



Media Release

Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation and BHP to explore Pilbara-wide power solutions

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Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BHP to explore potential large-scale power solutions that could support BHP's operational energy needs across its extensive Pilbara footprint.

Under the agreement, the parties will collaborate to assess a range of potential power supply and infrastructure options, including scalable renewable power solutions aligned with BHP's future energy requirements across its Western Australia Iron Ore (WAIO) operations.

The collaboration supports commercially viable decarbonisation of Pilbara heavy industry, consistent with the State's vision for energy security and transforming Western Australia into a clean energy powerhouse.

The areas of collaboration include exploring power generation, transmission and infrastructure solutions to enable scalable electricity supply to support decarbonisation of BHP's WAIO mining, rail and Port Hedland operations.

The partnership will explore power generation, transmission and infrastructure solutions to deliver scalable electricity and support the decarbonisation of BHP's WAIO mining, rail and Port Hedland operations.

YEC Chief Executive Officer Craig Ricato said the collaboration recognises YEC's growing role as a renewable energy developer and independent power producer capable of supporting large, complex industrial energy systems in the Pilbara.

"This agreement reflects YEC's focus on working constructively with major industrial customers to drive energy solutions that are technically robust, commercially grounded and capable of supporting long-term energy security in the Pilbara," Mr Ricato said.

"As an Indigenous-led energy developer, our role is to bring together Country, capability and capital to support long-term regional decarbonisation and electrification. We will continue to work collaboratively with Traditional Owner groups across the Pilbara to help ensure these opportunities deliver shared, enduring economic and social benefits for Indigenous communities.

BHP Vice President Western Australia Nickel & Operational Decarbonisation Daniel Heal said the agreement is an important step in exploring practical, large-scale energy solutions.

"Partnerships like this are key to unlocking the next phase of decarbonisation in the Pilbara," Mr Heal said.

"Working with YEC allows us to explore practical, on-the-ground solutions that bring together energy capability, local knowledge and a shared commitment to long-term outcomes for the region."



The agreement does not commit either party to a final investment decision or the development of specific infrastructure. All outcomes will be subject to commercial considerations, regulatory approvals and further technical assessment.

Background

Formed in 2023, Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC) is one of Australia's largest Indigenous led renewable energy initiatives. YEC is a partnership between Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) and ACEN Corporation, a leading renewable energy company in the Asia Pacific region.

YEC aims to develop a portfolio of up to 3 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity within approximately 13,000 square kilometres of Yindjibarndi Ngurra, supporting decarbonisation, electrification and new industries in the Pilbara and delivering enduring economic and social benefits for Yindjibarndi people.

YEC's development strategy is structured around two key renewable energy hubs: the Chichester Range Renewable Energy Hub and the Eastern Development Zone Renewable Energy Hub. Together, these hubs form the backbone of YEC's more than 1.5 gigawatts of wind, solar, BESS and related infrastructure projects currently in development in Western Australia.

Chichester Range Renewable Energy Hub

The Chichester Range Renewable Energy Hub comprises Project Jinbi, Project Baru Marnda, and the Chichester Range Transmission Corridor (CRTC). This hub is strategically located to support the decarbonisation of existing and emerging industrial demand in the western Pilbara.

Project Jinbi (Stage 1) is a 75 MWac solar project, with expansion potential to 150 MWac and optional BESS integration. The project reached Financial Close in May 2026, confirming that all key funding, approvals and contractual arrangements are in place. A long-term Power Purchase Agreement has been executed with Rio Tinto for 100 per cent of Stage 1 generation. Following Financial Close, construction has commenced, with early site works already underway. Full commercial operations are expected in mid-2028, marking the commencement of the 30-year PPA supply period.

Project Baru Marnda is located in the northwest of Yindjibarndi Ngurra and comprises up to 1.3 gigawatts of wind and solar generation, with an option to include BESS. The project represents a large scale, long term development opportunity aligned with regional industrial energy demand.

The Chichester Range Transmission Corridor (CRTC) is proposed as a high voltage, common user transmission network located near the Chichester Range in the Pilbara. The CRTC is intended to connect Yindjibarndi Ngurra and the western Pilbara region to the North West Interconnected System (NWIS) via the Maitland Strategic Industrial Area (MSIA), a major industrial development zone approximately 24 kilometres west of Karratha and 39 kilometres south of Dampier Port.

Eastern Development Zone Renewable Energy Hub

The Eastern Development Zone (EDZ) Renewable Energy Hub is a large scale renewable energy precinct led by YEC. The EDZ comprises up to 1 gigawatt of wind generation, 500 megawatts of solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity, and integrated BESS infrastructure, and is positioned to support long term demand growth and system resilience in the eastern Pilbara.



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