

Tasmania Development and Resources

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Mr John Ramsay
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Referral of Major Project – Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy

Thank you for your letter dated 13 March 2024 regarding the declaration of the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy project as a Major Project under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Tasmania Development and Resources (TDR) works to encourage and promote the balanced economic development of Tasmania through the provision of strategic government support to industry and advice to Government. The Coordinator-General, who attends and provides regular reports to the TDR, has kept the Board informed of the progress of the Whaleback Ridge project.

TDR notes the potential of renewable energy projects such as Whaleback Ridge to contribute to both the Tasmanian and Australian renewable energy targets.

TDR considers the assessment criteria should consider whether the project supports the economic development of the region and community in the short and longer term, including:

- the degree to which labour, material or products required for the project are sourced locally;
- the level of local direct and indirect employment and the skill level of employees over the operational phase of the project;
- the distribution of economic or material benefits resulting from the project across the community;
- the net effects of the project during the construction phase including any potential adverse outcomes such as 'crowding out' existing local industry sectors or reducing the affordability of local housing for residential purposes. TDR notes that the shortage of workforce housing in the state, and the need for worker accommodation during the construction phase of this project requires strategic consideration; and
- consideration of the suitability, financial capability and status of the proponents.

TDR has reviewed the Department of State Growth's response and is supportive of the consolidated commentary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Yours sincerely

Mike Wallas
Chair

11 April 2024