

2 September, 2025

Farm Renewables CONSULTING

Karin Stark



To:

Australian Energy Regulator
AERringfencing@aer.gov.au
Subject: Essential Energy Training Waiver

To whom it may concern,

This letter expresses the strong support of Farm Renewables Consulting for Essential Energy's ring-fencing waiver application to establish a Training Academy in regional New South Wales, as outlined by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) [Initiation Notice, AER, 6 August 2025].

Farm Renewables Consulting is an Australian-owned business, rooted in the heart of the Central West NSW. Director, Karin Stark is a recognised leader in the agriculture and clean energy space, holding a unique position living on a farming property on the edge of the country's first Renewable Energy Zone. She has strong networks in regional Australia and seeks to facilitate the adoption of on-farm renewables as a practical way to reduce costs and emissions while building resilience. She also established and runs the National Renewables in Agriculture Conference which brings together farmers, industry, Government representatives, researchers and peak bodies.

It is critical that accredited technical and safety training courses to help electricity industry participants occurs, to address critical workforce capability. Regional locations include Parkes, Grafton, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, and Goulburn.

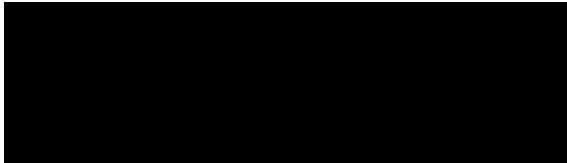
The proposed academy will bring significant benefits to the regions by creating local jobs, supporting small businesses, and offering practical training in the growing fields of electricity and renewable energy. It will help reduce unemployment by providing residents with the skills needed for stable, well-paying jobs, while also making it easier for small and medium enterprises to train their staff locally. By increasing access to vocational education, especially for school leavers, career changers, and disadvantaged groups, the academy will

strengthen our workforce and ensure more people can take part in the region's economic growth.

I believe that the academy will support the transition to clean energy by preparing workers for jobs in solar, wind, and energy infrastructure projects. This will help attract investment to regional NSW and align with broader state and national goals for decarbonisation. By fostering a skilled, resilient community and supporting underrepresented groups, the academy promotes social inclusion and long-term regional development in line with government strategies.

Please get in touch if you have further queries. This submission contains no confidential material and may be published by the AER.

Yours Sincerely,



Director,
Farm Renewables Consulting