

**Queensland Government Response to
Report No. 45, 57th Parliament
State Development and Regional Industries Committee, September 2023**

Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023

INTRODUCTION

On 15 March 2023, the Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023 (the Bill) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by Mr Michael Berkman, Member for Maiwar and referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (Committee) for consideration.

The Bill proposes to ban all new coal, oil and gas approvals, phase out fossil fuel exports by year-end 2030 and introduce two new greenhouse gas emissions targets of a) 75 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions than 2005 levels by 2030 and b) net zero emissions by 2035. The Bill also proposes to establish a new statutory authority, the Queensland Climate Transition Authority (QCTA), to develop a strategic plan to meet the targets and support affected workers and communities transition from fossil fuels.

On 15 September 2023, the Committee tabled its report (Report No. 45, 57th Parliament) on the Bill.

RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023 not be passed.

Queensland Government Response

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and notes the Committee's recommendation that the Bill not be passed.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Queensland Government continues the creation of regional transition bodies or plans under the draft Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework, the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint and the draft 2023 Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap.

Queensland Government Response

The Government **supports** this recommendation.

The Queensland Government recognises the urgency to deliver real action on climate change and the opportunities to support new and existing industries which will provide the clean economy jobs of the future through responsible action that will protect and enhance the Queensland way of life and safeguard our unique natural environment to be enjoyed by all Queenslanders, and those who visit, for generations to come.

In September 2022, the Queensland Government released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (the QEJP), which sets out the government's vision to transform the State's electricity system to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable power for generations. The QEJP reaffirmed the government's commitment to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and set two new targets of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. The QEJP will see

50 per cent lower emissions from electricity by 2029-30 and 90 per cent lower electricity emissions by 2035-36.

Queensland is already within reach of its 2030 emission reduction target of 30 per cent on 2005 levels, having already reduced its total emissions by 29 per cent from 2005 levels on the latest data. Queensland also has a target of zero net emissions by 2050 and has recently announced a new emissions reduction target of 75 per cent below 2005 levels by 2035. These targets, which will be legislated, will support industry growth and attract greater investment in renewables, strengthening the work set out in the QEJP.

Queensland has been able to reduce emissions while experiencing very strong population and economic growth. Queensland's resident population has increased from 3.9 million persons in 2005 to 5.2 million persons in 2021. The Queensland economy has also grown by more than 50 per cent in real terms over this period.

Beyond energy decarbonisation, Queensland's energy transition will bring significant local socio-economic benefits, including promoting better outcomes for workers and supporting local businesses. The Queensland Government has released, and has engaged with communities and stakeholders on, the draft Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework (Partnerships Framework) and Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap. Consultation closed on both documents on 22 September 2023.

The Partnerships Framework outlines the Queensland Government's proposed approach to ensure communities and people are at the centre of the energy transformation. It includes seven principles for Queensland's energy transformation to guide Queensland Government investment to maximise regional opportunities and community benefits. The Partnerships Framework includes initial priority actions under these principles and \$35 million in funding to support the energy transformation in regional Queensland.

Building on the principles and action in the Partnerships Framework, the Queensland Government has released a new Local Energy Partnerships, backed by \$9.25 million in investment. This investment includes partnering with peak and community bodies and industry to improve practice and engagement in the renewable energy sector. Through the Local Energy Partnerships initiative, the Queensland Government will establish the first Community Leader Energy Councils to formalise channels for engagement on the first Renewable Energy Zone in Queensland.

The QEJP is supported by the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint (the Blueprint). This is a technical document that outlines Queensland's pathway to achieve the vision and renewable energy targets identified in the QEJP. It details the major electricity infrastructure investments required to transform Queensland's electricity system while maintaining a least cost, secure and reliable supply of electricity.

The Queensland Government will also continue to establish regional plans, with input from community and industry, to promote improved regional outcomes in communities directly impacted by the transition to a low-emission economy. Regional Transformation Strategies are being drafted in four regions:

- North West Queensland (and corridor to Townsville)
- Greater Whitsunday
- Central Queensland
- Darling Downs, South West and South Burnett.

Funding will be allocated to the implementation of these strategies from the \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund, which is a program to support communities in seizing

industry development opportunities presented by global decarbonisation. To provide input on program design as well as the objectives, economic priorities and projects for the Regional Transformation Strategies, a Transformation Working Group has been established between state and local governments. Stakeholder Advisory Committees involving community and industry representatives have also been established.

Additionally, the Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth's Net Zero Economy Agency and its objectives of supporting workers in emissions-intensive sectors, coordinating policies to promote new clean energy industries, and supporting investors to engage with net zero transformation opportunities. This collaborative and productive engagement will continue to inform key policies, including the Commonwealth Government's Net Zero 2050 Plan, to maximise local benefits of the global transition to net zero.

The Queensland Government has a number of initiatives already in place to assist in delivering its ambitious emissions reduction targets and to oversee the transition to a decarbonised economy. These initiatives provide a practical pathway to net zero that will protect the long-term viability of our economy and communities.

Queensland Legislative Assembly

Number: 5724T176



13 FEB 2024

Tabled ☒

By Leave ☐

MP: Hon. M. de Brenni

Clerk's Signature: