

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Application for an Electricity Generation Authority

Aldoga Solar Farm Pty Ltd

Information Paper

January 2025

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Translating and interpreting assistance

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1. Background

Aldoga Solar Farm Pty Ltd, (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 Under Treasurer being the chief executive of the department that administers the Act.

The application is for a proposed solar farm – the Aldoga Solar Farm (ADSF) – located approximately 20 km northwest of Gladstone within the Gladstone Regional Council local government area.

The generation authority, if issued, will authorise the operation of the generating plant and its connection to the transmission network via an internal substation, and one switching station as a point of connection to Larcom Creek Switching Station, operated by Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink).

The generating plant will have a maximum capacity of 387 megawatts at the connection point.

The owners of ADSF will be Aldoga Solar Farm Pty Ltd, while Acciona Energy Australia Global Pty Ltd (AEAG) will operate the plant. Both entities are subsidiaries of the Acciona Group. Acciona Energy Oceania Construction Pty Ltd has been appointed as the entity to provide the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) services.

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals (including this generation authority), the applicants anticipate the ADSF will be complete and operational towards the end 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 applicants as part of the formal application to the Regulator for a generation authority.

Aldoga Solar Farm Pty Ltd is a special purpose vehicle wholly owned by ACCIONA Energia Global S.L. as part of the ACCIONA Group, with the parent company being Corporacion Acciona Energias Renovables S.A.

AEAG will be the operator of the Aldoga Solar Farm for the asset's lifespan of 30 years. AEAG is a subsidiary of Acciona Energy Global S.A. as part of the ACCIONA Group with the ultimate parent company being Acciona S.A. Acciona's share in the ADSF is 100%.

Acciona has developed the Lilyvale Solar Farm in Queensland, in collaboration with GRS (Gransolar) for FRV (Fotowatio Renewable Ventures), as well as the Royalla Solar Farm in the ACT which was built by ACCIONA Energia, operating as a contractor for FRV. In addition to the ADSF, ACCIONA Energia is currently developing the Kerang Solar Farm in Victoria.

AEAG and its subsidiaries have built and operate five wind farms in Australia, one of which is a joint venture. The wind farms include Waubra, Mount Gellibrand and Mortlake South in Victoria, Gunning in New South Wales, and Cathedral Rocks in South Australia, collectively producing over 500 MW of renewable energy. The 923.4 MW MacIntyre Wind Farm project in Queensland is progressing with the initial 27 wind turbines connected to the grid, generating the project's first renewable energy. The wind farm will progressively reach full capacity throughout 2025.

The ACCIONA Group operates actively worldwide, and owns and operates a mixed portfolio of renewable energy assets including wind, solar photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal, hydro and biomass, in more than 16 countries with further projects under construction.

Acciona's business model is to be a long-term owner and operator of renewable energy assets in Australia and aims to continue to develop, invest in and operate a growing portfolio of generating assets in the national electricity market.

Aldoga Solar Farm Pty Ltd has entered into an engineering, procurement and construction contract for the Aldoga Solar Farm with Acciona Energy Oceania Construction Pty Ltd (AEOC), a related entity of ADSF who, as the construction manager, will be responsible for the construction and commissioning of the ADSF.

4. The proposed generating plant

The proposed generating plant will be known as the Aldoga Solar Farm (ADSF).

The ADSF will be located on multiple lots approximately 20 km northwest of Gladstone.

The ADSF will have a maximum export capacity of 387 MW at the connection point.

The applicant is currently working with Powerlink to execute a Generator Connection and Access Agreement to connect the solar farm to the transmission grid via the Larcom Creek Switching Station.

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

5. Approvals for construction of the generating plant

A generation authority issued under the Act authorises its holder to operate the ADSF 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 and, indeed, 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 proponent of the project has the responsibility to obtain all approvals necessary for construction and ongoing operation of the ADSF, including relevant environmental, cultural heritage and local government approvals.

All relevant development approvals have been obtained for ADSF.

AEAG made an application through the Department of State Development and Infrastructure (Qld) for a development application in relation to the ADSF. The application for a material change of use for a renewable energy facility (solar farm) and substation was approved by the Co-ordinator General of the Department of State Development and Infrastructure on 19 July 2021.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth) assessed the construction and operation of the ADSF and approved the application in accordance with the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* with the inclusion of conditions on 29 September 2022.

AEAG has entered into a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with First Nations Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, and Taribelang Bunda People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ICN 8650. The plan was approved by the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (Qld) on 22 April 2024.

6. Submissions

Submissions are invited from interested persons in relation to the application for a generation authority from the Aldoga Solar Farm.

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 Queensland Treasury 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 Treasury and its contractors in reviewing and processing the applications.

All private personal and commercial-in-confidence information will be stored by Treasury, and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Treasury's privacy statement can be found at: www.treasury.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy/.

If you have any questions or queries you can email Treasury's privacy unit at

rtiadmin@treasury.qld.gov.au.

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

Mail

Attention: The Manager
Regulation
Energy Division
Queensland Treasury
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Phone: 13 43 87

Email

energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au

Closing date for submissions is 5.00pm on 12 February 2025.