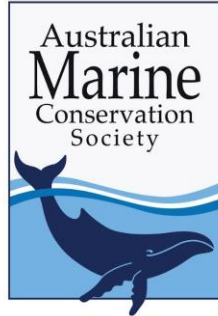


ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL 2025

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Australian Marine Conservation Society Submission

Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025

To: Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

GEFC@parliament.qld.gov.au

From: Michael Kane, Senior Great Barrier Reef Campaigner, Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)

Date: 30 October 2025

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is Australia's national charity dedicated to protecting our ocean wildlife and the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef supports tens of thousands of Queensland jobs and underpins the economies of coastal and regional communities. Energy is Queensland's largest source of emissions, and decisions about energy policy are central to achieving Queensland's 75% emissions-reduction target by 2035. This Bill and its associated Energy Roadmap undermine that outcome and Queensland's commitment to UNESCO made on 28 October 2025 to align policies with a 1.5°C pathway.

Failure to Meet the 75% Emissions-Reduction Target

Queensland will not achieve its legislated emissions-reduction target if the scenario outlined in the Energy Roadmap proceeds and coal power stations remain open for decades

to come. If Queensland fails to reach its 75% reduction target by 2035, it would not only break a promise to Queenslanders but expose communities to escalating climate risks and costs. Over the last three years alone, more extreme and frequent weather events, fuelled by climate change, have cost an estimated \$24 billion to the Queensland economy. The National Climate Risk Assessment identifies Queensland as one of the most vulnerable regions in Australia. In a 3°C scenario, Townsville’s heat-related mortality could rise by almost 350%, and 185,000 residential buildings in Queensland would be at very high risk. Coastal communities face rising seas — more than half a metre by 2090 — with urban coastal centres among the most exposed. Research from James Cook University warns that warming consistent with a 2°C increase would cause a complete collapse of coral reef function across Australia’s World Heritage reef systems (Quigley & Baird, 2024. Future climate warming threatens coral reef function on World Heritage reef regions of Australia. *Global Change Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.17407>). Repealing renewable-energy targets therefore undermines Queensland’s ability to meet its emissions goal and worsens climate impacts across the state.

Implications for the Great Barrier Reef and UNESCO Obligations

The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2024 states that future warming already locked into the climate system means further degradation is inevitable. Every increment of additional global warming further compromises the Reef’s biodiversity, cultural heritage and the economic benefits it provides. In 2025, the World Heritage Committee reaffirmed that Queensland must ensure the Reef 2050 Plan is implemented to limit the impacts of climate change on the Reef and to set ambitious targets consistent with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. The Bill and its accompanying Energy Roadmap are inconsistent with these obligations. Queensland and the Australian Government must report back to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2026 on progress toward 1.5°C alignment. Repealing renewable-energy targets and extending the life of coal-fired power stations will make that report impossible to deliver credibly. The Great Barrier Reef contributes \$9 billion annually to Australia’s economy and supports 77,000 jobs, including 56,000 in Reef regions (Deloitte Access Economics, 2025. *At What Cost? Safeguarding the Great Barrier Reef’s Role in Australia’s Economy*, October 2025). The Reef’s protection depends on urgent emissions reduction consistent with a 1.5°C limit.

Recommendations

The Australian Marine Conservation Society recommends that the Committee amend the Bill to:

1. Retain and strengthen Queensland’s legislated Renewable Energy Targets, ensuring at least 50% by 2030, 70% by 2032, and 80% by 2035, with a pathway to higher ambition consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The Queensland Government should rule out extending the operating life of coal-fired power stations and instead prioritise strong policy and financial incentives that drive new investment in renewable energy and storage.

2. Ensure the Bill and Energy Roadmap are consistent with Queensland's commitments to UNESCO and the Reef 2050 Plan, including measures that align Queensland's energy transition with a 1.5°C pathway.

Conclusion

Queensland's energy transformation is central to protecting the Great Barrier Reef, meeting emissions targets, and sustaining regional economies. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 undermines these goals by repealing renewable-energy targets, prolonging coal use, and weakening accountability. AMCS urges the Committee to recommend amendments to ensure Queensland's energy system accelerates the clean transition required to protect the Reef, meet the 75% by 2035 target, and uphold Queensland's international obligations.

Submitted by:

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