

Decision

In accordance with section 16(1) of the *Electricity Reform Act 2000* (the ER Act), the Commission has granted an electricity generation licence to Darwin International Airport Pty Limited (DIA) (ABN 87 081 258 157), authorising the generation of electricity at the Darwin International Airport precinct, consisting of 7.75 MW AC solar photovoltaic plants and 3.3 MW AC back up diesel generating plants.

Background

On 26 August 2022, DIA applied for a licence to generate electricity for supply or sale and to sell the electricity generated.

The Commission undertook a round of public consultation from 3 October 2022 to 14 November 2022 in relation to the application and received no submissions from stakeholders.

Assessment

The Commission assessed DIA's application for an electricity generation licence against the relevant provisions of the ER Act and determined that all relevant criteria were satisfied.

The Commission is satisfied that:

- DIA is a suitable person to hold the licence.
- The generating plants, as described in the licence application, will have the necessary characteristics to generate electricity of the appropriate quality for the relevant network.¹

The Commission, having regard to the general factors specified in section 6(2) of the *Utilities Commission Act 2000*, has therefore approved the application.

Variations

On request from DIA and in accordance with section 21(1)(b)(ii) and 24(4) of the ER Act, the Commission varied the standard generation licence to allow DIA to generate electricity for sale to tenants located within the Darwin International Airport precinct.

This has been achieved by changing clause 2(a) of a standard generation licence and inserting additional provisions (clause 2(c) and Schedule 2(b)) to allow DIA to generate electricity for sale to 'on-suppliers' or 'receivers' at the Darwin International Airport precinct. DIA will only be authorised to sell electricity to on-suppliers or receivers when permitted by an exemption under the ER Act or any regulations made under the ER Act. For clarity, the Commission has also inserted definitions for the terms 'on-supplier' and 'receiver' at schedule 1 of the licence.

¹ The licence application notes the current operations at the Darwin International Airport precinct include generation for the purpose of on-site consumption only, with mechanisms to prevent the export of electricity until such time as export is permitted.