

10 September 2020

Department of State Growth
4 Salamanca Place
HOBART TASMANIA 7000

Submission – Draft Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan

Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) is jointly owned by the nine Councils of west and north-west 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, launched by Minister for Energy, the Hon. Guy Barnett MP late last year is co-located in our Burnie offices. 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.

In June this year, CCA announced both Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link as Projects of Regional importance. The list of projects was identified under a rigorous process undertaken by the Regional Economic Development Steering Group, which assessed projects 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 Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan and is supportive of the implementation of a roadmap to guide development of the renewable energy industry over the next 20 years. As home of the three short-listed locations for pumped hydro, the proposed location for Marinus Link, several existing and proposed renewable energy generation projects, one of Tasmania's two "hydrogen hubs" identified in the Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan, and offering social and physical infrastructure and a location that may be attractive for hosting new energy consumers, the communities and Councils of the Cradle Coast will without question be front and center of renewable energy industry progress in Tasmania.

As such, CCA encourages the Tasmanian Government to prioritise positive regional community outcomes by:

- Accelerating the work required to reach the Marinus decision, and taking action to support a positive decision, as a matter of priority.
- Engaging with our Member Councils in a timely manner, to ensure they are well placed to derive maximum financial and other benefits from renewable energy proponents, on behalf of their communities.

- Developing strategic approach to prioritise unlocking Renewable Energy Zones and upgrading transmission capacity. This will allow communities and Councils to plan ahead for upcoming developments.
- Establishing Renewables Tasmania, which should be located in the Cradle Coast to encourage close connection with the industry and the community. This will be especially critical to ensure early and inclusive community engagement.
- The study into a Centre of Excellence should heavily weigh the synergies available for locating in the Cradle Coast, including access for research, on-site teaching and industry placements with new and existing renewable energy projects.
- Consideration should be given to developing government owned renewable generation projects, including the opportunity for community investment in publicly owned renewable generation and interconnection through bonds and similar mechanisms.
- Although hydrogen may become an option for light and heavy vehicles in the future, electric light vehicles are already an established and increasingly affordable technology. Targets, timeframes, and incentives should be identified for the annual purchasing of public and privately owned electric vehicles, and the installation of supporting infrastructure. Tasmania has the immediate opportunity to significantly replace fossil fuel imports by transitioning to electric vehicles, and implementation of an ambitious strategy should be considered as achievable in the short-term.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this very important document. We look forward to the release of the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan and would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our perspectives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daryl Connelly MBus
Chief Executive Officer