

ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL 2025

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SolarCitizens

A community voice for cleaner energy and transport

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Queensland Parliament, Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

Solar Citizens' Submission: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025

Introduction

Solar Citizens is an independent, community-based organisation working to grow renewable energy and clean transport in Australia to bring down bills and reduce household emissions. Since our launch in 2013 we have grown to have more than 200,000 supporters across the nation - many of whom are early adopters of consumer energy resources (CER) including rooftop solar, home batteries, virtual power plants (VPPs) and electric vehicles (EVs). Solar Citizens' mission is to empower everyone to access the cost-saving and environmental benefits of renewable energy and clean transport.

Queenslanders have led the world in rooftop solar uptake, with more than 1.1 million rooftop systems installed—over half of all homes—and rapidly growing uptake of batteries, EVs, and community energy projects. Yet the *Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025* and the newly released Queensland Energy Plan risk stalling this momentum, locking Queensland into a costly, polluting, and unreliable future.

1. Repealing Renewable Energy Targets Threatens Climate and Cost-of-Living Goals

Solar Citizens welcomes the Crisafulli Government's stated commitment to Queensland's legislated 75% emissions reduction target by 2035. However, repealing renewable energy targets makes this goal impossible to achieve.

Continuing to extend the life of coal stations will saddle Queenslanders—households, communities, businesses and governments—with higher bills and rising climate costs. The impact of extreme weather on the Australian economy has already more than tripled over the past 3 decades, is currently estimated at \$4.5 billion per year, on average and is projected to rise to \$40.3 billion per year by 2050. Damage-related loss in property value is expected to rise to \$571 billion by 2030 and \$611 billion by 2050¹.

¹ National Climate Risk Assessment (2025): <https://www.acs.gov.au/pages/national-climate-risk-assessment>

Reversing clean energy commitments exposes households, businesses, communities and ecosystems to the increased financial, social and health-related risks of climate impacts.

2. Queensland Needs a Consumer Energy Resources Strategy

The Queensland Energy Roadmap lacks a dedicated **Consumer Energy Resources (CER) Strategy**—something that the NSW, Western Australian and the Federal Government have implemented. Without one, Queensland risks leaving renters, apartment residents, and social housing tenants behind.

A Queensland CER Strategy would deliver energy equity, long-term cost-of-living relief, and grid stability. It should be included in the Five-Year Energy Roadmap, with clear actions, funding, and targets for rooftop solar and CER uptake over the next five years and beyond.

Key components should include:

Support for Renters

- Expand the *Supercharged Solar for Renters* program to unlock rooftop solar on 30% of rental properties by 2030.
- Introduce comprehensive renter protections so tenants benefit from rooftop solar, including:
 - Ending no-grounds evictions and limiting rent increases to once a year.
 - Conditioning rebates to ensure solar savings flow to tenants.
- Establish **minimum energy efficiency/ performance standards** (MEES/MEPS) for rental properties and require disclosure of a home's energy rating and energy efficiency features at the point of sale or lease.

Support for Apartments and Strata

- Provide rebates or low/ no-interest loans to owners corporations for shared solar systems, EV chargers, small and medium-scale batteries, and electrification upgrades.
- Amend strata laws to reduce voting thresholds to 50% for energy efficiency and sustainability upgrades (including rooftop solar) and prohibit unreasonable objections to these upgrades being made (such as on the basis of appearance)
- Offer free energy assessments and information resources for apartment residents to help them electrify and access CER.

Support for Social and Community Housing

- Expand the **Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative** (SHEPI) to include VPP-connected batteries.

- Increase SHEPI funding to reach a target of 30% of social and community housing with rooftop solar by 2030, half of which should include VPP-connected batteries.

Support for New Homes and Developments

- Adopt energy efficiency requirements of the **National Construction Code (NCC) 2025**, mandating rooftop solar for new commercial buildings including apartments, and ensuring these new homes are battery and EV-ready.
- Require all **Priority Development Areas (PDAs)**, including the Brisbane Olympic Village, to meet clean energy mandates including rooftop solar.

Support for EV Infrastructure

- Expand EV co-funding to ensure charger availability every 150 km across Queensland by 2030.
- Introduce rebates to incentivise **vehicle-to-grid (V2G)** charging.

Support for VPPs

- Provide rebates for households joining VPPs to enhance grid flexibility.
- Support the introduction of minimum transparency and consumer protection standards for VPPs nationally

Clear, Measurable Targets

Solar Citizens recommends Queensland adopts the following **CER targets by 2030**:

- **30% of rentals, apartments and social housing properties** to have rooftop solar.
- **40% of C&I buildings** equipped with rooftop solar.
- **EV chargers every 150 km statewide.**
- *Plus, by 2035, one million batteries installed across homes and small businesses.*

3. Unlock Commercial & Industrial Solar and Urban Renewable Energy Zones

Large commercial and industrial (C&I) rooftops—warehouses, shopping centres, and public buildings—represent an enormous untapped clean energy potential of 28 GW nationally². Sharing excess generation from these sites with nearby apartments and renters can deliver **Urban Renewable Energy Zones (UREZs)**: local clean-energy ecosystems that reduce bills and improve grid resilience.

Solar Citizens recommends that the Queensland Government:

- **Fund at least one UREZ pilot** in South-East Queensland (SEQ) in the 2026–27 Budget.

² <https://nexaadvisory.com.au/untapped-potential-of-commercial-industrial-energy-resources-in-the-nem/>

- **Partner with industry** to develop scalable C&I solar and battery installation packages.
- **Extend small-scale technology certificates (STCs)** to solar systems above 100 kW and battery systems above 100 kW for the C&I sector.
- **Provide low-interest loans and rebates** to unlock large C&I installations with high export potential.
- **Mandate rooftop solar and EV charging** for new commercial buildings under the NCC 2025.
- **Set progressively stronger energy performance standards** for all commercial and residential buildings.

The potential:

Queensland is already leading on rooftop solar adoption with 7.25 GW installed currently³, out of an estimated 37 GW total rooftop solar potential. A report by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation⁴ finds that the top three urban local government areas (LGAs) with the highest rooftop solar potential are situated in Queensland: Brisbane (7.1 GW); Gold Coast (3.4 GW); and Logan (2.2 GW). Based on 2024 residential and commercial electricity usage data⁵, each of these LGAs could more than meet their energy needs if their full rooftop solar potential was realised. Brisbane LGA could meet 110% of its needs; for Gold Coast its 125%; and Logan could meet an impressive 200%.

Energex estimates that the SEQ region overall has 19 GW of spare rooftop capacity (residential and C&I) available through existing distribution networks—that could be unlocked at no extra cost to the network. This means, if managed well, there is already enough space in our local network to accommodate up to four times our existing rooftop solar⁶.

4. Coordinate Renewable Energy Development Through Regional Energy Hubs

Rebranding Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as “Regional Energy Hubs” must not weaken their purpose. These hubs should be guided by principles of:

- Genuine community engagement;
- Shared regional benefits;
- First Nations partnerships;
- Local procurement and workforce development; and
- Environmental protection.

³ Clean Energy Regulator postcode dataset, July 2025

⁴ [How much Rooftop Solar can be Installed in Australia?](#) (2019) Clean Energy Finance Corporation

⁵ [Energy usage data by Local Government Area](#) (Accessed 2025) Energex

⁶ <https://reneweconomy.com.au/big-smoke-or-big-battery-how-se-queensland-could-meet-its-energy-needs-from-the-sun>

Solar Citizens supports reinstating the seven principles of the former *Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework* to ensure these outcomes.

Conclusion

Queensland's clean energy leadership was built by its people. Households and small businesses have already invested billions of their own money in rooftop solar and batteries and pride themselves on their ability to power their own homes and support their communities with clean, cheap electricity.

The *Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025* risks slowing this progress and widening the energy-inequity gap.

Solar Citizens calls on the Queensland Government to:

1. Reinstating ambitious renewable energy targets.
2. Develop a comprehensive **Consumer Energy Resources Strategy** and expand support for **renters, apartment residents, and social housing tenants**
3. Fund **UREZ pilots** to unlock local solar sharing.
4. Coordinate renewable energy development through **Regional Energy Hubs**

There is nothing reliable or affordable about continued dependence on ageing coal and expensive gas. By doubling down on rooftop solar, batteries, and consumer energy resources, Queensland can remain a **global solar leader**—delivering a fair, affordable, and people-powered energy future for all.

Solar Citizens thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission, and we look forward to further engagement and consultation opportunities in the near future. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions about the content of this submission, or wish to further discuss the above recommendations.



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