

Department of Treasury and Finance

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John Ramsay
Executive Commissioner
Tasmanian Planning Commission
By email: tpc@planning.tas.gov.au

Attention: Luke Newman

Dear Mr Ramsay

Assessment criteria for Major Project - Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2024 regarding the Whaleback Ridge major project assessment criteria.

I expect that the assessment criteria will include standard provisions for assessing the economic impact of the project, at both a regional and state-wide level, similar to the criteria adopted for the North East Wind major project. The project should clearly demonstrate a positive contribution to the local and regional economy and that the criteria to be met requires the proponent to provide robust evidence that the project:

- facilitates economic development; *and*
- makes a positive contribution to the local and regional economy, and improves the social, and cultural well-being of people and communities in the short and longer term.

I consider that the additional matters for the panel to have regard to that were included in the economic development criteria for the North East Wind project should also be included in the assessment criteria for the Whaleback Ridge project and addressed in the major project impact statement by the proponent.

Noting the significant scale and output of the project, and potential impacts on the broader regional area, I suggest including additional criteria to that used for the North East Wind project. Specifically, that the major project impact statement addresses the specific economic impacts and how these may be balanced against the expected regional, environmental and cultural impacts. These additional matters may include:

- how the project will contribute to the diversity and security of energy supply;
- externalities and local area impacts including the unique attributes of affected regional communities including geographic, environmental, disaster affected, tourism, and cultural or heritage attributes; and
- employment implications in regional Tasmania relating to rates and types of employment (seasonal, part-time or self-employed, fly-in fly-out (FIFO) and drive-in drive-out (DIDO) workers) throughout the lifecycle of the project.

Further, estimates of costs and benefits should be monetised using best practice methodologies and standard parameter values.

Should you have any queries or require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Dean Burgess on (03) 6145 5833 or email dean.burgess@treasury.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gary Swain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

for Gary Swain
Secretary

9 April 2024