

Western Plains Wind Farm



Development withdrawn

With a growing national portfolio of renewable energy projects, Ark Energy is focusing on its larger utility-scale wind energy projects. As a result the company has made the difficult decision to cease development of the Western Plains Wind Farm. With a proposed output capacity of 50.4 megawatts (MW), the project was the smallest in Ark Energy's portfolio. It has now been withdrawn from the planning process.

Progress in the renewable energy industry and the need for more renewable energy capacity to be delivered sooner has accelerated. The size, wind turbine capacity and total output capacity of projects has been increasing rapidly.

While the tip of the Stanley peninsula is an exceptionally windy location and the world leading wind resource makes it an excellent site for a wind farm, the scale of the project no longer fits with the priorities of Ark Energy's portfolio.

Thank you

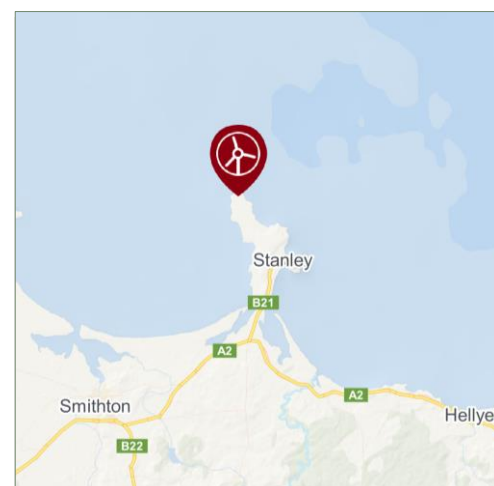
The project team has many people to thank for their input and contribution to this project over the past six years.

Our thanks go to all those in Stanley and the wider north-west Tasmania community who have engaged with us and also to Circular Head Council and other important stakeholders for their consideration.

We especially thank the many private landowners who were involved, in particular the owners of the site for the opportunity to progress the project and for their unwavering support. We also wish to acknowledge their respectful stewardship of large areas of the Stanley peninsula.

Ark Energy's team also appreciates the input and engagement of the various advisers and consultants who have been involved in this project.

Ark Energy believes the only way forward for Australia is to transition swiftly to renewable energy. The company remains committed to its other utility-scale wind farm projects in Tasmania and around the country.



The Western Plains Wind Farm site is located at the tip of the Stanley peninsula in north-west Tasmania, approximately 4.5km from the town of Stanley.

Note to Western Plains Wind Farm newsletter subscribers

This is the final newsletter for the Western Plains Wind Farm project.

If you would like to continue to receive updates on Ark Energy's other projects in Tasmania or in other parts of Australia please let us know.

To receive printed newsletters please send a message to the Ark Energy team via the contact details overleaf, and request to be added to the mailing lists for the projects you are interested in. To receive email news please register online at: arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details

Tasmania's changing energy market

Blessed with high rainfall and strong winds, Tasmania has a distinct competitive advantage in the growing renewable energy economy and is uniquely placed to take advantage of this opportunity.

Tasmania currently has the capacity to generate 100% of its electricity needs from renewable sources and the Tasmanian Government has set world-leading targets of 150% of renewable energy generation by 2030 and 200% by 2040. Meeting these targets will require harnessing Tasmania's considerable renewable energy potential as quickly as possible.

Tasmanian Government agency Renewables, Climate Change and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) was established to advise on the State's strategic direction on renewable energy growth and emissions reduction, and to help shape Tasmania's future while maintaining a secure, sustainable, and affordable energy system.

To grow the State's renewable energy sector sustainably over the next 20 years, the Tasmanian Government also set out its vision in the *Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan*, published in December 2020. This was followed by the *Renewable Energy Coordination Framework* published in May 2022. These can both be accessed from the ReCFIT website at recfit.tas.gov.au/renewables.

The Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan (ISP) identified areas that are optimal for renewable energy development – referred to as Renewable Energy Zones (REZ). There are currently three proposed on-island REZ in Tasmania; North East, North West and Central Highlands – and two proposed offshore REZ; North West Tasmanian Coast and North East Tasmania Coast.

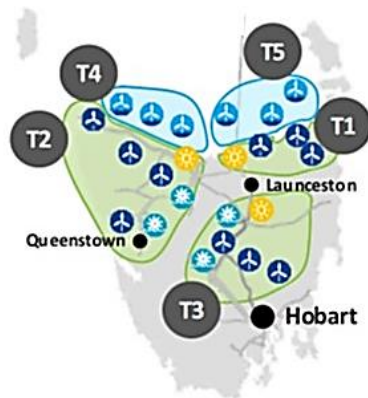
The North East REZ includes the existing Basslink interconnector, Musselroe wind farm, and several announced wind and solar projects. It is also in proximity to the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone, earmarked for potential large scale hydrogen production.

The North West REZ which is being progressed by the Tasmanian Government as the first State designated REZ, includes the landing point for Tasmania's second interconnector – Project Marinus and Hydro Tasmania's preferred pumped hydro site along with several existing and announced wind farms and a proposed solar farm.

The Central Highlands REZ has strong network infrastructure and one of the highest capacity factors for new wind in the NEM in proximity to the existing transmission network.

Tasmania's proposed Renewable Energy Zones

- T1 – North East Tasmania
- T2 – North West Tasmania
- T3 – Central Highlands
- T4 – North West Tasmania Coast
- T5 – North East Tasmania Coast



Source: https://recfit.tas.gov.au/renewables/renewable_energy_zones

“ Tasmania is the renewable energy powerhouse of Australia. Our renewable energy resources and expertise in developing renewable energy is a 21st century competitive advantage. Tasmania is blessed with natural assets, we have world leading water and wind resources. By seizing Tasmania's immense potential, renewable energy can grow our economy, attract investment, create jobs and support Australia's transition to renewable supply.”

- Former Minister for Energy and Renewables, Guy Barnett, Minister's foreword, Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan.

“ In November 2020, Tasmania reached the world-leading status of being 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable electricity generation. We reached this milestone thanks to our nation-leading energy policies, which are attracting new energy projects to the State. Importantly, these policies mean not only more jobs in regional areas and a cleaner world, but also downward pressure on electricity prices for Tasmanians. Our State has among the lowest power prices in the nation and we want to keep it that way.”

- Ministerial message, Renewable Energy Coordination Framework.



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