

Central Queensland REZ Readiness Assessment Actions

Queensland's energy transformation will deliver jobs, new industries and drive new investment across Central Queensland.



\$25.8M
to support
REZ Readiness



1,350
construction jobs



\$14.4 billion
of investment



Up to 8.2 GW
of new renewable
energy capacity

To help unlock these opportunities, the Queensland Government undertook Pilot Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Readiness Assessments for Central Queensland and the potential Callide REZ.

Over 2024, we:

- engaged with communities across Central Queensland to understand the key priorities and needs of the region
- completed technical analysis across a range of topics to identify local opportunities as part of renewable energy development, and measures to manage potential cumulative impacts.

Based on the findings from these assessments, we have committed to delivering a series of initial actions to support the readiness of Central Queensland communities to host future REZ development, with a focus on the proposed Callide REZ which is expected to be declared in 2025. These initiatives will support ongoing planning and engagement with communities on their needs.

Key actions



Housing

Enabling the Biloela Workforce Accommodation and legacy housing opportunities

\$1.4 million to plan for the future workforce including further developing the Biloela Workforce Accommodation proposal and investigating legacy housing opportunities.



Workforce

New Callide Future Hub Training Facility and Visitor Centre

\$4.4 million to construct the Callide Future Hub, a new dedicated education facility near the Callide Power Station. This will include a visitor centre for new technologies.



Photo credit: Lighthouse



Transport

Review of region's transport network to identify ways to optimise local roads and bridges

\$3.1 million to complete a transport network infrastructure capability and performance investigation, and evaluation of preferred and alternative transport routes from port to REZs and optimisation of transport network operations.



Community

Community Legacy Fund and Engagement Program

\$5 million seed funding for a pilot Callide REZ Community Legacy Fund to ensure long-lasting, legacy benefits. Locals will be involved in identifying priorities for investment through a Callide REZ Local Reference Group that will be established. A further **\$1.8 million** will support a renewable energy engagement and education program. The program will identify local champions and include educational materials, myth busting and local forums.



Artist's impression: Stanwell Clean Energy Hub



Powerlink Queensland Actions

Investigating improved access to high-speed internet and mobile phone coverage to regional areas through the SuperGrid Telecommunications Program along transmission routes.

Delivering higher payments to landholders and neighbours through the SuperGrid Landholder Payment Framework, the first of its kind in Australia.



Economy

Activating industry investment in Biloela Industrial Precinct

\$3.5 million for industry incentives in the Biloela Industrial Precinct to encourage investment in the region.



Supply Chain

Connecting local supply chains and businesses

\$500,000 to partner with Banana Shire Council to develop a Callide REZ procurement strategy to connect local supply chains with REZ opportunities, including First Nations businesses.



Environment

Consideration of biodiversity and coordinated offsets

\$1 million for detailed consideration and mapping of the biodiversity in the region and exploring an approach for securing coordinated offsets for the Callide REZ.



Waste

New Banana Shire waste facility

\$500,000 to work with the Banana Shire Council to accelerate a new waste facility to ensure sufficient capacity and recycling opportunities for REZ development.



First Nations

First Nations Engagement

\$500,000 for continued tailored engagement and partnerships with First Nations groups in the Central Queensland region.



Planning

Further early planning for infrastructure requirements

\$4.1 million to further investigate critical issues, like waste, resource recovery, supply chains, transport logistics, and infrastructure funding models across the region. Government will work with Local Councils to inform master planning for required local infrastructure for REZs in Central Queensland.



Next steps ↗

- REZ Readiness Assessments are not a set and forget exercise. Stakeholder and community engagement and detailed planning will continue as REZ development progresses in Central Queensland.
- The Queensland Government will work in partnership with Local Councils, peak bodies, and the proposed Callide REZ Local Reference Group to support communities throughout the energy transformation and ensure they are prepared to capitalise on the opportunities to come from REZ development.
- Further detailed assessments of other potential REZ developments in Central Queensland like Calliope, Capricorn and Isaac, will occur over time.
- Regional REZ Readiness Assessments for the North and Far North Queensland region and the Southern Queensland region will commence in late 2024 - early 2025.

MAP KEY

- Potential Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zones
- Existing transmission lines
- Clean Energy Hubs

