

ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Submission No:	26
Submitted by:	Queensland Council of Unions
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	



Submission to the
Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025

30 October 2025

Authorised by:

Jacqueline King

General Secretary

Queensland Council of Unions

Email: [REDACTED]

Contact: 07 3010 2555

1. The Queensland Council of Unions (**QCU**) is the peak council of registered unions in Queensland representing 25 affiliated unions and around 400,000 workers. We have a proud history of representing the voices of Queensland workers since 1885, and have been advocating for their industrial, social, and political interests since that time.
2. We welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's inquiry into the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 (**the Bill**).
3. The QCU strongly opposes the privatisation of energy assets, and we continue to advocate for the public ownership of a significant proportion of the energy system through ongoing public investment in the energy sector, including renewables, and maintaining, as a minimum, the current level of public generation, transmission and distribution into the future.
4. To date, public sector ownership and public investment in electricity generation in Queensland has been critical to ensuring that all Queenslanders have been provided with affordable, safe, reliable, and stable sources of energy, and this ought to continue.
5. However, the Bill seeks to repeal the current public ownership target for generation assets of 'equal to or more than 54%' and replace it with a target that only commits to maintaining 100% public ownership of existing publicly owned generation assets for the remainder of their operation. This has misleadingly been framed by the Treasurer as strengthening the public ownership target, but in reality, it opens the door to private sector investment for new generation projects and in time will result in a significant reduction of the existing target. It is a gradual abandonment of public ownership and privatisation by stealth.

Recommendation 1

The current targets for public ownership in section 13(1)(a) of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024* should be maintained.

6. The Bill also seeks to repeal Queensland's renewable energy targets. Not only does this create uncertainty for investors and developers in renewable energy, hindering Queensland's ability to achieve its emissions reductions targets (which the government maintains it is committed to), but along with the ambiguity of the Energy Roadmap's indicative operating timeframes for state-owned coal-fired power stations, which include 'options to further extend into the future if needed', it creates uncertainty for affected workers and communities.

7. The pathway to achieving Queensland's emissions reductions targets will require more reliance on renewable assets, and less on coal assets. While the 'reset' means coal-fired power stations are operating for longer, and in the short term that will be welcome news for the affected workers and the communities they live in, given the trajectory for coal-fired power in Australia, stations will eventually close at some point. But the Energy Roadmap's decision matrix for state-owned coal assets provides no certainty about the actual timing of closures, and workers and the communities they live in risk being left behind. They cannot reasonably prepare for the transition.
8. In these circumstances, it is critical that affected workers, and their representatives, are consulted on a regular basis. Their voice should be heard, and their views should be taken into account, before any decision is made that affects them. This includes the timeframe for closure, safety and maintenance, and the support that should be provided to them to ensure the adverse effects of the transition are mitigated, such as opportunities to retrain or upskill for redeployment into alternative, secure and meaningful employment. The Bill, however, abolishes the tripartite Energy Industry Council which was established to provide a representative voice in respect of these matters. If abolished, workers have no meaningful seat at the table to develop policy, along with industry and government, that will shape their futures.

Recommendation 2

The Energy Industry Council should not be abolished.

9. As evidenced by the explosion at Callide C power station, maintenance of ageing power stations is critical to the safety of workers and the community. However, the government has only announced \$1.6 billion in funding for the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, which reflects the cost of maintaining coal assets over the next five years. This is nowhere near enough. Queenslanders need a firm commitment for the ongoing funding of scheduled maintenance, including major overhauls, particularly given the plan to extend some stations up to their technical end of life. This is critical for the safety of relevant workers and their communities, and to ensure the safety, reliability and stability of the network.

Recommendation 3

The government should review the existing funding for coal-fired power stations in its Electricity Maintenance Guarantee and increase funding to the requisite level that ensures

its commitments to 'maintenance, personal safety, process safety and plant performance', as detailed in the Energy Roadmap, are met.