

Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

Explanatory Notes

FOR

Amendments to be moved during consideration in detail by the Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs

Short title

The short title of the Bill is the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objectives of the amendments are to address new emissions reduction data and stakeholder feedback received in the inquiry of the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee.

Stakeholders advocated that there should be a requirement for public consultation as part of the development of emissions reduction plans. A number of stakeholders emphasised that it was important that the panel considered the views of the public in preparing its advice.

Some stakeholders also suggested that the 2030 emissions reduction target should be reviewed. The Bill states that the target for 2030 is to reduce emissions by at least 30% below 2005 levels. New data released by the Australian Government on 12 April 2024, after introduction of the Bill, reveals that Queensland's emissions in 2022 were 35% below 2005 levels. This means that the 2030 emissions reduction target stated in the Bill has already been achieved. While this sets a renewed focus on achieving the 2035 target of 75% below 2005 levels, a review of the 2030 target will provide greater certainty on Queensland's expected emissions trajectory to 2035.

Achievement of policy objectives

The objectives are achieved by amending the Bill to:

- require the Minister to review the 2030 emissions reduction target by the end of 2025,
- require public consultation to be undertaken as part of the development of emissions reduction plans, and
- clarify that the Clean Economy Expert Panel may undertake public consultation in carrying out its functions.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives other than by legislative amendment.

Estimated cost for government implementation

The additional costs associated with the amendments will be met by existing and future budgetary processes.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendments are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The amendments respond to submissions made by stakeholders during the Parliamentary Committee process. No further stakeholder consultation was conducted.

Notes on provisions

Amendment 1 inserts a new provision (clause 8A) in the Bill to require the Minister to review the emissions reduction target for 2030 to determine whether it remains appropriate. The outcomes of this review must be tabled in Parliament by the end of 2025.

When undertaking the review, the Minister must consider progress towards achieving the 2030 emissions reduction target. It is intended that this will include new data on Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions published in the National Greenhouse Accounts, for example, data released on 12 April 2024 showing that Queensland's emissions in 2022 were 35% below 2005 levels. In considering the impact of this data, the Minister may consider the extent to which emissions reduction trends in the land use, land use change and forestry sector are expected to continue, as well as trends in other emissions sectors including energy, fugitive emissions, and transport.

The Minister must also consider any new measures taken by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This may include new Commonwealth Government investments in low and zero emissions technologies and new initiatives in the Commonwealth Government's sectoral decarbonisation plans. It may also include analysis on new abatement measures identified in developing the first Queensland sector plans, which must be published by 31 December 2025. Other relevant matters may include the views of industries and communities.

Amendment 2 amends clause 12 of the Bill so that there is a requirement for public consultation when making an emissions reduction plan. This will ensure that industry, community and other government stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the development of these plans. The original intent was always to conduct extensive consultation in the development of emissions reduction plans, however stakeholders requested that this intent is reflected in the Bill.

Amendment 3 amends clause 15 to put beyond doubt that the Clean Economy Expert Panel may consult with the public while carrying out its functions. It may be necessary or desirable that the panel consult with particular persons or bodies in preparing its advice for the Minister. As part of the terms of reference for the panel, or as part of a specific request for advice from the panel, the Minister may provide more details around the nature of any consultation expected to be carried out by the panel.

Amendment 4 amends clause 21 to reflect the addition of new clause 8A. In reviewing the 2030 target, the Minister will consult with the Premier and Treasurer.