

Media Release

YEC projects prioritised for regulatory approval on National Renewable Energy Priority List.

11th March 2025

Two of Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation's (YEC) renewable energy projects have been selected for the inaugural National Renewable Energy Priority List (NREPL), unlocking access to enhanced regulatory support and streamlined processes.

The first is the Chichester Range Corridor, a high-voltage transmission infrastructure linking Yindjibarndi Ngurra (Country) and the western Pilbara region to the NWIS via the Maitland Strategic Industrial Area near Karratha and the Dampier Port.

The second Project, Baru-Marnda, is in the northwest of Yindjibarndi Ngurra and comprises up to ~1GW wind plus solar and an option to include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Participation in the NREPL initiative, developed by the Federal government in collaboration with state and territory government, will support YEC's plan for a First Nations-led, greener future in the Pilbara region.

The decision to recognise YEC's projects was made by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

"We are very pleased to have our projects recognised at a national level," said Craig Ricato, CEO of YEC. "This acknowledgment underscores our commitment to sustainable energy development and the positive impact it has on our communities."

Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation CEO Michael Woodley said: "This decision no doubt reinforces the advantage gained by partnering in a respectful way with Traditional Owners. As a community grounded in our Ngurra and culture, we have enabled YEC to progress its projects at a rate much faster than similar projects elsewhere in Australia."

Projects on the National Renewable Energy Priority List will receive enhanced regulatory support under the EPBC Act, such as priority validation, a dedicated case manager, immediate document review, and expert prioritisation.

YEC recognises the opportunities this acknowledgment brings and remains committed to delivering high-quality, indigenous-led renewable energy projects that benefit both the environment and the community.

Ends.

Background

YEC proposes to develop the Chichester Range Corridor, a high-voltage, common-user transmission infrastructure proximate to the Chichester Range in the Pilbara. This project will link Yindjibarndi Ngurra and the western Pilbara region to the North West Interconnected System (NWIS) through the Maitland Strategic Industrial Area, a significant industrial development zone situated approximately 24 km west of Karratha and 39 km south of Dampier Port in Western Australia.

YEC is currently developing Projects Baru & Marnda in the northwest of Yindjibarndi Ngurra. This project comprises up to ~1GW wind plus solar and an option to include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). In the longer term, YEC aim to develop 2-3GW of combined wind and solar energy within Yindjibarndi Ngurra to facilitate the decarbonisation of the Pilbara and support new green industry initiatives.

Formed in 2023, YEC is one of Australia's largest Indigenous-led renewable energy initiatives, aiming to develop up to 3GW of wind, solar, and energy storage projects within the 13,000 km² in the Yindjibarndi Native Title Determination Areas.

Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC) is a partnership between Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) and ACEN Corporation. YEC's projects represent a significant step towards decarbonising the Pilbara, showcasing our commitment to innovative energy solutions and the empowerment of Indigenous communities.

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