

2 March 2021

Department of State Growth
4 Salamanca Place
HOBART TASMANIA 7000
Via email: renewableenergy@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Submission – Draft Renewable Energy Coordination Framework

Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) is jointly owned by the nine Councils of western and north-western Tasmania, to help them achieve regional outcomes and maintain strong local government by working together.

CCA is actively supporting the Cradle Coast's renewable energy opportunity. The Cradle Coast Future Energy Hub, co-located in our Burnie offices, was launched by Minister for Energy, the Hon. Guy Barnett MP in 2019. The Hub provides a "one stop shop" to involve the community and industry in renewable energy development, shares information through a variety of mediums, and hosts community engagement activities. The Renewable Energy Working Group, part of our ambitious "Futures Plan" approach to joined-up economic development, includes representatives from UTas, TasNetworks, Hydro Tasmania, TMEC, and renewable energy proponents. CCA is well placed to support community engagement and assist with the sharing of information about renewable energy policy and frameworks in the Cradle Coast.

Last year, CCA announced both Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link as Projects of Regional Importance. Projects nominated to be listed as regionally important are assessed against a rigorous framework by our Regional Economic Development Steering Group, which evaluates the outcomes of the project against the region's unique needs and long-term best interests. Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link were recognised for their potential to create more jobs, more training opportunities, a better lifestyle, and to overcome social disadvantage in the region.

CCA welcomes the release of the Draft Renewable Energy Coordination Framework (the Framework) and is supportive of the implementation of an overarching framework to direct new growth and investment in the renewable energy sector. CCA particularly supports the framework's underlying acknowledgement of community level outcomes while pursuing the Priorities of the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan (TREAP).

The Cradle Coast region is the focus of the state's future renewable energy generation growth. The North West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), which possesses the majority of the state's wind generation capacity (as identified by the AEMO ISP), overlays the Cradle Coast. The site identified as the state's first preferred location for pumped hydro generation, Lake Cethana, as well as the proposed converter site for Marinus Link at Heybridge, are both also located within the Cradle Coast.

Importantly, this means that additional electricity load created elsewhere in the state from new industry, such as renewable hydrogen generation consistent with the vision of the Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan, will further induce the urgency of new major generation projects in the Cradle Coast.

Tasmania's three Renewable Energy Zones cover wide and diverse areas comprising numerous communities, landholders and stakeholders. Orderly sequencing of renewable energy development will require not only a state-wide approach to the timely building of the generation fleet, but calls for a regional and community lens to consider infrastructure capacity gaps, existing land use and future land use strategy, and to adapt to the strategic plans of Local Government Areas.

The Framework, alongside Tasmania's ongoing planning reform, presents an opportunity for adopting proven planning and legislative tools to strategically address the challenges presented by renewable energy and supporting infrastructure developments. CCA encourages assessment of the results of approaches taken in other states towards achieving their objectives.

CCA is particularly supportive of efforts to sustain cooperation and collaboration between communities and the Government, ensuring renewable energy projects are strategically pursued and developed. Major project construction impacts the assets and infrastructure of Local Governments, which will need to be adequately resourced to fulfill the changing pressures from developments and local communities.

CCA supports the Goals of the Framework, however we encourage the Government to consider the inclusion of clear responsibilities and timeframes to deliver the Goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute our submission. We look forward to the release of the Renewable Energy Coordination Framework and would welcome the opportunity for further discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daryl Connelly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daryl Connelly MBus

Chief Executive Officer