



MEDIA RELEASE

Perth WA: Monday, 30 September 2024

Pacific Energy and Horizon Power to transition Exmouth to an 80% renewable energy future

Pacific Energy has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Horizon Power to deliver cleaner, more reliable energy to the town of Exmouth in Western Australia's Gascoyne region.

The agreement, which was jointly announced in Exmouth by Western Australia's Premier, Roger Cook, and Minister for Energy, Reece Whitby, is the first step in the Exmouth Power Project, which is set to power the town with up to 80% renewable energy annually.

Exmouth's new hybrid system will comprise a 9.6MW solar farm, 49.6MWh of battery energy storage (BESS) and a 7MW gas power station. It will be Pacific Energy's first off-grid power project to supply such a significant portion of a remote town's annual power requirements using solar energy and battery energy storage.

Pacific Energy Chief Operating Officer, Mike Hall, joined the Premier and Minister at the announcement, saying Pacific Energy had worked hard to ensure it could deliver a clean and reliable solution for the people of Exmouth.

"This outcome really has been driven by the Exmouth community's desire for a clean energy solution that will help them protect their UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Horizon Power's commitment to delivering cleaner energy solutions to WA's regional areas," Mr Hall said.

"It was incumbent on us to demonstrate exactly what an 80%-renewable solution would look like, and how we could integrate various technologies into the existing infrastructure to give the town the reliable, decarbonised power system it needs," he said.

"There was a strong community desire to see gas transport movements through town reduced, which we'll achieve by offsetting gas reliance with solar generation and energy shifting storage."

Pacific Energy's solution includes an energy shifting BESS that will power the town with renewable energy even when the sun goes down.

Exmouth is located in a cyclonic wind region, which means wind power was not an option for this project. Instead, Pacific Energy has incorporated a sophisticated industrial battery that has been carefully designed to get the most out of the solar energy penetration. The BESS also meets Horizon Power's fault current contribution requirements, which means the system will be able to operate hydrocarbons-off (or gas-free) for prolonged periods.

Together, the solar and BESS are expected to offset nearly 14,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually over the life of the 20-year power purchase agreement.

"This is another important project for Australia's energy transition, because it demonstrates what can be achieved when we set ambitious targets that align with community expectations," Mr Hall said.

"We're really proud to build on the work we've already delivered for Horizon Power and the people of WA to transition them to a clean energy future without affecting the safe, reliable and essential delivery of power."

Pacific Energy took ownership of Exmouth's existing gas fired power station in mid-September. Work is due to start on the renewables integration in early 2025, with the new system expected to be fully operational by the end of 2026.

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About Pacific Energy

Pacific Energy is an Australian market leader in the provision of sustainable distributed energy, operating for over four decades, with owned-and-operated assets at 49 sites nationally and more than 930MW of contracted capacity under management.

A trusted partner at the forefront of the clean energy transition, Pacific Energy is uniquely positioned to offer clients a complete in-house experience that delivers renewable and traditional power generation solutions from design, manufacturing and construction through to commissioning and operations and maintenance.

With unrivalled capability across all energy technologies, Pacific Energy has demonstrated experience integrating solar, wind, green hydrogen and battery energy storage into new and existing remote power systems, with an end goal to maximise efficiencies and minimise emissions.

Pacific Energy is headquartered in Perth, Western Australia and has operations in Kalgoorlie, Victoria, Queensland, the ACT, South Australia and the Northern Territory. It is owned by QIC, a globally diversified investment manager with more than A\$100 billion in funds under management.

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