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The Power of Partnerships:
Connecting Victoria to a Clean Energy Future at Golden Plains

A landmark collaboration by leading industry partners has successfully connected one of Australia's largest wind farms to the Victorian transmission network.

In a major milestone for Victoria's clean energy transition, VicGrid, AEMO, TagEnergy, Vestas, and AusNet have marked the on-time connection and commissioning of Golden Plains Wind Farm Stage One – a 756MW development near Geelong.

A Partnership Approach to a Mega Project

To navigate the long, complex road to grid connection, the partners adopted a united approach from the outset, ensuring the success of this flagship project that is a vital pillar in Victoria's and Australia's energy transition.

The collaboration spans four years, from early grid design to final commissioning:

- **2021**: TagEnergy laid the foundations for a technically rigorous, forward-leaning connection strategy.
- **Late 2021**: Vestas was appointed EPC contractor, rapidly mobilising engineering and grid specialists. By December, a comprehensive R0 package was submitted enabling early assessment.
- **2022**: Within nine months, the project achieved AEMO's S5.3.4A compliance, allowing Notice to Proceed on 22 November — a strong indicator of technical maturity and teamwork. AEMO/VicGrid's on-time performance was crucial in achieving this milestone.
- **2024**: AusNet delivered physical energisation of the Cressy 500kV Terminal Station and secured R1 registration, despite weather-related damage to nearby transmission infrastructure.
- **2025**: Following dozens of grid tests across four Hold Points, the project reached full output in October.

AusNet's contribution is particularly noteworthy, completing the 20-month physical connection program to timelines, despite significant weather-related damage to nearby sections of the transmission network during construction. Its ability to maintain connection schedules while undertaking complex repair work played a crucial role in keeping the project on track.

After energisation, intensive collaboration between AusNet, Vestas and TagEnergy teams under guidance from AEMO and VicGrid progressed the project through four Hold Points and multiple staging increments. No easy feat, this stage required

dozens of carefully planned grid tests, with many executed during narrow wind-window opportunities. The teams put in an enormous effort, frequently working after hours, overnight, and on weekends to ensure testing could be completed safely and efficiently.

The successful outcome is a testament to what is possible when industry partners commit early, plan collaboratively, and maintain unwavering focus on system security and delivery excellence.

Andrew Riggs, Managing Partner of TagEnergy Australia paid tribute to the partners' now-proven delivery of one of nation's most complex renewable energy connections.

"We are grateful for the dedication shown by our project partners to successfully achieve the on-time commissioning of this landmark project. This result validates our confidence in Victoria as a great place to invest to accelerate the energy transition," Mr Riggs said.

VicGrid Executive Director, Access and Connections Claire Cass said: "VicGrid worked closely with the Australian Energy Market Operator to ensure a seamless process for completion of the grid connection. Connection of Golden Plains is an important milestone in this transition and in the work to secure Victoria's renewable energy future".

Danny Nielsen, SVP & Country Head, Australia and New Zealand at Vestas cited the partners' like-minded purpose and trust in technology as key to the combined achievement.

"We're honoured to work with TagEnergy to deliver Golden Plains Wind Farm, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. This milestone reflects our like-minded partnership with TagEnergy and trust in our technology. Together with all our delivery partners, we are delivering clean power, boosting grid and energy security, and advancing Victoria's energy independence for the future."

AusNet Chief Development Officer Jon D'Sylva added, "Delivering the connection for Golden Plains Wind Farm Stage One has been a tremendous achievement for AusNet and our delivery partners CPP, Jacobs, SRS and Hitachi. We have delivered this connection in close collaboration with TagEnergy, remaining focused on system security. This milestone demonstrates the critical role collaboration and technical excellence play in enabling Victoria's clean energy future."

Next to Connect – Golden Plains (West) Stage Two

Stage One's successful connection marks only the beginning. Work is already underway on the 576MW Golden Plains West Stage Two, which will bring the total project capacity to 1,333MW, making Golden Plains the largest wind farm in the Southern Hemisphere.

Commissioning of Stage Two will occur progressively throughout 2026, alongside construction of the project's first battery energy storage facility, further strengthening Victoria's clean energy future.

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About TagEnergy

TagEnergy is a clean energy enterprise creating competitive clean power stations to accelerate the energy transition and help the world reach net-zero carbon emissions sooner. Since its formation in 2019, TagEnergy has assembled a portfolio of more than 10GW of solar, wind and battery storage technologies in the UK, France, Germany, Japan and Australia, of which 1.9GW is under construction or operation.

TagEnergy is controlled by TagHolding SAS, a joint venture between the Impala SAS Group and Exor N.V., supported by major investors Mirova and Omnes, and is operated by a team of entrepreneurs, all shareholders. Its operations span the renewables value chain from development, financing, construction and asset management to commercialisation of its competitive clean energy.

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