

# Application for an Electricity Generation Authority

Clarke Creek Energy Pty Ltd  
Information Paper  
June 2024



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## 1. Background

Clarke Creek Energy Pty Ltd (ABN 34 614 169 096) (the applicant) has applied to the Regulator for a generation authority under section 179 of the *Electricity Act 1994* (the Act). Under the Act, the Regulator is the Director-General of the Department of Energy and Climate (the department), being the chief executive of the department that administers the Act.

The application is for a proposed wind farm – the Clarke Creek Wind Farm, located approximately 150 kilometres northwest of Rockhampton within the Isaac Regional Council local government area of Queensland.

The generation authority, if issued, will authorise the operation of the wind farm and its connection to Powerlink’s transmission network via Powerlink’s existing Broadsound substation.

The wind farm will have a total nameplate rating of 450 megawatts (MW) and a maximum capacity of 440 MW at the connection point.

The applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wind Acquisition 4 Pty Ltd and is part of the Squadron Energy group of companies. The applicant will be the owner and operator of the wind farm.

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals (including this generation authority), the applicant anticipates the wind farm will be complete and operational in the third quarter of 2025.

## 2. Consideration of an Application

Section 180 of the Act provides that the Regulator may issue a generation authority only if satisfied:

- (a) the applicant will operate the generating plant stated in the application;
- (b) the generating plant will be able to provide electricity of a quality suitable for the transmission grid or supply network stated in the application;
- (c) the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity;
- (d) the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner; and
- (e) the applicant meets the additional criteria prescribed under a regulation.  
(Note that no additional criteria are prescribed by regulation.)

In deciding whether the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity, or the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner, the Act states the Regulator may consider:

- (a) the person's previous commercial and other dealings and the standard of honesty and integrity shown in the dealings;
- (b) any failure by the person to perform commercial or statutory obligations and the reasons for the failure;
- (c) the person's criminal history;
- (d) if the person is a corporation – the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) for persons who are shareholders, directors or holders of other interests in the corporation;
- (e) for the applicant – the applicant's competence to be the operator; and
- (f) additional matters prescribed by regulation.  
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation.)

Further, the Act provides that, in deciding whether to issue the generation authority, the Regulator must consider:

- (a) the objects of the Act;
- (b) relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues and the likely environmental effects of building and operating the generating plant; and
- (c) additional matters prescribed under a regulation.  
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation).

Section 179A of the Act also stipulates that, before issuing a generation authority, the Regulator must invite interested persons to make submissions about the application for the authority and the Regulator must consider the submissions made.

### **3. The Applicant**

The information set out in sections 3 to 5 of this Information Paper was provided by the applicant as part of its formal application to the Regulator for a generation authority.

The applicant belongs to the Squadron Energy Group which is part of the group of companies headed up by Tattarang Pty Ltd as trustee for the Peepingee Trust.

The applicant is a special purpose vehicle which has been established to manage the multi-stage Clarke Creek wind farm project.

Squadron Energy is an Australian owned renewable energy company that develops, operates and owns renewable energy assets in Australia. Squadron Energy has around 1.1 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in operation and 900 MW under construction. The company has experience across the project lifecycle, working with local communities and customers.

## 4. The proposed generating plant

The proposed generating plant will be known as the Clarke Creek Wind Farm.

The wind farm will be located 150 km northwest of Rockhampton, halfway between Rockhampton and Mackay. The turbines and associated infrastructure are being constructed to the north and south of Marlborough Sarina Road, between the Marlborough Road – Apis Creek Road intersection and the township of Clarke Creek.

The wind farm will have a total nameplate rating of 450 MW consisting of 100 Goldwind turbines, each with a capacity of 4.5 MW. The maximum export capacity at the point of connection will be 440 MW.

The applicant has a Generator Connection and Access Agreement in place with Powerlink Queensland to connect the wind farm to the transmission grid via two 275 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines coming into Powerlink's existing Broadsound substation.

The applicant is in the process of seeking generator registration with the Australia Energy Market Operator.

## 5. Approvals for construction of the generating plant

A generation authority issued under the Act authorises its holder to operate the Clarke Creek Wind Farm and connect it to the transmission grid or supply network.

It should be noted that a generation authority does not authorise or approve the construction of the generating plant. That is not a matter within the jurisdiction of the Act or the Regulator. Section 26(2) of the Act states:

*'a generation authority does not relieve its holder or anyone else from complying with laws applying to the development, building, operation or maintenance of generating plant'.*

The applicant has the responsibility to obtain all necessary approvals for construction and ongoing operation of the wind farm, including relevant environmental, cultural heritage and local government approvals.

The applicant applied to the Livingston Shire Council for a Development Approval under the *Planning Act 2016*. The application was approved in full with conditions, and most recently amended on 24 March 2022 by a change application made to the State Assessment Referral Agency.

The former Department of Environment and Energy (Commonwealth) assessed the construction and operation of the wind farm in accordance with the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Commonwealth approved the application with the inclusion of conditions on 9 November 2018 (reference EBPC 2018/8184).

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement is in place between the applicant and the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala People under native title claimant application (QUD13/2019; QC2013/004). This agreement ensures that the applicant will take all reasonable and practicable measures to avoid harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage as a result of the project.

## 6. Submissions

Submissions are invited from interested persons in relation to the application for a generation authority from Clarke Creek Energy Pty Ltd.

In particular, the Regulator is interested in matters that may impact on the suitability of the applicant to be a generation entity, as well as the other issues the Regulator must consider under the Act.

Please note that private personal and commercial-in-confidence information contained within a submission may be provided to a third party for the purpose of consideration of the application. In the case where the Regulator provides an opportunity for an applicant to respond to matters raised in a submission, the private personal information and commercial-in-confidence information of the person making the submission will not be provided to the applicant. The State of Queensland through the Department of Energy and Climate has taken steps to ensure the appropriate treatment of such information by departmental staff and contractors. By submitting a submission, you agree that your submission will be used by the Department and its contractors in reviewing and processing the applications.

All private personal and commercial-in-confidence information will be stored at the office of the Department, and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation.

The Department's privacy statement can be found at:  
<https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/about/information-privacy>.

If you have any questions or queries you can email the Department's privacy unit at [RTI-Privacy@epw.qld.gov.au](mailto:RTI-Privacy@epw.qld.gov.au).

Submissions must be made in writing, and sent by email or mail to:

Mail

Attention: The Manager  
Regulation  
Department of Energy and Climate  
PO Box 15456  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
Phone: 13 43 87

Email

[energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au](mailto:energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au)

**Closing date for submissions is 5pm on 15 July 2024.**