

Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

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Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

7 March 2024

Ms Kim Richards MP
Chair
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee

Sent via email: cejrtc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair


RE: LGAQ Submission to Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is a not-for-profit association representing all 77 local governments' across Queensland as the state-wide peak body for our sector.

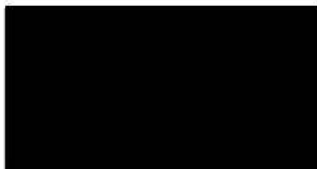
We sincerely thank the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee (the Committee) for undertaking its Inquiry into the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, which is of strong interest to our members.

Please find **enclosed** a copy of the LGAQ's submission for your consideration, on behalf of our members. Individual councils may lodge their own submission as well, although we would note that the period for consultation has been undertaken during the caretaker period while local government quadrennial elections are being conducted.

We would be more than pleased to speak to the Committee at a scheduled public hearing, if suitable.

For any further information in relation to this submission, please contact Nathan Ruhle, Manager – Intergovernmental Relations or 

Yours sincerely,



Alison Smith
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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Submission on Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

Submission to Clean Economy Jobs, Resources
and Transport Committee

7 March 2024

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About the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association established solely to serve councils and their needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting, and representing local councils since 1896, enabling them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The LGAQ does this by connecting councils to people and places; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and providing them with the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.

Partners in Government Agreement

The LGAQ on behalf of all 77 Queensland local governments is a signatory to a three-year partners-in-government-agreement with the State of Queensland.

The Agreement details the key principles underlying the relationship between the state and local governments and establishes the foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The agreement acknowledges that local government is the closest level of government to the community, affecting the lives of everyday Queenslanders and acknowledging Local Government as a genuine partner in the Australian government system.

The intent of the agreement was to continue the tradition of working in genuine partnership to improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders to enjoy. By identifying the roles and responsibilities of each party, it provides a solid foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The LGAQ is committed to working with the Queensland Government and will continue to be a passionate advocate for councils, to serve our joint jurisdiction for the people of Queensland.

Rural and Remote Councils Compact

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact¹ signed on 25 June 2021, complements the existing Partnership in Partners-in-Government agreement in place between the LGAQ and the Queensland Government to provide a platform to ensure issues of priority for these communities are properly considered by the Government when developing policies, programs, and legislation.

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact, pledges to amplify the voice of and improve outcomes for the state's 45 rural and remote councils and their local communities by enhancing engagement between both levels of government.

¹ <https://knowledgebaseassets.blob.core.windows.net/images/9c61cdc2-3cfa-eb11-94ef-002248181740/Rural%20and%20Remote%20Councils%20Compact%20-%20signed%20copy.pdf>

Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

Executive Summary

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Queensland Parliament's Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee (the Committee) on the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024 (the Bill).

As outlined in the submission to the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, the LGAQ does not have a formal position in relation to the entire Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP).

It is important to note that the LGAQ's response in this submission - and our advocacy more broadly - is always evidence-led and derived from feedback from our member councils. This includes resolutions endorsed by the majority of delegates who attend the LGAQ Annual Conference each year. Supported resolutions from our Annual Conference automatically become binding policy positions and ensure that our views are truly representative of the local government sector in Queensland.

As our policy statement outlines, local government is committed to working in partnership with all spheres of government, industry and the community to develop and implement effective climate risk management strategies focusing on emissions reduction and adaptation. Local government is also committed to providing a leadership role to assist local communities, including industry, to understand and address climate risk including acute and chronic physical risks and transition risks associated with moving to a low carbon economy.

In January 2024, the LGAQ launched a [landmark piece of research](#) which quantifies the impact of cost shifting onto councils and the communities they serve.

It found that local governments across Queensland are stepping in to provide extra services to ensure our communities remain liveable – and in many cases are using their limited resources to fund services that are not their responsibility to fund.

Based on a survey completed by 75% of councils across Queensland and analysed by leading research consultancy AEC Group it found that cost shifting onto councils has increased by a whopping 378 percent over the past two decades.

In representing the interests of our member councils, the LGAQ is acutely aware of the opportunities and risks that decarbonisation has on local communities across Queensland and the councils that serve them. Transformation planning has been one of the key themes of our advocacy in recent years, derived from resolutions supported by Queensland councils at our Annual Conference.

For generations, Queensland's economic success has been built on the back of a strong resources industry and the communities that enable it to thrive. Queensland miners and the sacrifices of their families continue to pave the roads we drive on, build the schools we learn in and service the hospitals for all Queenslanders.

It is not just the miners themselves we can thank for this strong economic foundation. It is the support of local councils, thousands of businesses through local supply chains. Tens of thousands of workers enabling our key transport and logistics networks. Our ports that have delivered an export driven economic dividend for the State's Treasury.

As Queensland's economy transforms to a clean energy future, resource communities and their local councils need to ensure they have place-based plans that respond to the economic and social challenges that will bring. A successful transformation needs to be coordinated across government departments at a state level, but driven and delivered locally. Each of Queensland's resource communities is unique and different. They need tailored long-term economic and social sustainability plans. Without this, these host resources communities will be left behind.

As local leaders, Queensland councils know what policies are needed to ensure the liveability of their communities comes first. They have developed tangible solutions – supported by the council colleagues from across Queensland – and they want to partner with the State in this transformation journey.

The Queensland Climate Transition Strategy recognises that “local governments have an important role to play in facilitating and supporting progress towards the net zero emissions goal”. Queensland councils have already demonstrated their commitment to emissions reduction, supporting State and Federal targets, through setting and planning ambitious emissions reduction targets for their own council operations and are investing or exploring options to do so in a range of actions to reduce emissions associated with council fleet and plant equipment, landfill and wastewater treatment facilities and the electricity required to power local government owned buildings, community facilities and street lighting.

Councils are also on the front line of climate-related impacts, with any delay in transition to net zero posing significant threats to our community, environment and economy through the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather and disaster events, along with higher energy and insurance costs. Therefore, it is imperative for councils to reduce their organisational emissions in line with State and Federal government legislated targets and to show leadership within their communities as the nation transitions towards a low-carbon economy. Greater investment in supporting councils to transition to net zero emissions, will foster local innovation and jobs, and support the State Government delivering its own state-wide emissions reduction commitments.

The LGAQ has made four recommendations in relation to the broader policy framework that represents decarbonisation and the community transformation to net zero emissions, in this submission.

Recommendations

The LGAQ has prepared detailed comments in relation to the Bill and has made four recommendations, summarised below:

- **Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the establishment of a Regional Transformation Authority to plan, coordinate and oversee the development of regional, place-based transition plans that enhance the liveability of communities most impacted by decarbonisation.
- **Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends that the Regional Economic Futures Fund is significantly expanded to include provision for enabling infrastructure needed to support regional communities manage new developments and transform their communities with dedicated support for social and economic development initiatives that enhances community liveability.
- **Recommendation 3:** Recognising the demonstrated commitment of Queensland councils to reduce corporate emissions, the LGAQ recommends the State Government establish and deliver targeted operational and capital grant programs to support councils to establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories and emissions reduction plans; as well as invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses that support identified emissions reduction priorities and climate mitigation strategies.
- **Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends that local government has a dedicated voice and is an ex officio member of the Clean Economy Expert Panel, with the Minister to include a recommended appointment following consultation with the sector.

Submission

The explanatory notes outline the key objectives, specifically that the Bill proposes to establish a new Act that:

- sets out Queensland's emissions reduction targets for 2030, 2035 and 2050;
- establishes a requirement to set emissions reduction targets for 2040 and 2045 at least 10 years in advance;
- requires annual reporting to the Queensland Parliament on progress towards achieving Queensland's emissions reduction targets;
- provides for the development of emissions reduction plans for sectors; and
- establishes an expert panel to provide advice on emissions reduction progress, and efficient and cost-effective ways to reduce emissions that best support jobs and growth, without exacerbating cost of living pressures.

The LGAQ acknowledges that the Bill aims to support jobs and secure Queensland's economic future by enshrining the State's emissions reduction commitments in law. Economic certainty and the sustainability of Queensland's local communities is an issue of critical interest to all of our member councils. Like that overarching statement of intent outlined in the explanatory notes, the LGAQ also notes the benefits that come from setting targets and signalling long-term policy direction of the State Government.

Impact of decarbonisation on regional communities

Attracting investment and supporting new industry development will create opportunities and also pose some challenges. Regional Australia is undergoing a social and economic transformation that will be beyond the capability of local councils to address. Existing coal heartlands like Central Queensland are in a position to capitalise on the global shift to net zero emissions provided appropriate Federal and State Government planning and investment is received. Equally, coal mining regions are particularly vulnerable in the decarbonisation process.

Numerous reports have articulated both the social and economic opportunities and risks for regional Australia associated with decarbonisation. Modelling by Accenture suggests that over 395,000 jobs could be created if Australia can capitalise on changes to the energy sector and become a 'renewable energy superpower'. Another report by Deloitte projects that the Queensland economy could grow by 7 per cent if it successfully manages the shift to net zero. Each of the reports clearly highlight that the risks associated with getting this transformation wrong are equally as significant as the potential for growth.

In their report released last year – entitled "Adaptive capacity and climate transition in Australia's regional economies"², The Centre for Policy Development outlines that:

"The economic transition away from fossil fuels will affect entire communities, rather than only workers in one general industry, and transition planning needs to build the overall adaptive capacity of these communities."

² <https://cpd.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Making-Our-Way-Adaptive-capacity-and-climate-transition-in-Australias-regional-economies.pdf>

“... LGAs in the Pilbara and Central Queensland have less dynamic local economies and are less well-connected to local domestic markets – it may take more effort, planning and support for new industries to thrive and for these communities to adapt.”

As the LGAQ continually reiterates, communities should develop alongside industry. The liveability of every Queensland community should be enhanced, not negatively impacted from renewable energy projects. Critical to that success is the need for proponents to engage early with community and councils. That engagement needs to be genuine and receptive to feedback and input. Host and supply communities should have specific benefits that are identified and tangible. These legacy benefits should also be responsive to the needs of that local community. That can only be identified through genuine engagement. A commitment to local and regional benefit sharing is important to the long-term success of any industry or specific project.

While the transition planning for workers at existing coal-fired generators is acknowledged through established programs under the QEJP. While there is provision for the development of industry specific reductions plans, there is no community transition process legislated in the Bill.

Without a regulated process, local communities will continue to feel a lack of certainty and without a seat at the table as part of the consideration of these new developments and the impact of a transitioning local economy has on that particular community.

A resolution, endorsed by the majority of Queensland councils at the 2022 LGAQ Annual Conference, called for the need to establish a Regional Transformation Authority. Specifically the resolution outlined that:

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to establish a Regional Transformation Authority with statutory powers inclusive of local governments, to:

- *Respond to changing supply and demand for fossil-fuel.*
- *Develop regional plans and coordinate a sustainable transformation, principally for Queensland’s coal mining regions, but also for all Local Government Areas supplying to or reliant on the economic output of coal mining, as well as heavily coal reliant industrial regions, like the Bowen Basin, and ensure all planning supports the ongoing and sustainable diversification of the resources sectors.*

The effective management of this change is critical – principally for coal mining regions but also for all LGAs supplying to, or reliant on, the economic output of mining, as well as heavily coal-reliant industrial regions.

A multi-agency, intergovernmental Regional Transformation Authority should be created to:

- Manage and coordinate the negative social and economic impacts associated with end-of-mine life and decarbonisation in coal mining regions.
- Ensure that all stakeholders can meaningfully participate in decision making processes and in the design of new plans and programs to decarbonise the economy.
- Work across all aspects of community and economic transformation to enable the flow of information and resources for effective, timely and regionally appropriate investment and action to facilitate:
 - Ensure regional workforce support and planning well in advance of mine closures;

- Oversee place-based investment in social infrastructure/services to support the future needs of regional communities;
- Foster economic diversification to build on strengths of the regions to attract investment and jobs;
- Enable investment in coal mining regions and infrastructure development, by providing a vehicle to attract and channel funds into economic diversification initiatives;
- Ensure legislation and policy is adapted as necessary; Build community capacity to leverage social and economic diversification.
- Provide feedback to government and industry which is integrated to ensure coordinated post-mining land-use planning.
- Ensure timely pre-closure planning that applies contemporary social impact assessments across the resource sector.

Coal mining regions and the local governments that support them have borne the brunt of environmental, social and governance impacts associated with mining projects for decades. Regional Australia is undergoing a social and economic transformation that will be beyond the capability of local councils to address. Existing coal heartlands, like Central Queensland, can capitalise on the global shift to net zero emissions provided appropriate Federal and State government planning and investment is received. Equally, coal mining regions are particularly vulnerable in the decarbonisation process.

Given the adoption of net zero emissions targets and the reality that Queensland is likely to face disproportionate impacts because of decarbonisation, it is critical that there is coordination of resources across government departments and agencies to plan and implement transformation actions. Without a responsible authority which has a clear mandate and statutory powers to manage change, local councils will be fighting for their community's very existence under the pressure of negative social, economic and environmental impacts resulting from end-of-mine life and global climate change responses.

The case study of Glenden – the transition of assets between mining companies and the impact it has had on the community - and also Mount Isa, with the recent announcement by Glencore, has only strengthened the case for a permanent, funded, coordinated and ongoing approach to community transition, as our economy decarbonises and the international investment profile shifts with it.

While the LGAQ strongly welcomed the establishment of a National Net Zero Authority by the Federal Government, there is still a role for the State Government to play and working with local governments to undertake place-based collective impact and decision making to adapt, respond to and ensure the ongoing liveability and viability of Queensland's resource communities.

As outlined in National Cabinet's endorsement of the National Transformation Principles on 9 December 2022, "global efforts to decarbonise present opportunities for regional communities to be active players in achieving and sharing the benefits of the net zero economy. These principles reflect the National Cabinet's intent to capture the benefits of the energy transition, with a focus on supporting regional pathways for economic transformation associated with decarbonisation for those communities that have helped grow Australia's prosperity. They also

guide how the Commonwealth and state and territory governments will work together and with local government, regional communities and industries.”³

A recent meeting of Commonwealth and State Energy Ministers on 24 November 2023 noted that Energy Ministers agreed that the Commonwealth and respective state and territory governments will work in partnership to negotiate bilateral Renewable Energy Transformation Agreements (RETAs) under the National Energy Transformation Partnership (NETP).

According to the meeting communique, RETAs will detail how the parties will work together to achieve shared objectives in the renewable energy transformation, including to ensure reliability through an orderly and timely exit of ageing coal generators, as well as addressing non-market barriers to investment. It is intended that RETAs will be delivered under the Partnership framework through bilateral agreements that reflect the unique needs of each state and territory. The Partnership recognises that each jurisdiction can pursue its own policies according to its unique needs and circumstances, while working collaboratively to deliver the best outcomes at a national level.

Local government’s role in representing regional communities strengthens the call for a state-based authority – particularly in relation to assisting in the development of a Queensland bilateral transformation partnership.

The QEJP currently provides for a \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund to support communities to seize industry development opportunities. The objective of the program, as stated, is to support long term community sustainability by:

- enhancing economic, social and environmental liveability;
- identifying opportunities for sustainable regional growth and economic diversification;
- and
- supporting the transformation of regional communities to a low-emissions economy.

This is part of the Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy⁴, which also includes a new local economic opportunities network (LEO network) to assist regional councils and communities with decarbonisation and the economic opportunities associated with a decarbonised economy. Regional transformation strategies and implementation plans are being developed and delivered in consultation with communities, to assist with the transition in the following regions:

- North-West Queensland
- Greater Whitsunday
- Central Queensland
- Darling Downs, South-West and the South Burnett.

Upon announcement of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan in September 2022, the former Premier described the initial \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund as a down payment, a sentiment that is supported by Queensland councils.

At the 2022 LGAQ Annual Conference, Queensland councils endorsed a resolution that called on the establishment of a sovereign wealth fund to:

³ <https://federation.gov.au/national-cabinet/media/2022-12-09-national-transformation-principles>

⁴ <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/queensland-new-industry-opportunities/queensland-new-industry-development-strategy>

1. Provide long-term support for regions to transition to a net zero carbon economy.
2. Support other regional economic and community development opportunities as part of the great energy transition.
3. Provide fiscal stability and long-term sustainability to support inter-generational equity in regions.

This is combined with a resolution passed at the 2023 LGAQ Annual Conference for a transition fund for enabling infrastructure with a dedicated fund to invest in critical infrastructure and to support the workforce sectors needed to enable the transitioning energy sector.

In that regard, and to support the economic and social transformation needed in resource communities and ensure their ongoing liveability and sustainability, Queensland councils support a dedicated funding program aimed to strengthen and diversify their economy, invest in future workforces, support liveability and offset the impacts of transitioning to a net zero economy.

Ensuring place-based regional transformation plans are coordinated and funded and providing fiscal stability and long-term sustainability to support inter-generational equity in our regions. This would also ensure that those communities who have hosted large resource projects that have generated billions of dollars in royalties, have a tailored long-term social and economic sustainability plan.

Recommendation 1: The LGAQ recommends the establishment of a Regional Transformation Authority to plan, coordinate and oversee the development of regional, place-based transition plans that enhance the liveability of communities most impacted by decarbonisation.

Recommendation 2: The LGAQ recommends that the Regional Economic Futures Fund is significantly expanded to include provision for enabling infrastructure needed to support regional communities manage new developments and transform their communities with dedicated support for social and economic development initiatives that enhances community liveability.

Local government emissions reduction:

Local government recognises that it is critical that regions experiencing the removal and closure of coal-fired power stations are supported with the maintenance of a skilled workforce, retention or provision of equivalent employment, successful transition of the economy by mitigating adverse economic and social impacts and mitigation of the adverse impact on small and medium local businesses. As such, in October 2022, Queensland councils called for State and Federal governments to provide local governments with resourcing to support communities in planning for transition to a lower carbon future, both on a local government area and regional basis.

In addition to supporting their communities and regions through the transition, Queensland councils also demonstrate commitment to reducing local government emissions, reflecting that councils are responsible for a range of emissions including those associated with fuels in their fleet and plant; fugitive emissions from landfill gas and wastewater treatment; the electricity required to power their buildings, community facilities and street lighting; and emissions within their supply chains.

As such, Resolution 135 was carried at the 2023 LGAQ Annual Conference, calling on State and Federal governments to provide targeted operational and capital grant programs for councils to:

- Establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories (including mapping and annual emissions tracking) and corporate emissions reduction plans; and
- Invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses, including dedicated council staff, that support identified emissions reduction priorities and climate mitigation strategies.

Considering the varying capacity and expertise of councils across the state, and different stages of emissions reduction journeys, funding is critical to supplement council operational and capital expenses of efforts to minimise and offset emissions across council operations, in particular enabling councils to establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories and corporate emissions reduction plans, ultimately assisting the local government sector to meet the required pace of change and take a greater leap towards net zero than current budgetary constraints and competing capital and operational priorities allow.

Much of the local government sector is already taking great strides in progressing towards net zero – some are embarking upon corporate baseline inventory mapping, or are carrying out emissions reduction or carbon neutral projects, including introducing energy efficient LED streetlights, installing electric vehicle charging stations, capturing biogas and flaring landfill gas emissions, diverting organic waste from landfill, installing solar and using recycled road construction materials. Some councils are going further, investing in renewable energy projects, and supporting local businesses and residents to reduce emissions. These initiatives are scalable and could be replicated by other councils with sustainable funding support. Likewise, appropriate funding can help support dedicated roles within councils to lead and manage work that contributes to emission reduction priorities.

Greater investment in supporting councils to transition to net zero emissions will foster local innovation and jobs, and support the State Government delivering its own state-wide emissions reduction commitments. One of the key recommendations from the LGAQ's On Your Marks: Queensland local government and the road to 2032 report released earlier this year stated: *The Queensland Government to establish a sustainable building fund for new or retrofitted council buildings to help the State meet its commitment to a climate positive Games.*

Finally, it is noted that the Bill proposed the establishment of an expert panel to provide advice on emissions reduction progress, and efficient and cost-effective ways to reduce emissions. The Clean Economy Expert Panel will provide advice to the Minister about achieving the emissions reduction targets, ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland, and any other matter the Minister considers relevant to achieving the purpose of the Act. The remuneration for members of the expert panel will be decided by the Governor in Council.

Clause 15 of the Bill establishes a requirement for the Clean Economy Expert Panel to prepare written advice to the Minister when requested by the Minister. The panel must provide the advice by the date specified by the Minister. This advice may include information on:

- progress towards achieving the emissions reduction targets;
- the impact achieving the emissions reduction targets may have on local communities, including in relation to employment in industries emerging as a result of actions being taken to achieve emissions reduction targets;

- analysis of emissions data for Queensland;
- technology and market trends;
- the most efficient and cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sector;
- measures the Commonwealth Government is taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- any other matter the Minister, in consultation with the Treasurer, considers relevant to the purpose of the Act.

According to the explanatory notes, the intent is that the advice provided by the expert panel should be well-balanced, as it should be considered by the Minister and government when planning for achievement of the targets in the Act. For example, when considering impacts of achieving the target on local communities, this may include both positive and negative effects.

It is therefore critical that local government has a dedicated voice on the Clean Economy Expert Panel.

- **Recommendation 3:** Recognising the demonstrated commitment of Queensland councils to reduce corporate emissions, the LGAQ recommends the State Government establish and deliver targeted operational and capital grant programs to support councils to establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories and emissions reduction plans; as well as invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses that support identified emissions reduction priorities and climate mitigation strategies.
- **Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends that local government has a dedicated voice and is an ex officio member of the Clean Economy Expert Panel, with the Minister to include a recommended appointment following consultation with the sector.

Conclusion

Overall, the LGAQ is keen to ensure local governments and the communities they represent, are at the heart of the State Government's consideration when it comes to transforming our economy.

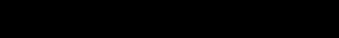
Decarbonisation provides both opportunities and risks for regional communities.

Place-based solutions that are tailored and fit-for-purpose are the best way to ensure the economic and social sustainability of the local communities that have been the backbone of our state's economy over several generations. We owe it to them to ensure they have a positive future and aren't left behind.

As Queensland's economy transforms to a clean energy future, communities and their local councils need to ensure they have a central role in the development of any local or regional transformation strategies.

These strategies need to be evidence led, locally informed and coordinate a sustainable and responsive transformation policy framework. This framework cannot be set and forget, it needs to evolve with the impact of global trends, market forces and conditions on the ground within impacted communities.

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to contact Nathan Ruhle, Manager – Intergovernmental Relations via email  or phone 1300 542 700 should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Appendix

LGAQ Policy Statement

The LGAQ Policy Statement is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland. The relevant policy positions of local government in the context of climate risk management and the role of local government are as follows:

3.5 Climate Risk Management

3.5.1 Role of local government

- 3.5.1.1 Local government is committed to providing a leadership role to assist local communities, including industry, to understand and address climate risk including acute and chronic physical risks and transition risks associated with moving to a low carbon economy.
- 3.5.1.2 Local government is committed to working in partnership with all spheres of government, industry and the community to develop and implement effective climate risk management strategies focusing on emissions reduction and adaptation.

LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member driven advocacy and working with members to build stronger local government and more resilient local communities.

The following conference resolutions were supported by the majority of Queensland councils and therefore are binding in both our policy and advocacy.

2022 Annual Conference

#50 Supporting Communities Plan for Transition to a Lower Carbon Future

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to provide local governments with resourcing to support communities in planning for transition to a lower carbon future, both on a local government area and regional basis.

#73 The Need for a Regional Transformation Authority

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to establish a Regional Transformation Authority with statutory powers inclusive of local governments, to:

- *Respond to changing supply and demand for fossil-fuel.*
- *Develop regional plans and coordinate a sustainable transformation, principally for Queensland's coal mining regions, but also for all Local Government Areas supplying to or reliant on the economic output of coal mining, as well as heavily coal reliant industrial regions, like the Bowen Basin, and ensure all planning supports the ongoing and sustainable diversification of the resources sectors.*

The effective management of this change is critical – principally for coal mining regions but also for all Local Government Areas supplying to, or reliant on, the economic output of coal mining, as well as heavily coal reliant industrial regions.

#106 Creation of a Sovereign Wealth Fund

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to establish a sovereign wealth fund to:

- 1. Provide long-term support for regions to transition to a net zero carbon economy.*
- 2. Support other regional economic and community development opportunities as part of the great energy transition.*
- 3. Provide fiscal stability and long-term sustainability to support inter-generational equity in regions.*

2023 Annual Conference

#135 Supporting the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to support the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions through targeted operational and capital grants programs for councils to:

- Establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories (including mapping and annual emissions tracking) and corporate emissions reduction plans; and*
- Invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses, including dedicated council staff, that support identified emissions reduction priorities and climate mitigation strategies.*

#136 Transition Fund for Renewable Infrastructure

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to establish a dedicated fund to invest in critical infrastructure and to support the workforce sectors needed to enable the transitioning energy sector.