



Application
for
Electricity Integrated Regional Licence

Alinta Energy (Chichester) Pty Ltd

Summary for Public Consultation

April 2019

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1 Introduction

This application is for an Electricity Integrated Regional Licence to:

- Build, own and operate the 60 MW Chichester Solar Farm located at Christmas Creek, approximately 100 km north of Newman; and
- Retail electricity generated by Chichester Solar Farm to large-use customers in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

The proposed solar photovoltaic (**PV**) field will connect to the 220 kV Roy Hill – Cloudbreak power transmission line to be constructed by Alinta Energy Transmission (Chichester) Pty Ltd (**AETC**) under Electricity Integrated Regional Licence EIRL10.

2 Corporate Information

The applicant for this Electricity Integrated Regional Licence is Alinta Energy (Chichester) Pty Ltd (**AEC**) (ABN 95 623 412 626).

AEC is part of the Alinta Energy group of companies.

The core activities of AEC are to build, own and operate Chichester Solar Farm and to retail any electricity generated to large use customers in the Pilbara region.

3 Financial Information

The audited financial reports for Alinta Energy for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 financial years have been provided as part of this licence application. These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the International Accounting Standards Board.

Project financing is being provided as a package for the development of both the Chichester Solar Farm and the related AETC transmission infrastructure. The project will be partly funded through contributions by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (**NAIF**) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (**ARENA**).

Alinta Energy achieves compliance with its legislated and licence obligations through the application of policies, processes and systems. Alinta Energy's compliance and risk management systems are underpinned by a Compliance Policy and Risk Management Policy approved by the Board. Alinta Energy's Enterprise Risk Management Framework has been developed in accordance with leading industry risk management standards.

4 Technical Information

The proposed solar PV field will occupy approximately 150 ha and is located on Miscellaneous Licence L46/138, which has been granted to AEC under the Mining Act.

Environmental impact has been assessed and approved by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (**DWER**). AEC has been granted a native vegetation clearing permit (CPS 7985/1) which allows the clearing of up to 160 ha.

The proposed works includes:

- A 60 MW solar PV field with approximately 200,000 panels mounted on a single axis tracking system supported by steel piles;
- An operations and control building;
- Switchgear and transformers to enable safe connection to the new substation to be constructed at Christmas Creek by AETC;
- Security fencing around the perimeter of the solar field; and
- Access tracks around and throughout the solar field.

Construction is scheduled to commence in June 2019.

The project construction period, from site mobilisation to commissioning and completion, is anticipated to take approximately 11 months, with project completion scheduled for April 2020.

5 Public Interest Information

Environmental impacts are expected to be limited and have been assessed as part of the native vegetation clearing permit application. Where possible, existing roads and tracks will be used during construction instead of clearing new access tracks and temporary facilities, such as site construction offices, will be established on land already cleared and disturbed by mining activities.

To ensure areas of Aboriginal heritage significance are not impacted, AEC has completed several days of survey work with a team of Nyiyaparli People.

The benefits expected by the development of this 60 MW solar PV field will flow through to the state's economy. Electricity generated by solar is more affordable than gas-fired or diesel-powered generation which are predominantly used in the region. A reduction in the cost of energy to large-use customers in the Pilbara region will increase the opportunities for investment in, and expansion of, resource projects, which are a significant driver of the state's economy.

6 Licence Supply and Operating Areas

A schematic of the proposed solar PV field can be seen in Figure 1. The licence operating area is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Chichester Solar Farm site map

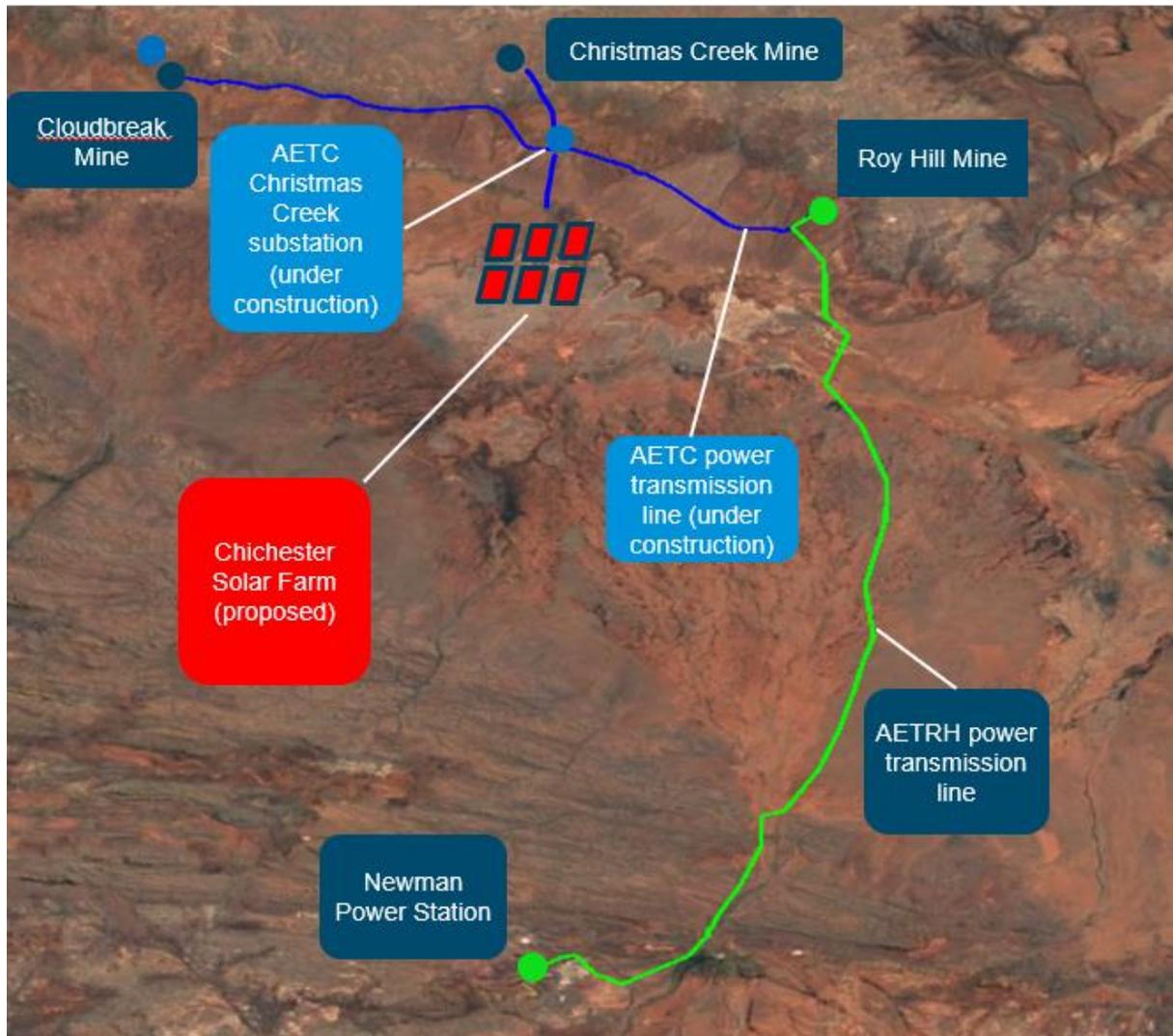


Figure 2: Licence operating area

