

# Shift to Renewable Energy

Queensland's energy system is dirty, outdated and inefficient because it is dominated by power-plants that burn coal and gas for electricity. A rapid transition to 100% renewable energy from the sun, wind, and waves would create jobs, improve health outcomes by reducing toxic air and water pollution, and stop our biggest contribution to the climate crisis. Since the majority of Queensland's power plants are publicly owned, the next state government literally has the power to deliver a fast, fair, and well-managed transition to clean energy.

## Suggested policy solutions for the next Queensland government:

### Commit to ambitious renewable energy targets

- Deliver 1-2 GW of renewable energy per year through to 2025 to maintain renewables construction and supply chain jobs, and ensure 2030 100% renewables target is within reach.
- Legislate a Queensland Renewable Energy Target for 2020 and 2025 with a plan to achieve 100% clean electricity generated in Queensland by 2030.
- Set an emissions reduction target for the energy sector that, at a minimum, supports Queensland's current targets of a 30% cut in emissions by 2030 and zero-net emissions by 2050.
- By June 2021, finalise and release the QRET 2030 Roadmap<sup>12</sup> to provide a clear pathway to achieve Queensland's renewable energy targets.
- Establish a target to reach zero-net emissions for government operations by 2030 through a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

### Grid-scale renewable energy

- Establish three Renewable Energy Zones in Queensland<sup>13</sup> supported by: investment or underwriting for new electricity-grid infrastructure; a clear plan for what types of new generation are required and where; incentives to begin construction on new large-scale renewable energy projects; attracting energy-intensive manufacturing and

industry to the REZ; and coordinated land-use planning & community consultation.

- Maintain majority public ownership of power generation in Queensland by mandating and resourcing government-owned corporations (CleanCo, Stanwell and CS Energy) to build, own and operate renewable energy power stations, including sufficient dispatchable or "on-demand" renewables.
- Accelerate the development of a green hydrogen industry for Queensland.
- Develop a renewable export industry strategy to support the new export industries that harness Queensland's competitive advantage of abundant, cheap clean energy to deliver innovative new products and service.
- Produce a Renewable Energy industry development and export strategy that includes:
  - » support for Queensland-based clean energy businesses;
  - » a plan to provide good local jobs for workers in regional Queensland;
  - » increased support for renewable hydrogen exports;
  - » developing minerals essential for clean energy technologies.

### A well managed transition away from polluting coal power

- Rule out any new coal fired power stations, and the production of hydrogen using coal or fossil gas.
- Develop a clear plan for the orderly phase out of all Queensland's coal-fired power plants by 2030, to meet science-based climate targets.

<sup>12</sup> Queensland Renewable Energy Target 2030 Roadmap.

<sup>13</sup> Similar to the NSW Government's plan for Renewable Energy Zones and drawing on recommendations from the AEMO Integrated System Plan.



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- Develop a Just Transition Policy Framework to support impacted workers into new employment opportunities and support sustainable economic development and employment opportunities in communities affected by the transition.
- Assist industries to transition to clean energy with infrastructure and research & development support.

### **Renewable energy and energy efficiency for communities, homes and businesses**

- Provide funding and capacity for community-owned and decentralised renewable energy projects, community energy hubs and reliable off-grid renewable energy solutions for remote towns.
- Ensure equitable access to affordable clean electricity by providing funding for remote Indigenous communities to switch to renewable energy; installing solar on all public housing; and delivering energy literacy programs for disadvantaged groups.
- Introduce a Queensland energy efficiency target and certificates program to support residential and commercial energy efficiency, drawing on the strongest features of the NSW and Victorian schemes.
- Help low-income households and renters to access solar and storage; by expanding and rolling-out the government's pilot projects on:
  - » installing solar on public and community housing;
  - » rebates for household batteries;
  - » assisting landlords to install solar on rental properties,
  - » community solar gardens, and community scale batteries.

### **No backwards steps:**

- Continue to provide funding for remote Indigenous communities to switch to renewable energy and to deliver energy literacy programs for disadvantaged groups.
- No cancellation, or roll-back, on programs to incentivise renewable energy generation.
- Support and expand Clean Co, Queensland's new clean-energy generation company, including its target to deliver 1GW of new renewable energy generation by 2025.
- Continue and expand the Queensland Government's Just Transition Group and establish the Just Transitions Advisory Committee and complete the Just Transitions Framework as announced in August 2018 .
- Continue and expand the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy and Development Fund<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dsdmp.qld.gov.au/industry/priority-industries/advanced-manufacturing/hydrogen-industry-development.html>