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Ann Cunningham
Chairperson
Development Assessment Panel
Tasmanian Planning Commission
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North East Wind Major Project

Response to referral of representation on Draft Assessment Criteria

Dear Ms Cunningham

I refer to your recent invitation to provide representation to the draft assessment criteria for the North East Wind Major Project, under section 60ZL (1) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

The following comments are intended to ensure the Final Assessment Criteria aligns with the *Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target (TRET)*, the *Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan (TRHAP)*, the *Guideline for Community Engagement, Benefit Sharing and Local Procurement*, and the *Climate Change Act 2008*.

Section 2.1 Policy and Context - Renewable Energy

Tasmania's 100 per cent renewable status is a key asset in driving inwards investment and maintaining a competitive advantage for Tasmania's existing businesses. The need to grow our on-island supply of renewable energy is paramount to maintaining this status. In 2021-22, Tasmania once again achieved this target, but by only a narrow margin.

The forecast is for strong and sustained organic growth in electricity demand in the residential and small business sector, and in the commercial/larger business segment, and without more renewable generation, the 100 per cent renewable status will be at risk.

Some of Tasmania's largest industrial scale electricity users are seeking to increase their electricity demand in pursuing scale economies that are critical in maintaining international competitiveness. Delivering increased renewable energy in Tasmania will be critical to enable this to happen.

Moreover, there are routinely approaches to Government from new larger scale loads (other than hydrogen loads, which the Government has a policy of attracting) interested in locating in Tasmania. Such investments will need to be partly underpinned by medium to long term certainty about access to renewable energy and at contracted (rather than uncertain or fluctuating) prices. With the current tight balance between electricity supply and demand, the State is mindful to ensure that the State is not constrained to the point of missing out on key job-creating inwards investment.

It is also recommended that the Panel has consideration to *Renewable Energy Development in Tasmania: A Guideline for Community Engagement, Benefit Sharing and Local Procurement*. This Guideline outlines government expectations for industry who are developing renewable energy projects in Tasmania, to ensure that social and economic benefits from renewable energy projects are maximised for local Tasmanian communities.

Section 3.2 Design and Management – Social and Environmental Management Processes

It is recommended that this section includes the consideration of emissions reduction within major infrastructure development. This could be achieved by including objectives of the *Climate Change Act 2008* into the criterion.

I thank you for the opportunity to be able to submit comments on the Draft Assessment Criteria.

If you require any further information please contact Stewart Sharples, Director Major Renewable Energy Projects at Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (stewart.sharples@recfit.tas.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing