

Ref: VF25/1950  
5 September 2025

Australian Energy Regulator  
Email: [AERringfencing@ aer.gov.au](mailto:AERringfencing@ aer.gov.au)

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Re: Letter of Support – Essential Energy AER Ring-Fencing Waiver Application

Dear Australian Energy Regulator (AER),

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) acknowledges that Essential Energy has applied to AER for a ring-fencing waiver to enable the establishment and operation of a regionally-based training academy in Tamworth, NSW

DPIRD recognises the critical importance of building a skilled, safe, and future-ready energy workforce in regional NSW. The proposed training academy will directly address current and projected workforce shortages, particularly in the context of the energy transition and the increasing demand for skilled labour to support infrastructure, renewable energy and electrification projects through to 2050.

DPIRD supports this initiative which will enhance the availability of accessible, regionally-based training services and offer a strategic opportunity to accelerate project delivery and achieve cost efficiencies for proponents operating in regional NSW.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Cherie Holdsworth, A/Director Business Attraction and Future Industries at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Ian Smith  
Executive Director  
Regional Economic Development