

## Media release

17 January 2023

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### WHALEBACK RIDGE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT SUPPORTED BY CCA AS PROJECT OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

With its world class renewable energy resources, the Cradle Coast region continues to lead the state in attracting the interest of ambitious, exciting, and visionary projects. The Cradle Coast's outstanding advantages were recently endorsed by the Premier of Tasmania's announcement that the North-West of Tasmania will be the first region to be explored in detail for its potential to host the state's first Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Establishing Tasmania's first Renewable Energy Zone was an Action identified in the Renewable Energy Coordination Framework that will be integral to the renewable energy expansion and load growth required to achieve Tasmania's global leading Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target (TRET) of 200% renewable generation by 2040.

An example of how the region's abundant natural resources inspire big thinking is the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project (Project Renewable Future). This project was recently assessed by Cradle Coast Authority's Regional Economic Development Committee under CCA's Regional Investment Framework, and subsequently supported to be added to CCA's list of Regionally Important Projects.

Under the Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan's Regional Investment Framework, applicants may seek CCA's assistance in advocating for projects that support positive economic change in the Cradle Coast region. Projects are assessed under a rigorous process that considers social growth factors including addressing training, disadvantage and liveability, business growth factors such as job creation and stimulating new businesses, sustainable growth factors including the environment and community engagement, the project's level of advancement, and whether CCA's support would be useful.

Using this Framework, the Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC) assesses projects, with a positive assessment opening the way for CCA to help advocate on behalf of projects that address the region's priorities under the Regional Futures Plan. The REDC has a diverse membership from across the region's industry, government, and the university sector.

The assessment by the REDC of the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project particularly recognised the proposal's capacity to create local project and ongoing jobs, and to encourage the creation of new businesses in the region. It was also recognised that the project would facilitate the opportunity for many people to benefit from training and skills development across sectors related to the project. The prospect of community benefits from the project enhancing liveability, in turn encouraging local residents to stay in the area, was also recognised by assessors.

Advance West North West is an association that was formed to support the development of capabilities, skills and trades through the connection of interested parties, regional youth,

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individuals, and businesses, to maximise opportunities for sustainability and growth that may flow from Project Renewable Future and region's growing the renewable energy sector.

You can find out more about Advance West North West and Project Renewable Future here <https://awnw.org.au/>

The Renewable Energy Coordination Framework is available here [https://recfit.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/343618/Renewable\\_Energy\\_Coordination\\_Framework\\_May\\_2022\\_web.pdf](https://recfit.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/343618/Renewable_Energy_Coordination_Framework_May_2022_web.pdf)

You can find out more about CCA's Regional Investment Framework and the submission process here <https://www.cradlecoast.com/regional-investment-framework/>

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