conditions. Subject to the outcomes of these studies, SunCable plans to commence consultation and negotiations with Traditional Owners for a Section 19 land use agreement.

2.2. ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

The Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal is being referred to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) and Commonwealth Minister for consideration of assessment requirements under the NT EP Act and EPBC Act. Both Acts acknowledge the importance of community involvement in environmental decision-making and place obligations on proponents to engage with the community through project planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and obligations on regulatory decision-makers to take social and economic considerations into account.

The NTEPA defines a stakeholder as *'any entity who has the potential to be, directly or indirectly, affected by a proposal and with an interest or stake in the outcome of a decision and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively'*¹. The NTEPA's consultation guideline requires meaningful stakeholder engagement in EIA, commencing at the scoping phase. Specifically, Section 43 states that the proponent of an action has the following general duties under an EIA process:

- to provide communities that may be affected by a proposed action with information and opportunities for consultation to assist each community's understanding of the proposed action and its potential impacts and benefits
- to consult with affected communities, including Aboriginal communities, in a culturally appropriate manner
- to seek and document community knowledge and understanding (including scientific and traditional knowledge and understanding) of the natural and cultural values of areas that may be impacted by the proposed action

- to address Aboriginal values and the rights and interests of Aboriginal communities in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action

EIA and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will continue to be used by SunCable to identify and assess potentially significant impacts associated with AAPowerLink Project, and specifically from the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal.

SunCable will undertake a range of technical studies to understand the environmental conditions and social surroundings of project areas and will seek to gather community and traditional knowledge to inform project planning and design. The results of these studies will be used to consider how impacts can be avoided or reduced, and how benefits can be maximised for local and regional communities. Studies and assessments will be made publicly available on the NTEPA and EPBC Act websites, and the public will be invited to comment.

3. Engagement Approach

In this report, stakeholders refer to Traditional Owners, Aboriginal land councils, Aboriginal groups, host landowners, affected communities, local businesses and industry representative groups, local, territory and federal government ministers, departments and representatives and any other organisation or individual who has an interest in or is potentially impacted by the proposal.

Where reference is made to Traditional Owners, it may include Traditional Owners, Native Title holders, Aboriginal Custodians or their representatives. Traditional Owner, in relation to a person or group of people, means:

- a common law holder where an area is subject to a determination of native title, and otherwise a native title holder as defined in section 224 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth)
- a Traditional Owner as defined in section 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* (Cwth)
- a custodian of a Sacred Site or Sacred Object as defined in the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT).

3.1. BACKGROUND

SunCable commenced stakeholder engagement on the AAPowerLink in 2020 ahead of submitting Referrals under the NTEP Act and EPBC Act late that year. SunCable continued to implement a program of stakeholder engagement activities, including during 2022 and 2023, to reach key environmental approvals milestones as part of AAPowerLink Project.

Reports detailing prior engagement (2021-2023) to support the AAPowerLink EIS process are listed below and publicly available on the [NT EPA website](#)¹.

- *Chapter 1 Introduction, Section 1.7 Stakeholder Engagement, Draft EIS* (April 2022)

¹ Australia-Asia Powerlink Project, NT EPA (2024). <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/public-registers/environmental-impact-assessments-register/completed-assessments/register/australia-asia-powerlink-project>

- *Appendix F: Stakeholder Consultation Report, Draft EIS (April 2022)*
- *Appendix I: Social Impact Assessment, Draft EIS (April 2022)*
- *Appendix J Social Impact Management Plan, Draft EIS (April 2022)*
- *Chapter 3 Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Supplement to the Draft EIS (Dec 2022)*
- *Appendix 3.1 Stakeholder Consultation Report, Supplement to the EIS (Dec 2022)*
- *Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan, Supplement to the EIS (Dec 2022)*
- *Appendix B: Stakeholder Consultation Report, Additional Information to EIS (Nov 2023)*

SunCable has regularly performed, documented and updated community and stakeholder identification, mapping and analysis to identify individuals and groups to engage with in line with the company’s engagement approach.

SunCable began engagement with the NLC and Traditional Owners to obtain an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for AAPowerLink’s initial solar generation site at Powell Creek Station in 2020 and has continued to conduct engagement activities through the NLC and directly with Traditional Owners.

SunCable has engaged with Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) since 2020 to progress the requirements under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (1989)* and obtain a sacred sites Authority Certificates for the whole of AAPowerLink’s project footprint.

3.2. APPROACH

SunCable’s *Engagement and Communication Plan* guided the approach to engagement within the reporting period.

SunCable is committed to undertaking industry-leading engagement and using effective and consistent communication, to ensure stakeholders are informed, engaged, supported and feel part of the successful delivery of AAPowerLink.

3.3. OBJECTIVES

SunCable’s objectives for general engagement and communication are:

- to provide community and other stakeholders with timely, accurate and relevant information
- to tailor consultation methods and materials to the needs of diverse stakeholders
- inform scoping and project planning, through the life of AAPowerlink
- provide SunCable and regulators with confidence that people and communities’ attitudes, beliefs, values and concerns are well-understood
- inform balanced decision-making by giving equal weight to community knowledge and technical studies
- provide feedback to stakeholders on how their input influenced regulator and project decisions.

Executing these objectives will ensure that SunCable obtains and retains relevant regulatory approvals and creates value within the NT.

3.4. BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

SunCable has applied best practice principles of engagement to deliver meaningful outcomes for communities through its *Engagement and Communications Plan*. The plan is periodically reviewed and updated to reflect current standards and expectations for engagement. Below is a list of the current standards and guidelines adopted by SunCable:

- Clean Energy Council. (2024). *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects*.
- Clean Energy Council. (2024). *Leading practice principles: First Nations and renewable energy projects*.
- First Nations Clean Energy Network. (2022). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander best practice principles for clean energy projects*.
- International Association for Public Participation. (2015). *Core values, spectrum of participation and quality assurance standard*.²
- NTEPA. (2021). *Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation: Environmental Impact assessment guidance for proponents*.
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2004). *Akwe: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities*.
- United Nations (General Assembly). (2007). *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A/RES/61/295 (particularly in relation to the development of Indigenous peoples' land, territories or resources – Article 32.2)*.
- Vanclay, F. (2003). 'International principles for social impact assessment'.
- Vanclay, F., Esteves, A. M., Aucamp, I., & Franks, D. M. (2015). *Social impact assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects*.

3.5. ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE (FORMERLY IAP2) SPECTRUM OF PARTICIPATION

The Engagement Institute (formerly International Association for Public Participation [IAP2]) is the peak body for community and stakeholder engagement and advocates for authentic engagement with communities about decisions that impact them.

The IAP2 Spectrum of Participation (see Figure 1 below) provides the guiding strategy for engaging the public and has been adopted by SunCable as the best practice approach to community engagement. Different levels of engagement are applied to different stakeholders depending on the level of impact.

SunCable has conducted consultation with stakeholders during this reporting period at the levels of inform, consult and, where relevant, involve.

Level of Engagement	Promise to the public
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² www.engagementinstitute.org.au

Inform	We will keep you informed
Consult	We will keep you informed, listen to your concerns and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision
Involve	We will work with you to ensure your concerns are reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision
Collaborate	We will look to you for advice, ideas and solutions and incorporate those into the decisions as much as possible
Empower	We will implement what you decide
©International Association of Public Participation Australasia Limited T/A The Engagement Institute www.iap2.org	

Table 1 - International Association of Public Participation Australasia Limited T/A The Engagement Institute Level of Engagement

3.6. FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

SunCable is committed to respecting the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), supporting Aboriginal cultural identity, and collaborating with Traditional Owners to help achieve their land-related aspirations. FPIC is a key principle under international standards like the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and ensures Aboriginal communities have the right to decide on developments that may affect their lands, culture, or governance. FPIC is a process that empowers Aboriginal people to make informed, voluntary decisions without pressure, using culturally appropriate methods.

As defined in the guidance document, *Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects*³, FPIC involves 4 core elements:

Free: Decisions must be made voluntarily, free from coercion, with inclusive participation.

Prior: Consent must be sought before any activities begin, allowing time for traditional decision-making.

Informed: Communities must receive all relevant information in an accessible and culturally appropriate way.

Consent: Decisions are made collectively, respecting customary practices, and can be conditional or revisited.

This approach fosters respectful engagement and acknowledges Indigenous peoples' self-determination over their lands and future.

3.7. STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

SunCable undertook stakeholder mapping to identify individuals, groups and organisations that would require engagement in relation to development of the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal and the AAPowerLink more broadly. The following key stakeholder groups were identified for engagement during the reporting period:

Aboriginal stakeholders - Aboriginal stakeholders include Traditional Owners who have legal rights and interests in the land within SunCable's proposed project footprints, site custodians with cultural

³ Clean Energy Council and KPMG (2024) *Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects* [Available at]: <https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/cec/media/background/resources/leading-practice-principles-first-nations-and-renewable-energy-projects.pdf>

responsibilities for sacred sites located within or near the project footprint, and people who live in Aboriginal communities across the NT, particularly within the Barkly region, that will experience impacts and benefits from the SunCable's activities.

Host landowners – Host landowners include private, corporate or government owners of pastoral leases, freehold land, easements and crown land within SunCable’s proposed project footprints. This stakeholder group does not include Aboriginal host-landowners, who are captured in the Aboriginal stakeholders group.

Affected communities – Affected communities refers to communities across the NT who will experience long or short-term change from either the construction or operation of AAPowerLink Project. Affected communities include communities in the Barkly region, towns along the transmission corridor and the community in the Darwin region.

Business and industry – Business and industry stakeholders include local suppliers and businesses, industry groups and representative bodies and training providers.

Government – Government stakeholders include local, territory and federal government ministers, departments and their representatives.

SunCable captured stakeholder information including records of engagement activities, comments and feedback within the Isometrix software platform. Information extracted from Isometrix has supplied the basis for the feedback discussed within this document.

4. Engagement Activities

During the reporting period SunCable completed a range of engagement activities to speak with and seek feedback from stakeholders including:

- recurring project meetings
- community information sessions
- industry presentations
- emails
- phone calls
- project update briefings.

4.1. COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Communication materials were developed to complement and support engagement activities, including:

Activity	Purpose	Audience
AAPowerlink flyover video	A flyover video was created with renders of key project components to showcase the project premise	All stakeholders
Key messages	Project key messages were created to provide accurate and cohesive messages company-wide	All stakeholders

Activity	Purpose	Audience
Fact sheets	Project fact sheets were created to support field engagement	Landowners
FAQ	Project FAQ were created to support field engagement	Landowners
Information packs	Information packs were created for Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders to support consultations facilitated by the NLC, providing details about the project, impacts and benefits	Traditional Owners and Native Title holders and
Presentations	PowerPoint presentations were created to encourage easy dissemination of information to interested parties, including those who may not have been able to attend briefings	All stakeholders
Project website	A project website hosted tailored stakeholder messaging including pages on community sponsorship programs	General community
Advertorials	Advertorials were taken out in key media outlets including <i>Territory Q</i> and <i>Blak Business Magazine</i>	General community
Social media	Updates for regional Facebook groups (eg. Tennant Creek Community Events, Elliott Community Noticeboard)	General community
Display materials	Banners, posters etc. were prepared to promote SunCable at corporate, industry and community events and forums.	General community

5. Engagement and Feedback

5.1. ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

SunCable as a company recorded 645 external engagement interactions in the reporting period. Analysis of the engagement records revealed 383 interactions that specifically involved stakeholders asking questions and providing comments and feedback relating to the development and potential impacts from the AAPowerLink Project and the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal. This report compiles the feedback recorded from this specific subset of the company's overall engagement activities.

A broad range of stakeholders were engaged with including local, territory and federal government departments, ministers and their representatives, Aboriginal stakeholders, Traditional Owners, host landowners, local businesses and industry groups and affected communities.

Stakeholders asked questions and provided comments and feedback on 42 interaction themes relating to the AAPowerLink Project, the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal and their development and potential impacts. Figure 1 below summarises the themes that emerged across the engagements, noting the analysis excludes host-landowner feedback which was specific to individual properties.

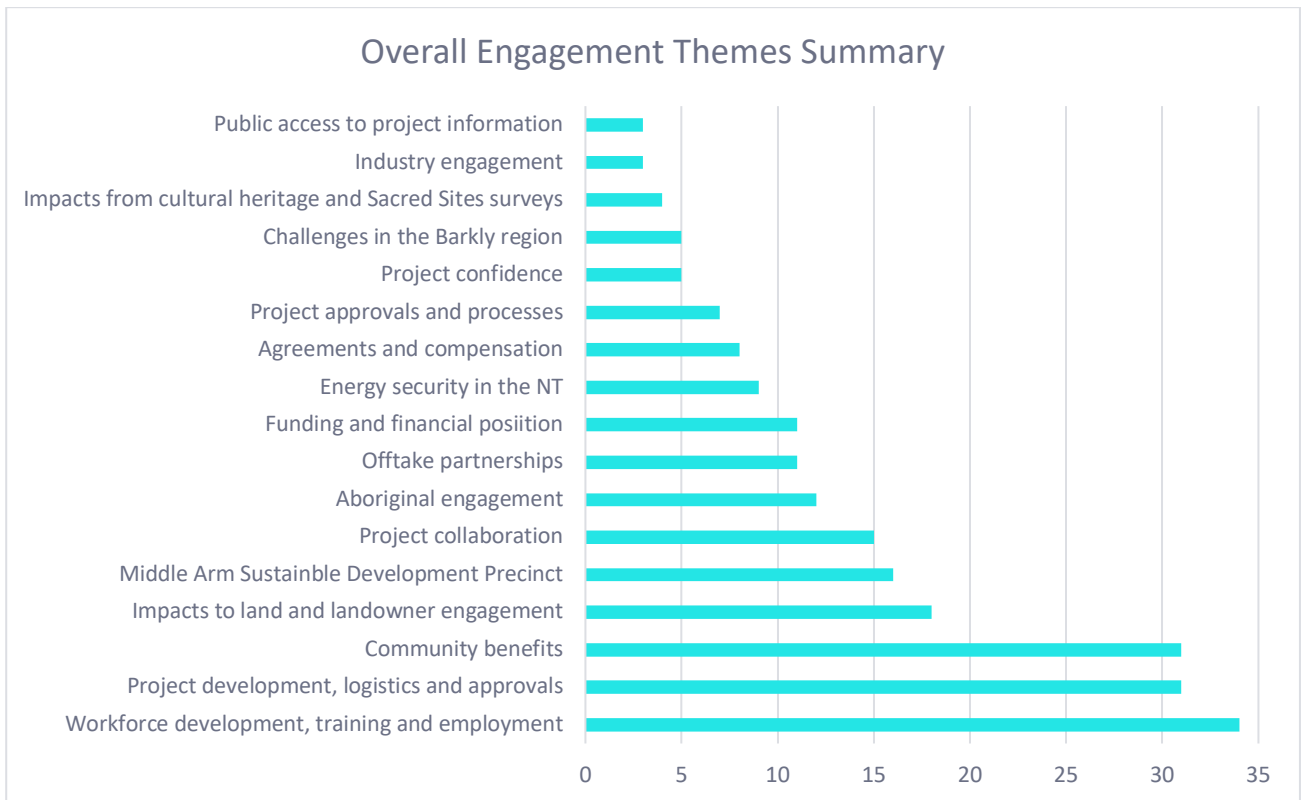


Figure 1 – Overall engagement themes summary.

Across all stakeholder interactions, 3 top themes emerged:

1. workforce development, training and employment
2. project development, operations and approvals
3. community benefits.

Many stakeholders held a positive sentiment towards the project and saw its potential to support local communities through employment, economic stimulus, infrastructure upgrades and the development of renewable energy technologies and industry in the NT. Most stakeholders acknowledged the potential for positive economic, employment, infrastructure and social benefits the project could have on communities within the NT, regardless of their overall views of the project.

Broadly, stakeholders felt SunCable would be able to offer significant workforce development, training and educational opportunities to the NT. There was a particular interest in opportunities for young people and locals to benefit from jobs and skills as part of the project.

Many industry stakeholders felt that workforce requirements could be a serious obstacle for the project and that SunCable should invest in education and training early to ensure workforce readiness.

Engagement with the Australian and NT governments was generally positive and constructive, with a focus in the NT around collaboration with other major projects to develop streamlined infrastructure, project funding, and regulatory requirements and approvals.

Affected communities and Aboriginal stakeholders showed interest in aspects of the project such as solar and renewable technologies, corridor routes, approvals and negotiation processes and project timelines. Some stakeholders held concerns that project benefits wouldn't reach their community and want SunCable to assist local communities in areas such as energy security.

Stakeholders held mixed views regarding the project's potential to supply power to the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP), which was a focus of feedback because the reporting period overlapped with a senate inquiry into that development. While NT Government stakeholders were supportive of the project's connection, other political figures and some Aboriginal stakeholders who are opposed to the Middle Arm development, believed SunCable should investigate alternative sites and offtake opportunities.

SunCable's engagement with host landowners was generally focused around negotiating land agreements. During these engagements stakeholders provided feedback on route alignment preferences, minimising impacts to existing land uses and compensation expectations. While some stakeholders expressed negative sentiment towards the project most were constructively engaging and negotiating with SunCable.

5.2. ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS

5.2.1. SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Throughout the reporting period, SunCable continued to engage with the NLC and Traditional Owners to obtain consent for project activities. Meetings between SunCable and Aboriginal stakeholders were held to continue engagement and negotiations for the Powell Creek ILUA and to begin engagement on the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal.

SunCable has also continued its engagement with the AAPA to obtain a Sacred Sites authority certificate for the whole of the AAPowerLink Project footprint.

Key Aboriginal stakeholder engagement activities are summarised below:

- 15 April 2024 – Elliott
Meeting with Powell Creek Native Title Holders to discuss the proposed generation site and surrounding areas.
- 25 June 2024 – Elliott
Decision-making meeting on the proposed term sheets for the generation site ILUA (approx. 85 attendees).
- May 2024 – Muckaty
On-country consultation with Traditional Owners for the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal and cultural monitors to assess suitable sites for resource monitoring units.
- December 2024 – NLC Full Council
Presentation by SunCable CEO introducing AAPowerLink Project and outlining the proposed engagement and agreement-making process.
- 16 April 2025 – Elliott
Presentation of a revised ILUA offer Traditional Owners and stakeholders for review and discussion.
- 22 May 2025 – Elliott
Major decision-making meeting with over 90 Traditional Owners to respond to the revised ILUA offer.
- July 2025 – NLC Full Council
Presentation by SunCable CEO seeking endorsement of the generation site ILUA and approval for finalisation of the agreement.



Figure 2. Presenting to the Muckaty ALT members in Tennant Creek, November 2024

5.2.2. KEY DISCUSSION THEMES & FEEDBACK

The key discussion themes and feedback received from Aboriginal stakeholders are summarised below:

- **Workforce development:** Stakeholders were interested in prospective employment opportunities in Elliott, opportunities for Aboriginal businesses, and how local people can get training and jobs on the project. In general, stakeholders seemed optimistic about the potential to develop local Aboriginal businesses and secure job pathways and community benefits particularly for future generations.
- **Engagement and consultation:** Stakeholders highlighted the importance of SunCable working with Aboriginal communities and noted that in the past people in the region had been poorly engaged and consulted on large projects. Many in the region cited consultation fatigue as a key issue for them with multiple developments being proposed.
- **Project components:** Stakeholders were interested in a variety of project components including the service corridor and transmission routes, construction sequencing, water management, solar technology and the option of wind energy generation. The general feedback from stakeholders is they would like works optimised so the project moves ahead quickly and with the least impact to the environment.
- **Energy security:** Stakeholders highlighted energy security as a major concern for many communities in the Barkly region. Stakeholders view SunCable's project as a potential solution to this issue and want local energy offtake as part of the overall project. During engagement, SunCable acknowledged this concern but noted the infrastructure is designed to supply very large volumes of power to industrial customers and therefore can't economically accommodate local offtake to communities that have low power demand.

A data summary of the key themes collected during engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders is below:

Key Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Themes Summary

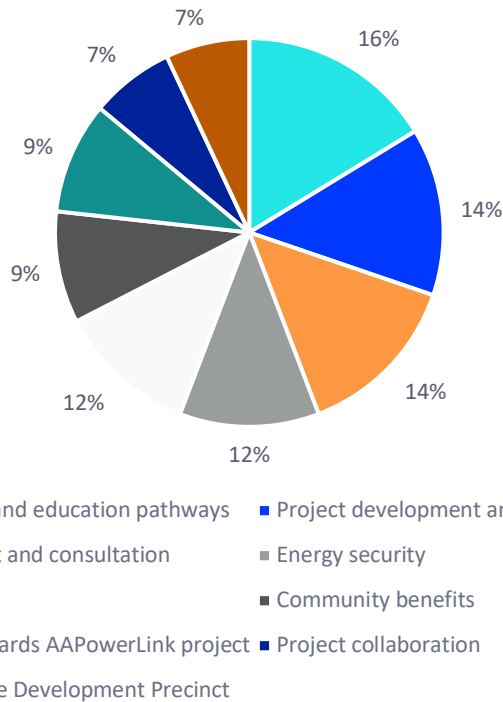


Figure 3 – Key Aboriginal stakeholder engagement themes summary.

5.3. HOST LANDOWNERS

5.3.1. SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SunCable engaged with host landowners along the proposed transmission route from Powell Creek to Darwin, for the purpose of negotiating agreements for land access and project development. SunCable engaged with 35 private landowners contacted via email, phone and in person.

5.3.2. KEY DISCUSSION THEMES & FEEDBACK THEMES

Engagements with host landowners are subject to confidentiality agreements and therefore details cannot be publicly reported. Broadly, stakeholders provided feedback on route alignment preferences, minimising impacts to existing land uses and compensation expectations. Stakeholders also asked questions about the proposed infrastructure and activities that would occur during construction and operations. Some stakeholders expressed concerns about the project that will need to be resolved through the agreement making process, but most continued to engage constructively with the SunCable.

5.4. AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

5.4.1. SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SunCable recorded 15 engagement interactions with 14 affected community stakeholders within the reporting period. Engagement focussed within the Barkly region to speak about the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal.

A community information session was hosted by SunCable in Tennant Creek on 26 March 2025 at the Barkly Business Hub. The event was advertised through email invitations sent to key government and non-government service providers and a flyer that was displayed around Tennant Creek. A copy of the flyer can be found at [Appendix 1](#).

24 people attended the community information session and received a project update from SunCable followed by a question-and-answer session. While the event was open to the public most attendees represented local businesses and services providers within the Barkly region including:

- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Territory Water Solutions
- Charles Darwin University
- Darrin's Rubbish Removal
- Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network
- Thrifty Car Rental
- Sammon's Contracting Pty Ltd
- Phillips Earthmoving Contractors Ptd Ltd
- Tennant Creek High School
- Australian Football League NT
- Barkly Backbone Team (supporting delivery of the Barkly Regional Deal government initiative)
- Tennant Creek Mining
- NT Government Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Barkly Arts
- NT Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet
- Barkly Regional Council
- Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation
- Tennant Creek High School
- Phillips Earth Moving



Figure 4 - Tennant Creek community information session

5.4.2. KEY DISCUSSION THEMES & FEEDBACK

The key discussion themes and feedback received from this stakeholder group are summarised below:

- **Workforce development, training and employment:** The affected community view the AAPowerLink as an opportunity for local people to receive training and employment and believe the project could have a positive impact on the local economy. There is a particular interest in SunCable providing opportunities for young people, starting with increased STEM education in schools and leading to long term employment with SunCable. There is also a desire for SunCable to invest in and maximise a local workforce rather than rely on a fly-in-fly-out employees.
- **Community benefit:** Affected community stakeholders want the project to have real and tangible benefits for their community. They would like SunCable to invest in the liveability of communities through energy security, new infrastructure and support for community organisations. However, some community stakeholders were sceptical as to how beneficial the AAPowerLink will be for the Barkly region. While some saw the benefits of SunCable’s community grants program, others provided feedback that the value was low given the high cost of delivering activities in the region.
- **Challenges in the Barkly region:** Localised challenges such as antisocial behaviour, energy security and lack of accommodation were raised by affected community stakeholders for consideration as part of SunCable’s project delivery. Energy security is a concern for remote regions and community members have expressed an expectation that SunCable will assist with energy security as part of the project.

- Project sentiment:** There is generally a positive sentiment towards, and interest in, what SunCable is trying to achieve, but many stakeholders expressed a lack of confidence that the project would go ahead. Some affected community stakeholders hold concerns about the AAPowerLink’s supply power to the MASDP, and while they support the economic and development opportunities the project could bring, they also hold environmental concerns about further development of gas-based industries.

A data summary of the key themes collected during engagement with affected community stakeholders is below:

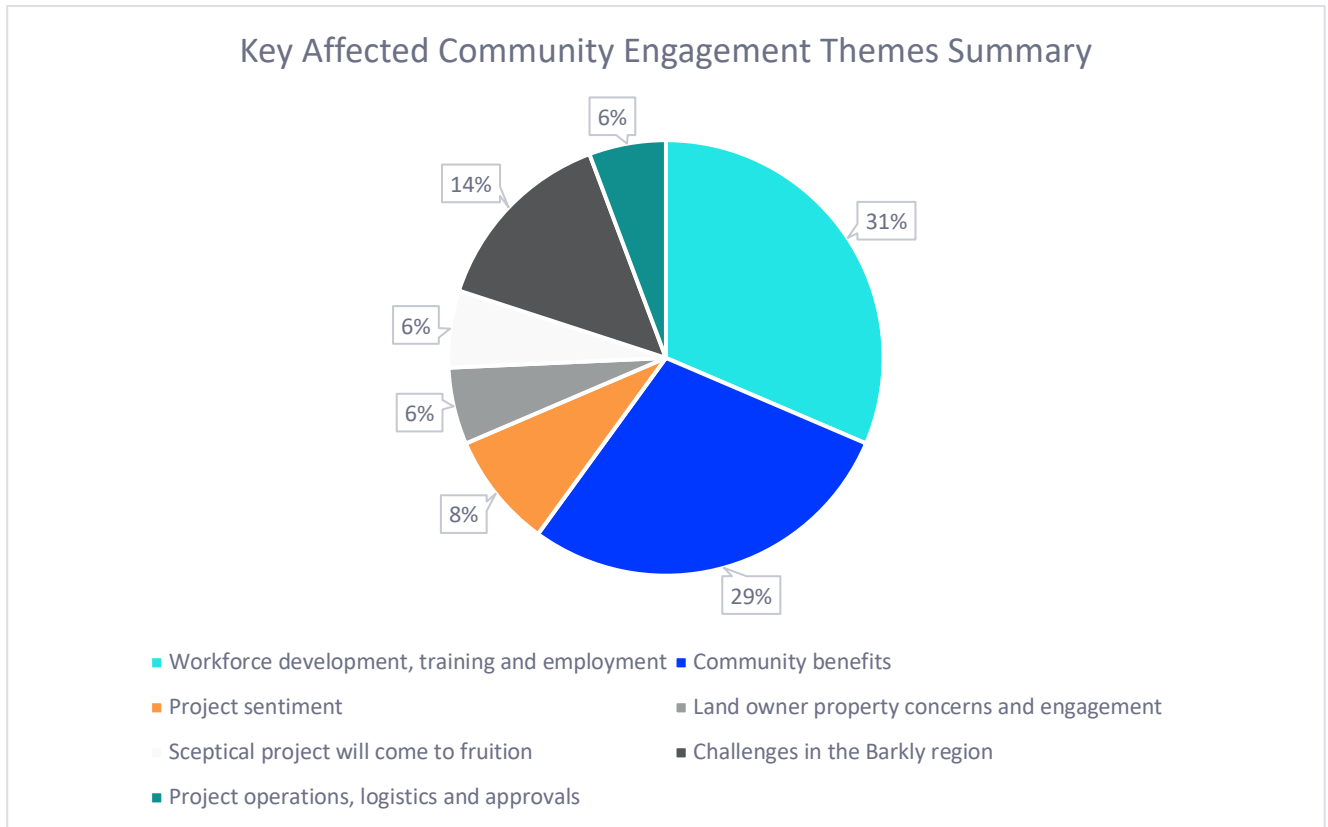


Figure 5 – Key affected community engagement themes summary.

5.5. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

5.5.1. SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Throughout the reporting period SunCable attended and presented at industry events, providing project updates and facilitating engagement opportunities with businesses and groups who may have been interested in working collaboratively with SunCable.

SunCable established an industry portal, ICN Gateway (<https://aapowerlink.icn.org.au>) and had 261 businesses register their interest in the AAPowerLink Project within the reporting period.

32 stakeholder engagement interactions including presentations, meetings and briefings were recorded during the reporting period.

SunCable provided project briefings to key industry and business stakeholders including:



Figure 6 – Key industry and business stakeholders briefed

SunCable presented at Northern Territory based industry forums and events including:

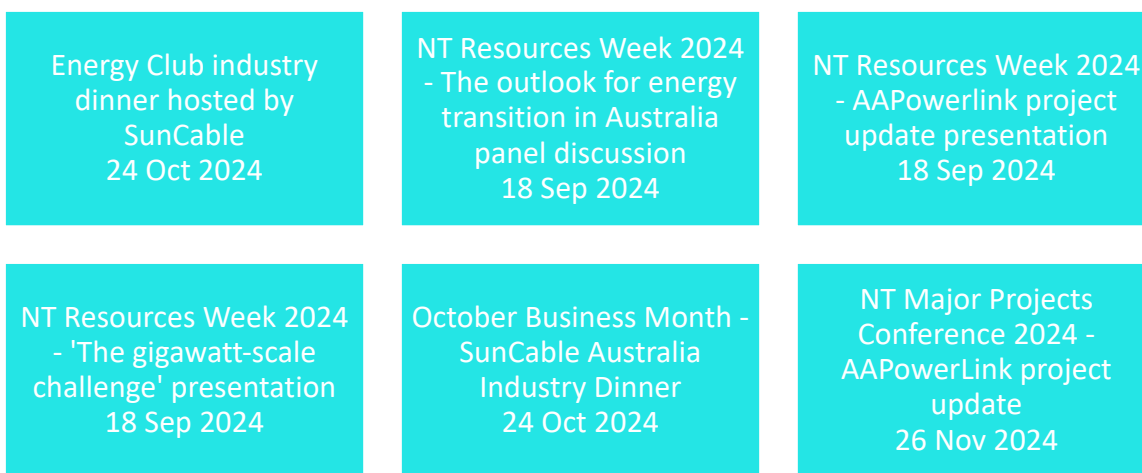


Figure 7 – SunCable presentation at industry events and forums.

5.5.2. KEY DISCUSSION THEMES & FEEDBACK

The key discussion themes and feedback received from this stakeholder group are summarised below:

- Project components, development and operation:** Industry and business stakeholders showed a general interest in the operational and logistic side of the project, along with project timelines. Many asked questions about the project’s supply chain logistics and spoke about collaborating to develop shared infrastructure. There was also a general interest in how SunCable’s project was progressing and what its next steps would be, along with project components including OHTL, water and waste management and solar technologies.
- Workforce development, training and employment:** Business and industry stakeholders were positive towards the development of a renewable energy industry and increase in skilled workers as a result of AAPowerLink. Businesses that worked within the training and education sectors were interested in early engagement with SunCable to identify where they would help supply a workforce and were interested in early apprenticeship pathways to develop a local workforce.
- Community benefits community:** Business and industry stakeholders view the project as an opportunity for community growth and placed an importance on SunCable contributing to the

community beyond employment. Stakeholders would like to see SunCable support community projects and organisations, develop infrastructure and facilities and improve energy security in regional areas.

- Project collaboration:** Many stakeholders are interested in collaborating and working with SunCable. Stakeholders appreciated the early engagement with local business and industry to allow time to build local capacity to support the project. Some business and industry stakeholders also saw an opportunity to collaborate on project infrastructure, logistics, research and technology or to develop offtake partnerships.

A data summary of the key themes collected during engagement with industry and business stakeholders is below:

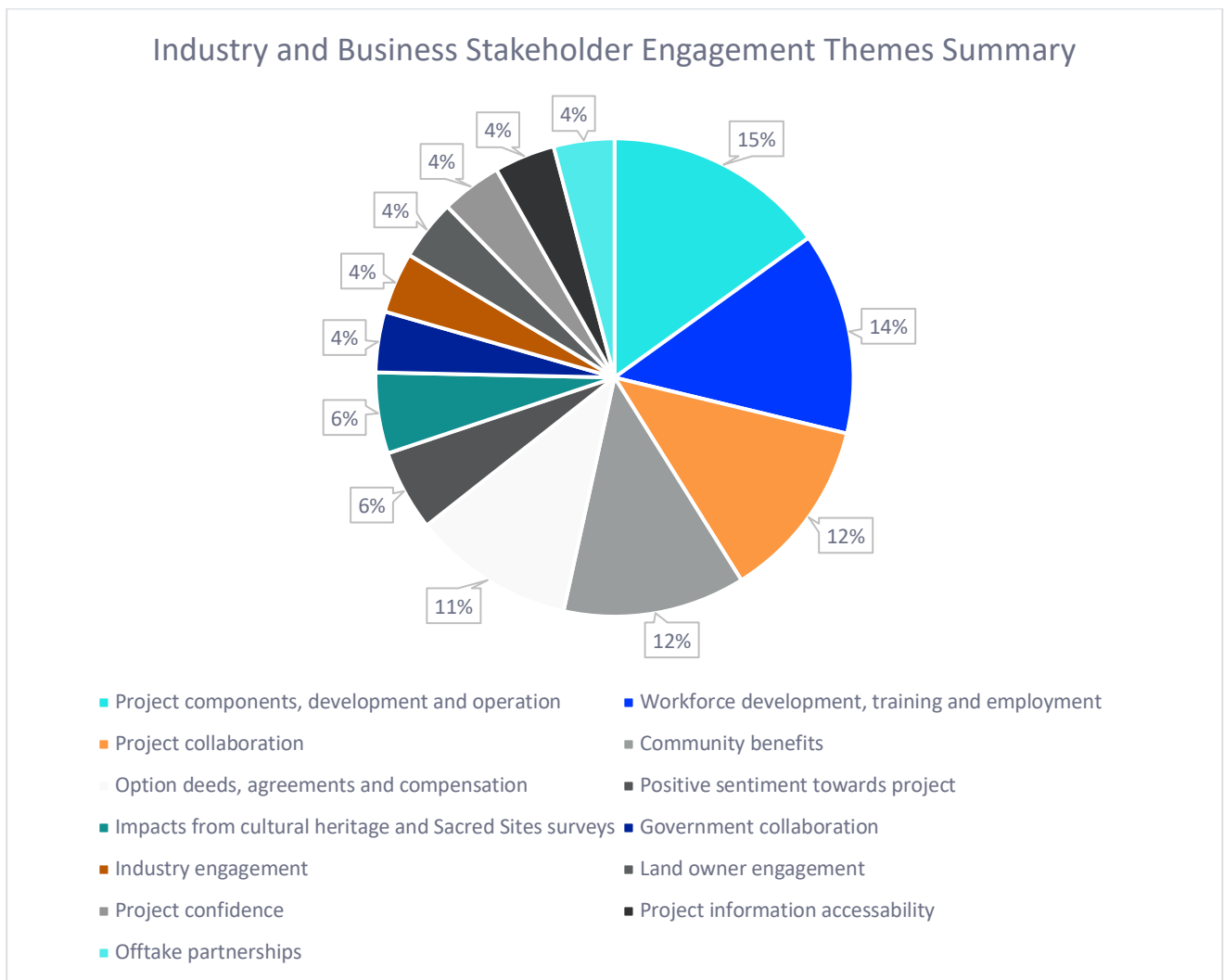


Figure 8 – Industry and business stakeholder engagement themes summary.

5.6. GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

5.6.1. SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SunCable completed engagement during the reporting period with government stakeholders including ministers, elected members and department representatives at a local, territory and federal level. SunCable’s overall government engagement included interaction with 279, of which 55 specifically involved discussion of development and potential impacts from the AAPowerLink Project and the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal. The sections below document the specific engagements and feedback themes that emerged across local, territory and federal government stakeholder engagements.

Engagement has been separated into representative levels.

5.6.2. NORTHERN TERRITORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

SunCable completed two specific engagement interactions with Barkly Regional Council.

Local government stakeholders held a generally positive sentiment towards the AAPowerLink Project, but some were concerned that regional communities won't benefit from the project, as has happened with other projects in the area. Stakeholders were particularly interested in working with SunCable to deliver mutually beneficial infrastructure for the project and the community and wanted SunCable to integrate its workforce into the regional community. Workforce development, training and employment was also viewed as a positive outcome from the project for the region.

There were some concerns raised that SunCable’s engagement was not reaching Traditional Owners, and that the AAPowerLink would not support energy security for communities with its project footprint.

A data summary of the key themes collected during engagement with local government stakeholders is below:

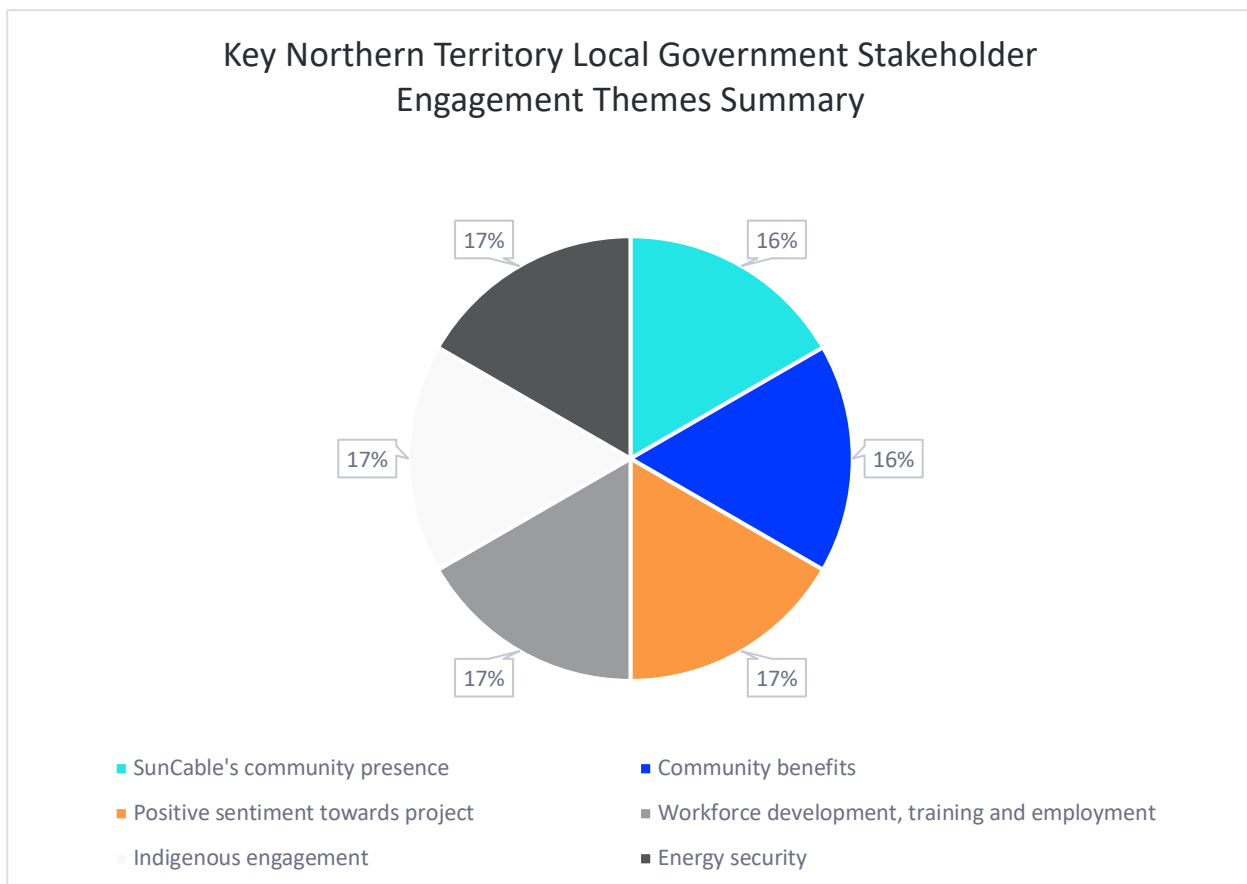


Figure 9 – Key Northern Territory local government stakeholder engagement themes summary.

5.6.3. NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

SunCable engaged with 18 NT Government stakeholders including ministers, local members, ministerial advisors, and government departments. A total of 22 specific interactions were recorded including briefings and project updates, regular project meetings and impromptu meetings and conversations.

Over the reporting period, SunCable worked closely with Investment Territory to coordinate project development activities for the AAPowerLink, and working with a Project Control Group (PCG) and a senior governance group to elevate priority matters and progress strategic initiatives. SunCable also worked closely with the NT EPA, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE)(formally Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security), Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (formally Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade) and the Investment Commissioner.

As part of NT Government engagement, SunCable provided project briefs to relevant department chief executives and executives and maintained regular engagement with key ministers and members of parliament.

The key themes and feedback received from this stakeholder group are summarised below:

- **Positive sentiment towards project:** NT Government stakeholders generally held a positive sentiment towards SunCable's AAPowerLink Project and both sides of NT politics were supportive of the project. Many stakeholders felt that the project could have considerable benefits to regional communities within the project's footprint and to the NT more broadly. Some local members flagged that the community is sceptical that the project would go ahead. Generally, the NT Government, opposition and members of parliament were supportive of what SunCable was aiming to achieve with the AAPowerLink Project.
- **Supply of power to the MASDP:** NT Government stakeholders generally supported SunCable's supply of power to the MASDP as an enabler of decarbonisation and economic development opportunities. Other project proponents were interested in collaborating with SunCable to develop co-located infrastructure and services. Some stakeholders raised concerns about project viability. One stakeholder was supportive of SunCable's project but thought alternative offtake options should be considered besides the MASDP.
- **Project components:** SunCable engaged in several conversations about OHTL with stakeholders raising questions about the potential impacts to threatened species in the area, noise and the potential impact to landowners. Stakeholders were also interested in other project components such as the solar farm and wind energy generation. During meetings with stakeholders SunCable also discussed the approvals and regulatory for all aspects of the project.

A data summary of the key themes collected during engagement with Northern Territory government stakeholders is below:

Key Northern Territory Government Stakeholder Engagement Themes Summary

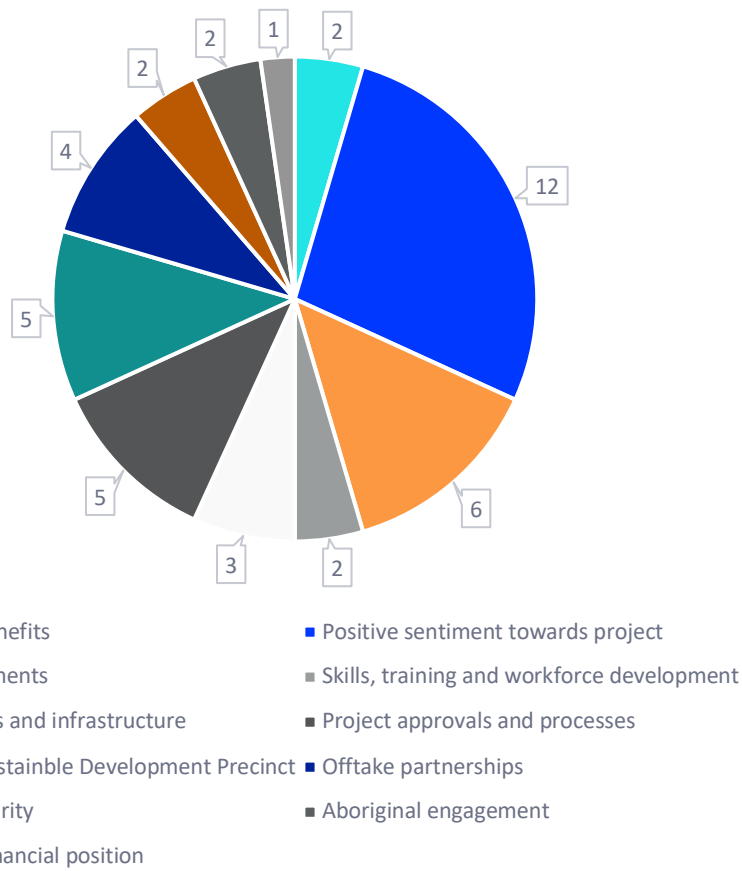


Figure 10 – Key Northern Territory Government stakeholder engagement themes summary

5.6.4. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

SunCable has executed a regular and comprehensive engagement program with key federal ministerial offices and relevant departments. A program of engagements was held in Canberra in early June 2024 including with the offices of senior government ministers such as Tanya Plibersek, Linda Burney, Ed Husic, and Brendan O’Connor; the broader Labor Parliamentary Caucus; and key climate and renewables-focused independents such as David Pocock, Helen Haines, Allegra Spender, and Sophie Scamps. SunCable also engaged with members of the LNP Opposition and provided briefings to key federal departments including Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water.

The majority of SunCable’s 31 specific engagement interactions with federal government stakeholders centred around the company seeking support for AAPowerLink Project and advice on how to secure advocacy from the federal government and opposition.

The key themes and feedback received from this stakeholder group are summarised below:

- Project sentiment:** Despite some opposition to SunCable’s supply of power to the MASDP, generally stakeholders held a positive sentiment towards the project. Many members on both sides of politics were happy to support the project and saw value in what SunCable was trying to achieve.
- Funding and financial position:** SunCable’s ability to secure funding for the AAPowerLink Project was a significant topic discussed with stakeholders with most viewing this as the critical issue for

SunCable to overcome to achieve project success. Stakeholders were interested in the current financial position of the company and its financial plans.

- Supply of power to MASDP:** During the reporting period the MASDP project was part of a topical senate enquiry and stakeholders were interested in SunCable’s involvement in the project. Stakeholders who were against MASDP were not supportive of SunCable supplying power to the development and wanted SunCable to consider alternative offtake and project location options. Some stakeholders were concerned that the AAPowerLink Project was being used to ‘greenwash’ the MASDP, but many viewed the inclusion as necessary for both projects to succeed.
- Project components, logistics and infrastructure:** Stakeholders asked questions about whether SunCable had considered increasing the scope of the project to include ammonia, green hydrogen, e-fuel offtake, copper mining or the electrification of liquified LNG. Stakeholders also asked questions about the project security, transmission line options, capacity and reliability of batteries, generation site location

A data summary of the key themes collected during engagement with federal government stakeholders is below:

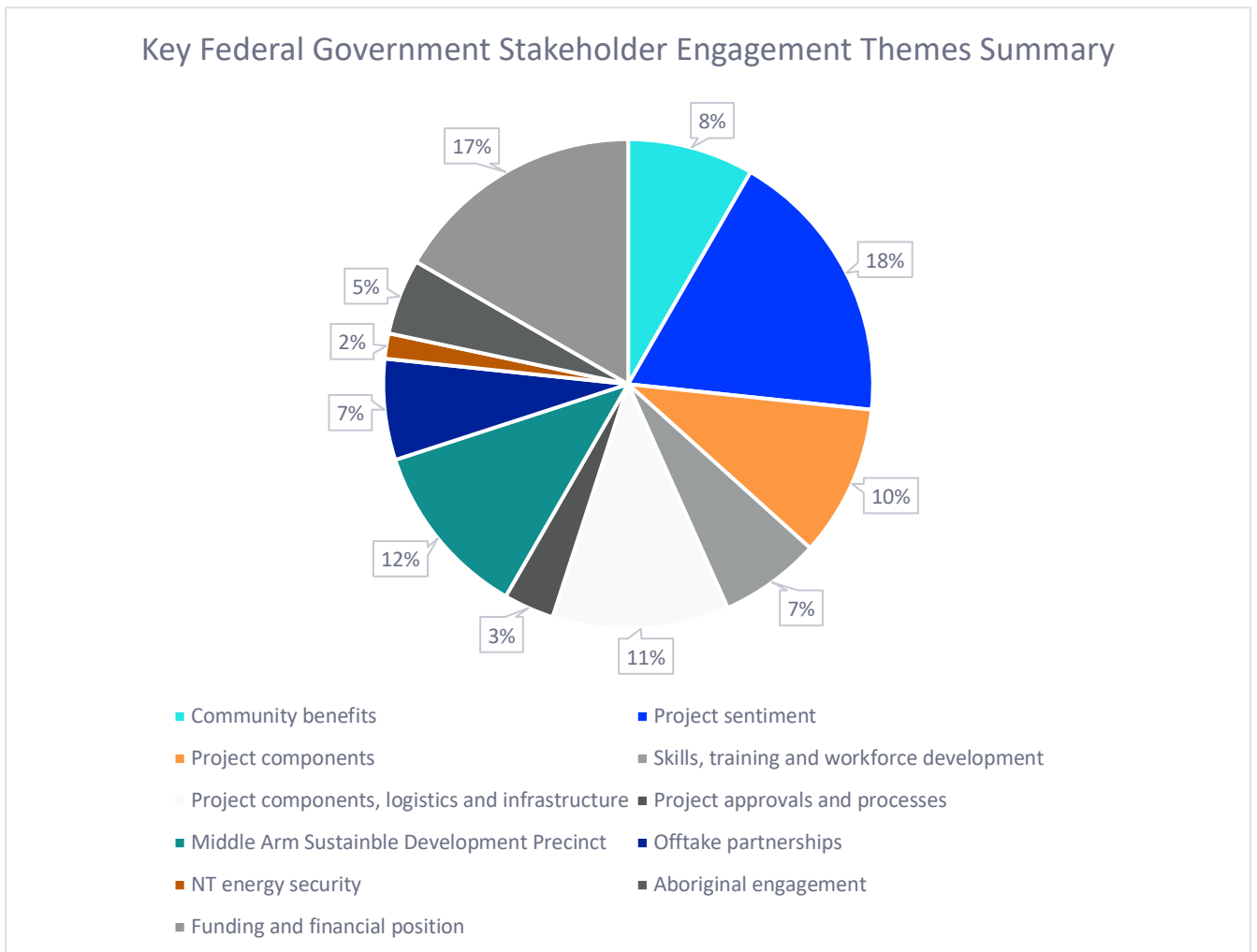


Figure 11 – Key Federal Government stakeholder engagement themes summary.

6. Community investment and sponsorship

To support relationship building activities with communities, in 2024 SunCable established a Community Sponsorship Policy and Program. The policy helped to create a transparent application process and streamline SunCable’s sponsorship and support of community-led activities.

SunCable’s Community Sponsorship Program was advertised to communities within the Barkly, Katherine and Darwin regions via a Community Sponsorship Program flyer which can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

Applicants were able to apply for between \$500 - \$3,000 of funding. Funding is targeted at community-led activities that align with one or more of SunCable’s community investment focus areas of Community, Diversity & Inclusion, Environment & Renewable Energy, Health & Wellbeing and Arts & Culture.

SunCable provided \$93,000 between January 2024 and June 2025 to 26 sponsorship recipients and 1 major partnership. A summary of SunCable’s NT Community Sponsorship Program recipients for 2024-25 is below:

SunCable's NT Community Sponsorship Program recipients (2024-25)

Activity	Organisation	Location
Major partnership - Barkly Australian Football League (2022- present)	AFL NT	Barkly, NT
Major partnership - Big Rivers Football League (2022- present)	AFL NT	Big Rivers, NT
Desert Harmony Festival (2024, 2025)	Barkly Regional Arts	Tennant Creek, NT
Daly Waters Campdraft and Rodeo (2024, 2025)	Daly Waters Campdraft and Rodeo Association	Daly Waters, NT
Mataranka Campdraft (2024, 2025)	Mataranka Better Half Club Inc	Mataranka, NT
Barunga Festival (2025)	Bagala Aboriginal Corporation	Beswick, NT
NT City2Surf (2025)	Athletics NT	Darwin, NT
NT Thunder MX Championships (2025)	Acacia Hills Motocross Association	Acacia Hills, NT
Pesona Indonesia Festival (2024, 2025)	Nusantara Foundation	Darwin, NT
Nightcliff Swimming Club Championships (2025)	Nightcliff Swimming Club Inc	Darwin, NT
Freds Pass Rural Show (2025)	Freds Pass Rural Show	Freds Pass, NT
Solar Futures Game Jam (2025)	The Array	Darwin, NT
Govies Gala (2024)	Katherine School of the Air	Katherine, NT
Barkly Futures Forum (2024)	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations	Tennant Creek, NT
Workforce readiness initiative (2024)	Sammons Contracting	Barkly, NT

Activity	Organisation	Location
NAIDOC Week (2024)	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Darwin, NT
Blak Business Awards (2024)	NT Indigenous Business Network	Alice Springs, NT
Workshop for Kulumindini Artists (2024)	Barkly Regional Arts	Elliott, NT
Territory Natural Resource Management Conference and Awards	Territory Natural Resource Management	Darwin
Support for a remote Ranger group to travel to TNRM Conference	Territory Natural Resource Management	Darwin
National Indigenous Music Awards	Music NT	Darwin

Table 2 - SunCable's NT Community Sponsorship Program recipients (2024-25).

7. Events and conferences

To complement industry and business engagement SunCable also presented updates, hosted and attended industry events and conferences. A full list of events and conferences SunCable participated in during the reporting period is below:

SunCable's Industry Events and Conferences (2024-25)

Date	Event	Location	Target Audience
17-Aug-24	SunCable sponsored Blak Business Awards	Alice Springs	Community Industry Aboriginal businesses
14-Sep-24	SunCable sponsored Barkly AFLNT Grand Finals	Tennant Creek	Community Traditional Owners Regional industry Regional government
18-Sep-24	NT Resources Week	Darwin	Government Industry Potential offtake partners
19-Sep-24	NT Property Conference	Darwin	Landholders Government
21-Oct-24	Singapore International Energy Week	Singapore	Government Potential offtake partners
24-Oct-24	SunCable Energy Club NT Dinner	Darwin	Industry Government
11-Nov-24	Australia-Indonesia Business Council	Sydney	Australian and Indonesian Government

26-Nov-24	NT Major Projects Conference	Darwin	Government Industry Potential offtake partners
19-Mar-25	NT Cattlemen's Association Conference	Darwin	Landholders
26-Mar-25	Solar and Storage Live	Brisbane	Government Industry

Table 3 - Industry events and conferences.

8. Conclusion and next steps

During the reporting period of January 2024 and June 2025 SunCable completed 384 engagement interactions with key identified stakeholders to provide updates on the AAPowerLink Project and to introduce the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal. Key stakeholders included Aboriginal stakeholders, host landowners, affected communities, local, territory and federal government ministers, members of Parliament and department representatives and local business and industry representatives.

Stakeholders broadly recognised the AAPowerLink's potential to deliver significant benefits to the NT, particularly in workforce development, education, and employment opportunities and especially for residents and young people. While there was optimism about the project's contribution to economic growth, infrastructure, and renewable energy development, many business, industry and government stakeholders highlighted workforce readiness as a key challenge and encouraged early investment in training initiatives.

Aboriginal stakeholders and affected communities showed strong interest in SunCable's activities, although some are sceptical that the project will go ahead and/or are concerned that project benefits may not reach some communities. Overall, stakeholders acknowledged SunCable's potential for meaningful social and economic impact across the Northern Territory, while encouraging the company to take a proactive and inclusive approach to community engagement and long-term benefit-sharing.

SunCable will continue to deliver on its commitment to undertaking best practice engagement and community participation. Entering the next phase of project development, engagement will focus on:

- Informing stakeholders of SunCable's plans and progress.
- Consulting with affected community and Aboriginal stakeholders to inform project planning and management of impacts.
- Collaborating with government, business and industry to maximise benefits to the NT and attract investment.

Engagement will continue to be guided by SunCable's *Engagement and Communication Plan*, which is subject to regular review and updates to include new stakeholders and align with stakeholder needs and best-practice.


9. Appendix





Meet the team to hear about the SunCable project

Community Information Session

SunCable invites all businesses, community members and service providers to an information session in Tennant Creek.

 Wednesday 26 March

 5:30pm - 6:30pm

 Barkly Business Hub
63 Haddock Street, Tennant Creek

 Light refreshments will be provided

Please follow the QR Code to RSVP
RSVPs are encouraged but not essential




SunCable is developing one of the world's largest renewable energy projects in the Barkly region.

The project will generate solar and wind energy for delivery to Darwin and Singapore.

Get an update on the project timeframes, business and job opportunities, environmental approvals, and community sponsorships.

 suncable.energy

 [@suncable.energy](https://www.instagram.com/suncable.energy)

 [@SunCable](https://www.facebook.com/SunCable)

 [@SunCable](https://www.linkedin.com/company/SunCable)

 info@suncable.energy

 Level 15,
Charles Darwin Centre,
19 Smith Street,
Darwin NT 0800

Figure 12 Appendix 1 - Tennant Creek Community Information Session Invitation

Community Sponsorship Program Guidelines

SunCable is committed to building regional partnerships, providing local benefits, and investing in the communities where we work.

Eligibility and guidelines

Our NT Community Sponsorship Program offers funding of **\$500 to \$3,000** per application for community-led projects and activities in the AAPowerLink Project footprint.

To qualify for funding, you must;

- be a Northern Territory entity (with an ABN or ACN); and
- have a physical presence in the AAPowerLink footprint (defined as the Barkly region - Tennant Creek to Elliott and surrounds; Big Rivers region - Katherine and surrounds; and Greater Darwin region - Darwin, Palmerston, Darwin Rural Area and surrounds).

Successful applicants will demonstrate how their initiative aligns with one or more of the community investment focus areas below.

Focus Area	Desired outcomes
Community	Fosters community participation and social cohesion.
Diversity & inclusion	Supports diversity and inclusion, particularly for the under-represented and/or marginalised.
Environment & renewable energy	Supports environmental stewardship or sustainability, and/or enhances renewable energy education or access.
Health & wellbeing	Promotes healthy lifestyles, and/or encourages physical activity, mental health and wellbeing.
Arts & culture	Fosters cultural and artistic expression.

Reporting

Successful applicants will provide the following within 4 weeks of when the activity is completed to show how the funds were acquitted:

- A 1-2 page report (e.g. how the funds were spent, outcomes and highlights, community benefits, other partners, etc)
- At least 3 photographs which SunCable has permission to use in marketing and media. Include a signed Talent Release form for all people in photographs.
- A copy of promotional material where the SunCable logo was used or where SunCable is recognised in writing.

Exclusions

SunCable will generally not support:

1. Activities that are considered to be the core responsibility of government.
2. General operating expenses, including regular salaries and wages, lease/rent payments, assets or equipment.
3. Applications seeking retrospective funding.
4. Air travel for individuals or groups.
5. Activities that are linked to the sale of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, gambling or other products/services in conflict with SunCable's values.
6. Activities that are led by political parties or affiliates.
7. Religious activities.
8. Repayment of debts and loans.

Funding Rounds

Applications are assessed by a committee in quarterly rounds. The funding rounds close at the end of March, June, September and December each year. Applicants will be advised approximately 2 weeks after the round has closed if their application has been successful.



Head to suncable.energy to download the application form.
Contact: sponsorships@suncable.energy

Figure 13 Appendix 2 – Community Sponsorship Program Guidelines