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14 May 2021

Mr Sebastian Roberts, General Manager
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520, Melbourne, Victoria 3001
Lodged by email: contingentprojects@aer.gov.au

ACCIONA submission to the "Revised Contingent Project Applications for Project EnergyConnect" consultation

ACCIONA welcomes the opportunity to participate in the consultation process on Project EnergyConnect.

As a renewable energy developer, owner and operator, we support the broad objective to facilitate additional renewable energy capacity in NSW and South Australia through the development of Project EnergyConnect.

ACCIONA strongly believes that interconnectors and transmission network upgrades should be approved and constructed in a timely manner, reducing risks for developers and investors into both the transmission infrastructure and connecting renewable energy projects. Effective coordination between the development of transmission assets and renewables will deliver efficient grid infrastructure and help in achieving the Federal and State Government emission reduction targets, while enabling regional economic development benefits.

Project EnergyConnect can play an important role in accelerating the transition to renewables by enabling the development of significant clean energy capacity along its route, including ACCIONA's proposed hybrid renewables project in the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

ACCIONA is committed to further growth and technology diversification of our renewable energy portfolio in Australia, and we look forward to working with the AER, TransGrid and ElectraNet on Project EnergyConnect.

About ACCIONA

ACCIONA is a global leader in renewable energy development with more than 13GW of generation capacity installed in 20 countries across 5 continents. ACCIONA generates clean energy using wind, solar PV, solar thermal, hydro and biomass technologies. We are proud to lead the global ranking of Energy Intelligence's Top 100 Green Utilities for the sixth year in a row.

ACCIONA has been operating in Australia for over a decade – we have invested over \$1.5 billion in renewables to date and have committed to double our investment in Australia within the next 3 years. Our installed capacity of 435 MW includes Mt. Gellibrand wind farm (132MW, Victoria), Waubra wind farm (192MW, Victoria), Cathedral Rocks wind farm (64MW, South Australia) and Gunning wind farm (46.5MW, New South Wales).

We are currently completing construction of a wind farm in Mortlake South (158MW, Victoria). In 2020, ACCIONA announced its biggest wind farm project and its sixth wind farm to date in Australia – the 1026 MW MacIntyre Wind Precinct in Queensland.

We have a large portfolio of wind and solar PV projects at various stages of development in the National Electricity Market, including projects in New South Wales and South Australia.

ACCIONA's has also constructed major infrastructure projects such as the Legacy Way tunnel in Brisbane, a 41km bypass for the Toowoomba motorway, a desalination plant in Adelaide, the Mundaring water treatment plant east of Perth, and the Sydney Light Rail. In Western Australia, ACCIONA is currently building the country's first waste to energy (W2E) plant in Kwinana and has been awarded a second W2E project in East Rockingham. The company is constructing a number of rail projects in Victoria.

About South-West REZ project

ACCIONA strongly supports Project EnergyConnect and believes that its timely approval and construction is key to unlocking future renewable energy projects in NSW and SA.

ACCIONA has a number of projects in its portfolio that rely on future network upgrades, but notably a proposed 1.5GW hybrid renewable energy project in the South-West REZ of NSW. This project is contingent on the successful delivery of Project EnergyConnect.

The proposed hybrid renewable energy project in the South-West REZ will be comprised of wind, solar PV and BESS and will deliver:

- up to 1.5GW of clean energy towards Australia's renewable energy targets
- up to \$2.3 billion investment – over 50% of this will be spent within Australia
- 400 jobs during the construction phase
- 20+ ongoing jobs during the 30-year operational phase
- Regional employment and wider economic benefits
- Community benefits to the drought-impacted communities of South-West NSW

Our ability to progress this renewables project is constrained by the lack of certainty on the timeframe for delivery of Project EnergyConnect, and we would welcome its timely approval by the AER.

We would welcome further discussions with the AER on our proposed renewable energy developments and transmission capacity requirements.

Yours sincerely,



Brett Wickham
Managing Director
ACCIONA Energy