

QUEENSLAND

ENERGY AND JOBS PLAN

Community Partnerships and Enabling Frameworks



MAY 2024



Queensland
Government

Queensland's Clean Economy Targets

Renewable energy targets

Enshrined in the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024*



50%

renewable energy by 2030



70%

renewable energy by 2032



80%

renewable energy by 2035

Emissions reduction targets

Enshrined in the *Clean Economy Jobs Act 2024*



30%

below* by 2030



75%

below* by 2035



Net zero

emissions by 2050

* below the net greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland for 2005



Introduction

Queensland's regional communities are at the heart of the co-ordinated energy transformation.

Released in September 2022, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) committed to partnering with communities to realise economic benefits and prosperity today — and for generations to come.

We have been actively listening to Queenslanders about what they need in their local community to make the most of a renewable energy future.

We have committed to partnering with communities to ensure the people who live and work in regional Queensland benefit from the energy transformation.

We will continue to engage and listen to communities to grow these partnerships and improve outcomes in communities as we reach our renewable energy and emissions reductions targets.

We will continue to be guided by eight principles for the energy transformation



Across Queensland the benefits of renewable energy are being felt throughout various sectors and communities.

The Queensland Government has committed to partner with industries and communities to maximise benefits from our energy transformation and drive regional

economic opportunities. Initiatives across industry, community and environment are being implemented to ensure Queensland reaches its targets, while protecting jobs, businesses, and Queensland's way of life.

It's a journey we're on together and one to be proud of.





Local Voices

Empowering communities and elevating local voices in all parts of the energy transformation.

Coexistence Queensland

We're strengthening coexistence of the state's agriculture, resources and renewable energy industries through legislation and by establishing Coexistence Queensland by expanding the highly regarded Gas Fields Commission.

The Queensland Government has committed to a range of actions that focus on supporting industry and community coexistence, including land access, mapping, regional planning, and legislation review. We are working with local government and industry to ensure sustainable coexistence and leave a positive legacy for communities from regional development.

In progress 

First Nations

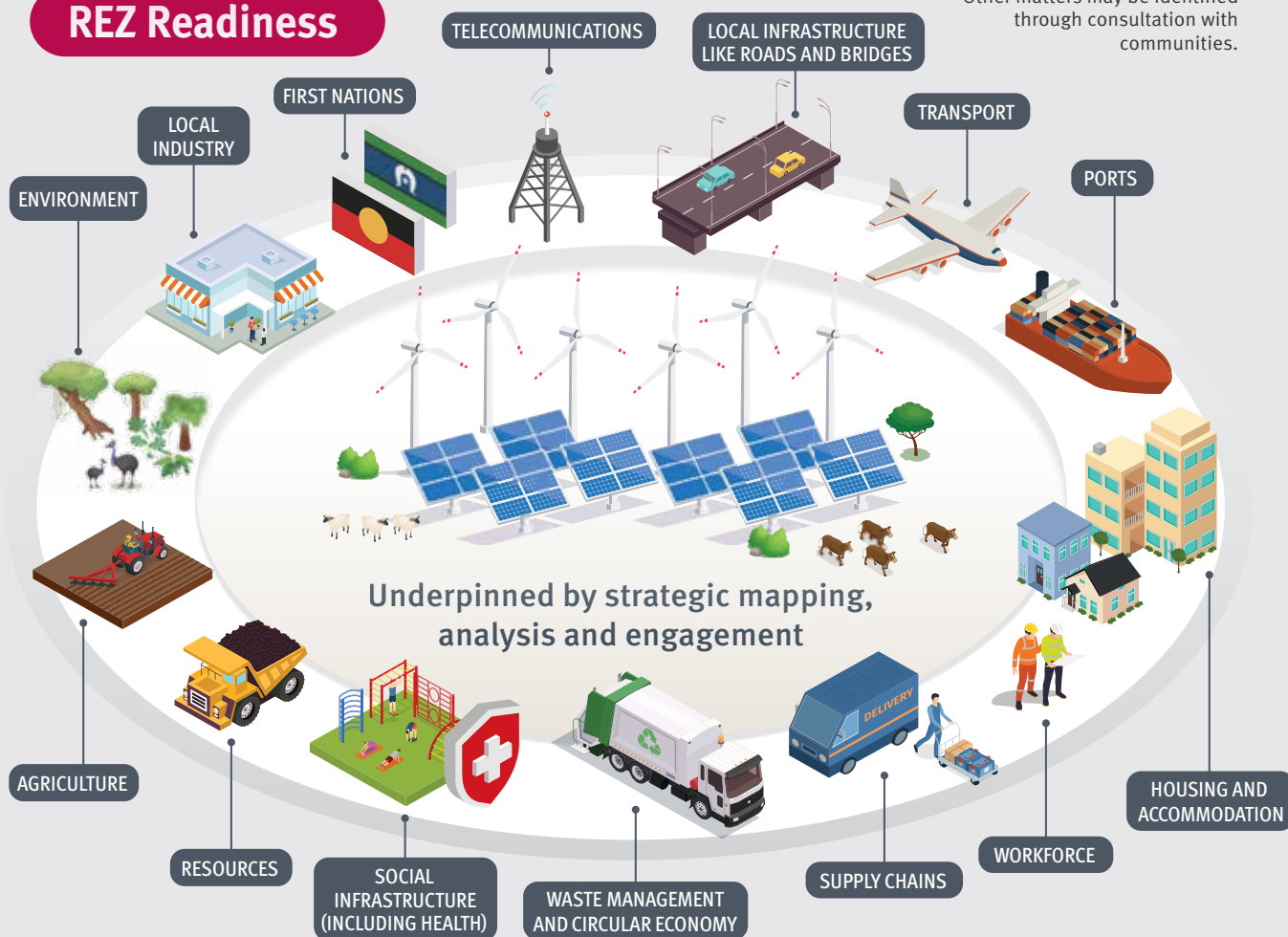
We're developing a First Nations Engagement and Capacity Building project which aims to support First Nations communities impacted by the development of Queensland's major network transmission and associated renewable energy infrastructure in Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) regions, with the goal of enabling these communities to actively participate in and benefit from renewable energy development.

In progress 



REZ Readiness

Other matters may be identified through consultation with communities.



Code of Conduct

The Queensland Government, in collaboration with key stakeholders, is developing a mandatory, nation-leading Code of Conduct for renewable energy developers to ensure they engage genuinely with landholders and communities when developing, building and operating new generation and storage projects.

In progress ✓

Pathways for community feedback

We've made a commitment to undertaking a review into pathways for better managing community feedback about large-scale energy infrastructure development.

In progress ✓

Best Practice Guidance

We're partnering with the Queensland Renewable Energy Council to improve practice in the renewable energy industry and develop best practice guidelines including community engagement, working with First Nations and land holders, and health and safety.

In progress ✓

Environmental conservation

We've partnered with the Queensland Conservation Council to support them in identifying programs that deliver significant environmental benefits. Over 12 months they will extensively consult with key stakeholders and develop a framework to identify how to improve environmental outcomes.

In progress ✓

REZ Readiness Planning

To ensure community feedback is front and centre throughout our energy transformation, REZ Readiness Planning is focused on improved planning and better outcomes for regions. The REZ Readiness Assessment process begins in Central Queensland in the first half of 2024 and will involve further community engagement to ensure the roll-out of key infrastructure and supply chains essential for economic prosperity.

In progress ✓



Local Choices

Empowering local choices and ensuring a focus on local priorities through the energy transformation.

Partnering with industry, local councils and peak bodies

We are partnering with a range of organisations to ensure:

- local communities can engage and are shaping how the renewable energy transformation takes place
- local benefits of renewable energy development are flowing to regional communities and local businesses

These partnerships are the result of feedback from workshops, surveys and meetings in communities throughout 2023.

In progress 

Supporting local councils

Queensland's 77 local councils, serving as the voices of regional communities, are instrumental in the state's energy evolution. The Queensland Government is working in collaboration with the Local Government Association of Queensland, to deliver a Local Council Energy Partnership program aiming to support councils to make the most of the energy transformation in their regions.

In progress 

Remote and First Nations clean energy strategy

We're developing a strategy to decarbonise Energy Queensland's isolated network that supplies electricity to 39 remote and First Nations communities. We are engaging with Remote and First Nations communities to seek local views about the most important priorities so First Nations businesses and communities can share the benefits of the energy transformation.

In progress 

Landholder Toolkit

The Queensland Renewable Energy Landholders Toolkit has been created to support landholders considering hosting a renewable energy project on their property. Developed in partnership with Queensland Farmers Federation, the toolkit is a free and easy-to-understand guide for landholders to assist in the decision-making process.

Complete 

Jobs Advocate

The Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate will provide advice to government on how to increase opportunities for employment in the energy industry. They will be in Central Queensland workplaces, North Queensland training institutions and Brisbane boardrooms. Most importantly, they will be with regional Queenslanders as a trusted ally to collaborate and to share information. They will maintain the bond between communities and the energy sector.

In progress 

Clean Energy Hubs

Throughout Queensland, Clean Energy Hubs will provide new economic and employment opportunities in our regions. The infrastructure pathway outlined in the QEJP and Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint means, that by 2035, the State will be no longer regularly reliant on coal-fired power generation.

The QEJP commits to repurpose and reinvest in all publicly owned coal-fired power stations to convert them into Clean Energy Hubs by 2035. By creating these Clean Energy Hubs, we deliver the energy mix needed to reliably transition the grid to renewable energy while also providing opportunities for our workforce.

Publicly owned energy company, Stanwell Corporation is developing a Future Energy Innovation and

Training Hub to accelerate Queensland's energy transformation. FEITH will provide facilities to pilot innovative new energy technology, including energy storage and hydrogen. It will also provide a real-life, hands-on training environment for Queensland energy employees to develop the skills needed to work on new energy technologies.

In progress 

Training Hubs

The Queensland Government is investing \$90 million to support the establishment of Queensland SuperGrid Training Centre and Transmission Hubs in Gladstone and Townsville with Powerlink Queensland. These facilities will supercharge delivery of the energy transformation in the QEJP.

In progress 

Jobs Fairs

We're partnering with the Clean Energy Council on a roadshow that will showcase the many career opportunities that will help deliver an equitable, prosperous and net zero emissions Australia. These events in Toowoomba, Gladstone and Townsville in August 2024 will connect students, graduates and experienced workers from across regional Queensland with employers committed to sustainability and growing the clean economy.

In progress 

Picture: Genex Power





Local Benefits

Working with communities to embed tangible lasting local benefits from the energy transformation.

CopperString delivering high speed internet

The CopperString project initially involves building 840 kilometres of new electricity transmission line from just south of Townsville in the Burdekin region to Mount Isa that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market for the first time in Australia's history.

It will also deliver faster and more reliable internet connection for people and businesses throughout Far North Queensland.

In progress 

Community Benefits

Renewables are bringing investment to local services. For example, Queensland Hydro is reestablishing GP

services in the township of Imbil on the Sunshine Coast and providing funding to progress a new mountain bike trail and proposed plans to build a second stage to the Mary Valley rail trail. A further \$30 million benefits framework will give communities decision making power of where benefits are directed.

In progress 

REZ Roadmap

REZs are areas that help coordinate development of clean energy infrastructure delivering better outcomes for Queensland communities and industries.

REZs are critical to ensuring Queenslanders have access to stable, affordable energy in the long-term. While each REZ will be unique, it is estimated that efficiency savings through coordinated REZ development could lower Queenslanders' household electricity bills. These cost savings will be realised through forward planning and economies of scale in connection infrastructure. Coordinating network connections in a REZ allows for better outcomes for communities, environment, and industry in the region.

It is anticipated that REZs will deliver a pipeline of approximately 4,000 direct renewable energy construction jobs.

In progress 

The Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF)

The REFF is a \$200 million program supporting communities in seizing industry development opportunities presented by global decarbonisation.

The REFF is a component of the Queensland new-industry development strategy and the QEJP. It supports activities which:

- create new jobs
- strengthen regional supply chains
- support decarbonisation and the QEJP
- either builds on or identifies a region's strengths
- supports renewable energy precinct development.

The regions being funded include North West Queensland (including the corridor to Townsville), Greater Whitsunday, Central Queensland and Darling Downs, South West and the South Burnett. They are regions which:

include communities that have coal fired power stations and associated mines that are a significant source of economic activity and jobs

have unique opportunities to support new industries like critical minerals, renewable energy, hydrogen and biofuels.

Additionally, \$20 million from the REFF has been set aside to support outcomes from the initial REZ Readiness Assessments, and also encourage further investment in local community benefits from project developers.

In progress ✓

Solar panel recycling

In partnership with the Smart Energy Council, we're addressing the critical issue of managing solar panels as they reach the end of their life cycle. Thousands of solar panels on Queensland homes, businesses and solar farms will be recycled at end-of-life and reused for parts.

The program will also collect valuable information to help inform the development of a national product stewardship scheme, helping to identify any gaps in Queensland's recovery and processing capacities.

In progress ✓

Powerlink's SuperGrid Landholder Payment Framework

Publicly owned transmission company, Powerlink, has implemented a nation leading new SuperGrid Landholder Payment Framework which significantly boosts payments to landholders hosting new transmission infrastructure. Under the new framework, Queensland landholders hosting new transmission infrastructure will receive higher payments. Powerlink is also the first transmission company in Australia to offer payment to landholders with properties adjacent to new transmission infrastructure.

Complete ✓

Public Ownership

On 18 April 2024, landmark legislation passed the Queensland parliament to lock in public ownership of Queensland's energy system. We've committed to at least 54 per cent public ownership of generation and 100 per cent public ownership of transmission, distribution and deep storage assets.

Complete ✓



Increase local jobs and secure work

Tradies for the Transition

A skilled workforce is critical to enabling Queensland's transformation into a clean economy future. Independent modelling identified the QEJP could support up to 100,000 direct and indirect jobs by 2040, including:

- up to 28,500 direct jobs in construction, onshore manufacturing, and maintenance of new transmission and large-scale renewable generation
- up to 35,000 indirect jobs each year supported in services, hospitality and other industries across Queensland as a result of capital investment
- up to 36,000 additional direct and indirect jobs from expansion of new industries—renewable hydrogen, battery manufacturing, resource mining and metal refining.

Tradies for the Transition is about attracting a workforce for these new jobs, while protecting existing ones. It is our commitment to train the young workers of today, so they may become the industry leaders of tomorrow. It is our roadmap towards the transformation of Queensland's



economy, while backing Queensland workers, communities, and our enviable Queensland lifestyle.

We also have a Job Security Guarantee backed by a \$150 million fund that has been legislated to ensure workers across Queensland power stations and associated mines can transition to new roles in emerging renewable energy industries.

In progress 

Protected Areas

In October 2020, the Queensland Government released Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030 (the Strategy), which provides the strategic direction for the state's protected areas to safeguard our world-class natural and cultural values for generations to come. In the 2022-23 State Budget, the Queensland Government committed the single largest allocation of funds to expand and manage Queensland's public protected area estate with \$262.5 million over four years to continue implementing the Strategy. Additionally, through the 2023-24 State Budget, the Queensland Government committed further operating funding of \$38.6 million over five years and \$11.9 million per annum ongoing to manage new additions to the protected area estate and improve the management of Queensland's World Heritage areas.

In progress 

Vegetation Management

The Vegetation Management framework is a vital tool that protects native vegetation in Queensland and aims to conserve remnant vegetation, prevent loss of biodiversity, prevent land degradation, maintain

ecological processes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The latest the State-wide Landcover and Trees Study found that clearing of regulated vegetation reduced from about 195 000 hectares in 2018-19 to 61 000 hectares in 2020-21 –an almost 70 per cent reduction. The Queensland Government is also providing \$9.8 million over 4 years to reduce unexplained clearing through increased education, support and compliance.

In progress 

Endangered species protection

Koalas are an iconic species and are listed as endangered. In southeast Queensland, the Government has built a strategy around six key action areas of habitat protection; habitat restoration; threat management; improved mapping, monitoring, research and reporting; community engagement; and partnerships and strategic coordination. The Queensland Government is working with organisations like the Queensland Trust for Nature to continue habitat restoration.

In progress 

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Queensland Government acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Queensland and their connection to land, sea and sky.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the continuous living culture of First Nations Queenslanders - their diverse languages, customs and traditions, knowledge and systems.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the role that First Nations people have in the delivery of Queensland's energy system and is committed to ensuring they benefit from the development of a new, clean energy system. As we work together to deliver a clean, reliable and affordable energy system, the Queensland Government is committed to genuine partnerships and meaningful engagement with Queensland's First Nations people.



The work was commissioned as part of our commitment to strong engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, staff and stakeholders. The Department of Energy and Climate works with and in communities to build a sustainable and prosperous future for all Queenslanders. Building communities strengthens connections and creates a sense of belonging. Local First Nations graphic design artist Casey Coolwell-Fisher created the design. Casey is a Quandamooka, Nunukal woman of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). With her husband, Roy (a Wakka man from Cherbourg), they created their company CHABOO as a way to share their stories through their artwork.

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