

## **RENEWABLES PROJECTS UPDATE REPORT - 1 JUNE 2021**

### **ELECTRANET PROJECT ENERGY CONNECT – INTERCONNECTOR**

Electranet have announced on 31 May 2021 that the Australian Energy Regulator has approved the expenditure of \$2.28 billion to deliver the project from Robertstown to Wagga Wagga in NSW. This includes \$457 million for Electranet to construct the South Australian section of the project. Transgrid has made an investment decision to proceed with the NSW section of the project & the Electranet Board will consider its final investment decision in the first week of June.

I have been in contact with the management of the two contractors that are tendering for the position of Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) of the Interconnector project. These companies are Downer Utilities and UGL and they are very keen to use local accommodation, businesses & labour as part of their tender.

I have prepared & provided a proposal for costing of a local accommodation for approximately 130 workers being housed for 12 months in furnished residential housing as well as the standard tourist type accommodation including motels, hotels, caravan parks, cottages & bed & breakfast facilities.

I understand that the tenders have to be lodged by July & then an appointment of the contractor will be made soon after.

The project is planned to commence at the end of the year or early 2022.

Given that the South Australian section of the project is located in Robertstown to the border east of Renmark, the contractors have also asked whether the accommodation model developed for the Goyder region can be simulated in the region from Morgan to Paringa. I am in the process of making preliminary enquiries through Regional Development Australia – Murraylands & Riverland, to engage the four local councils to assist with this accommodation exercise. These are the Mid-Murray Council, District Council of Loxton & Waikerie, Berri & Barmera Council & Renmark & Paringa Council.

### **2 NEOEN – GOYDER RENEWABLES ZONE**

I met with local Community Coordinator, Hannah Willson in early May & had a productive discussion regarding the use of local accommodation, businesses & labour for up to 300 workers on the project.

CEO David Stevenson & Cr. Bill Gebhardt from the Regional Council of Goyder met with Neoen senior management on 31 May 2021 to discuss ongoing progress of the project. Neoen are in the process of appointing an EPC contractor, as well as the continuation of soil testing. Construction is and light civil construction work has a planned commencement at the end of 2021.

### **3 EPS ENERGY – ROBERTSTOWN SOLAR**

EPS Energy announced on 4 May 2021 the selection of Amp Energy as the successful development partner to progress the EPS Solar & Storage facility at Robertstown.

EPS Energy will now be progressing the project through to the pre-construction phase with the initial works including geotechnical investigations, further biodiversity assessment & the completion of heritage studies. Amp Energy stated that it expects the project to commence “stage energisation” in late 2022, which suggests construction will have commence late 2021 or this year or early 2022.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

I will obtain further updates from the management of May Bros - Solar River Project, Green Gold Energy - Australia Plains Project and the RES - Twin Creek project for my next full report in August 2021.

The Robertstown Power Sub Station project is now winding down & is expected to be completed by June/July 2021.

As the commencement dates of the various projects comes closer, further community advertisements will be circulated to refresh & enlarge the accommodation register that I am maintaining & also to register interest from local residents of the Goyder region as workers on the projects.

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