

26 August 2026

Nick Heath
Development Assessment Panel Chairperson
Tasmanian Planning Commission
Level 3, 144 Macquarie Street
Hobart, Tasmania, 7000

Dear Mr Heath

Subject: North East Wind Progress Report August 2026

ACEN Australia Pty Ltd (**ACEN Australia**) is a renewable energy business that develops, builds, owns and operates renewable energy projects across Australia. The business has more than 1 gigawatt (GW) of operating capacity in the Australia market and a development pipeline of more than 13 GW of solar, wind, battery, and pumped hydro projects.

ACEN Australia is developing the North East Wind project that has the potential to deliver:

- Significant regional investment.
- Employment and contracting opportunities for local businesses.
- Upgrades to roads and supporting infrastructure.
- Long-term community and neighbour benefit programs.
- Additional affordable renewable energy generation to support Tasmania and the nation's energy future.

On 16 February 2026 the TPC granted an extension of time for the MPIS to be submitted to the Development Assessment Panel with the new submission date being 18 August 2028. As part of this extension, the Panel requested a progress report on the Project report every six months (commencing August 2026).

About the Project

North East Wind involves the proposed development of a large-scale wind project located predominately on agricultural land in the Dorset municipality in North East Tasmania and a transmission line connection to State and National electricity network near the industrial load centre at Bell Bay. The project will be developed across two clusters, Waterhouse in the west and Rushy Lagoon in the east.

The wind project component of North East Wind is being assessed as a Major Project under the Tasmanian Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. The project was declared a Major Project in 2022 and received the assessment criteria in August 2023. An Environmental Impact Statement will also be required under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The transmission line component will be assessed under a separate approval's pathway.

Progress Update

ACEN Australia remains committed to progressing technical, environmental, and engineering studies to support the statutory assessment process under the Major Projects framework of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Rushy Lagoon Property Sale

The North East Wind project is partially located on the Rushy Lagoon property, which has recently undergone a lengthy commercial land sale process.

The North East Wind project and the Rushy Lagoon sustainable forestry project are separate and independent developments. While both projects may operate on the same land, they have distinct proponents, objectives, statutory approval pathways, and investment structures, and expected benefits. Their respective land uses are considered compatible and can coexist independently. ACEN Australia is not involved in the ownership, commercial transaction, investment arrangements or management of the forestry project.

Following Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval in July 2026 and subsequent settlement, the land transaction has now been completed. ACEN Australia is working closely with all involved landholders to ensure project activities align with landholder requirements and future property planning and land use requirements.

Surveys and Technical Assessments

ACEN Australia continues to make progress on the Major Project Impact Statement (MPIS) in accordance with the Assessment Criteria issued by the Commission in 2022. Key environmental and technical studies are well advanced. The 2026 Autumn bird utilisation survey has been completed, with the targeted avifauna survey program close to completion.

The technical reports and assessments are progressing well and will be finalised once the project footprint is confirmed. These reports include, but are not limited to:

- Electromagnetic Interference Assessment
- Aviation Assessment
- Traffic and Transport Assessment
- Natural Values Assessment
- Environmental Flora and fauna Assessment
- Noise Assessment
- Bushfire Assessment
- Socio-Economic Assessment
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Shadow Flicker Assessment
- Historic Heritage Assessment

- Surface Water Assessment
- Acid Sulphate Soils Assessment
- Agriculture
- Greenhouse Gas and Air Quality Assessment

On ground Aboriginal Cultural Heritage surveys will commence once the proposed infrastructure footprint and access routes are finalised.

Project Timeline

ACEN Australia is currently working towards a target submission date of August 2028 for the Major Project Impact Statement (MPIS) to the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement Update

Since 2022, ACEN Australia has actively engaged local communities and stakeholders across North East Tasmania through regular drop-in sessions, project briefings and attendance at community events. These activities have helped raise awareness of the project and provided opportunities for community members to share feedback that has informed project design and community benefit sharing initiatives.

From 2024, ACEN Australia increased its face-to-face engagement activities in Tomahawk, Musselroe Bay, Gladstone and Bridport. Detailed maps, photomontages and emerging technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) were used to provide community members and neighbours with a clear understanding of the scale, location and potential impacts of the proposed project. Engagement with the Tomahawk and Musselroe Bay communities has been particularly important given their proximity to the proposed project areas.

In March 2026, ACEN Australia held the following community drop-in sessions to present the revised wind turbine layout:

- **March 2026:** Publicly advertised community consultation sessions in Tomahawk and Musselroe Bay
- **April 2026:** Publicly advertised community consultation sessions in Bridport and Gladstone

Following more than 18 months of community consultation, technical assessment and design reviews, the refinements to the wind turbine layout included:

- **Turbine Reduction:** Decreased turbine numbers at the Waterhouse cluster from 43 to 34
- **Visual Exclusion Zone:** Established a visual exclusion zone to safeguard key viewpoints toward Mount Cameron from Tomahawk Beach and the local boat ramp (refer to the North East Wind website for details)
- **Environmental Values:** Ongoing adjustments to site layout in response to specific environmental values identified by local community members

More than 50 people attended the Tomahawk drop-in session, with many attendees acknowledging the reduction in turbine numbers at Waterhouse and the project's responsiveness

to community feedback. This feedback was recorded on feedback forms completed at the events and added to our stakeholder management system Borealis. Ongoing community engagement, combined with technical and environmental studies, continues to inform layout refinements.

Benefit sharing and partnerships

Through its voluntary Development Stage Social Investment Program, ACEN Australia invests \$50,000 each year in community initiatives across North East Tasmania. This includes multi-year support for the Scottsdale Football Club and Dorset Community House, solar lighting at the Tomahawk Playground, support for the NRMA electric vehicle fast-charger network including charging infrastructure at Derby, snake awareness training at Winnaleah District High School, fundraising support for the Musselroe Bay Community Group, major sponsorship of the Tasmanian Scallop Fiesta, and sponsorship of the Allied Trades Apprentice Award at the 2026 TasTAFE Excellence Awards for Northern Tasmania. These initiatives demonstrate ACEN Australia's support for local communities, regional infrastructure, education, workforce development, community organisations and events across North East Tasmania.

If you have any questions about the project, please reach out to a member of the ACEN Australia North East Wind team or contact us via our website at <https://acenrenewables.com.au/project/north-east-wind/>

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Yours sincerely



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