

DECLARATION OF A MAJOR PROJECT
LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993
WHALEBACK RIDGE RENEWABLE ENERGY

I, Michael Darrel Joseph Ferguson, Minister for Planning, pursuant to section 600(1) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, hereby declare the project known as Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy, and more particularly described in the Schedule, to be a Major Project.

The Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project, located near Zeehan in western Tasmania, involves the development of up to 500 wind turbine generators (WTGs), with a projected generating capacity of approximately 3,000 Megawatts (MW).

The Project includes the construction of collector substations, access roads, office and workshop facilities, installation of overhead and underground transmission lines, and the use of mobile concrete batching plants.

Dated this 1st day of March 2024



Michael Darrel Joseph Ferguson

Minister for Planning

The Schedule

Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Major Project

1.0 Interpretation

In this Schedule –

Act means the *Land use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*

Project means the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy major project

2.0 The project location

For the purposes of section 60Q(1)(a) of the Act, the location of the land on which the project is to be situated is shown on the maps below –



3.0 General project description

For the purposes of section 60Q(1)(b) and section 60Q(2)(a) of the Act, a general description of the project activities and a general description of the project uses and developments is set out below –

3.1 The activities proposed to be carried out after the construction phase has been completed are:

- The Project entails development of a wind farm consisting of up to 500 wind turbine generators (WTGs), with a projected generating capacity of approximately 3000 MW.
- It will be constructed over several stages to meet electricity demand and transmission capacity.
- Supporting infrastructure will include, but is not limited to, underground and overhead cables, collector substations, hardstand areas, internal roads, office and workshop facilities, and connection into the Tasmanian transmission network; temporary on-site quarries will also be required.
- The wind farm and all associated infrastructure will be maintained for the life of the assets and fully decommissioned and rehabilitated at the end of its practical life.

3.2 The uses that are proposed to occur in relation to the project are:

- The Project falls within the 'Utilities' use class, as defined by the State Planning Provisions, including associated infrastructure works. All other uses required for the project are directly associated with, and a subservient part of, the 'Utilities' use class.

3.3 The developments that are proposed to occur in relation to the project are:

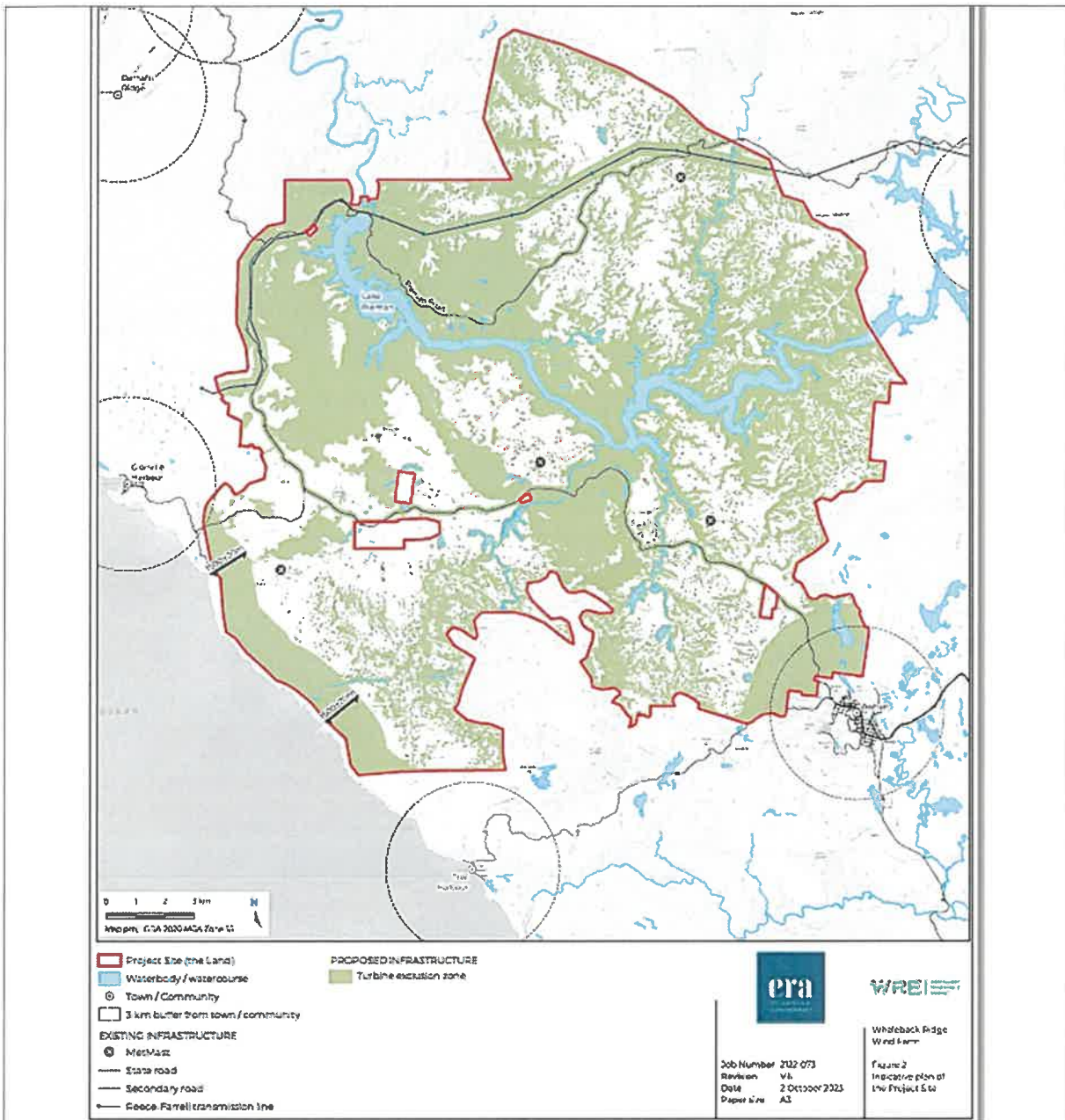
- Temporary on-site facilities will include the establishment of one or more construction compounds that accommodate site offices and amenities, workshops, bunded refuelling and allied facilities for construction-related vehicles.
- Subject to the availability of aggregate and sand needed in the construction phase, temporary, on-site quarries will be established, together with on-site concrete batching at mobile batching plants.
- Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs):
 - Approximately 500 WTGs, with an indicative tip height of 250m
 - Hardstand areas at the base of each turbine
 - Collection and distribution of wind-generated power via a network of underground and overhead cables and collector stations, including data links
- Access road network:
 - Access roads within the Project Land will connect to each WTG
 - Existing internal access roads will be upgraded and supplemented by newly constructed roads as necessary
 - The access road network will be maintained throughout the life of the Project and made available to other land users as appropriate
- Other permanent on-site ancillary infrastructure:

- Workshop and office facilities, including storage facilities, washdown areas and parking area hardstands
- Upgraded external roads (outside the scope of this Project, and requiring separate approvals)
- Staging:
 - The Project is intended to be constructed over several stages.
 - The first stage is anticipated to take 2 years, and involves the construction of between 30-50 WTGs, transmission and site management infrastructure needed to generate 288MW of electricity

4.0 General project plan

For the purposes of section 60Q(1)(c) and section 60Q(2)(b) of the Act, a plan indicating generally on the project land where uses and developments are to occur within the project area is shown below. The areas shown in green represent turbine exclusion zones, within which the construction of WTGs is constrained by such factors as

- Topography (slope)
- Orange-bellied parrot coastal migration
- Forested vegetation communities
- Sensitive receptors (housing)
- Hydrological (the banks of waterways)
- Existing public roads, and transmission lines, and
- Areas within 100m of the Project Land boundary



5.0 The proponent

For the purposes of section 60Q(1)(d) the proponent of the project is Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd.

Mr Alan Morrell
 Chief Executive
 Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd
 658 Granville Harbour Road
 Granville Harbour Tasmania 7469
 Email: alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au

6.0 Project Eligibility Attributes

For the purposes of section 60Q(1)(e) the attributes of the project specified in section 60M(1) of the Act, which, in my opinion, are such that the project is eligible to be declared a major project are –

- (a) the project will have a significant impact on, or make a significant contribution to, the Cradle Coast region’s economy, environment, or social fabric in that:

- The Project will make a significant contribution to the Cradle Coast region of Tasmania and the State as a whole.
- Planned capital investment of approximately \$5 billion is supported by operational expenditure estimated to average \$673million per annum over a project life of 30 years. This will be of considerable economic benefit, generating employment in project planning, construction, and operation.
- The project will offer significant opportunities for employment in the Cradle Coast region, providing up to 170 construction jobs, a further 16 full-time equivalent positions in the initial operational phase, and further jobs as successive project stages are implemented;
- The activity and employment created during the life of the project will increase consumer spending within the region, benefiting local businesses.

(b) the Project is of strategic importance to the Cradle Coast region, as:

- It will produce enough renewable energy to achieve the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target of 200% renewable energy by 2040, equating to an additional 10,500GW hours;
- The production of this level of low-cost renewable energy will present opportunities for the development of renewable hydrogen production and e-fuel facilities, contributing to the Tasmanian Government's aim of becoming a significant global supplier of renewable hydrogen for export and domestic use by 2030;
- The proponent has expressed its willingness to partner with the Tasmanian Government in support of regional housing and community infrastructure objectives; and
- The Project aligns with the regional profile, strategy and policy directions stated in the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (CCRLUS);

(c) the Project is of significant scale and complexity such that:

- It is the largest windfarm currently proposed in Tasmania, and bigger than any existing windfarm in Australia;
- The scale of the Project and its location on Crown land offers regional benefits, extending beyond the West Coast municipality in which it is situated;
- Approvals will be required under the Parks and Wildlife Service's reserve activity assessment process, and under a variety of legislation, including the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, *Crown Lands Act 1976* and the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*;
- The Project also requires approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC).