Economic Regulation Authority

Decision on electricity generation licence and electricity transmission licence

Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd

27 October 2026

D318598

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1. Introduction

In accordance with section 26(1)(g) of the *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003* (ERA Act), this document presents the decision of the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) regarding the electricity generation licence and electricity transmission licence applications from Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd.

1.1 Decision

Pursuant to sections 9, 15 and 19 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* (Electricity Industry Act), the ERA grants electricity generation licence EGL39 and electricity transmission licence ETL10 to Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd for a period of 30 years, which is the maximum term allowable under section 15 of the Electricity Industry Act.

Subject to the licence terms and conditions, Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd is authorised to construct and operate electricity generating works and a transmission system in licence area plan ERA-EL-168.

As required by section 23(1) of the Electricity Industry Act, the ERA will publish a notice of the grant of the licence in the *Government Gazette* as soon as practicable.

2. Background

On 14 July 2026, Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd provided a complete application for an electricity generation licence and an electricity transmission licence to construct and operate electricity generating works and a transmission system.

The generating works will be located approximately 4 kilometres north east of the Kalgoorlie CBD and will consist of 10 dual fuel (gas or diesel) Wärtsilä 20V31DF generator units with a combined net export capacity of approximately 115.5 megawatts. The generating works will not export to the SWIS and all energy generated will supply the Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM) operations.

The transmission system will consist of approximately 15 kilometres of 132 kilovolt transmission lines running from the generating works through to a substation approximately 13km north east of the generating works.

Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd was established in 2025 as a special purpose vehicle to construct and operate the generating works and transmission system. Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd is part of the broader Zenith Energy group, which is ultimately owned by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co (KKR).

The generating works are expected to commence generating electricity in early 2028.

2.1 Licence

Section 7 of the Electricity Industry Act requires a person to hold an electricity generation licence to construct or operate electricity generating works and an electricity transmission licence to construct or operate an electricity transmission system.

2.2 Public consultation

On 31 July 2026, the ERA sought public comment on a summary of Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd's application. No submissions were received during the 15–business day public consultation period.

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2.3 Assessments

Under section 19(1) of the Electricity Industry Act, the ERA must grant a licence if it is satisfied that the licensee has and is likely to retain, or will acquire within a reasonable time, and is then likely to retain, the financial and technical resources to undertake the activities authorised, or to be authorised, by the licence.

The ERA engaged financial and technical consultants to examine the financial and technical capabilities of Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd to undertake the activities authorised by the licences.

Based on the information provided by Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd and the financial and technical assessments, the ERA considers that Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd meets the regulatory requirements to be granted an electricity generation licence and an electricity transmission licence.

2.3.1 Financial assessment

Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd is supported by the broader Zenith Group, which is ultimately owned by KKR, a global investment organisation with significant financial capability. The project is also supported by the Northern Star Resources group (NSR). It is considered that with the support of NSR and the wider corporate group, Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd will acquire within a reasonable time after the licence is granted, and is then likely to retain, the financial resources to undertake the activities to be authorised by the licence.

2.3.2 Technical assessment

Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd will engage related entities, as well as experienced contractors for the construction, operation and management of the generating works and transmission system. It is considered that with this support, Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd will acquire within a reasonable time after the grant, and is then likely to retain, the technical resources required to undertake the activities authorised, or to be authorised, by the licence.

2.4 Assessment of public interest

The ERA has considered the matters set out in section 8(5) of the Electricity Industry Act, the matters set out in section 26(1) of the ERA Act, information provided by Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd, the financial and technical assessments, and the outcome of the public consultation process. The relevant matters set out in the Electricity Industry Act and the ERA Act are detailed below in sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2.

Having regard to these matters, the ERA is satisfied that granting an electricity generation licence and an electricity transmission licence to Zenith Energy (EGP JV) Pty Ltd would not be contrary to the public interest.

In reaching this conclusion, the ERA noted the following:

- This project will provide approximately 115 megawatts of new electricity generation capacity and associated transmission system to support the ongoing operations of the KCGM Super pit and reduce reliance on the Parkeston power station.
- The project is also expected to support employment opportunities during both the construction phase and once fully operational.
- The proposed generating works will use high-efficiency dual-fuel generators and are expected to emit lower emissions than current energy sources of the Fimiston open pit.
- By reducing KCGM's reliance on Parkeston Power Station, the project may increase Parkeston's availability to support the SWIS.
- The ERA’s own consultation process generated no submissions

2.4.1 Electricity Industry Act 2004

Section 9 of the Electricity Industry 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 9(2) of the Electricity Industry Act provides that, without limiting the other matters that may be taken into account, the ERA must take into account the matters referred to in section 8(5) of the Electricity

Industry Act when determining whether granting a licence would be contrary to the public interest. Those matters are:

a. Environmental considerations.

b. Social welfare and equity considerations, including community service obligations.

c. Economic and regional development, including employment and investment growth.

d. The interests of customers generally or of a class of customers.

e. The interests of any licensee, or applicant for a licence, in respect of the area or areas to which the licence in respect of which the power exercised is exercised would apply.

f. The importance of competition in electricity industry markets.

g. The policy objectives of government in relation to the supply of electricity.

2.4.2 *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003*

When making its decision, the ERA must also have regard to the matters set out in section 26(1) of the ERA Act:[1]

a. The need to promote regulatory outcomes that are in the public interest.

b. The long-term interests of consumers in relation to the price, quality and reliability of goods and services provided in relevant markets.

c. The need to encourage investment in relevant markets.

d. The legitimate business interests of investors and service providers in relevant markets

e. The need to promote competitive and fair market conduct.

f. The need to prevent abuse or monopoly or market power.

g. The need to promote transparent decision-making processes that involve public consultation.

[1] The ERA has discretion to decide the weight it gives to each of the matters listed in section 26 of the ERA Act in making its decision.

3. Related matters

The generating works and transmission system subject of this application are part of Zenith's Eastern Goldfields Power Project, involving the construction and operation of renewable energy generating works comprising of solar, wind and a battery energy storage system. The renewable side of this broader project is being undertaken by a related entity, Zenith Energy (RPPA) Pty Ltd (Zenith RPPA).

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Zenith RPPA provided the ERA with an electricity licence application and on 10 August 2026, we published a notice and summary of that application inviting submissions from interested parties. No submissions were received during the 15–business day consultation period. This application process is currently at the technical and financial assessment stage and is expected to be presented to the Governing Body for decision within the next month.

Zenith's related entities hold 6 licences with the ERA under the Electricity Act –

- Ocean Reef Renewable Energy Pty Ltd holds EDL9 and ERL32;
- Peel Renewable Energy Pty Ltd holds EDL7 and ERL28; and
- Eglinton Village Energy Pty Ltd holds EDL10 and ERL33.

Both the Peel Renewable and Eglinton Village's licences performance audits found a good level of licence compliance; Ocean Reef Renewable has not had its first audit as it only commenced supplying customers in 2025/26.