

Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

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Committee Secretary
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee
Queensland Parliament
By email: cejrtc@parliament.qld.gov.au



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Dear Committee Secretary,

Response to the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

Windlab welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Queensland (QLD) Government's *Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024* (the Bill) published on 14 February 2024.

Windlab is the 100% Australian renewable energy company born out of the CSIRO. For more than 20 years we have used our world-leading technology and globally recognised expertise to find, develop, construct, and operate the most consistently top-performing renewable energy projects in the world. Queensland is a strategically critical region for Windlab, and we are investing significantly to deliver our 15GW+ Queensland development pipeline.

As a foundational member of the Clean Energy Investor Group (CEIG), Windlab supports the points raised by the CEIG in its submission on the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. We commend the Queensland Government on their work to enshrine Queensland clear and ambitious emissions reduction targets into law, supported by sector-specific emissions reductions plans. This approach demonstrates the comprehensively considered approach the Queensland Government has taken to ensure the state's appropriately focused determination to dramatically reduce emissions does not result in the loss of critical industries, jobs and skills needed to support Queensland and Australia's low carbon future.

Windlab is already proactively engaged in delivery of the objectives of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. For example, on 21 February 2024 Windlab and Rio Tinto signed the largest renewable power purchase agreement (PPA) in Australia's history. Energy from our planned 1.4GW Bungaban wind energy project, currently in development, will supply Rio Tinto's Gladstone operations.

Windlab's agreement with Rio Tinto highlights the importance of large-scale renewable energy projects in shoring up the long-term sustainable future of Queensland's powerhouse traditional industries, particularly metals, and advanced processing, which employ thousands of people in regional communities across the state and contribute close to \$15 billion in value to the state's economy. This is what preserving Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability in the 21st century looks like.

Renewable energy development represents the single biggest investment boom the world has seen for decades, with around 1.5 trillion USD invested in solar and wind projects globally in 2023, and 2 trillion USD in investment expected in 2024. Importantly, the Queensland Government's business friendly and economically rational approach to the energy transition supports an investment environment that ensures Queenslanders benefit from this unprecedented global investment boom.

The release of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan in 2022 clearly demonstrated that the government was focussed on and willing to engage with private investors to solve the most challenging problems for the sector – policy and network - and this will have a positive impact on investor confidence. Windlab is committed to our continued productive collaboration with the Queensland Government to support the timely delivery of our shared objectives, and we will continue to work with the Government to ensure that risks are addressed.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or via [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Nathan Blundell
Chief Development Officer
Windlab

