

Our ref: OUT25/5769
Your ref: 4320-25

27 November 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petition 4320-25, tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2025, about the rapid expansion of renewable energy infrastructure within Queensland, including the Moah Creek Wind Farm (the Wind Farm), located 30 kilometres west of Rockhampton.

The petition calls for the withdrawal of all State investment for the Wind Farm, citing the recent cancellation of the Moonlight Range Wind Farm due to insufficient community consultation and the introduction of new planning legislation requiring a social licence and meaningful engagement.

As Minister for Planning, I can provide advice relating to development approvals and project information, however matters to do with public funding and investment will require a response of the Treasurer and Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, David Janetzki MP.

The Moah Creek Wind Farm received development approval under the former Labor Government's weak planning laws on 31 October 2023. These laws shut local residents and Councils out of the approval process, and did not allow for community consultation or third party appeal rights.

Within 100 days of forming Government, on 3 February 2025, the Planning Regulation 2017 was amended, to require all new wind farm proposals in Queensland to undergo impact assessment. This means mandatory public consultation and third party appeal rights being afforded. Additionally, State code 23 – Wind Farm Development and its associated planning guideline were updated to include new assessment benchmarks focused on managing community impacts and planning for project decommissioning.

On 18 July 2025, further amendments to Queensland's planning legislation came into effect. These amendments introduced a community benefit framework requiring applicants to conduct social impact assessments, participate in community consultation processes, and enter into a community benefit agreement with the relevant Local Government prior to lodging a development application. These changes also made solar farms impact assessable, requiring public notification for all new proposals.

Large-scale solar farms (over 1MW) generating energy for use off-site will now be assessed by the State Assessment and Referral Agency under a new State code, while other solar farms will remain under Local Government assessment. Additional information, including guidance materials, is available on the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning's website:

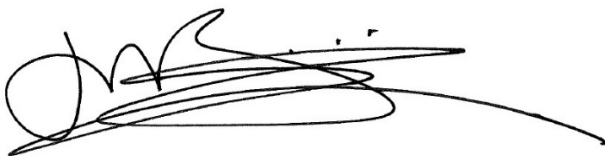
<https://www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-issues-and-interests/renewable-energy>

These reforms deliver on the Crisafulli Government's commitment to ensure that future applications for wind farms and solar farms are subject to robust community engagement, giving regional Queensland communities a stronger voice in the planning process.

I also note that the Wind Farm was declared a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). In accordance with section 98(1)(c) of the EPBC Act, the draft Public Environment Report was made available for public viewing and comment by the proponent, Moah Creek Wind Farm Project Co Pty Ltd, from 24 September 2025 to 24 October 2025. Following the review of public submissions and updates to the assessment documents, the final materials will be published, and the Federal Minister will issue a proposed decision, before making a final determination.

I thank the petitioners for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jarrod Bleijie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
DEPUTY PREMIER

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and
Minister for Industrial Relations