



## Media Release

### Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation's Project Baru Marnda Awarded Strategic Project Status.

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Perth, Western Australia**

Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC) is pleased to announce that Project Baru Marnda has been awarded Strategic Project Status under the Western Australian Government's Lead Agency Framework, facilitated by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED).

This designation was formally conferred by the Premier of Western Australia and Minister for State and Industry Development, the Hon Roger Cook MLA, acknowledging Baru Marnda as a project of strategic importance to Western Australia's energy transition and economic diversification goals.

The Lead Agency Framework prioritises projects that deliver significant economic, regional, and social benefits, support government priorities including renewable energy and decarbonisation and require coordination across multiple agencies. Strategic Project Status ensures these projects receive enhanced facilitation and streamlined regulatory processes, enabling timely development and delivery.

Project Baru Marnda, located in the northwest of Yindjibarndi Ngurra (Country), is a large scale renewable energy development comprising up to 1GW of wind and solar generation, with the option to include Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). This project will play a critical role in decarbonising Pilbara mining and industrial operations while creating new opportunities for regional development.

*"This recognition underscores the significance of Baru Marnda to Western Australia's clean energy future and the Pilbara's transition to low-carbon industry," said Craig Ricato, CEO of YEC. "As one of Australia's largest Indigenous-led renewable energy initiatives, YEC is proud to lead projects that deliver real benefits for Traditional Owners and the State."*

This latest recognition reinforces YEC's position as a key driver of Western Australia's clean energy transition. The Strategic Project Status for Project Baru Marnda adds to a series of significant government designations previously awarded to YEC projects, highlighting its critical role in delivering large-scale renewable energy and decarbonisation initiatives for the Pilbara and the State, including:

- Priority Status for the Chichester Range Transmission Corridor as one of four strategic transmission corridors in the Pilbara
- Inclusion on the National Renewable Energy Priority List (NREPL) for both Project Baru Marnda and the Chichester Range Transmission Corridor, unlocking enhanced regulatory support at a federal level
- Lead Agency Project Advice and Support for Project Jinbi

Together, these recognitions demonstrate YEC's leadership in advancing a First Nations-led, greener future for Western Australia.

Ends.

#### Background

YEC's current development portfolio includes the Jinbi, Baru Marnda, Chichester Range Transmission Corridor (CRTC), and Eastern Development Zone (EDZ) projects.



Project Jinbi is a 75MWac solar array, with the ability to expand to 150MWac and an option to include Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Jinbi is in the development stage, receiving environmental approval in early 2024 and recently received development application approval from the Shire of Ashburton. Construction for Jinbi is expected to commence in early 2026 and be operational in 2028, subject to satisfaction of all necessary conditions and approvals.

YEC is currently developing Project Baru Marnda in the northwest of Yindjibarndi Ngurra. This project comprises up to ~1GW wind plus solar and an option to include a BESS.

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.

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 km<sup>2</sup> in the Yindjibarndi Native Title Determination Areas.

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.

## **Contacts**

Please direct all enquiries to:

Erin Keenan

0451 114 190

Sustainability, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager

[erin.keenan@yec.au](mailto:erin.keenan@yec.au)

[yindjibarndienergy.com.au](http://yindjibarndienergy.com.au)