

Decision on electricity generation licence application

Merredin Solar Farm Nominee Pty Ltd

19 December 2017

Economic Regulation Authority

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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. 28 to Merredin Solar Farm Nominee Pty Ltd (**MSFN**).
2. Subject to its terms and conditions, the licence authorises the Applicant to construct and operate the proposed Merredin 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 a licence in the Government Gazette as soon as practicable.

Reasons

4. On 12 October 2017, the MSFN [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 financial and technical capability of MSFN to undertake the activities to be authorised by an electricity generation licence.
7. Following the financial assessment of the application submitted by MSFN, the financial consultant concluded that the Applicant complies with the financial requirements under section 19(1) of the Act.
8. Following the technical assessment of the application submitted by MSFN, the technical consultant concluded that the Applicant complies with the technical requirements under section 19(1) of the Act.
9. 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.
10. On 18 October 2017, the ERA published a notice seeking public comment on MSFN's licence application. No submissions were received.

¹ The proposed Solar Farm is located approximately 5km south of Merredin on Robartson Road, near the Merredin Terminal substation. The boundaries of this area are defined in plan ERA-EL-148, which is part of the licence.

11. The ERA has considered the public interest, including all of the matters set out in section 8(5) of the Act, as required by section 9(2). Having regard to this, the outcomes of the public consultation process and the assessments of the MSFN'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 MSFN would not be contrary to the public interest.