



Letter of support for Essential Energy

4th September 2025

Australian Electricity Regulator
BY EMAIL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of support - Essential Energy Training Academy

Stride Renewables (Stride) is delighted to support Essential Energy's application to the Australian Energy Regulatory (AER) for a waiver to the AER's ringfencing rules, so that it can establish a Training Academy to provide contestable technical training.

Stride understands that the electricity sector workforce must double to up to 66,300 by 2029 to meet the demands of the energy transition, with many regional communities at risk of having an acute skills gap.

Stride understands firsthand the need for education and training opportunities in regional Australia. We consistently see a shortfall of organised training programs across regional Australia during our work with clients on Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS), Long Term Energy Service Agreement (LTESA) and Access Rights bids. Accordingly, we strongly support Essential Energy's proposed Training Academy as it will:

- **Reduce the long term cost of energy.** Increasingly, projects are planning for 'fly in, fly out' (FIFO) or 'drive in, drive out' (DIDO) workforce to maintain energy assets in regional Australia. These additional travel and time costs will inevitably drive-up long-term energy costs.
- **Increase worker safety.** Having a skilled workforce close to project sites reduces the risk of fatigue-induced fatalities.
- **Provide benefits to regional communities.** There are considerable tangible benefits to both projects and regional communities in having a well-paid and skilled regionally based workforce.

We wish Essential Energy every success in your application.

Yours sincerely,
Luke Osborne

