

Decision on electricity generation licence application

Greenough River Solar Farm Pty Ltd

13 July 2017

Economic Regulation Authority

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Decision

1. Pursuant to sections 9 and 19 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2004 (Act)*, the Economic Regulation Authority (**ERA**) has granted Electricity Generation Licence No. 27 to Greenough River Solar Farm Pty Ltd (**Applicant**).
2. Subject to its terms and conditions, the licence authorises the Applicant to construct and operate the proposed Greenough River Solar Farm (**Solar Farm**) for a period of 30 years (the maximum period allowed by section 15(2) of the Act).
3. As required by section 23(1) of the Act, the ERA will publish a notice of the grant of the licence in the Government Gazette as soon as practicable.

Reasons

4. On 18 April 2017, the Applicant [applied](#) for an electricity generation licence to construct and operate the proposed Solar Farm.¹
5. Under section 19(1) of the Act, the ERA must grant a licence if it is satisfied that the Applicant has and is likely to retain, or will acquire within a reasonable timeframe, and is then likely to retain, the financial and technical resources to undertake the activities authorised by the licence.
6. The ERA engaged financial and technical consultants to examine the Applicant's financial and technical resources to undertake the activities to be authorised by a licence. Following the assessment of the application:
 - the financial consultant concluded that the Applicant complies with the financial requirements under section 19(1) of the Act; and
 - the technical consultant concluded that the Applicant complies with the technical requirements under section 19(1) of the Act.
7. Section 9(1) of the Act requires that the ERA must not grant a licence unless it is satisfied that it would not be contrary to the public interest to do so. Section 8(5) of the Act, without limitation, specifies the matters the ERA must consider in this regard.
8. From 18 May 2017 to 8 June 2017, the ERA sought public comment on the Applicant's licence application in accordance with the ERA's [Public Consultation Guidelines – Electricity, Gas and Water Licences and Electricity & Gas Standard Form Contracts](#). The ERA received no submissions.
9. The ERA has considered the matters set out in section 8(5) of the Act, as required by section 9(2). Having regard to this, and the assessments of the Applicant's financial and technical resources to undertake the activities to be authorised by the licence, the ERA is satisfied that granting an electricity generation licence to the Applicant would not be contrary to the public interest.

¹ The proposed Solar Farm is located approximately 50km south east of Geraldton on the southern site of walkway Nangetty Road, near the Mungarra substation. The boundaries of this area are defined in map ERA-EL-147, which is part of the licence.