

**QUEENSLAND**

**ENERGY AND JOBS PLAN**

Power for **generations**

**80%**  
Renewable Energy  
by 2035



**Local Energy Partnerships**

**LOCAL VOICES**

**LOCAL CHOICES**

**LOCAL BENEFITS**

*Ensuring Local Voices, Local Choices and Local Benefits are prioritised through the energy transformation*





## About Local Energy Partnerships

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

Released in September 2022, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (the plan) committed to partnering with communities to realise the benefits and opportunities created by the energy transformation.

The Queensland Government has committed \$19 billion over four years to deliver on the plan.

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

The draft Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework and draft 2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap both put forward initial actions and proposed initiatives to support communities.

Through workshops, surveys, meetings and feedback, we heard you say that communities need more genuine engagement, more resources to get involved, real tangible local benefits and stronger coordination.

Local Energy Partnerships continues our commitment 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 from the energy transformation.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the energy transformation principles that were consulted on in 2023 have been further refined and now underpin the Local Energy Partnerships framework:

### Local Voices



#### Drive genuine and ongoing engagement

Demonstrate an inclusive and collaborative approach to engaging and supporting communities in the energy transformation, both now and into the future.



#### Engage, value and involve First Nations peoples

Recognise and value the unique connection First Nations peoples have to Country and enhance opportunities for active participation and economic benefit from the energy transformation.

### Local Choices



#### Build local capacity

Build the capacity of local communities to positively manage change and unlock benefits associated with the energy transformation.



#### Promote diverse economies

Enable diverse land uses, and coexistence between industries where possible, to maintain and strengthen local economies.



#### Foster environmental resilience

Deliver better biodiversity outcomes and contribute towards meeting climate targets.

### Local Benefits



#### Share lasting benefits with communities

Create opportunities for communities to share in the economic, social and environmental benefits of energy development.



#### Expand workforce opportunities and secure livelihoods

Foster local employment through developing training opportunities, promoting workforce diversity, and embedding secure work throughout the energy transformation.



#### Buy local, build local

Expand local procurement, manufacturing, and supply chain opportunities from energy infrastructure development, and work with local businesses to enable greater participation.

These principles are guiding the ways that the Queensland Government supports better local outcomes as part of the energy transformation.



# Local Energy Partnerships takes forward the eight principles for the energy transformation and represents a clear step in our journey with regional communities.

These initiatives respond to feedback from Queenslanders by creating a framework for community participation and sharing benefits.

## Local Voices



More engagement with communities



Greater role for the GasFields Commission Queensland



Improving practices in the renewable energy industry



Partnering with peak bodies to engage and support communities



Understanding shared land use implications



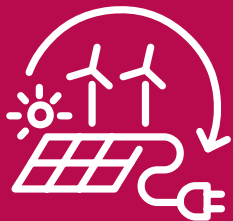
## Local Choices



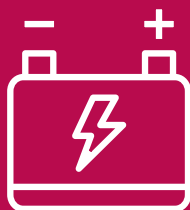
Partnering with Local Councils



Improving access to information for regions



Improving coordination and facilitation



Reviewing planning frameworks for renewables

## Local Benefits



Increasing regional internet speeds



Investigating more ways to share benefits



Helping mobilise local supply chains



## Local Voices

**We heard you say...**  
diverse local voices need formal mechanisms for genuine engagement.

**We heard you say...**  
there are existing trusted bodies that could be expanded to support localised advice and representation.

Empowering communities with more genuine and ongoing engagement to help shape the energy transformation.

### What we are doing

#### More engagement with communities

Investigating the opportunity for the **first Community Leader Energy Councils** with GasFields Commission Queensland to:

- implement your feedback on Regional Energy Reference Groups
- formalise channels for engagement on the first Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

#### Greater role for the GasFields Commission Queensland

Supporting the proposed **expanded remit of GasFields Commission Queensland** to:

- promote coexistence of renewable energy developments, agriculture and other industries in host communities
- support communities with a trusted, independent body for information, education and engagement.

### We heard you say...

Careful assessment, coordination and planning is required to support communities through the transformation.

#### Understanding shared land use implications

An additional \$1.5 million to **explore potential shared land use implications**, on top of the existing \$6 million committed to undertake initial Strategic REZ Readiness Assessments of the Southern, Central and North and Far North Queensland regions. This funding will investigate:

- opportunities and priorities as part of REZ development across regions
- potential implications for infrastructure, roads, transport, housing and accommodation, workforce, supply chains, waste management, other land uses, and social infrastructure
- community input and perspectives including local industry and First Nations considerations.

### We heard you say...

Peak bodies need support to get involved in the transformation and improve practices.

#### Improving practices in the renewable energy industry

\$3 million to work with the **renewable energy sector** to:

- guide better practice in the renewable energy sector, in accordance with our eight principles for the energy transformation
- improve industry engagement with community and local government on building the energy infrastructure for the Queensland SuperGrid.

#### Partnering with peak bodies to engage and support communities

\$2.9 million to partner with **agriculture, community, environmental and First Nations** peak bodies to:

- better equip communities through the energy transformation
- support the delivery of information and education relevant to communities
- identify options for technology like agrivoltaics to facilitate improved coexistence outcomes.

\$200,000 for **environmental non-government organisations** to engage stakeholders on the energy transformation and contribute to enhancing environmental outcomes for pumped hydro energy storage projects.

## What we have done

- Listened to the community and actively consulted on the **draft Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework**, **draft 2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap**, and an exposure draft of the **Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill**, receiving nearly 200 submissions, 1,500 survey responses and undertaking more than 30 public events.
- Launched the **Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy** outlining our approach to developing the industries that will be in demand in a decarbonising world. Local Economic Opportunities Networks have been established to work with local communities to seize emerging industry development opportunities and assist with economic transition.
- Committed to the development of the **Queensland Battery Industry Strategy** which will help deliver the Australian Government's investment of up to \$100 million in an Australian-Made Battery Precinct in Queensland, as well as support the Queensland Government's Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The strategy recognises the opportunity for Queensland to become a driving force in the development, manufacturing and deployment of new energy storage technologies.
- Started to convert all publicly owned coal-fired power stations into **clean energy hubs** by 2035.
- Worked on implementing a regular community sentiment survey.

# Local Choices

Empowering local and regional communities to engage with the energy transformation

## We heard you say...

Local Councils have an important role to play and communities want them to be ready to rise to the opportunity.

## We heard you say...

proactive, regionally-based planning is needed to support efficient investment in local infrastructure.

## What we are doing

### Partnering with Local Councils

\$1.65 million over two years to work with Local Councils to deliver a **Local Council Energy Partnership** program to:

- boost Councils' ability to engage on energy matters and meet challenges of the energy transformation
- assist Local Councils that access energy from the east-coast National Electricity Market to understand how to access greater benefits from the market
- continue to work with remote and isolated communities, Traditional Owners and Councils to develop the Remote and First Nations clean energy strategy.

### Improving access to information for regions

Developing **Regional Energy Profiles** to:

- partner with communities on regional energy profiles
- support localised understanding of the energy transformation
- input local information into the next Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint in 2025.



“ *The State Government will need to consider how to support Councils to ensure there is an ecosystem around the development of renewable energy projects and circular economy principles applied to developments.* ”

– CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

### We heard you say...

government must coordinate amongst stakeholders to support communities and facilitate collaboration.

### We heard you say...

end-of-life planning and recycling schemes need to be in place.

#### Improving coordination and facilitation

Working with the **Office of the Coordinator-General** to:

- enhance the ability of the Office of the Coordinator-General to work across state agencies and Local Councils on the energy transformation
- facilitate coordination for renewable energy development.

#### Reviewing planning frameworks for renewables

Continuing to **review planning frameworks** for renewable energy development, including solar farms to:

- investigate options for asset lifecycle assessments, including end-of-life planning and recycling
- consider if the development regime is aligned with community expectations
- update the state code 23: wind farm development and the associated planning guidance.

## What we have done

- Partnered with the Queensland Farmers' Federation to deliver the **Queensland Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit**, providing landholders easy-to-understand information to assist them when considering renewable energy development on their properties.
- Brought key energy stakeholders together to identify **best practice in benefits sharing**.
- Developed new draft legislation to underpin Renewable Energy Zones, including the process for local engagement.
- Developed and consulted on the draft Queensland E-Products Action Plan 2023-2033, which includes a proposal to ban the on-site and landfill disposal of end-of-life products including solar panels, batteries and large household appliances.

Queensland Government has also engaged the solar industry to co-design a solar panel recovery pilot, which will help inform a solar panel stewardship scheme.

- Continued to work with the Federal Government as they roll out the new Net Zero Authority.
- Released a **new mapping layer** on the Queensland Globe, giving greater insights into how resources, agricultural and renewable energy projects interact.
- Acquired the **\$5 billion CopperString 2.0** project, now known as CopperString 2032, an essential part of the new Queensland SuperGrid transmission backbone that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid.

# Local Benefits

Working with communities on tangible benefits shaped by local people.



## We heard you say...

host communities want to see direct, tangible benefits on their power bills.

## What we are doing

### Investigating more ways to share benefits

Investigating additional opportunities for **sharing benefits with communities** from renewable energy development to:

- support the equitable distribution of financial benefits to host communities, including potentially pooling industry contributions
- explore the ways in which regional households can benefit from renewable energy.

## We heard you say...

local businesses want opportunities to capture the benefits of the energy transformation.

### Increasing regional internet speeds

\$250 million to support **increased internet speeds** through the Queensland SuperGrid to:

- improve digital connectivity for businesses and communities in key parts of the Queensland SuperGrid
- unlock opportunities to support local jobs, businesses and host communities.

### Helping mobilise local supply chains

Working to build **opportunities for local businesses** by:

- supporting local suppliers by providing visibility of the opportunity pipeline from renewable energy development
- mapping supply chains to identify opportunities for local business
- developing procurement and local content initiatives to support local opportunities.

## What we have done

- Provided rebates for more than 72,700 households through the **Climate Smart Energy Savers** initiative encouraging households to upgrade to 4-star (or higher) energy efficient appliances.
- Delivered relief on households electricity bills in 2023-24 through a \$550 **Cost of Living Rebate**.
- Investigated renewable energy supply chains for wind, solar, grid-scale battery energy storage systems and transmission to strengthen resilience and to support local businesses.
- Opened **Queensland SuperGrid Training Centre and Transmission Hub** in Townsville and Gladstone.
- Launched **Buy Queensland 2023** which reaffirms the Queensland Government's commitment to harness government procurement spend to deliver a decarbonised economy.
- Provided the \$150 million Energy Workers Charter and Jobs Security Guarantee.
- In May 2023 Powerlink launched a new SuperGrid Landholder Payment Framework to boost payments to landholders hosting new transmission infrastructure. Under the new framework, Queensland landholders hosting new transmission infrastructure will receive higher payments.



# QUEENSLAND ENERGY AND JOBS PLAN

Power for **generations**

**Local Energy  
Partnerships**

LOCAL VOICES  
LOCAL CHOICES  
LOCAL BENEFITS

## **Our Local Energy Partnerships Vision**

We are committed to actively listening to communities. We will continue to develop tangible initiatives that support local voices, local choices and local benefits based on our principles for the energy transformation.



[qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan](https://qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan)



13 QGOV (13 74 68)



@QldEnergyandClimate