

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

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Committee Secretary
State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: sdiwc@parliament.qld.gov.au

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

Arrow Energy Pty Ltd (Arrow Energy) welcomes the opportunity to engage on the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill) introduced into the Queensland Parliament by the Minister in May 2025.

This is an important Bill to give certainty to both the community and proponents of largescale renewable energy projects – it is therefore critical to get it right.

Arrow Energy supports the submissions made by the Australian Energy Producers and the Queensland Resources Council on behalf of their members.

Notwithstanding, Arrow Energy is pleased to see that the draft regulation seems to provide an exemption for renewable projects where “the generation of electricity or energy to be used mainly on the premises”. (Page 21, (5) Section 21 Schedule 24).

We support the Bill on this basis, noting Arrow Energy is currently finalising Australian government environmental approvals and Local government planning approvals for a 17-megawatt (MW) Surat Gas Project (SGP) North Solar Farm which is part of a planned hybrid power station designed to power a Gas Compression Station.

Large scale, traditional resources projects such as Arrow Energy’s Surat Gas Project undergo rigorous Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessments during their approval process. These processes contemplate a variety of development scenarios, impacts on communities and propose community benefits that are built into subsequent approvals.

This submission will highlight the process these developments go through and how they already contain substantial community benefit commitments and conditions.

This contrasts with most large-scale renewable energy projects, which are not subject to these rigorous assessment processes and to which this legislation is intended to apply.

Introduction to Arrow Energy

Arrow Energy is a leading Queensland-based natural gas company, specialising in the development, production and sale of coal seam gas, along with electricity generation.

Arrow Energy is committed to effectively managing its CSG tenures in the best interests of the State and genuine co-existence with landholders and local communities, as part of the safe and responsible production of gas to support the clean energy transition.

Operating since 2000, we have been safely and sustainably supplying gas for industrial and power generation purposes in Queensland and the east coast gas market.

Operating in the Surat Basin of southern Queensland, with a corporate office in Brisbane, we are currently engaged in a major project that has the capacity to power the equivalent of more than four million homes every day.

As an incorporated joint venture between Shell and PetroChina, we take pride in producing energy that powers Queensland, Australia and the world.

We employ approximately 500 people across Queensland, with more than 20 per cent of our workforce residing or working in the Surat Basin region.

Relationship with local landholders

Arrow Energy has been operating in the Western Downs for 20 years.

We have a mutually beneficial relationship with hundreds of landholders.

Through our statutory required Conduct and Compensation Agreements (CCAs) and other agreements we are able to extract gas and provide beneficial outcomes and to help improve agricultural properties.

Some examples of these benefits are:

- new and improved roads on property to help Arrow and the landholder access parts of the property
- new and improved fencing that keeps livestock in place for the landholder and away from Arrow assets
- investing in a new beneficial re-use scheme for produced water which will offset any impacts to the Condamine Alluvium water resource and improve water security for landholders, and
- monetary compensation that can be of great assistance to improve agricultural properties and maintain cash flow, particularly in years of drought.

Support for community organisations

Consistent with our existing conditions, Arrow Energy invests more than \$1.5 million each year in community initiatives, programs, and events.

We are proud to be a trusted partner with local organisations that are making a positive contribution to communities in areas where we operate.

Our long-standing partnership with Heart of Australia, which is now into its second decade, brings potentially lifesaving health care to regional communities.

Arrow's Brighter Futures community investment program supports the events, initiatives, and programs that are important to our communities through sponsorships and grants.

In the last year Arrow Energy has supported local initiatives such as:

- Funding support for Dalby Meals on Wheels
- Purchasing a shade marquee and bucket hats for the Dalby Dolphins swim club
- Providing equipment for the regional fire volunteers
- Sponsoring Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) events to support local economic advocacy
- Equipping local sports clubs with jerseys, first aid and other equipment

Arrow Energy's Proposed Solar Farm

The Surat Gas Project North Solar Farm is part of a planned hybrid power station designed to power our Northern Field Compression Station (FCS).

The hybrid power station is a key initiative in Arrow Energy's plans to reduce our GHG emissions profile and meet our net zero targets.

The station consists of gas generators, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and solar panels.

The solar farm is also designed to minimise community impact:

- Located 18km north of Miles
- Solar Farm will be constructed on Arrow Energy owned land
- FCS and associated power station will be on the adjoining property, also Arrow Energy owned.

The project is planned as a 17 megawatt (MW) solar farm across 62 hectares which will complement an 8 MW Battery Energy Storage System; and 24.5 MW of gas generation.

Arrow Energy is targeting first power by the start of 2027 with a 12-month construction timeframe.

As the solar farm is part of a planned hybrid power station designed to power Arrow's FCS, there is no intention to connect to the electricity grid. It will only power Arrow Energy's own facility.

Arrow first lodged its Development Approval application in March 2025 and referred the project for EPBC approval in September 2024.

Concluding remarks

Arrow Energy again reiterates its support for the Bill on the basis that the Bill won't impact renewable energy projects being progressed by approved resource projects that are not grid connected and where the energy produced is only intended to be used on premises.

This approach supports increased transparency, more community consultation and tangible community benefits by all projects, whilst not exposing approved resource projects to a duplicate assessment process.

Should you require any further information, please contact Suzanne Ferguson, General Manager, Government Relations, Regulatory Approvals and Tenure Management on phone [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Jeffries
Vice President – External Affairs
Arrow Energy