

ACEN Australia welcomes NSW Government support for long duration renewable energy storage facility

- 12-hour duration renewable energy storage project proposed within NSW's Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone
- If found viable and constructed, the pumped hydro energy storage project will complement renewable energy projects, providing energy when the sun isn't shining and when the wind isn't blowing
- Calling for community and stakeholder inputs in the new year to help shape the project

16 December 2022, NSW – ACEN Australia, with the support of the NSW Government, is thrilled to be progressing feasibility studies for the proposed Phoenix Pumped Hydro Project, a large-scale, long duration renewable energy storage facility.

Following a competitive selection process, Phoenix Pumped Hydro has been selected by EnergyCo and WaterNSW to receive feasibility funding to determine if it can support NSW energy security, help replace retiring coal-fired generation capacity, and support the achievement of the NSW Government's renewable energy objectives outlined in the NSW Electricity Strategy.

The project is being supported by the NSW Government through WaterNSW's Renewable Energy and Storage Program, and also through \$7M in feasibility study funding by EnergyCo under its Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program.

The 800 MW, 12-hour duration storage project is proposed within NSW's Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone and, if found feasible and constructed, will offer energy storage solutions to support several nearby wind and solar assets.

Renewable energy is rapidly moving ahead in Australia. Storing energy for later use is critical to embedding it into a reliable national electricity supply. Pumped hydro energy and storage will benefit NSW, enabling dispatchable energy generators to complement renewable energy projects, providing energy when the sun isn't shining and when the wind isn't blowing.

WaterNSW CEO Andrew George said: "WaterNSW welcomes this latest milestone in our ongoing efforts to identify renewable generation and storage opportunities on WaterNSW land and assets."

James Hay, Chief Executive of Energy Corporation of NSW said the Phoenix Pumped Hydro project has the potential to play a major role in improving our State's energy security and supporting the transition to renewable energy.

"It presents an exceptional opportunity for private investment in regional communities and, if it proves to be feasible, will deliver long duration energy storage infrastructure that will help keep the grid cheaper, cleaner and more reliable," Mr Hay said.

Anton Rohner, CEO of ACEN Australia said, "ACEN Australia is excited to be progressing the project with support from the NSW Government. This project has the potential to facilitate more renewable projects in the Central West Orana region and provide valuable firming services in NSW. Phoenix Pumped Hydro will be bidding for Long-Term Energy Services

Agreements for long-duration storage under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard.”

“Our focus is on ensuring that we develop a project that offers the right mix of benefits and opportunities for the region and the State of NSW. We’ll be calling for inputs from community and stakeholders soon to help shape the project,” added Rohner.

Patrice Clausse, CEO of ACEN International commended the government for its investment in and commitment to long-duration renewable energy storage facility development.

“These funds will help deliver the valuable renewable energy firming capacity needed and we commend the NSW government for supporting such exceptional technologies. ACEN looks forward to building this project as part of its goal to deliver 20 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.”

Should the project be found viable, Phoenix Pumped Hydro is expected to commence construction in 2025 and be operational before 2030, aligning with NSW Government’s target of at least 2 GW of new long duration storage by 2030.

ACEN Australia has more than 1.5 GW of projects under construction or at an advanced stage of development, including New England Solar, New England Battery, Stubbo Solar, and Valley of the Winds projects in the NSW New England and Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zones. In addition, ACEN Australia is developing Robbins Island and Jim’s Plain Wind and North East Wind in Tasmania.

20 December 2022

Media enquiries

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About ACEN Australia

ACEN has been a partner of UPC Renewables in Australia since 2018. In 2021, ACEN began a transaction to eventually own 100% of UPC\AC Renewables by early 2023; with this transaction, the company is now called ACEN Australia. This marks a strategic pivot for ACEN as it embarks on its first wholly owned development and operations platform outside of the Philippines.

ACEN is the listed energy platform of the Ayala Group. The company has ~3,700 MW of attributable capacity in the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, and Australia. The company’s renewable share of capacity is at 93%, among the highest in the region.

ACEN’s aspiration is to be the largest listed renewables platform in Southeast Asia, with a goal of reaching 20 GW in renewables capacity by 2030. In October 2021, ACEN announced its commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

More information

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