

Our ref: WR26/8047

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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4291-25, tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026, titled 'Stop all renewable energy projects in the State of Queensland'.

Under the former Labor Government's decade of decline, regional communities were playing host to large scale wind farm development and were victims of a weak planning framework that was not fit-for-purpose, including community consultation being optional, and appeal rights not being afforded. In addition to wind farm developments, due consideration was never given to the impacts on communities from solar farms and battery storage facility developments also.

That's why the Crisafulli Government promised at the election to require all renewable projects to be impact assessable and subject to the same rigorous approval processes as other resource projects.

Shortly after the election, in July and December 2025, the Crisafulli Government introduced significant reforms to strengthen social licence requirements for renewable energy projects including wind farms, solar farms and battery storage facility development through the commencement of the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025* and the *Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025*, which amends the *Planning Regulation 2017*.

This system requires proponents of certain development types including wind farms, solar farms and battery storage facilities, to undertake a social impact assessment and enter into a community benefit agreement with the local government as part of the development assessment process. This new approach ensures renewable energy projects respond to identified social impacts of development and are responsive to feedback from local communities.

The Crisafulli Government's nation leading planning reforms are to ensure that the renewable energy sector only undertakes development in a way that ensures that proponents build social licence, address all impacts of the development, and leave positive legacy benefits for the community that hosts the development.

The regulatory changes make wind farms, solar farms and battery storage facilities 'impact assessable' (except for small scale solar farms and battery storage facilities), meaning formal public consultation is mandatory and submitters have appeal rights in the court. The changes also make the State Assessment and Referral Agency the assessment manager for large-scale renewable energy projects with a consistent assessment under the State Development Assessment Codes (SDAP) which applies statewide.

When a development application is lodged for a renewable energy project, a rigorous assessment of the application is carried out against the relevant benchmarks including SDAP. Specifically, SDAP State code 23: Wind farm development (State code 23), SDAP State code 26: Solar farm development (State code 26) and SDAP State code 27: Battery storage facility development (State code 27) all provide fit-for-purpose assessment benchmarks designed to ensure the renewable energy project is appropriately designed and suitably located.

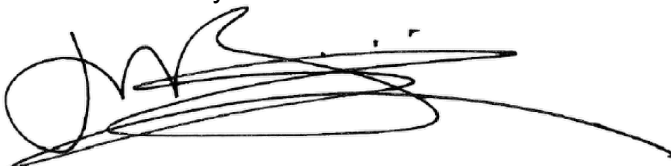
State codes 23, 26 and 27 contain an array of assessment benchmarks, including outcomes relating to ecological matters, agricultural land and decommissioning among other things.

Specific technical reports that must be provided for assessment include:

- Bushfire Hazard and Management Plan.
- Natural hazard and extreme weather risk assessment.
- Agricultural land assessment.
- Scenic amenity impact assessment.
- Noise assessment.
- Stormwater management plan and flood assessment.
- Ecological assessment report.
- Fire safety report.
- Preliminary hazard assessment.
- Traffic impact assessment.
- Decommissioning requirements.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me 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**  
**Minister for Industrial Relations**

02/04/2026