

## CEFC AND WESTBOURNE CAPITAL FINANCE EXPANSION OF PORT AUGUSTA RENEWABLES PROJECT

**10 December, 2018**

The CEFC and specialist infrastructure debt investment manager Westbourne Capital have committed \$160 million in finance to construct Stage II of Nexif Energy's Lincoln Gap Wind Farm in South Australia.

The additional CEFC commitment, of \$50 million, takes its overall senior debt commitment in the project to \$200 million, representing its largest investment in a single wind farm development to date.

When complete, the Lincoln Gap Wind Farm near Port Augusta will have a total generating capacity of more than 212 MW, producing enough energy to power 155,000 homes. It will offset some 680,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

CEFC Wind sector lead Andrew Gardner said: "This debt finance package sees Westbourne Capital participating as a mezzanine debt lender alongside our senior debt commitment.

"The ability to fold mezzanine debt into finance for new build wind farms in this manner creates new investment opportunities for non-bank lenders to further support the growth of the renewable energy sector."

Westbourne Capital Managing Director David Ridley said: "We are very pleased to have worked with the CEFC and Nexif Energy to finance the construction of Stage II. Lincoln Gap Wind Farm represents our firm's second debt investment in the Australian renewables space and demonstrates the growing interest from institutional investors seeking to access well structured transactions in the sector".

The Lincoln Gap Wind Farm has secured long-term commitments for purchase of Large-Scale Generation Certificates by ERM Power and two long-term energy offtake agreements with Snowy Hydro.

The project is Australia's first greenfield wind development to feature an unsubsidised large-scale grid-connected battery, with developer Nexif Energy to use the Fluence industrial-grade Advancion energy storage platform at the development.

Nexif's Executive Vice President, Development, Enamul Latifi acknowledged the support of the CEFC and Westbourne Capital in financing the Stage II expansion.

"This is a continuation of our investment in South Australia, where we are incredibly excited to be at the forefront of clean energy solutions for the state," Mr Latifi said.

"There remains potential to further expand Lincoln Gap and we are now working on feasibility studies to determine how large that could be, as well as trying to bring technologies together to add solar to the wind energy and battery storage at Lincoln Gap to create a genuine hybrid energy hub."

Construction of Lincoln Gap Stage II is expected to begin early in 2019, providing local employment opportunities.

#### ABOUT THE CEFC

The CEFC is responsible for investing \$10 billion in clean energy projects on behalf of the Australian Government. Our goal is to help lower Australia's carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies. We also support innovative start-up companies through the Clean Energy Innovation Fund. Across our portfolio, we deliver a positive return for taxpayers.

#### ABOUT WESTBOURNE CAPITAL

Westbourne Capital is a Melbourne headquartered investment manager exclusively focused on lending to infrastructure entities globally on behalf of its institutional clients. Since the investment program commenced in 2010, the firm has successfully committed over \$9 billion across 67 debt investments located in Australia, Europe and North America.

#### ABOUT NEXIF

Nexif Energy was established in August 2015 by Nexif, a Singapore-based independent power management company, and Denham Capital, a leading global energy-focused private equity firm with almost \$10 billion of invested and committed capital across nine fund vehicles, to develop, finance, construct and opportunistically acquire conventional and renewable power generation assets across Australia and South-East Asia.