

5 September 2025

Our ref: AO/2025/06961

Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

To whom it may concern,

ARC's Support for Essential Energy's Training Waver & rPPP Application

On behalf of Armidale Regional Council (ARC), we are pleased to offer our support for Essential Energy's applications:

- Under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) to establish a training Academy in Tamworth; and
- For a waver to current ring-fencing applications to enable construction of the facility and delivery of training needed to deliver and operate the 'power station' in our region.

Armidale is located in the heart of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NE REZ) which, if delivered effectively, represents a one-in-a-generation opportunity to build region-shaping infrastructure and bring the community along with it.

Providing pathways for local communities to engage with the REZ through skilling and employment aligns strongly with ARC's regional economic development objectives. It also demonstrates how a whole-of-government approach can deliver positive outcomes.

While it is disappointing that Armidale wasn't selected to host the training facility, given our central role and contribution to the NE REZ, ARC nonetheless congratulates Essential Energy on this initiative and welcomes the provision of training services in our region, for our region.

We trust that our submission meets all the requirements for consideration, and we are available to provide any further information should it be required. This submission contains no confidential material and may be published by the AER.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED] if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



James Roncon
General Manager