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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Tasmania's Renewables Energy Future

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has a strong energy plan, which will keep downward pressure on energy prices, increase the supply of reliable and affordable power, and bolster Tasmania's economy through new jobs and investment.

A critical part of this plan is coordinating the largescale development and investment required to grow our renewable energy sector sustainably over the next 20 years and reach our 2040 Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target of 200 per cent. This is crucial to ensure that the infrastructure is built to achieve our possible cost to consumers, while at the same time ensuring our communities have an early opportunity to engage and benefit from the opportunities.

Earlier this year, the Government released its Renewable Energy Coordination Framework to help achieve this, and today the Government is announcing another important action as part of that piece of work.

Building on the existing, high level Renewable Energy Zones already identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator as having excellent resource potential in Tasmania, work will be undertaken to build out and operationalise Tasmania's first Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) to be announced later this year.

To support the development of Tasmania's first REZ, Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) has now been appointed as the REZ Coordinator to provide a single and consistent point of contact for industry and the community in regards to REZ development.

ReCFIT as the REZ Coordinator will continue its scenario planning and spatial analysis necessary to inform the REZ development, while TasNetworks will undertake the detailed technical role of REZ Planner. This work will include significant engagement with communities across the State, including on regional employment, economic opportunity and community participation.

A further action under the Renewable Energy Framework is built on the engagement that is already

occurring with new guidelines for renewable energy proponents regarding how they go about community engagement benefit sharing and local business opportunities.

The co-designed guidelines will include recommendations of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, as well as input from communities and industry stakeholders. These guidelines will build on the already rigorous land use and environmental approval processes that project proponents are subject to.

At today's Tasmanian Energy Development Conference I also provided updates on the State's progress on the delivery of Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation and our Green Hydrogen Action Plan.

The development of Marinus Link will inject \$1.5 billion dollars into the Tasmanian economy, with hundreds of jobs, and reduce emissions by 140 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2050.

Marinus Link has now completed its tender pre-qualification process for the design, manufacture, and installation of its high voltage direct current cables and converter stations. This is an important step in the project to provide more certainty around the supply of key project components in light of ongoing challenges to international supply chains from COVID 19 and the war in Ukraine.

Marinus Link has been identified as an actionable project in the Australian Energy Market Operator's Draft 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP), the key long term planning document for the NEM. Being an actionable project means AEMO considers Marinus Link to be part of the lowest cost, highest benefit solution for the future development of the NEM.

The final 2022 ISP is due to be published later this month and we expect that Marinus Link will again feature and I look forward to continue working with the new Federal Minister for Energy, Chris Bowen, to progress Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation and Green Hydrogen as part of a supercharged ISP as Australia moves to net zero carbon emissions.