

Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Sir/Madam

We thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission for the committee's inquiry into the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024.

The Smart Energy Council (SEC) is the peak independent body for Australia's smart energy industry, representing over 1,300 residential, commercial, and large-scale renewable generation and storage companies, smart transport firms, as well as the renewable hydrogen and ammonia industry.

There are five areas we would like to raise for your consideration in the preparation for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games:

1. Transport

- As a part of the Host City Contract, Brisbane is required to ensure the transport plan for the Games is in-line with long-term needs.
- Brisbane has the unique opportunity to decarbonise their public transport modes in the lead-up to 2032, where it could be shown as a proud example of transport decarbonisation on a global scale.
- As both the city's bus and ferry fleets should be transitioned to fully electric, the Smart Energy Council calls for the acquisition of any new vehicles to be electric, with no more internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.
- Additionally, the passenger or light commercial vehicle fleets required for the Games should be 100% electric, and charged from certified renewable energy sources.

2. Energy

- Given the recently passed bill for 75% renewables by 2035, and the Brisbane City Council and Queensland State Government committed to 2032 being a carbon neutral Olympics, it is absolutely necessary that all contracted transport, energy and devices that use energy, draw from renewable energy.

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**PUTTING ENERGY
INTO ACTION**

- Solar and rapid batteries, as well as flow batteries to support local energy needs (in villages) should be established. Large renewable PPA's for all electricity for the games.
 - There should be no gas based devices. Appliances should be fully electrified, using the most efficient models such as heat pumps, hot water heaters, and smart integrated air conditioning.
 - Stadiums should be electrified, with solar capacity added where possible to power them.
3. Procurement of Smart Energy Products
- 'Net Zero' emissions procurement will facilitate the growth and maturity of the smart energy manufacturing industry that Queensland has committed to develop.
 - The Smart energy Council calls for procurement of smart energy products to be preferably local, to support a future made in Australia.
4. Hosting the Conference of Parties (COP)
- The Australian government has bid to host COP 31, the UN Climate Conference - the world's largest non-sporting event. While the location has not yet been determined for the event scheduled to be in November 2026, Brisbane should strongly consider putting in a bid to host the event on behalf of the nation.
 - The Queensland government's ambition to reduce emissions by 75% by 2035, which has bipartisan support, puts it in good standing to host the global community to face our most pressing global challenge.
 - This would provide a test-run for a large, global logistical challenge that would provide for the perfect ground to test capability for the Games in 2032.
 - The COP is also the de facto world trade show on climate solutions and would showcase Queensland to global investors. Premier Miles and Queensland battery manufacturer Redflow presented a side-event, hosted by the Smart Energy Council, at the COP in Dubai in November 2023. The Smart Energy Council would be excited to continue to sell the success stories of Queensland to the world, in the lead-up to the Olympics.

5. Repurposing Decommissioned Solar Modules for Large-Scale Solar Installation

- The Brisbane City Council has the opportunity to develop a large-scale solar installation, utilising repurposed solar panels in a world first.
- As well as large-scale applications, the Smart Energy Council recommends utilising these panels for the electrification of venues, the athletes village and other infrastructure needed for the Games.
- More detail is included below in our submission.

Should you wish to discuss any of this submission further, please contact:
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Repurposing Decommissioned Solar Modules for Large-Scale Solar Installation

Introduction:

Queensland has long been recognized as the 'Solar State', leading the charge in renewable energy adoption. With a commitment to a low-carbon future, the state has embraced solar power as a cornerstone of its energy strategy. As part of this commitment, Queensland can harness the potential of renewable resources while contributing to the circular economy, with the 2032 Olympics the perfect opportunity to demonstrate this to the world.

Opportunity:

Currently, Queensland is faced with the decommissioning of up to 1.2 million solar modules each year, and the number is rapidly increasing. Despite being retired, the majority of these modules are in perfect operating condition. This presents a unique and promising opportunity to repurpose these modules for a pioneering initiative – a large-scale solar installation that would help to power Queensland in the lead-up to the 2032 Games.

Proposal Highlights:

1. **World's First Large-Scale Solar Installation:** Queensland has the chance to pioneer the world's first large-scale solar installation utilising decommissioned solar modules. By leveraging existing infrastructure and resources, we can lead by example in sustainable energy solutions.
2. **Leverage the Queensland Solar Stewardship Pilot Program:** Queensland has committed to initiating a solar module pilot program to test the feasibility, safety, and performance of decommissioned modules. Modules deemed fit for operation through this pilot, or from alternative sources, could form the basis of the proposed large-scale solar facility.
3. **Utilising Tested and Safe Modules:** Through rigorous testing and quality assurance measures, we will ensure that only modules meeting stringent safety and performance standards are incorporated into the installation. This

guarantees reliability and longevity, aligning with Queensland's commitment to sustainable energy practices.

4. **Scaling Up Similar to Wagga Wagga Facility:** Drawing inspiration from the 100MW facility being constructed in Wagga Wagga, Queensland aims to scale up its solar installation to contribute significantly to the state's renewable energy capacity. By mirroring successful projects and leveraging proven methodologies, we can streamline implementation and maximise impact.

Benefits:

1. **Environmental Impact:** By repurposing decommissioned solar modules, Queensland can significantly reduce electronic waste while harnessing clean, renewable energy. This initiative aligns with global efforts to combat climate change and mitigate environmental degradation.
2. **Economic Opportunities:** The development of a large-scale solar installation creates jobs, fosters innovation, and stimulates economic growth within Queensland. Furthermore, by embracing renewable energy technologies, we reduce dependency on fossil fuels, enhancing energy security and stability.
3. **Leadership in Renewable Energy:** Through this pioneering initiative, Queensland solidifies its position as a leader in renewable energy innovation. By demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of repurposing decommissioned modules for large-scale installations, we inspire other regions to follow suit, driving global progress towards a sustainable future.

Conclusion:

In harnessing the potential of decommissioned solar modules for a large-scale solar installation, Queensland not only fulfills its commitment to a low-carbon future and Games, but also spearheads a groundbreaking initiative with far-reaching environmental, economic, and societal benefits. By seizing this opportunity, we propel Queensland towards a more sustainable and resilient energy landscape, setting a precedent for generations to come.