

Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

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Committee Secretary
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Via email: cejrtc@parliament.qld.gov.au

6th March 2024

Re: NECA Submission for the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

Dear Committee members,

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) represents over 6,700 member organisations nationally, with many of Queensland's electrical workers starting their career as a NECA apprentice.

NECA supports the purpose of the Bill to establish an Act stating emissions reduction targets and for related purposes. NECA wishes to support the government in the achievement of those targets by participating in the processes, consultation, and implementation of strategies to increase opportunities for employment and support the implementation of Consumer Energy Resources (CER) technologies through the provision of training, education and advice for electrical contractors participating in this field.

Our responses to several of the matters we have identified in the bill are provided below.

1. Annual reporting requirements

We note within the Bill, that the annual reporting requirements of the minister are to include –

descriptions of 'measures taken by the state during the financial year to achieve the emissions reduction targets, including to –

- i. increase opportunities for employment in industries emerging as a result of actions being taken to achieve the emissions reduction targets or to address climate change, and
- ii. support employment in industries affected by actions being taken to achieve the emissions reduction targets or to address climate change;'

NECA suggests that the scope of this element of annual reporting should extend to the progress and performance of programs initiated by the state in the current and previous financial years to enable emissions reduction activities.

Specifically, programs that seek to increase the quantity and quality of workers capable of installing and maintaining Consumer Energy Resources (CER) and/or participate in the operation of regional renewables infrastructure and technologies necessarily extend well beyond one year. NECA's experience and analysis of training electrical trades would indicate that establishing apprentice training programs without the inclusion of active monitoring and support for the participants is producing the well documented low completion rates and potentially poor inclusion of diverse demographics.

NECA's performance in these areas is exceptional (greater than 90% overall completion rate, approximately 15% female participation, and approximately 5% participation of indigenous persons).

NECA suggests that measures taken by the state to increase the quality and quantity of persons capable of working with renewable technologies, by apprenticeships for new participants or retraining of affected workers should be subject to suitable performance reporting.

To this end NECA would in developing such programs with the state and contribute to such performance monitoring.

2. Emissions reduction plans

We note that the 'Content of emissions reduction plans' does not explicitly identify initiatives or information relating to

- workforce impacts, or
- employment/training opportunities or requirements, or
- regional or community-based opportunities.

We also note that s10(2) does indicate that the matters are limited to the information listed in s10(1). However, we suggest that a supplementary list of matters that should be included in emissions reductions plans including,

- i. how the performance of the plan is to be measured / monitored
- ii. skills and workforce requirements to enable the plan.

3. Establishment of an Expert Panel

NECA considers the establishment of the expert panel to advise the minister and support the state in achieving the purpose of the Act an important and appropriate component of the Bill.

NECA's submits that its strength and expertise in the fields of

- apprentice and additional technical training, and
- industry advocacy experience
- Australian Standards, and
- access to our members knowledge and experience with renewable technologies projects,

means that NECA could provide meaningful contributions to the panel and support for the minister.

In conclusion, NECA wishes to work constructively with the committee and the Queensland Government to contribute to meaningful and practical implementation of programs to meet climate change targets.

To discuss details or information outlined in this submission please contact me via email:

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Neil Roberts

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