

Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

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SolarCitizens

A community voice for cleaner energy and transport

17 Randle St
Surry Hills, NSW
2010, Australia
info@solarcitizens.org.au
Daytime: [REDACTED]

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**Committee Secretary
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee
Parliament House, George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000**

Solar Citizens' Clean Economy Jobs Bill Submission, March 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission for the Clean Economy Jobs Bill (QLD), 2024.

Solar Citizens understands that the main purpose of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill ('The Bill') is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland by stating emissions reduction targets of a 30 per cent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030; a 75 per cent reduction below 2005 levels by 2035, and achieving net zero by 2050. Solar Citizens would urge the Queensland Parliament to increase its ambition on these targets as we move towards 2030.

Solar Citizens would like to express its support for the passing of The Bill by the Queensland Parliament. We would also like to state our support for the aims of The Bill, namely to create policy certainty to attract investment in new industries – including renewable energy and manufacturing – and in decarbonising the State's existing industries. Solar Citizens also strongly supports the creation of more job opportunities in Queensland's emerging clean economy industries and existing industries switching to a renewable future.

In the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan¹, the Queensland Government showed a commitment to its emissions reduction targets and delivering cost-of-living benefits through a 10-year vision representing a major increase in renewable energy ambition for the Sunshine State. Solar Citizens supports these measures, and urges the Queensland Government to retain and strengthen its commitments to :

¹ <https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/energy/energy-jobs-plan>



- Repowering state-owned coal plants to renewable energy hubs by 2035²;
- Legislating a 70% Renewable Energy Target by 2032³, and a 80% target by 2035;
- Continuing the spend on building publicly-owned renewables⁴, through the State's \$4.5 Billion total Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs fund⁵;

In addition to these elements, Solar Citizens encourages the Queensland Government to continue its approach to emissions reduction, particularly through the following five points from our 2023 report 'Five ways to improve Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan'⁶:

- Roll out more renewable energy and storage by 2025 to bring down power prices and improve reliability.
- Provide support for everyone to access cheap solar energy.
- Fast-track measures to help everyone save with household electrification.
- Establish Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts in Townsville and Gladstone.
- Improve Energy Efficiency in Queensland's Rentals.

While many of these initiatives are underway, we understand there still needs to be a serious focus on many aspects of this plan.

Australia is blessed with some of the world's best renewable energy resources. We can harness this abundant cheap renewable energy to decarbonise our homes and transport sectors, while reinvigorating regional and industrial communities into clean manufacturing hubs capitalising on the increasing global demand for trade in decarbonised products, while ultimately bringing down our emissions levels, and we commend The Bill for its role in continuing along this trajectory.

Solar Citizens is an independent, community-based organisation working to grow renewable energy and clean electric transport in Australia. Since our launch in 2013 in Queensland, we have gathered support from over 186,000 Australians right across the country. Our vision is for an Australia powered entirely by renewable energy, where everyone can access clean technology - like solar, storage, and electric transport - to bring down bills and slash pollution.

² <https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/energy/benefits-of-renewable-energy/queensland-renewable-ready>

³ https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/32989/queensland-energy-and-jobs-plan-overview.pdf

⁴ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96232>

⁵ <https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/hydrogen/investment-funding>

⁶

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/solarcitizens/pages/3811/attachments/original/1675737011/Five_ways_to_improve_Queensland%27s_Energy_and_Jobs_Plan.pdf?1675737011



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Solar Citizens' work is motivated by the benefits of rooftop solar and electrification to Australian households. 2023 saw an increase in the evidence of electrification and Consumer Energy Resources (CER) driving – in addition to emissions reduction – cost-of-living benefits for households, and broader inflation-busting and productivity-enhancing benefits for the wider economy. It has become a question of competence for Governments at all levels to ensure that these benefits are realised in full for as many households as possible, as quickly as possible - immediately and in the long term.



Heidi Lee Douglas
CEO, Solar Citizens