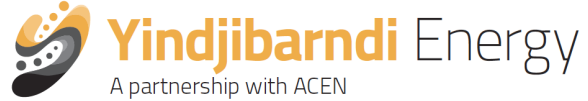




**ACEN** | Australia



## MEDIA RELEASE

**8 April 2024**

### **Yindjibarndi People pass critical step to drive the Pilbara's transition to clean energy**

A major step towards Indigenous-led renewable energy development on Traditional Owner land has been reached with the registration of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Yindjibarndi Renewable Energy Project (YREP ILUA) by the National Native Title Tribunal.

The YREP ILUA provides Native Title consents for the development of large-scale renewable energy projects on Yindjibarndi *ngurra* (country).

It is the culmination of a two-year process involving Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC), Yindjibarndi Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation (YNAC), Yiyangu Pty Ltd (a wholly owned Yindjibarndi business) and the ACEN Corporation, Yindjibarndi's strategic renewable energy partner.

The YREP ILUA provides that any large-scale renewable energy project on Yindjibarndi *ngurra* can only be developed in an area where YAC and YNAC agree that the proposed location is socially, culturally and environmentally appropriate. It also provides that any project is subject to strict compliance with the Heritage Protection Agreement in the YREP ILUA, which provides no application can be made for a s18 approval to impact sites under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 without the consent of YAC and YNAC.

The projects will be developed by Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC), a partnership between YAC and ACEN Corporation in Western Australia's Pilbara region. The Yindjibarndi shareholding in YEC is held by Yiyangu.

The partnership agreement provides that Yindjibarndi will hold a minimum 25% of the equity in all developed renewable energy projects and can hold up to 50% of the equity in any project.

YAC Chief Executive Michael Woodley said "The ILUA places Yindjibarndi People as leaders in driving the Pilbara region's transition to clean energy. Yindjibarndi country is ideally suited and located for renewable energy development so we made the decision early to find a capable and reputable partner. The partnership with ACEN gives Yindjibarndi control over how our country is developed, rather than other companies," he said.

"Large-scale renewable energy is aligned with Yindjibarndi's vision to create community owned commercial businesses that protect *ngurra*, build a stronger community and respect culture. Yindjibarndi people are an equity owner of YEC so the money made from selling renewable energy goes directly back to Yindjibarndi people", he said.

YEC's plans include development of up to 3GW of wind, solar and battery storage, staged over the next several years.

YEC Chief Executive Officer Craig Ricato said "We're staging our developments so that we can develop in a considered and respectful way. Our Stage 1 target is 750MW of solar and battery, while Stage 2 is much larger comprising 2-3GW of solar, wind and battery", he said.

“Large projects like this take time and we’re making good progress. There’s been lots of work happening around heritage, environment and planning approvals, but most importantly, we’ve been engaging with the Yindjibarndi community so that they know and understand what we are doing and are kept informed of our progress”.

ACEN Australia Managing Director David Pollington said “YEC is a partnership aligned on so many levels, and we’re incredibly grateful for the trust the Yindjibarndi has put in ACEN to responsibly develop in partnership with them on their country.”

“The Pilbara region is home to large industrial energy users that are looking to decarbonise production and the team have been having many encouraging discussions with potential off take customers to purchase YEC renewable energy.”

Final investment decision on YEC’s first Stage1 project is expected in late 2024.

ENDS.

### **About the Yindjibarndi community**

The Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (**YAC**) is a Registered Native Title Body Corporate of the Yindjibarndi People and the institution appointed by the Federal Court of Australia to represent Yindjibarndi native title rights and interests.

Yindjibarndi *ngurra* (country) covers approx. 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and includes numerous parcels of land with a variety of tenure/stakeholder interests, including the strongest form of native title, known as Exclusive Possession. In 1994, the Yindjibarndi people launched one of Australia's very first native title claims which was determined by the Full Federal Court in 2005. The High Court of Australia affirmed Yindjibarndi Exclusive Possession rights in a second determination claim in 2020.

### **About ACEN**

ACEN (PSE:ACEN) is the listed energy platform of the Ayala Group. The company has ~4,800MW of attributable capacity from owned facilities in the Philippines, Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia and India, with a renewable share of 98%, which is among the highest in the region.

ACEN Australia is the platform representing ACEN's renewable energy assets in Australia. With more than 1 gigawatt (GW) capacity of large scale renewable energy generation in construction and operations, and more than 13GW capacity in the development pipeline, its portfolio includes solar, wind, battery and pumped hydro projects across Australia.

New England Solar (Stage 1) in NSW is ACEN Australia's first operational project. It is one of Australia's largest solar projects participating in the National Electricity Market (NEM) and is the largest solar project in Australia to be financed on a fully merchant basis. Stubbo Solar in the NSW Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone is ACEN Australia's second project, which commenced construction in late 2022.

With 90+ employees and growing, our people are based in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales Queensland and Western Australia.

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