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# **ASX Limited**

#### **Company Announcements Platform**

# GENEX ACQUIRES SECOND BATTERY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Acquisition of Bulli Creek development project further expands Genex's exposure to renewable energy storage and generation projects in Australia;
- The Bulli Creek project is anticipated to be developed over five stages with the first stage a proposed up to 400MW/1,600MWh large scale battery energy storage system, with a final investment decision targeted in 2H CY2024;
- Genex is presently in discussions with potential joint development partners to support the development of the Project, which will include providing a significant contribution to the external development costs and equity funding of the capital expenditures; and
- The development of the 50MW/100MWh Bouldercombe Battery Project has provided Genex with a strong network of project development partners, funding parties and offtake counterparties to successfully execute on the Bulli Creek project.

Genex Power Limited (ASX:GNX) (Genex or the Company) is pleased to announce that it has today entered into the transaction documents with Solar Choice Pty Ltd (Solar Choice) to acquire a 100% interest in the development rights for the up to 2GW multi-stage Bulli Creek Clean Energy Project (Bulli Creek or the Project) located approximately 100km south-west of Toowoomba in south east Queensland (the Transaction). The first stage of the Project is anticipated to be developed as an up to 400MW/1,600MWh large scale battery energy storage system (Bulli Creek Battery).

# **ADVANCEMENT OF GENEX'S BATTERY STRATEGY**

As part of the development of Genex's two large scale storage projects, being the 250MW/2,000MWh Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project and the 50MW/100MWh Bouldercombe Battery Project (**BBP**), Genex has gained a robust understanding of the business case for storage in Queensland. The events in the National Electricity Market (**NEM**) in recent months have only highlighted the urgent need for dispatchable energy storage capacity to manage the transition to a net-zero economy.

Genex reached financial close of its first battery project, the BBP, in February 2022. Concurrently, Genex has been working to identify another suitable site to continue the expansion of its battery



strategy in the NEM. This was premised upon being located within close proximity to existing transmission infrastructure with good network strength and projected marginal loss factors (MLFs). Following an extensive search and selection process, the Bulli Creek site was identified as an ideal location for Genex's next large scale battery energy storage system (BESS) development.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT**

Bulli Creek is a multi-stage development project of up to 2GW of BESS and solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity that Solar Choice originated in 2013. The Project covers an area of over 5,000ha and is located approximately 4km from the Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink) Bulli Creek 330kV substation, which is the connection point in Queensland for the Queensland-NSW Interconnector. The Project benefits from a prime position on the Queensland network due to its proximity to the load centre of Brisbane and the Regional Reference Node, resulting in strong projected MLFs; and a low connection cost due the close proximity of the Powerlink substation.

The Project is well progressed in terms of its land and planning workstreams, having secured development planning approval, Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Approval and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage clearances over the entirety of the Project site.

# **STAGE 1 – BULLI CREEK BATTERY PROJECT**

The Project is proposed to be developed in 5 stages (including substages) of BESS and solar PV capacity. Genex's strategy is to develop stage 1, being the Bulli Creek Battery Project (**BCBP**) sized up to 400MW/1,600MWh, as its immediate priority. The BCBP will be one of the largest BESS facilities in the NEM and will connect into the Powerlink 330kV substation which, importantly for a BESS, represents the same location as the connection point for the Queensland-NSW Interconnector. Genex is fast tracking the development of the BCBP, for which it is presently targeting a final investment decision in 2H CY2024.

Subsequent to the BCBP, the second proposed stage is a 475MW to 675MW solar PV project that will benefit from shared grid connection infrastructure with the BCBP, with subsequent solar stages proposed to build out the full land capacity of the project in due course.

#### **TERMS OF THE TRANSACTION**

Genex has entered into transaction documentation with the vendor and originating developer of the Project, Solar Choice, to acquire a 100% interest in the development rights for the Project. The transaction documents also provide for certain development services to be provided by Solar Choice. Solar Choice shall receive a development fee at financial close for each stage of the Project (with each stage to be 100% owned by Genex and its partner(s)), including in exchange for developing the Project since 2013. The Transaction is subject to typical terms for a transaction of this nature.

Genex is presently in advanced discussions with potential joint development partners to support the development of the Project, including providing a significant contribution to the external development costs and the equity funding of final capital expenditures.



Commenting on the announcement, Genex CEO, James Harding stated:

"Genex is pleased to have today executed the transaction documents with Solar Choice for the acquisition of a 100% interest in the development rights for the Bulli Creek Battery and Solar Project. The project is anticipated to be developed in stages, with the first stage being the proposed 400MW/1,600MWh large-scale Bulli Creek Battery Project. The Bulli Creek Battery Project is a continuation of our battery strategy and will be one of the largest battery energy storage systems in the National Electricity Market. This represents an exciting opportunity for Genex to apply the extensive market knowledge and learnings gained from the development of the Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project as well as the Bouldercombe Battery Project.

"We have commenced discussions with potential joint development partners and Genex looks forward to keeping the market updated as it works through the development milestones of this exciting project, which represents the next phase of growth for the Company's portfolio."

Solar Choice's Managing Director, Angus Gemmell stated:

"This is a watershed moment for Solar Choice and the Bulli Creek project in which we have invested an exceptionally large amount of work and initiative over the last nine years. We are thrilled to be working alongside Genex's expertise on their delivery of the Bulli Creek Battery and subsequent solar farm stages towards fulfillment of the project's immense grid and land capacity."

This announcement was approved by the Board of Genex Power Limited.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT:

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#### About Genex Power Limited

Genex Power Limited has a portfolio of more than \$1 billion of renewable energy generation and storage projects across Australia. The Company's flagship Kidston Clean Energy Hub, located in north Queensland, will integrate large-scale solar generation with pumped storage hydro. The Kidston Clean Energy Hub is comprised of the operating 50MW stage 1 Solar Project (**KS1**) and the 250MW Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project (**K2-Hydro**) with potential for further multi-stage wind and solar projects. The 50MW Jemalong Solar Project (**JSP**) is located in NSW and provides geographical diversification to Genex's portfolio. JSP was energised in December 2020 and is now fully operational. Genex's first battery energy storage system, the 50MW/100MWh Bouldercombe Battery Project (**BBP**) located in Central Queensland achieved contractual close in February 2022 and is scheduled to commence operation in mid CY2023. With up to 2,470MW of renewable energy and storage projects in the Company's development pipeline, Genex is well placed in its strategy to become a leading renewable energy and storage company in Australia.

Genex continues to acknowledge the support of key Federal and State Government stakeholders such as the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (**ARENA**), the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (**NAIF**), the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (**CEFC**) and the Queensland State Government.