

Media Release, 30 November, 2023

Sensible decision removes unviable Robbins Island shutdown condition

- A five-month shutdown condition which would have rendered ACEN Australia's Robbins Island Wind project economically unviable has been removed after it was appealed at the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Tribunal.
- The Tribunal's decision reflects the considerable effort that has gone into conducting a comprehensive environmental assessment, ensuring the project aligns with ACEN Australia's commitment to responsible and sustainable development.
- ACEN Australia will now focus on settling the permit conditions for Robbins Island Wind before the final step in the approvals process, when the Commonwealth makes its environmental assessment.

30 November, 2023, Tasmania - The decision by Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Tribunal to remove the five-month shutdown condition imposed on ACEN Australia's Robbins Island Wind Project is a step in the right direction for Tasmania's renewable energy industry.

David Pollington, Managing Director of ACEN Australia, said:

"The Tribunal's decision to remove the EPA's disproportionate five-month shut down condition as part of its project approval for Robbins Island Wind is welcome news to ACEN Australia and I am sure other renewable energy developers right across the nation."

"The outcome reflects the considerable effort that has gone into conducting a comprehensive environmental assessment, ensuring the project aligns with ACEN Australia's commitment to responsible and sustainable development."

"ACEN Australia has undertaken exhaustive and robust environmental assessments to identify and minimise potential impacts. This iterative process included reducing turbine numbers and heights, refining the project footprint, incorporating sophisticated technologies like AI-driven bird flight path monitors to stop turbines when birds such as Wedge-tailed eagles are flying through the project area."

"Extensive ecological data collected over the project's seven-year timeline to-date, including detailed surveys and radio tracking of the Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP), demonstrates ACEN Australia's dedication to ensuring the project can proceed in an environmentally responsible way. The implementation of proactive measures, backed by scientific data, reinforces our commitment to environmental safety."

"This decision sets the stage for Tasmania to achieve its Renewable Energy Targets, foster green industries, and bolster energy security for homes and businesses. The project also helps position Tasmania as a hub for green industries, including e-fuels and green hydrogen."

"We are optimistic about securing Commonwealth environmental approvals, allowing us to contribute significantly to Tasmania's renewable energy landscape."

"The economic windfall for North West Tasmania cannot be overstated – with up to 400 construction jobs for the \$2.6 billion construction value, up to 65 ongoing operations and maintenance jobs and a generous commitment to shared community benefits."

"The Robbins Island Wind Project is not just a milestone for ACEN Australia; it is a step towards a cleaner, more sustainable energy future for Tasmania and Australia."