

## Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Save Eungella
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**SUBMISSION INTO “Inquiry into Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025”.**

The author’s full name: Mandy Tennent, Secretary, Save Eungella

If the submission is made on behalf of an organisation, the level of approval:  
Executive Committee.

Email address: [REDACTED]

Daytime telephone number: [REDACTED]

Date: 20/05/2025

**We fully support** and applaud the Queensland Government’s objective to introduce a community benefit system into the Queensland planning framework providing the ability to identify, avoid, manage, mitigate and counterbalance the indirect and cumulative social impacts from specific development uses, and to empower local governments to have a greater role in negotiation and decision making around community benefits from these development uses prior to development assessment regulatory processes, enabling positive legacy benefits for affected local and regional host communities.

**We applaud** the requirement to build social licence with communities before a development application is made to an assessment manager, providing certainty to industry and the community on what the minimum requirements are to advance a development assessment. We support the introduction of a community benefit system that will require proponents to invest time and effort into building social licence with a host community and local government in advance of the formal development assessment process.

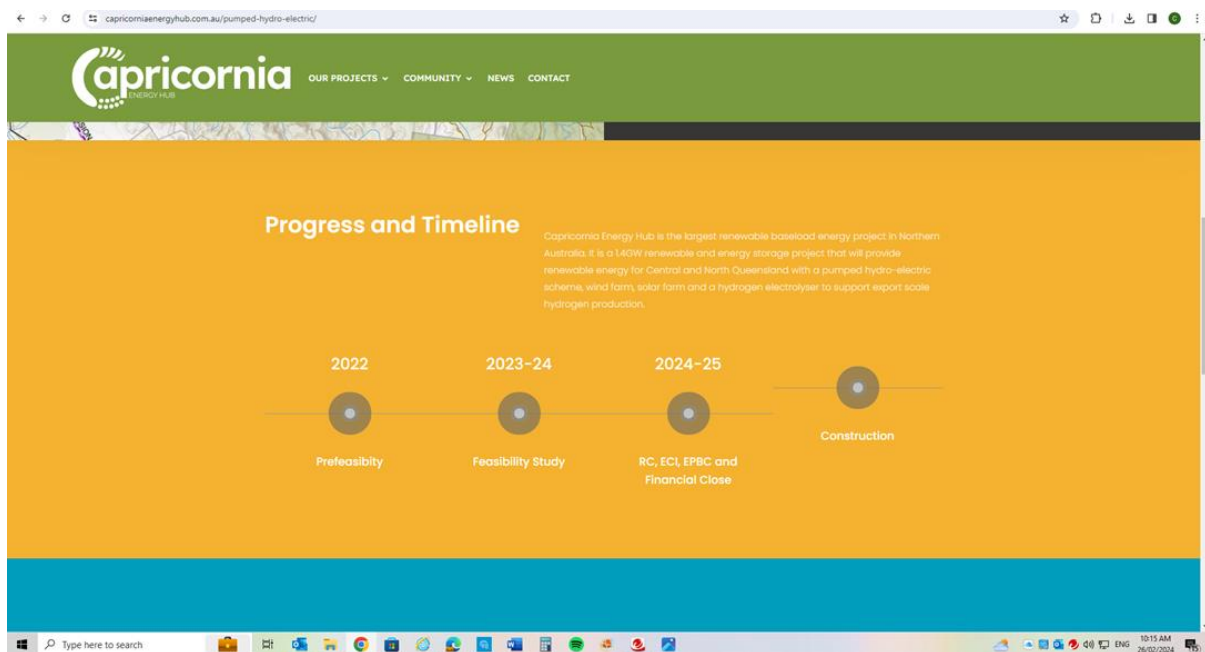
Having recently gone through an incredibly negative, divisive, community-destroying, sole- destroying, out-sourced to a third party corporation, ‘tick and flick’ , cherry-picking, ‘Social Impact Assessment’ (SIA) process with Queensland Hydro, we immensely value the inclusion of Local Government to facilitate true and meaningful consultation, because we were never afforded this before, and our community will never be the same for it. It also divided the community against our Local Council, whom we looked to for assistance, but of course they were unable to provide it as they had no seat at the table.

**However**, we understand that this proposal is limited to “proponents seeking to develop wind farms and large-scale solar farms”, and we strongly request that these be

**extended, urgently, to include ALL proposed renewable energy projects, specifically including Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES), large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Green Hydrogen Production, and also associated Transmission Lines, Switching Stations, Concrete batching plants, Crusher plants, the 2000-strong worker's camps, all of which are intrinsically linked, one doesn't work without the other, and need to be considered in their entirety for their cumulative impact and effect on our communities.**

**A perfect example for the urgent need** for this extension is clearly evidenced by another currently proposed PHES and Transmission Line project at Eungella, called Capricornia Energy Hub, by offshore-owned Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners. After postponing their last community consultation 6 months ago prior to the election, CEH have only now called a community meeting again. However, CEH have now removed all reference to wind turbines and solar factories as part of the project from their website, and their communications, we suspect in order to avoid increased scrutiny of those projects in light of this enquiry. Rather, it is this proposed PHES project that urgently needs be required to undertake SIA and enter into a CBA with the local government before lodging a development application.

**Figure 1** Capricornia Energy Hub website 26/02/2024 mentioning 'pumped hydro electric scheme, wind farm, solar farm, and hydrogen electrolyser'.



**Figure 2** Photo of Current Wind Monitoring Station for proposed wind turbines at Mt Barker, Eungella Dam.



We have grave concerns that industrial-scale projects such as this will ‘slip through the cracks’ in this proposed legislative change, at great detriment to our communities.

In summary, we strongly request that these changes be extended, urgently, to include ALL proposed renewable energy projects, specifically including Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES), large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Green Hydrogen Production, and also associated infrastructure.

We thank the Queensland Government for their initiative, and their consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Tennent

Secretary

