

**Statement in support of application for merger authorisation**  
**Annexure 'LE-13'**

**PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY BROOKFIELD LP AND MIDOCEAN ENERGY OF ORIGIN  
ENERGY LIMITED**

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— Exclusive

# IKEA invests in \$2b Victorian wind farm

**Angela Macdonald-Smith** *Senior resources writer*



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Flat-pack furniture retailer IKEA has made its first investment in large-scale renewable power generation in Australia in a landmark deal that highlights how the massive scale of the transition to low-carbon energy will draw in industry sectors far beyond energy production.

The Swedish company's investment arm Ingka Group has bought a 15 per cent stake in a huge \$2 billion wind farm being built in Victoria in a transaction that will contribute to its climate commitments but is separate to any arrangement to supply electricity for its operations.



IKEA Australia CEO Mirja Viinanen says the project is exactly right for investment arm Ingka.

- ◀ ⚙️ ✅ Ingka will invest alongside French-owned TagEnergy in the first stage of the Golden Plains wind farm near Geelong, which will eventually have a capacity of 1.3 gigawatts and meet 9 per cent of the state's power demand.

Andrew Riggs, managing partner of TagEnergy, part of Impala SAS Group of France, said he believed the deal was the first occurrence in Australia of a corporate direct investment in a large-scale renewable project from a company outside the energy supply sector, making a clear distinction from the more-typical arrangement of a long-term power purchase agreement with an energy user.

He said the deal threw down a challenge to TagEnergy's peers to bring forward similar projects and transactions that help accelerate the pace towards net-zero emissions.

Mr Riggs said the second stage of Golden Plains, targeted for financial close next year and likely to cost a further \$2 billion, offered another opportunity to welcome a principal investor like Ingka to take a similar step.

"If we can signal that to all other ancillary industries that that's the right thing to do and bring their capital to the market then that's fantastic," Mr Riggs told *The Australian Financial Review*.

Mirja Viinanen, chief executive of IKEA Australia, said the purchase of a stake in Golden Plains, the largest permitted wind farm in the country, was "exactly the type of investment we need to do".

"This first major investment is the first step, and we are looking for more opportunities to invest in Australia," she said.

She said the deal reflects Ingka's commitment to expand its investment in renewable energy to €6.5 billion (\$10 billion) as it works towards 100 per cent renewable energy usage across its value chain.

"Understandably, Australia has been identified as a location with rich potential for renewable investments," she said.

The project in Rokewood broke fresh territory in the renewable sector last November, getting the go-ahead for construction

[\[https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/2b-wind-farm-in-vic-to-proceed-without-customers-](https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/2b-wind-farm-in-vic-to-proceed-without-customers-)



[20221128-p5c1x3\]](#) without having arranged long-term contracts with customers. The innovative project structure, which was supported by Australia's green bank and a multinational group of lenders, allowed it to proceed to construction earlier, without waiting for the typically lengthy negotiations with long-term customers.

The first, 756-megawatt stage of Golden Plains, which is due to be fully up and running by the end of 2025, involves 122 wind turbines each with a capacity of 6.2 megawatts to produce about 2400 gigawatt-hours a year of power. Mr Riggs said other equity investors could come into the project, although TagEnergy would remain a majority owner.

The second stage will involve a further 576MW wind farm involving 93 turbines, as well as a 300MW, two-hour battery.



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**Angela Macdonald-Smith** writes on the resources industry with a focus on energy, including gas, oil, electricity and renewables. *Connect with Angela on [Twitter](#). Email Angela at [amacdonald-smith@af.com](mailto:amacdonald-smith@af.com)*

