

Decision on electricity integrated regional licence application EIRL11

Alinta Energy (Chichester) Pty Ltd

29 August 2019

Economic Regulation Authority

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Decision

1. Pursuant to sections 9 and 19 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* (Electricity Act), the Economic Regulation Authority has granted electricity integrated regional licence EIRL11 to Alinta Energy (Chichester) Pty Ltd.
2. The licence is to generate and sell electricity to large use customers subject to, and in accordance with, the terms set out in the licence for a period of 30 years.
3. As required by section 23(1) of the Electricity Act, the ERA will publish a notice of the grant of licence in the Government Gazette as soon as practicable.

Reasons

4. On 11 April 2019, Alinta [applied](#) for an electricity integrated regional licence to construct and operate a 60MW solar farm located at Christmas Creek, approximately 100km north of Newman.
5. Alinta intends to sell electricity generated from the solar farm to large use customers in the Pilbara region. The solar farm will connect to the 220kV Roy Hill – Cloudbreak power transmission line, to be constructed by Alinta Energy Transmission (Chichester) Pty Ltd under [EIRL10](#).¹
6. Under section 19(1) of the Electricity 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.
7. The ERA engaged financial and technical consultants to examine the financial and technical capability of Alinta to undertake the activities to be authorised by the licence.
8. Following the financial assessment of Alinta's application, the financial consultant concluded that Alinta complies with the financial requirements of section 19(1) of the Electricity Act.
9. Following the technical assessment of Alinta's application, the technical consultant concluded that Alinta complies with the technical requirements of section 19(1) of the Electricity Act.
10. As required by section 9(1) of the Electricity Act, 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 Electricity Act, without limitation, specifies the matters the ERA must consider in this regard.
11. The ERA must also have regard to the matters set out in section 26 of the *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003* (ERA Act).

¹ EIRL10 was granted on 16 October 2018. The ERA's [decision](#) is available on the ERA website.

12. On 6 June 2019, the ERA published a notice seeking public comment on Alinta's licence application. No submissions were received.
13. The ERA has considered the public interest, including all of the matters set out in section 8(5) of the Electricity Act, as required by section 9(2). The ERA has also considered the outcomes of the public consultation process and the assessments of Alinta's financial and technical resources to undertake the activities to be authorised by the licence.
14. The ERA is satisfied that granting an electricity integrated regional licence to Alinta would not be contrary to the public interest.
15. In making its decision, the ERA has had regard to the matters set out in section 26 of the ERA Act.