

Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025

Coexistence Queensland Submission

October 2025

Overview

Coexistence Queensland supports the amendments to the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill) in line with the approach outlined in the Queensland Government's Energy Roadmap. We are pleased to see that the Roadmap places communities and social licence at the forefront of new energy developments.

We strongly support the concept of Regional Energy Hubs as a mechanism for meaningful planning and engagement around energy development at a regional scale. We also strongly support the development of a Code of Conduct for renewable energy developers, and for Queensland Investment Corporation to oversee major private investment in energy projects to ensure the impact to landholders and communities are understood, and that regions are treated as valued partners.

Coexistence Queensland – well-placed to support the Energy Roadmap

Coexistence Queensland is an independent statutory body. Our organisation's legislated purpose is to manage and improve sustainable coexistence between landholders, regional communities with the development of the resources and renewable energy industries.

In order to support the proposed amendments proposed in the Bill, Coexistence Queensland is seeking to strengthen our partnership with government. Coexistence Queensland's expertise and statutory role presents a unique and valuable opportunity to achieve the outcomes sought in the Bill and broader objectives of the Energy Roadmap.

As Queensland continues to diversify its energy mix and leverage its natural assets and resources, Coexistence Queensland continues to support landholders and communities through energy project developments, to assist in achieving the state's policy objectives in a sustainable way.

In particular, Coexistence Queensland is well-placed to lead and support coordinated community and stakeholder engagement associated with Regional Energy Hubs.

Specific Comments:

Clause 31 (1) and 35 (1): Regional Energy Hubs

- Says in part “the impact that the development and operation of a transmission network in a regional energy hub has, or is likely to have, on communities, including, for example, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples”....and “relevant matters are also taken into account in the declaration of regional energy hubs, including, for example, the impact of regional energy hubs declaration on a community is considered ahead of declaration of a hub.”

Comments and suggestions:

- Coexistence Queensland strongly supports the concept of Regional Energy Hubs to provide a mechanism place-based planning, assessment and management of energy development at a regional scale. These will not only be an important mechanism from an energy systems perspective, but also in terms of cumulative impact management and stakeholder and community engagement.
- The move away from sole focus on renewable energy to a more holistic focus on energy development and generation is strongly supported. Queensland regions are experiencing

an unprecedented development in the form of resources and energy development, and it is important that this is a key consideration in planning around Regional Energy Hubs.

- Stakeholder engagement associated with the establishment and implementation of Regional Energy Hubs will be key. Coexistence Queensland can play a key role in facilitating strategic stakeholder engagement in Regional Energy Hubs through our Community Leaders Council (CLC) concept.
- Coexistence Queensland recently held a CLC in Banana Shire (in partnership with Council) and is currently co-convening a Local Reference Group with Banana as a mechanism for ongoing community dialogue around resources and energy development. These activities were driven by the need for coordinated strategic engagement in an area experience very significant energy development and growth.
- This is a model that could be replicated with Regional Energy Hubs to provide a single mechanism for structured and proactive stakeholder and community engagement, and to minimise engagement fatigue.
- The Treasurer and Minister for Energy has announced that the first regional energy hub will likely be in the Flinders Shire.
- Coexistence Queensland has begun a program of engagement in the Flinders region, building on the success of an Energy Forum in partnership with Flinders Shire Council in Hughenden in May 2025.
- As such, Coexistence Queensland is well positioned to build on this engagement and play a leadership role in community and stakeholder engagement in the region, in close partnership with local government, state government and other key stakeholders.
- The assessment process associated with the declaration of Regional Energy Hubs will be critical. It is recommended that further regulatory or policy guidance is provided by government on this process.
- Coexistence Queensland believes the assessment process provides a significant opportunity to establish a cumulative impact assessment and management framework that ensures balanced and responsible development occurring across Queensland energy regions. Concern around cumulative impact and the current land use planning framework's inability to do this is raised frequently with Coexistence Queensland.
- The Hub assessment process represents an opportunity to provide the cumulative assessment framework, complimentary to and information implementation of recent planning reforms around renewable energy development.
- Given our remit and expertise, Coexistence Queensland seeks to be consulted as key stakeholder during the development of a Hub assessment process.
- We also seek to be consulted in the assessment phase of a regional energy hub to provide informed views on landholder and community sentiment in the regions based on community engagement activities of the organisation.

Division 2, item 186, 187, 188:

The abolishment of the Energy Industry Council, Queensland Energy Jobs Advocate, and Queensland Energy System Advisory Board.

Comments and suggestions:

- The abolishment of these advisory groups significantly reduces the level of collaborative stakeholder governance and therefore the ability to receive consolidated feedback from a broad range of industry, local government, community and peak body groups that have a key role in energy infrastructure development.
- This presents an important opportunity to create a single, consolidated governance group to provide strategic advice and guide implementation of the Energy Road map and associated amendments contained in the Bill.
- It is anticipated that this group would contain executive level representatives of all relevant government, peak body, community and industry stakeholder groups. This group would build on the momentum create via the Treasurer's Energy Roundtables and provide an ongoing dialogue with stakeholder across the breadth of economic, social and environmental issues and opportunities associated with Road Map implementation.
- Should such a body be formed, Coexistence Queensland believes it can play a key role through the provision of advice within our coexistence and social licence remit, bringing practical advice on landholder or community insights gained from direct engagement with communities across the state..

We have the following comments to the Energy Roadmap:

Coexistence Queensland supports QIC as government's 'front door' and investment fund manager, along with the establishment of *"A \$200 million North West Energy Fund, in partnership with the private sector, will also support local generation and storage solutions across Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Richmond"*:

Recommendations:

- Given the complex energy and resources development mosaic across north and north-west Queensland, and interaction of development with a diversity of regional and remote communities across the region, social licence and coexistence will be critical to success.
- Coexistence Queensland has a strong desire to support the policy agenda of government and the activities of QIC in the region and believes that ongoing engagement between the two organisation's is critical.

Developer Code of Conduct

Coexistence Queensland strongly supports a mandatory Code of Conduct for energy development and has been regularly engaged by Treasury in the development the draft Code to date.

Key considerations:

- Any proposed Regulation and/or Code need to clearly describe the process for compliance, dispute resolution and complaints. This is likely to lead to challenges in implementation unless addressed.
- We recommend further consideration of how the proposed Code will be implemented from a compliance and dispute perspective. For example, if landowners/neighbours are in dispute – what is the escalation and resolution process, and how does this help them meet compliance? We encourage Queensland Treasury to consider independent dispute resolution process.

- Any generation authority exemptions (such as behind the meter) may limit the achievement of the policy intent.

Coexistence Queensland - trusted, independent partner and advisor

One of Coexistence Queensland's key functions is to deliver independent and trusted information to communities and other stakeholders across Queensland.

Coexistence Queensland has received limited life funding from Treasury (Energy Division) in the 2025/26 financial year to support information provision and community engagement activities in relation to the energy industry. This funding is facilitation the development independent, and integrated suite of resources across multiple mediums, along with in-field engagement activities across communities hosting resource and energy development. These resources and activities are critical to support sustainable and responsible energy development and along with providing information and education resources to proactively assist communities in transition.

However, Coexistence Queensland's overall organisational funding is limited and is currently allocated on an annual basis. To build meaningful and lasting relationships and to continue to share information, we require more secure, long-term support such as a three-year funding arrangement. This would allow for long-term planning of community and landholder engagement activities and to provide certainty of continuity of our engagement with communities and landholders.

Coexistence Queensland will be engaging with relevant government agencies and Ministers around funding arrangements in the latter part of 2025.

Conclusion

Coexistence Queensland supports the objectives of the Energy Roadmap and the consequent amendments within the Bill.

As an independent, statutory authority whose focus is on ensuring sustainable coexistence outcomes for resources and energy developments, we are well placed to continue to support the Queensland Government achieve its long-term ambitions for the future of energy and resources development within the State.