

MEDIA RELEASE

1 May 2018

The Asian Renewable Energy Hub is set to expand with 3 GW of extra generation capacity and a parallel focus on domestic markets

Perth, Western Australia. The Asian Renewable Energy Hub (AREH) project is set to expand to include an additional 3 GW of capacity, which is targeted to supply large energy users in the Pilbara.

The consortium is working with the Pilbara Development Commission to ensure the AREH project delivers maximum economic benefit to the Pilbara. This complements and expands the vision for the export of renewable energy from the Pilbara to South East Asia via subsea electrical cables.

Under the new plan, the project's generation capacity will expand from 6 GW to 9 GW, with the additional 3 GW being reserved for large energy users in the Pilbara. This will allow mine expansions, the addition of upscale value-added processing, and potentially also the production of hydrogen for domestic and export markets. The 9 GW of generation will comprise 6 GW of wind generation and 3 GW of solar PV generation, which will produce approximately 33 TWh of energy each year.

Pilbara Development Commission Chairperson Brendan Hammond welcomed the news that a domestic energy component had been added to the scope of the AREH project plan.

"The Energy Hub project capitalises on the Pilbara's natural wind and solar assets and is directly aligned with the region's vision for diversified and sustainable economic development," Mr Hammond said.

"It is an exciting opportunity to boost the business competitiveness of the Pilbara by significantly lowering the cost of energy.

"Such an outcome will result in the extension of existing mineral and oil/gas reserves, bring new extractive opportunities into play, and allow a diversified downstream economy that is ultimately independent of natural resource exploitation to be built both regionally and state-wide. In addition to these commercial and economic benefits the positive environmental impact is expected to be very considerable and of national significance."

AREH Project Director Alex Tancock said "with recent increases in wind turbine size and capacity, we have been able to add another 2 GW of wind turbines and 1 GW of solar arrays to the existing project site".

“The large scale of our project, together with excellent and complementary wind and solar resources, will allow us to generate clean electricity very cost competitively, day and night. This will provide more options for domestic energy use as well as for export, both as electricity and potentially also as hydrogen.”

The AREH project continues to gather momentum, with the completion of onshore site ecology surveys, the completion of the nearshore seabed surveys for the subsea cable, the lodgement of environmental referrals to the WA and Commonwealth Governments and the opening of a consortium office in Jakarta.

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the project is expected to be submitted to the Western Australian Government in mid-2018. Financial Close for the project is anticipated in 2020/21, and the construction is anticipated to commence in 2023.

The project is being developed by a consortium which includes Intercontinental Energy (which is developing several such intercontinental projects worldwide), Vestas (the largest wind turbine company in the world) and CWP Energy Asia (a successful renewable energy project developer).

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For more information about the Asian Renewable Energy Hub project:

www.asianrehub.com

Andrew Dickson, CWP Renewables: 0418 866 470

andrew.dickson@cwprenewables.com.au

For more information about the Pilbara Development Commission:

<http://www.pdc.wa.gov.au>

Rebecca Parker, Pilbara Development Commission: 0427 623 277

rebecca.parker@pdc.wa.gov.au