

ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Submission No:	35
Submitted by:	Master Electricians Australia
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

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Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is a peak industry association representing electrical contractors and is recognised by industry, government and the community as a leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. You can visit our website at www.masterelectricians.com.au

MEA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill). We agree with the Queensland Government's intent to streamline energy planning and to be open to different flexible load options. However, we believe the broader Energy Roadmap understates the importance of some critical pillars of a successful energy transition, namely:

- The vital role of Consumer Energy Resources (CER) ensuring that household and business-level generation is embedded at the forefront of Queensland's future energy planning;
- The importance of community batteries with only \$10 million allocated to catalyse further investment; and
- Broader workforce development strategies to overcome the predicted shortage of skilled electrical workers by addressing matters beyond GOC apprenticeships to include attraction and retention issues more broadly. This could include general apprenticeship shortages, supervisor training, and upskilling pathways essential to deliver and maintain new energy infrastructure safely and efficiently.

Consumer Energy Resources (CER)

CER is essential to achieving an affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy system for Queensland households and businesses. CER reduces pressure on the grid, enables consumers to generate and store solar energy for lower-cost access, and improves overall system resilience.

While Queensland already has the highest number of rooftop solar installations of any Australian state, with approximately 1.1 million systems installed,¹ there is capacity and need for more solar and battery at a consumer and small business level.

¹ "Rooftop solar and storage report" *Clean Energy Council* [January – June 2025], pg 7 < [cec_rooftop-solar-and-storage-report_jan_june2025.pdf](#)>

With rooftop solar and private battery installations capable of reducing household energy costs by around \$1,200 per year,² these technologies are already a proven, reliable asset in securing Queensland's sought after affordable and resilient energy future.

When connected to a virtual power plant (VPP), CER will improve Queensland's energy security and reduce energy costs. Incentivising CER (including for small business) and working with regulators on appropriate regulations and safeguards for VPPs are key levers that should be pulled.

Community Batteries

MEA believes greater government investment in Queensland battery innovation and manufacturing should be made. For example, funding for expansion of testing facilities at the QUT Advanced Battery Facility located at QUT's Banyo Pilot Precinct where the Energy Storage Resource Group carries out vital work.

Workforce Development

As CER reshapes Queensland's energy system into a dynamic two-way network, investment in a skilled electrical workforce is essential to install, maintain, and integrate these technologies safely and reliably over time.

With Queensland facing a recurring shortage of skilled energy workers, particularly licensed electricians, MEA calls for the Queensland Government to integrate practical measures on workforce development within the Energy Roadmap.

In particular, we seek measures such as financial support for small businesses employing apprentices, flexible delivery options for training, CPD, and a requirement for contractors on government projects to engage first year apprentices (rather than being able to 'poach' more senior apprentices from smaller businesses).

For further detail on the workforce development challenges facing the electrical industry and its impact on Queensland's energy landscape, please refer to the ***Labour Market - Training and Apprentices*** section of our submission to the [*Opportunities to Improve Productivity of the Construction Industry*](#) review.

² Treasury and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water "Built Environment Sector Plan" Australian Government [September 2025], pg 11 <<https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/p2025-698821.pdf>>

Conclusion

CER and DER now define Queensland's energy future, changing how power is made, stored, and shared. This calls for a skilled workforce ready to build and maintain it.

To that end, MEA encourages the Government to ensure its energy roadmap gives sufficient weight to the importance of CER, DER and the people and skills behind the transition.

MEA welcomes the chance to work collaboratively with Government to enhance the recognition of these vital aspects within its Energy Roadmap.
