

Powering Queensland Plan

June 2017

On Monday 5 June 2017 the Queensland Premier, the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Curtis Pitt MP, and Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, the Hon Mark Bailey MP, released the Queensland Government's Powering Queensland Plan.

The Powering Queensland Plan aims to drive investment in the Queensland energy system as it transitions to a low-carbon electricity sector.

This Occasional Paper will outline key elements of the Plan.

Renewable Energy Expert Panel Final Report

As part of the Powering Queensland Plan, the Government released its response to the Renewable Energy Expert Panel Final Report into pathways to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

Key commitments outlined in the Government's response include:

- Undertaking a reverse auction for 400 MW of renewable energy capacity in the second half of 2017. The initial reverse auction will support the bringing forward of renewable energy technology solutions which drive long term energy security.
- Undertaking additional reverse auctions as a mechanism for delivering key renewable energy projects post 2020.
- Supporting the delivery of renewable energy projects through a streamlined assessment process. This will be achieved through the updating of relevant planning instruments, including the State Planning Policy and State Development Assessment Provisions.
- Identifying underutilised or underperforming government land in regional Queensland that has the potential to be transformed into large-scale renewable energy projects.
- Attracting international and interstate investment in Queensland's renewable energy sector through inter-departmental collaboration.

The Government's full response to the Renewable Energy Expert Panel Final Report is available [here](#).

Powering North Queensland Plan

The Government's Powering North Queensland Plan, released on 2 June 2017, is another element of the Powering Queensland Plan.



The Government's Powering North Queensland Plan includes the following projects and initiatives:

- \$150 million, reinvested from Powerlink dividends, for the development of strategic transmission infrastructure linking Far North, Central, and North Queensland through specific renewable energy hub projects.
- \$100 million, reinvested from Stanwell dividends, for a feasibility study into the expansion of Queensland's hydro-electric facilities – specifically at Burdekin Falls.
- Commissioning of a hydro-electric study to assess options for new hydro-electricity across the state, specifically in regional Queensland.

Further information on the Powering North Queensland Plan is available [here](#).

Additional elements

Under the Powering Queensland Plan the Queensland Government will establish a Queensland Energy Security Taskforce. The Taskforce will be tasked with implementing the Finkel Review outcomes accepted by the Queensland Government, and advising the Government on options around ongoing energy security. Its first priority will be consulting with industry to ensure the security of Queensland's energy security during high demand periods, including the summer periods over the coming years.

Additional elements of the Powering Queensland Plan include:

- Implementing the Queensland Gas Action Plan, including the release of 450 square kilometres of new gas tenure.
- Establishing a central web portal providing integrated information for renewable energy project proponents. The web portal will be developed in the second half of 2017.
- Restarting Stanwell Corporation's Swanbank gas fired power station.
- Investigating the potential establishment of 'CleanCo' – a new Government owned Corporation, to operate existing renewable and low-emission energy generation assets and develop and oversee new renewable energy generation projects. An investigation into the restructure of Government owned generators, including the establishment of 'CleanCo', will occur in the first half of 2018.
- Engaging with other Australian jurisdictions around the development of integrated national climate change and energy policies.

Further information

Further information on the Powering Queensland Plan is available [here](#).

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