

## Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024

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Committee Secretary  
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee  
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Dear Committee Secretary

**Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024**

The Mining and Energy Union Queensland District (MEU) is the principal union representing workers across all roles in Queensland's coal mining and coal-fired power generation industries, with a proud history in the state of more than 115 years. We welcome the opportunity to provide comment on the *Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024* (the Bill).

*Emissions reduction targets*

Emissions reduction targets are very likely to impact on regional Queensland communities who rely on heavy industry and mining for their livelihoods and in turn support the state's economic prosperity. We welcome the inclusion of clause 6(4)(e) in the provisions of the Bill, requiring that any interim emissions reduction targets are set with consideration of *the economic, financial, social and environmental impact the interim target may have in Queensland, including any impact on communities, industries and rural and regional areas.*

Queensland Government initiatives such as the Low Emissions Investment Partnerships program are essential to ensuring that key industries can successfully reduce emissions from their operations while contributing to the state's targets. We welcome the decision of the Queensland Government to set to the initial focus of the Low Emissions Investment Partnerships program on the metallurgical coal sector. Queensland's high quality metallurgical coal exports will be in global demand for decades to come, underpinning the state (and national) economy. Queensland's coal industry should be encouraged and supported to adopt the most energy efficient processes and most advanced emissions abatement technologies at their operations.

*Emissions reduction plans*

We expect that sectoral emissions reduction plans will provide guidance to Queensland industries, including the mining and energy sectors, in reducing Scope 1 emissions from their operations.

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Emissions reduction plans should be developed so that they complement the sectoral decarbonisation plans being developed by the federal government, with an eye towards harmonised processes and intergovernmental communication.

Sectoral emissions reduction plans should be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including unions, industry, and local communities. In its current form, the Bill does not require any form of consultation to take place to inform the development of the plans. Though we presume that the Government intends to consult with key stakeholders on the plans, we recommend that the Bill be amended to remove any doubt that this must occur.

#### *Clean Economy Expert Panel*

Clause 15(1)(b) provides that the Minister may ask the Clean Economy Expert Panel about *the impact achieving the emissions reduction targets may have on local communities, including in relation to employment opportunities in industries emerging as a result of actions being taken to achieve the emissions reduction targets or to address climate change*. This is a welcome inclusion in the Bill, given the socioeconomic dimensions of the energy transformation.

It is critical that the Clean Economy Expert Panel includes members with the appropriate expertise to provide advice on the above matters. Currently, the Bill provides for panel members with qualifications or experience in the development of and employment in low-emissions industries, as well as rural and regional development. The panel's understanding of the socioeconomic dimensions of the emissions reduction targets would be especially enhanced by the appointment of members with expertise and experience in workforce transition policy and challenges.

Yours faithfully



**MITCH HUGHES**  
**District President**