Queensland LNP Risks 12.000 Renewable Jobs

August 2020

Currently, it is the Queensland LNP's policy position that they will not maintain the state's 50% by 2030 renewable energy target if elected at the October 31 state election.

Modelling from the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) generation comparison for the repeal of Queensland's Renewable Energy Target (QRET) shows that by the year 2029-30 Queensland will have 1952MW less wind capacity and 2949MW less large-scale solar capacity in a scenario where the QRET is repealed.¹

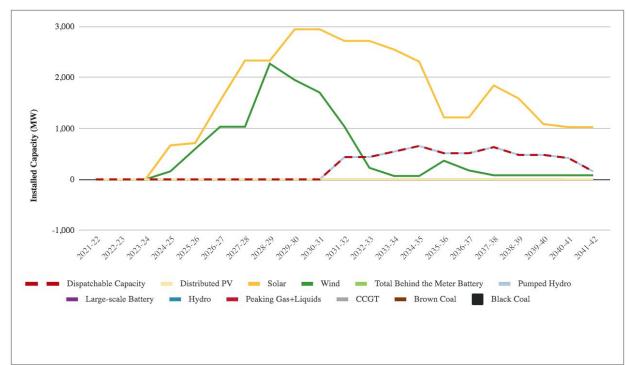


Figure 1: Queensland difference in capacity each year.²

The Institute of Sustainable Futures released job factors for various renewable energy generation types in June this year.³ Using these factors, it can be concluded that by 2030 Queensland will have had 5,544 fewer jobs in the construction of wind farms and 6,724 fewer construction jobs in large-scale solar farms if the QRET is repealed. The differences in large-scale renewable energy capacity also equate to 754 fewer ongoing jobs in large-scale renewable generation.

As outlined in the modelling by AEMO, the Fitzroy Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) will have 1,494MW less solar capacity and 306MW less wind capacity if the QRET is repealed. This is

¹ Sensitivity Comparison: Repeal of the QRET, Draft 2020 ISP Generation Outlooks, AEMO, 2020.

² Sensitivity Comparison: Repeal of the QRET, Draft 2020 ISP Generation Outlooks, AEMO, 2020.

³ Renewable Energy Employment in Australia: Methodology, UTS Institute of Sustainable Futures, 2020.

equivalent to 4,275 fewer construction jobs around the Central Queensland region, and 231 fewer ongoing clean energy jobs.

Similarly, the Darling Downs REZ will have 1,455MW less large-scale solar capacity and 1,400 less wind capacity. This is equivalent to 7,293 fewer construction jobs around the Darling Downs region, and 468 fewer ongoing clean energy jobs.