

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

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**Submitted by:** Local Government Association of Queensland  
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Every Queensland  
community deserves  
to be a liveable one

27 May 2025

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

By email: [sdiwc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdiwc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

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

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill).

As the peak body representing Queensland's 77 local governments, the LGAQ supports reforms that improve planning outcomes and ensure renewable energy developments deliver tangible benefits to host communities. The LGAQ commends the State Government's intent to embed social licence into the planning framework through mechanisms such as Social Impact Assessments and Community Benefit Agreements.

In drafting the Bill, the State Government has clearly demonstrated its commitment to Queensland councils and their communities, by progressing outcomes sought by resolutions passed at prior LGAQ Annual Conferences. Notwithstanding, opportunities have been identified to further refine the Bill, to support its implementation in the interest of Queensland communities.

In total, our submission contains 14 recommendations including targeted recommendations regarding whole-of-government coordination, proposed Chief Executive powers, the scope of the Bill, and matters before, during and after development assessment. These recommendations seek to strengthen the proposed framework - drawing on council feedback and long-standing policy positions established through the LGAQ Policy Statement and the LGAQ Advocacy Action Plan.

We urge the Committee to consider these recommendations - to ensure the successful implementation of a fair and effective Community Benefit System.

The LGAQ remains committed to working in partnership with the State Government to ensure local governments are equipped to deliver meaningful outcomes for their communities, and to play a central role in Queensland's renewable energy transition.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Smith  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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Submission to State Development, Infrastructure  
and Works Committee

May 2025

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## About the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association established solely to serve councils and their needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting, and representing local councils since 1896, enabling them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The LGAQ does this by connecting councils to people and places; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and providing them with the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.

## Equal Partners in Government Agreement

The LGAQ on behalf of all 77 Queensland local governments is a signatory to a three-year Equal Partners in Government Agreement<sup>1</sup> with the State of Queensland (signed 11 March 2025).

The Agreement details the key principles underlying the relationship between the state and local governments and establishes the foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The Agreement acknowledges that local government is the closest level of government to the community, affecting the lives of everyday Queenslanders and acknowledging Local Government as a genuine partner in the Australian government system.

The intent of the agreement was to continue the tradition of working in genuine partnership to improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders to enjoy. By identifying the roles and responsibilities of each party, it provides a solid foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The LGAQ is committed to working with the Queensland Government and will continue to be a passionate advocate for councils, to serve our joint jurisdiction for the people of Queensland.

## Rural and Remote Councils Compact

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact<sup>2</sup> signed on 25 June 2021, is a sub-agreement to the Equal Partners in Government Agreement, between the LGAQ and the Queensland Government. It provides a platform to ensure issues of priority for these communities are properly considered by the Government when developing policies, programs, and legislation.

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact, pledges to amplify the voice of and improve outcomes for the state's 45 rural and remote councils and their local communities by enhancing engagement between both levels of government.

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<sup>1</sup> The Equal Partners in Government Agreement is available online [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Rural and Remote Councils compact available online [here](#).



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

## 1.0 Executive Summary

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill). The proposed reforms, particularly the introduction of a mandatory Community Benefit System for prescribed renewable energy developments, represent a significant shift in Queensland's planning framework.

The LGAQ acknowledges the stated intent of the Bill, to provide an ability to identify, avoid, manage, mitigate and counterbalance indirect and cumulative social impacts from certain development types.

The LGAQ commends the State Government for its considered and responsive approach to the challenges faced by councils in managing the social impacts of renewable energy development. In drafting this Bill, the State Government has clearly demonstrated its commitment to meaningful engagement and reform, by progressing outcomes sought by several resolutions passed by Queensland councils at prior LGAQ Annual Conferences, as well as key recommendations from the LGAQ's submission in December 2024, on Queensland Treasury's Renewables Regulatory Framework Discussion Paper.

Notably, the Bill and supporting regulation, as proposed, respond to the calls of Queensland councils to:

- develop a state code for large-scale renewable energy projects to be assessed by the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA);
- establish public notification and referral requirements for all large-scale renewable energy projects;
- enable submitter appeal rights; and
- require 'local benefit' contributions.

This submission draws on LGAQ's Policy Statement, direct member council feedback, and resolutions passed at recent LGAQ Annual Conferences calling for improvements to the assessment, regulation, and benefit-sharing of renewable energy projects. While the LGAQ supports the intent and many aspects of the Bill, this submission includes 14 targeted recommendations to support implementation and enforceability of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs), the scope and timing of Social Impact Assessments (SIAs), infrastructure cost burdens, and the need for consistent assessment pathways.

The LGAQ remains committed to working in equal partnership with the Queensland Government to refine these reforms and ensure the *Planning Act 2016* upholds the interests of local communities, encourages investment certainty, and delivers long-term social, economic, and environmental outcomes across Queensland.

## 1.1 Recommendations

In total the LGAQ has made 14 recommendations for consideration by the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. These are summarised below:

**Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Bill be supported and progressed, subject to further refinement in accordance with the recommendations outlined in this submission, to strengthen its implementation and outcomes.

**Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures a coordinated approach to the development of renewable energy initiatives across State Government agencies, including the development of a renewable energy roadmap, a mandatory code of conduct for renewable energy proponents, a social licence toolkit, as well as changes to statutory and non-statutory planning instruments.

**Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government amends the Bill to remove the ability for the Chief Executive to allow a development application to be lodged without local government support (i.e. reserve power) – to ensure local governments have autonomy to ensure the type of community benefits to be provided (or not) by a proponent are in the best interest of their community.

**Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reconsiders its stance on *excluding* Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) from assessment under the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP). This should consider whether:

- SARA should be the assessment manager for BESS *where associated with a large-scale renewable energy facility* - to mitigate challenges associated with dual assessments and dual approvals being required through both State and local governments.
- All BESS, or all BESS over a certain threshold, should be assessed by SARA.

**Recommendation 5:** LGAQ recommends the State Government refines the proposed definitions contained in the draft Regulation for a 'prescribed renewable energy facility' and 'relevant renewable energy facility', in consultation with local government, to:

- Adopt a megawatt-based measure to define a 'prescribed renewable energy facility', rather than a megawatt- or area-based measure
- Confirm the proposed 1-megawatt threshold with Queensland councils
- Determine whether additional thresholds are warranted - to differentiate between when SARA assessment is warranted and when a SIA and CBA are warranted
- Consider whether a 'prescribed renewable energy facility' should include a wind farm of any scale.

**Recommendation 6:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government sets clear standards in the *Planning Regulation 2017*, in consultation with local government, regarding the level of detail which a proponent must provide to a local government prior to commencing a SIA process and negotiating a CBA.

**Recommendation 7:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government amends Division 2 (Sections 106T and 106U), Division 3 (Sections 106V, 106W and 106X) and Section 106ZE

of the Bill to ensure local government is included in the scoping of a SIA before a proponent commences community engagement.

**Recommendation 8:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government engages further with Queensland councils to develop a CBA framework, including but not limited to consideration of regulating minimum community benefit payment amounts, per megawatt per annum, and resourcing to support councils in fulfilling their new responsibilities under the framework.

**Recommendation 9:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government clarifies that a local government may charge entities for the time spent to discuss the requirements for a SIA and any time that is required to meet with proponents through the preparation of the SIA report.

**Recommendation 10:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government amends Section 106ZA and the *Planning Regulation 2017*, to clarify change processes, such as the change process after SIA consultation has commenced and after a CBA has been signed.

**Recommendation 11:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government provides regulatory clarity, to ensure local governments are established as concurrence agencies for renewable energy developments being assessed by SARA within their local government area, in a neighbouring local government area, or relying on infrastructure in the relevant local government area (such as ports and access roads). This should also ensure renewable energy proponents are required to formally respond to local government input provided during the development assessment process.

**Recommendation 12:** Regarding development approval compliance, the LGAQ recommends the State Government provides legislative or regulatory clarity, to ensure:

- Conditions are not used to defer matters to consideration through downstream approvals (e.g. operational works) which are more appropriately considered through a Material Change of Use (MCU)
- Councils are not obliged carry the burden of monitoring and enforcing compliance with State Government development approvals
- The State Government is sufficiently resourced to monitor compliance, audit, and resolve disputes relating to development approvals
- A clear escalation process is established for local governments to advise the State Government of non-compliance with a development approval.

**Recommendation 13:** Regarding CBA compliance, the LGAQ recommends the State Government provides legislative or regulatory clarity, to ensure:

- A clear penalty regime is established and imposed for noncompliance with a CBA (including fines and public disclosure of noncompliance)
- Proponents are required to provide a bond or financial security (held in trust) to ensure CBAs are upheld
- Regulatory clarity to confirm a CBA binds to a development approval and the land, and how a CBA binds parties through the life of a project, including through transfers of ownership
- The State Government is sufficiently resourced to monitor compliance, audit, and resolve disputes relating to CBA compliance
- Future owners of properties subject to a CBA are made aware through statutory seller disclosure.



**Recommendation 14:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government provides legislative clarity, to ensure local governments are able to levy infrastructure charges where a development approval for a material change of use is not required, whether as a result of an Act or regulation, a local categorising instrument (a planning scheme, a TLPI or a variation approval) or infrastructure designation.

Please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Leman, Lead – Planning and Development (via email [REDACTED]) should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

## 2.0 Introduction

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee on the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill). These reforms, particularly the introduction of a mandatory Community Benefit System for prescribed renewable energy developments, represent a critical evolution in Queensland's planning framework.

Overall, the LGAQ supports the stated intent of the Bill - to ensure renewable energy projects deliver tangible benefits to host communities and are underpinned by sound processes – noting the alignment of the objectives of the Bill with the calls of Queensland councils through resolutions passed at previous LGAQ Annual Conferences.

The LGAQ and Queensland councils have been calling for amendments, such as those proposed, since 2020. These calls of Queensland councils have followed annual LGAQ Annual Conferences, as well as in response to discussion papers, such as Queensland Treasury's Draft Renewables Regulatory Framework in late 2024. The LGAQ and Queensland councils are therefore grateful for the new State Government's attention in this space, and for heeding the calls of Queensland councils and their communities.

While the LGAQ supports the central tenets of the Bill, this submission provides constructive feedback to support the implementation of the Bill, particularly relating to local government autonomy, procedural clarity, enforceability, and community engagement.

As the level of government closest to the community, local councils must be central to the planning, negotiation, and delivery of community benefits, and should be adequately resourced and empowered to perform these functions.

This submission presents targeted recommendations relating to the *Planning Act 2016* and the *Planning Regulation 2017*, while feedback relevant to other associated statutory and non-statutory planning instruments will be provided directly to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (the Department). The recommendations included in this submission have been informed by member feedback and existing policy positions, and seek to ensure a fair, effective, and locally responsive planning framework.

The LGAQ acknowledges the Bill also includes amendments to the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021* which will affect Queensland's 14 host councils. As the LGAQ represents all of Queensland's 77 councils, and no Olympics-related feedback has been received by the LGAQ, this submission does not address those changes. Notwithstanding, it is acknowledged that the Council of Mayors (SEQ) has made a submission focussing on these amendments.

### 2.1 LGAQ Policy Statement and Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member-driven advocacy and working with member councils to build stronger local governments and more resilient local communities.

The LGAQ Policy Statement<sup>3</sup> is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland and provides several key policy positions of local government that are relevant

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<sup>3</sup> The LGAQ Policy Statement is available online [here](#).

to matters raised in this submission. The agreed policy positions of local government, as stated in the LGAQ Policy Statement and relevant to this submission, are included in **Attachment 1**.

In addition, more than 27 resolutions have been passed by Queensland councils at recent LGAQ Annual Conferences on matters relating to renewable energy developments occurring throughout Queensland's regions (refer **Attachment 2**).

Relevant to the Bill, recent resolutions passed by Queensland councils have called for:

- *State Codes within the State Development Assessment Provisions for the assessment of large-scale renewable energy projects by the State Assessment and Referral Agency*
- *Public notification and council referral requirements for all large-scale renewable energy projects for all affected councils*
- *Amendments to the Planning Act 2016 to enable submitter appeal rights for renewable energy projects such as solar farms and wind farms*
- *Legislation and policy which requires proponents of renewable projects to make a 'local benefit' contribution to regional communities.*

The Bill, as drafted, champions these outcomes in the public interest and illustrates the State Government's commitment to partnering with local government and supporting Queensland communities through requirements for community benefits to be delivered by project proponents.

### 3.0 Response to proposed changes to Queensland Planning Framework

In preparing this submission, the LGAQ has considered the LGAQ Policy Statement, previous LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions, feedback given by Queensland councils to inform previous related submissions, and direct feedback from Queensland councils.

This submission is structured to address two overarching changes, namely:

- Amendments to the *Planning Act 2016* to create a Community Benefit System, specifically the inclusion of a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA).
- Amendments to the *Planning Regulation 2017* that prescribes the development (wind farm and solar farm) subject to a CBA, the level of assessment and Assessment Manager. Amendments also include the introduction of a new state code in the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) to assess large scale solar farms applications against.

Importantly, amendments to the *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017*, must support the development of a cohesive policy framework that promotes consistency, improves decision-making, minimises duplication, and enhances outcomes for local communities, industry, and all levels of government.

The LGAQ is also making a separate, detailed submission directly to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, regarding supporting statutory and non-statutory planning instruments.

The LGAQ understands the Bill will introduce a Community Benefit System to Queensland's planning framework, that will include:

- A requirement to prepare a SIA and enter into a CBA with the relevant local government for prescribed development (large scale Wind Farms and Solar Farms) prior to lodging a development application, with both documents submitted to the assessment manager to be considered a properly made development application.
- Provide reserve power to the Chief Executive of the Department to allow a development application to be lodged with an assessment manager without a SIA and/or CBA as well as grant the authority to impose conditions for social impacts.
- Provide transitional provisions to development applications (Wind Farms and Solar Farms) that have been made or lodged but not decided.

The introduction of a Community Benefit System to Queensland's planning framework is welcomed by the LGAQ. This directly responds to the calls of Queensland councils over consecutive years, as illustrated by resolutions passed at LGAQ Annual Conferences. Similarly, public notification and the establishment of SARA as assessment manager for large-scale renewable energy facilities is welcomed and supported by the LGAQ, subject to refinement in accordance with the recommendations contained herein.

Notwithstanding, opportunities remain to refine the Bill and proposed subordinate legislation, as outlined in this submission. As discussed herein, these refinements should seek to support local government autonomy, procedural clarity, enforceability, and community engagement.

**Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Bill be supported and progressed, subject to further refinement in accordance with the recommendations outlined in this submission, to strengthen its implementation and outcomes.

To further support implementation of the Bill, subordinate legislation and other legislation, whole-of-government coordination is warranted.

At present, a range of separate initiatives are being progressed by Planning Group, the State Development division, and the Coordinator General within the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, as well as Queensland Treasury. These initiatives include proposed changes Queensland's planning framework through the introduction of this Bill, as well as development of a Social Licence Toolkit, a proposed mandatory Code of Conduct for renewable energy proponents, and a proposed 5-year energy roadmap.

Given the extent of initiatives being progressed simultaneously, whole-of-government coordination will be pivotal to supporting orderly implementation in partnership with local government.

**Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures a coordinated approach to the development of renewable energy initiatives across State Government agencies, including the development of a renewable energy roadmap, a mandatory code of conduct for renewable energy proponents, a social licence toolkit, as well as changes to statutory and non-statutory planning instruments.

### 3.1 Mediation and Chief Executive Powers

The LGAQ understands that the purpose of the Community Benefit System, as proposed by the Bill, is to 'front-load' the development application process by requiring proponents to invest time and effort building 'social licence' with a host community and local government in advance of the formal development assessment process.

The requirement for a SIA to be undertaken, and a CBA to be signed with a local government before a development application can be lodged, is a new concept for Queensland's planning system. However, it is understood that the intent of this framework is to ensure councils continue to have a strong say in the development which may be contemplated in their local government area.

#### Mediation

The LGAQ understands the requirement to prepare a SIA and CBA will be mandatory under the *Planning Act 2016* but will not be specifically regulated under the *Planning Regulation 2017*. In instances where parties cannot agree on matters contained in the SIA and the CBA, the parties may be referred by the Chief Executive to mediation, to reach a negotiated outcome. The LGAQ acknowledges that mediation is voluntary for both local government and the proponent.

The proposed amendments under Section 106ZC of the Bill describe the proposed mediation process but is not explicitly clear what process follows if parties withdraw from mediation prior to reaching an agreement.

#### Powers of the Chief Executive

Furthermore, Section 106ZE of the Bill provides a reserve power for the Chief Executive to allow a development application to be lodged with an assessment manager without a SIA or CBA and



establishes the authority to impose conditions for social impacts. These two mechanisms remove local government autonomy over negotiations that are in the best interest of their community, and therefore, cannot be supported by the LGAQ.

A more appropriate mechanism would be to reserve the Chief Executive's powers to circumstances where a local government has *agreed* that a SIA and CBA are not needed.

**Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government amends the Bill to remove the ability for the Chief Executive to allow a development application to be lodged without local government support (i.e. reserve power) – to ensure local governments have autonomy to ensure the type of community benefits to be provided (or not) by a proponent are in the best interest of their community.

### 3.2 Scope

As currently proposed, the Bill will introduce a Community Benefit System to Queensland's planning framework – ensuring defined uses manage their social impacts and contribute positively to their host communities.

Through the draft [Planning \(Social Impact and Community Benefit\) and Other Legislation Regulation 2025](#), it is understood that Wind Farms and large-scale Solar Farms (i.e. prescribed renewable energy facilities) will be subject to these requirements. Notwithstanding, it is understood that additional uses may fall within the scope of future amendments.

#### Battery Energy Storage Systems

The LGAQ notes Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) have not been addressed in the Bill or supporting instruments. BESS's play a crucial role in renewable energy systems and can vary in scale and location.

Through the LGAQ's engagement, several councils have noted that, where BESS is associated with a renewable energy facility, it is often the BESS component that has a higher degree of impact (e.g. noise and fire risk) and generates more community interest. Councils have also raised concerns with circumstances which may eventuate whereby SARA is the assessment manager for a solar farm, but a council remains the assessment manager of the BESS that is necessarily associated with the solar farm.

**Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reconsiders its stance on *excluding* Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) from assessment under the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP). This should consider whether:

- SARA should be the assessment manager for BESS, *where associated with a large-scale renewable energy facility* - to mitigate challenges associated with dual assessments and dual approvals being required through both State and local governments.
- All BESS, or all BESS over a certain threshold, should be assessed by SARA.

#### Prescribed renewable energy facility

Prescribing a threshold to identify what constitutes a 'large-scale' renewable energy facility - that must enter into a SIA and CBA - should address the range of social impacts that are created by these developments, notwithstanding the delivery of community benefits commensurate with the scale of the proposed development.

In a state as diverse as Queensland, it is difficult to reach a consistent interpretation of 'large-scale' within a short period of time. To ensure the diverse perspectives of Queensland councils can be heard, the LGAQ suggests a revised threshold that measures generation capacity (as opposed to an area of land) be consulted on prior to finalisation of the Bill.

Thus far, feedback provided by council officers would suggest that 'large-scale' has a variety of interpretations, however, many councils are eager to ensure community benefits are derived from projects of any scale, regardless of whom the assessment manager is, or if they deem a SIA is necessary.

Potential for confusion has also been raised regarding the definition of 'prescribed renewable energy facility', which excludes wind farms. It has been noted that this could cause confusion because while wind farms are a renewable energy facility, they are not a prescribed renewable energy facility. While it is understood that the purpose of this term is to capture solar farms over a certain threshold (which does not apply to wind farms), officers have questioned whether terminology could be clarified.

**Recommendation 5:** LGAQ recommends the State Government refine the proposed definitions of a 'prescribed renewable energy facility' and 'relevant renewable energy facility' in consultation with local government to:

- Adopt a megawatt-based measure to define a 'prescribed renewable energy facility', rather than a megawatt- or area-based measure
- Confirm the proposed 1-megawatt threshold with Queensland councils
- Determine whether additional thresholds are warranted - to differentiate between when SARA assessment is warranted and when a SIA and CBA are warranted
- Consider whether a 'prescribed renewable energy facility' should include a wind farm of any scale.

### 3.3 Commencement of SIA and CBA processes

Unlike the procedure that a proponent follows to comply with a SIA in an Environmental Impact Statement (pursuant to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the process proposed to meet the mandatory requirements in the Community Benefit System does not include an Initial Advice Statement or a Terms of Reference prior to the commencement of the SIA.

As the mandatory Community Benefit System is currently proposed, a proponent could commence engagement and development of a SIA prior to commencing discussions with the relevant local government/s. This does not represent an appropriate co-design outcome, and does not reflect the critical role of local governments in ensuring the interests of their communities are considered and upheld.

The notion of social licence to operate (i.e. community acceptance of renewable energy) is predicated upon three main elements (after Moffat et al 2015<sup>4</sup>):

1. Distributional fairness - how industry and government can work more effectively to promote fair sharing of the benefits of renewable energy developments for potentially affected communities.

<sup>4</sup> Moffat, K., Lacey, J., Zhang, A. and Leipold, S., 2016. The social licence to operate: a critical review. *Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research*, 89(5), pp.477-488.

2. Procedural fairness - creating and managing fair, equitable, inclusive, transparent, and accountable decision-making processes.
3. Confidence in governance – by the community of the governance procedures, such as industry social performance systems and compliance with development approvals.

State and local governments are responsible for ensuring procedures are fair, transparent and that decision making is accountable. The success of CBA negotiations made on behalf of the potentially affected communities will be underpinned by the effectiveness of the relationship between the proponent and the local government - built upon trust between the proponent and the community. This cannot be realised if the processes are not considered to be fair, sufficiently transparent, or if benefits are unequally distributed.

The drafting of Division 2 (Sections 106T and 106U) and 3 (Sections 106V, 106W and 106X) of the Bill would also benefit from clarification regarding whether a council can provide input into or agree to the scope of a SIA prior to the proponent commencing the preparation of a SIA.

As discussed above, as the level of government closest to the community, local governments are uniquely positioned to ensure the public interest is recognised and upheld in a Community Benefit System and are best engaged as early as possible to guide SIA preparation, with a sufficient level of detail to meaningfully inform negotiations.

**Recommendation 6:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government amends Division 2 (Sections 106T and 106U), Division 3 (Sections 106V, 106W and 106X) and Section 106ZE of the Bill to ensure local government is included in the scoping of a SIA before a proponent commences community engagement.

**Recommendation 7:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government sets clear standards in the *Planning Regulation 2017*, in consultation with local government, regarding the level of detail which a proponent must provide to a local government prior to commencing a SIA process and negotiating a CBA.

### 3.4 SIA and CBA negotiations

The LGAQ supports the assessment of wind farms and large-scale solar farms by SARA - as they possess the resources and technical expertise required for this role. Local governments are best placed to provide local advice and negotiate the Community Benefit System. However, it should be acknowledged that scoping SIAs and negotiating CBAs will represent new responsibilities for councils. While some councils may be well-resourced to take on these new responsibilities, others will not.

The LGAQ also acknowledges Section 106ZM of the Bill, makes provision for the charging of fees to consider a SIA report and negotiate a CBA, including any mediation if required. However, further engagement with councils is warranted to identify additional supports which may be needed – such as a central resource pool of suitably qualified experts, which councils can access to support in CBA negotiations and other new responsibilities under the Community Benefit System.

In addition, as currently proposed, cost-recovery provisions do not allow for the charging of fees to participate in the *scoping* of the SIA, and may not give councils the regulatory backing needed to successfully negotiate public interest outcomes with large, well-resourced renewable energy proponents. An amendment to this section or an inclusion in supporting guidance to clarify that

councils may recover their costs during SIA scoping (similar to a pre-lodgement meeting) would be beneficial.

**Recommendation 8:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government engages further with Queensland councils to develop a CBA framework, including but not limited to consideration of regulating minimum community benefit payment amounts, per megawatt per annum, and resourcing to support councils in fulfilling their new responsibilities under the framework.

**Recommendation 9:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government clarifies that a local government may charge entities for the time spent to discuss the requirements for a SIA and any time that is required to meet with proponents through the preparation of the SIA report.

### 3.5 Changes during a SIA or development assessment

The new Section 52A of the Bill refers to changes relating to development that requires a SIA. Section 106X and 106ZA refer to changes related to a SIA and CBA respectively, before the application is decided. However, the Bill is silent on certain processes, such as the process relating to changes to a proposal after SIA consultation has commenced – presenting an opportunity for clarification.

**Recommendation 10:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government amends Section 106ZA of the Bill and the *Planning Regulation 2017*, to clarify change processes, such as the change process after SIA consultation has commenced and after a CBA has been signed.

### 3.6 Development assessment

As discussed above, local government as the level of government closest to the community, is uniquely positioned to ensure community interests are upheld during SIA, CBA and development assessment and decision processed. While centralised assessment by SARA is welcomed, this assessment cannot neglect the local ‘on-the-ground’ knowledge held by local governments. Accordingly, giving local governments a strong voice in advising on, deciding, and conditioning renewable energy facilities is essential.

Local governments will also be ultimately responsible for resourcing and maintaining trunk infrastructure networks – underscoring the need for councils to place conditions of approval on development, to address any additional demand and impact on local networks.

Without establishing local governments, formally, as concurrence agencies for renewable energy facilities occurring in and around their local government area, local concerns, issues and opportunities may go unrecognised – to the detriment of Queensland communities.

**Recommendation 11:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government provides regulatory clarity, to ensure local governments are established as concurrence agencies for renewable energy developments being assessed by SARA within their local government area, in a neighbouring local government area, or relying on infrastructure in the relevant local government area (such as ports and access roads). This should also ensure renewable energy proponents are required to formally respond to local government input provided during the development assessment process.



### 3.7 Conditioning and compliance

The LGAQ understands that SARA will be responsible for setting the conditions in a development approval. The proposed new Section 160A in the Bill describes who is an enforcement agency, but does not describe who is responsible for undertaking compliance and enforcement activities for conditions that SARA set.

Similarly, significant opportunities exist to bolster compliance with CBAs, to ensure benefits promised to host communities are delivered.

**Recommendation 12:** Regarding development approval compliance, the LGAQ recommends the State Government provides legislative or regulatory clarity, to ensure:

- Conditions are not used to defer matters to consideration through downstream approvals (e.g. operational works) which are more appropriately considered through a Material Change of Use (MCU)
- Councils are not obliged carry the burden of monitoring and enforcing compliance with State Government development approvals
- The State Government is sufficiently resourced to monitor compliance, audit, and resolve disputes relating to development approvals
- A clear escalation process is established for local governments to advise the State Government of non-compliance with a development approval.

**Recommendation 13:** Regarding CBA compliance, the LGAQ recommends the State Government provides legislative or regulatory clarity, to ensure:

- A clear penalty regime is established and imposed for noncompliance with a CBA (including fines and public disclosure of noncompliance)
- Proponents are required to provide a bond or financial security (held in trust) to ensure CBAs are upheld
- Regulatory clarity to confirm a CBA binds to a development approval and the land, and how a CBA binds parties through the life of a project, including through transfers of ownership
- The State Government is sufficiently resourced to monitor compliance, audit, and resolve disputes relating to CBA compliance
- Future owners of properties subject to a CBA are made aware through statutory seller disclosure.

### 3.8 Infrastructure charging

At present, infrastructure charges for renewable energy facilities under the *Planning Regulation 2017*, would be set using a *gross floor area* measure.

While this may be appropriate for many forms of commercial development (such as a warehouse), for development such as solar farms (which have limited gross floor area relevant to their up-front infrastructure demand), such a measure may not be appropriate – underscoring the need for greater engagement with local government on how infrastructure charges will be calculated for renewable energy developments prior to finalisation of the Bill.

Through the LGAQs engagement with councils in preparing this submission, broader questions have also been raised regarding the ability of councils to levy infrastructure charges on development approvals granted by the State Government, or for developed that is prescribed as accepted development under the *Planning Regulation*.



Recently, in *OPD Developers Pty Ltd & Anor v Logan City Council* [2025] QPEC 8<sup>5</sup>, the Planning and Environment Court ruled that Logan City Council was unable to levy infrastructure charges on a proposed hospital, which had been approved by the State Government through a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID).

To ensure councils and their communities are not left to fund the burden of trunk infrastructure demand generated by new development, it is essential to ensure local governments are able to levy infrastructure charges on all development approvals, including State Government approvals or downstream approvals, regardless of the development type, level of assessment, or assessment pathway.

**Recommendation 14:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government provides legislative clarity, to ensure local governments are able to levy infrastructure charges where a development approval for a material change of use is not required, , whether as a result of an Act or regulation, a local categorising instrument (a planning scheme, a TLPI or a variation approval) or infrastructure designation.

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<sup>5</sup> [OPD Developers Pty Ltd v Logan City Council \[2025\] QPEC 8 30 Apr 2025 \(Everson DCJ\)](#)

## 4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the LGAQ supports the intent of the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*, to ensure Wind Farms and large-scale Solar Farms (i.e. prescribed renewable energy facilities) deliver meaningful and locally responsive outcomes for host communities.

The introduction of a mandatory Community Benefit System represents a significant and positive shift in Queensland's planning framework. However, the success of these reforms depends on the clarity of their implementation, associated supports offered to local governments, and the degree to which they empower local governments to act in the best interests of their communities.

To further support implementation of the Bill and supporting instruments, greater whole-of-government coordination is needed. While the Bill is a positive step forward which has been welcomed by the LGAQ, a range of related initiatives are being progressed separately by other State agencies, with limited coordination. These initiatives include a new Renewables Regulatory Framework, revisions to the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) framework, a proposed Social Licence Toolkit, a proposed Code of Conduct for renewable energy proponents, and the suite of planning changes discussed herein.

Given the extent of initiatives being progressed simultaneously, whole-of-government coordination involving key stakeholders (such as the LGAQ and Queensland councils) will be pivotal to supporting orderly implementation in partnership with local government.

This submission highlights key improvements which could be made to the planning framework regarding local government autonomy, enforceability, procedural transparency, and the equitable sharing of costs and responsibilities. Councils must be recognised as essential partners in the planning process and be supported to lead social impact scoping and appropriately resourced to negotiate and manage community benefits. Importantly, the reserve powers granted to the Chief Executive to bypass SIA and CBA requirements without local government support should be reconsidered, and the binding nature of CBAs clarified to ensure enduring community benefits.

The LGAQ remains committed to working collaboratively with the Queensland Government to a robust, equitable, and community-focused planning system that supports Queensland's renewable energy future and delivers genuine benefits to all Queenslanders.

## Attachment 1: LGAQ Policy Statement

The LGAQ Policy Statement<sup>6</sup> is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland. The relevant policy positions of local government in the context of regulating renewable energy development to achieve and maintain a social licence to operate in Queensland local government areas are as follows:

### *2.2 Representing the Community*

#### 2.2.1 Community Engagement

- 2.2.1.1 Local governments recognise that community engagement is vital to the democratic process and contributes to building balanced healthy communities.
- 2.2.1.2 Local governments understand that community engagement contains the core elements of information, consultation and participation, which will be applied, where appropriate, to facilitate meaningful community involvement in the decision-making process.

#### 2.2.2 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- 2.2.2.1 Local governments recognise the importance of all forms of human diversity to the social, cultural and economic life of local communities. It is committed to inclusion of that diversity, to enhance and celebrate the richness of community identity and capture the benefits of that diversity for the benefit of all.
- 2.2.2.2 Local governments recognise the rights of people with a disability and will continue to take appropriate measures to address their needs, including the provision of equitable access to facilities, services, human and other resources (including information) by all members of the community.

#### 2.2.3 First Nations People

- 2.2.3.1 Local government recognises the importance of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and affirms its commitment to the reconciliation process between First Nations peoples and other Australians.

### *5.1 Environment Protection*

#### 5.1.1 Roles, Responsibilities and Procedures

- 5.1.1.1 Local government seeks State Government regional support to assist in the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Biosecurity Act 2014* and other environmental reforms.

### *5.2 Sustainable Natural Resource Management*

#### 5.2.1 Sustainable Natural Resource Management

- 5.2.1.1 Local government is committed to the sustainable use of Australia's natural resources for the intergenerational benefit of the broader community.
- 5.2.1.2 Local government seeks full and comprehensive consultation with relevant government agencies on proposals for the exploration and extraction of natural resources and associated activities that pose potential negative impacts to local communities.
- 5.2.1.3 Local government seeks ongoing support for local communities impacted by the extraction and exploitation of natural resources and associated activities within their local government area.
- 5.2.1.4 Local government supports the protection of natural resources to ensure the future sustainability of local communities and their industries.

<sup>6</sup> The LGAQ Policy Statement is available online [here](#).

## 5.3 Natural Asset Management

### 5.3.1 Natural Asset Management

- 5.3.1.1 Local government is committed to protect, enhance and maintain natural assets as well as provide support to community groups and private landholders to encourage stewardship and sound land management.
- 5.3.1.2 Local government recognises and upholds the inclusion of natural asset management (NAM) issues and priorities identified at a national, state, regional and local scale into its community, corporate, strategic, operational and land use plans.
- 5.3.1.3 Local government supports the State Government retaining primary responsibility and expertise for wildlife management.
- 5.3.1.4 Local government seeks formal recognition as a key contributor in the development of natural asset management legislation, programs and policies, including the development of grants programs.
- 5.3.1.5 Local government acknowledges the links to country, knowledge, rights and roles of Traditional Owners and seeks to build stronger partnerships with First Nations people for the delivery of shared goals in natural asset management.

### 5.3.8 Biodiversity

- 5.3.8.1 Local government seeks funding to assist the Queensland Government in the delivery of the Conserving Nature – a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- 5.3.8.2 Local government seeks to work cooperatively with Federal and State governments to protect biodiversity values and threatened species in Queensland.
- 5.3.8.3 Local government seeks funding to implement recovery plans and on-ground actions to conserve species and communities listed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- 5.3.8.4 Local government seeks the reinstatement of a local government's right to seek offsets for matters of local environmental significance that are largely the same as matters of national or state environmental significance in geographical areas where the State and Federal governments have determined they do not require offsets.
- 5.3.8.5 Local government seeks stronger alignment and less duplication in mapping advice and direction between Matters of National, State and Local Environmental Significance (MNES, MSES, MLES) including consolidated species distribution and habitat mapping for threatened species and ecological communities; consistency between recovery actions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; and availability of species-based data for incorporation into local government planning systems where appropriate.
- 5.3.8.6 Local government supports the use of proactive fire management regimes, including traditional burning, to protect biodiversity, as well as life and property.

### 5.3.9 Biosecurity

- 5.3.9.1 Local government seeks ongoing Federal and State resourcing to deliver national and State outcomes identified through the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) program, Threat Abatement Plans, Strategies and Action Plans.
- 5.3.9.2 Local government seeks to work cooperatively with the Federal and State governments to control the impacts of listed and non-listed pest animals and pest plants in the state.
- 5.3.9.3 The State Government should ensure that appropriate guidelines and funding are in place to allow improved control of wild dogs by local governments.
- 5.3.9.4 Local government requires the support of the State Government to facilitate regional and local biosecurity planning.
- 5.3.9.5 Local government supports a full commitment by the State Government to the resourcing of the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy and associated action plans and strategies.

## *5.4 Waste Management*

### 5.4.2 Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

- 5.4.2.1 As a matter of priority, the State Government should play an active role in the establishment of regional hazardous waste management and treatment facilities in Queensland.
- 5.4.2.2 Local government supports the continued use of a practical, effective system to track wastes of environmental concern which will ensure the disposal of those wastes in an environmentally appropriate manner. The system must provide for increased waste producer responsibility and accountability but not place additional administrative demands on local government without adequate compensation.

## *8.6 Infrastructure*

### 8.6.1 Resource and Mineral Extraction

- 8.6.1.3 Local government seeks equity and consistency across both resource and renewable sector projects.
- 8.6.1.4 Local government seeks that the State Government mandates the requirement for a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) based on the actual and/or potential impact of a resource project on local communities and not just on whether the project has been the subject of an Environmental Impact statement (EIS) process.
- 8.6.1.6 Local government is opposed to 100% FIFO/DIDO/BIBO developments in established resource communities for the following reasons:
  1. It discriminates against all Queensland workers outside of identified FIFO hubs for employment opportunities;
  2. It negatively impacts the social cohesion of local communities; and
  3. It diminishes the transfer of economic benefits to local and regional communities.

## *8.7 Energy*

- 8.7.1 Local government supports the development of an integrated renewable energy strategy for Queensland by the State Government, in genuine consultation with Queensland councils.



## Attachment 2: Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member driven advocacy and working with members to build stronger local government and more resilient local communities. In the context of the Bill, the following LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions passed by Queensland councils, are relevant.

### **Resolution 18 (2024): Red imported fire ant management: support to address cost shifting to local government**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to provide full cost recovery to each council to support the shift of red imported fire ant suppression, management and treatment responsibilities under the Queensland Government's Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce Plan 2022-23 to 2025-26.*

### **Resolution 61 (2024): Allocate adequate funding and resources to Co-Existence Queensland**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to allocate adequate funding and resources to CoExistence Queensland to provide enhanced information, engagement and education services to the community and industry on land access and coexistence issues across the resources and renewable energy sectors.*

### **Resolution 62 (2024): Funded positions in councils to manage large-scale renewable and resource developments**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to fund positions in councils to manage the impact of large-scale renewable, critical minerals, mining and energy projects.*

### **Resolution 63 (2024): Prioritise future energy opportunities in existing and decommissioned mines, and end of mine life assets**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to undertake a comprehensive investigation, develop policy and remove impediments in legislation, and invest in the repurposing of existing and decommissioned mines for energy production and storage.*

### **Resolution 64 (2024): Renewable energy projects support for local housing**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to ensure that major renewable energy projects be required to allocate an appropriate portion of project capital cost to the construction of housing to support the needs of their proposed permanent workforce, in order to mitigate the risk of housing stress on vulnerable members of communities impacted by the development.*

### **Resolution 93 (2024): Improved regulation for large-scale renewable energy developments**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to improve regulation for large-scale renewable energy projects by:*

- *Developing State Codes within the State Development Assessment Provisions for the assessment of large-scale renewable energy projects by the State Assessment and Referral Agency; and*
- *Establishing public notification and council referral requirements for all large-scale renewable energy projects for all affected councils.*

### **Resolution 94 (2024): Improved engagement on large-scale renewable energy developments**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to improve regulation for large-scale renewable energy projects by developing a communication and engagement protocol (Code of Practice) to ensure renewable energy projects, including transmission projects, are planned, approved and constructed considering key social, environmental and economic regional considerations in proactive collaboration with all affected councils.*

#### **Resolution 95 (2024): Allocation of Royalties to Support Economic Transition Resulting from Mine Closures**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to work in conjunction with the Association and Queensland councils to create a dedicated funding program using collected mining royalties, that will support Queensland's local resource reliant communities' economic transition and potential diversification opportunities when a mine closes*

#### **Resolution 59 (2023): Community Consultation for Renewable Projects**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to amend the Planning Act 2016 to enable submitter appeal rights for renewable energy projects such as solar farms and wind farms.*

#### **Resolution 60 (2023): Road Infrastructure Renewable Energy Projects**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to require - through its State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) planning authority for renewable energy projects - that neighbouring councils with road infrastructure critical to the delivery of these projects are engaged and that appropriate road infrastructure agreements are made prior to the commencement of construction.*

#### **Resolution 61 (2023): Carbon Farming and Renewable Energy Projects Commission**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to either:*

- *Establish a dedicated, independent and statutory Carbon Farming and Renewable Energy Projects Commission; or*
- *Extend the legislative functions of the current Queensland Gasfields Commission to cover the development and growth of Queensland's carbon farming and renewable energy industries.*

#### **Resolution 62 (2023): Renewable Energy Community Contribution Fee**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:*

- *Regulate for proponents to be held accountable to the Clean Energy Council best practice charter for renewable energy projects; and*
- *Seek a community contribution fee of \$1000 per annum per megawatt of a renewable project site, with 50 per cent of these funds paid directly to the local government hosting the site to enable the construction, maintenance, and operational management of local community-owned infrastructure projects.*

#### **Resolution 63 (2023): State Government support for local governments assessing solar farm applications.**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to provide support to local governments assessing solar farm applications.*

#### **Resolution 64 (2023): Solar Farm Projects and Neighbouring Properties**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to require solar farm project proponents to enter into make-good agreements with immediate and impacted neighbouring properties, prior to the submission of the development application to council.*

#### **Resolution 72 (2023): A fairer approach to the application of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**

*The LGAQ calls on the Federal Government to amend the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 referral process to:*

- *provide local government with greater clarity around the application of the EPBCA, and*

- *provide retroactive recognition for previous environmental protection efforts, including conservation acquisitions and revegetation as part of advanced offset recognition.*

#### **Resolution 85 (2023): Disposal of solar panels**

*The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal Governments to develop solutions for the disposal of solar panels, possibly including:*

- *reclamation, recycling, and implementation of a levy mechanism for solar panels to ensure better waste disposal; and*
- *exploring manufacturers' liability for the photovoltaic (PV) panels to encourage sustainable management; and*
- *working with State Government to legislate industry-wide solutions.*

#### **Resolution 89 (2023): Simplify regulatory requirements for washdown facilities**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to simplify regulatory requirements to ensure that communities can continue to provide washdown facilities to mitigate the spread of weeds and seeds and support other biosecurity measures.*

#### **Resolution 133 (2023): Renewable Energy Project Contributions and Engagement with Local Communities**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to introduce legislation and policy which requires proponents of renewable projects to make a 'local benefit' contribution to regional communities by implementing the following measures:*

- *Have a mandatory notification process to local government for all renewable energy projects occurring within their region.*
- *Have meaningful engagement with local government, community, and local leaders.*
- *Have a community contribution fee, based on capacity, for all renewable projects to support better community outcomes.*
- *Provide access to Renewable Project Decommission Bonds, or local government hold these in trust, in order to protect prime agricultural land and support better decommissioning at an acceptable standard for community.*

#### **Resolution 134 (2023): Sustainability of Queensland's Resources Sector during Transition to Net Zero**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to guarantee the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of Queensland's resources sector during the implementation of current Net Zero policies, recognising the financial contribution the exploration, coal, metals, petroleum and gas sectors make to local communities, emerging industries (such as renewables) and the State as a whole.*

#### **Resolution 135 (2023): Supporting the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions**

*The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to support the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions through targeted operational and capital grants programs for councils to:*

- *Establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories (including mapping and annual emissions tracking) and corporate emissions reduction plans; and*
- *Invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses, including dedicated council staff, that support identified emissions reduction priorities and climate mitigation strategies.*



### **Resolution 136 (2023): Transition Fund for Renewable Infrastructure**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to establish a dedicated fund to invest in critical infrastructure and to support the workforce sectors needed to enable the transitioning energy sector.*

### **Resolution 147 (2023): Eradication of Yellow Crazy Ant Infestations**

*That LGAQ calls on the State Government to:*

- *assist local governments with funding to eradicate yellow crazy ant infestations where the infestations are small and where eradication is feasible, and*
- *develop and implement a process for the movement of building, construction and landscaping material that requires a “pest ant hygiene” declaration process from the supplier to the receiver to reduce the potential spread of pest ants from known pest ant locations.*

### **Resolution 23 (2022): All Councils in Queensland are Net Producers of Energy by 2035**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government (through Queensland Treasury Corporation - QTC) to provide sufficient funds to each council to invest in renewable energy technologies that would see them become net producers of energy, substantially reduce operating costs, allowing for reinvestment of savings in new infrastructure or offsetting rate payer charges and drive down harmful emissions.*

### **Resolution 73 (2022): The Need for a Regional Transformation Authority**

*The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to establish a Regional Transformation Authority with statutory powers inclusive of local governments, to:*

- *Respond to changing supply and demand for fossil-fuel.*
- *Develop regional plans and coordinate a sustainable transformation, principally for Queensland’s coal mining regions, but also for all Local Government Areas supplying to or reliant on the economic output of coal mining, as well as heavily coal reliant industrial regions, like the Bowen Basin, and ensure all planning supports the ongoing and sustainable diversification of the resources sectors.*

### **Resolution 74 (2022): Resourcing State Regulators of Major Resource and Renewable Projects**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government for investment to adequately resource State Regulators of Major Resource and Renewable Projects (including the Office of the Coordinator General, Department of Environment and Science and Department of Resources) to enable both upfront education and assessment processes and understanding of social impacts vital for achieving optimal outcomes for industry and communities in the facilitation of projects by:*

- *Delivery of improved education and understanding of current legislation, standards, principles and guidelines administered by State agencies.*
- *Compliance and monitoring by State Government Agencies on delivery of Major Resource and Renewable Project commitments, conditions, and improved engagement with community to satisfy conditioning and project commitment deliverables.*
- *Improved engagement standards on mining lease permit processes outside of EIS assessment criteria are captured and transparently communicated to communities hosting these projects.*

## **Resolution 75 (2022): Establishment of a Contemporary Framework for Resource, Renewables and Clean Energy Sector**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:*

1. *Undertake a wholesale review of the regulatory frameworks associated with resource, renewable and clean energy projects with consideration of a centralised agency approach to ensure consistent outcomes relative to size and impact of all projects.*
2. *Develop and implement contemporary Social Impact Assessment (SIA) type values to underpin the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan and that those SIA values are applicable for all resource, renewable and clean energy projects with a legislated ability for the State Government to enforce compliance.*
3. *Work with local government to develop a Contemporary Integrated Social Impact Assessment Framework for closure of resource, renewable and clean energy projects with outcomes focused on sustainable communities;*
4. *Lead policy agendas in relation to the resource, renewable and clean energy sectors and that those policy settings inform regional planning and future sector investment.*

## **Resolution 78 (2022): Renewable Energy Project Contributions and Engagement with Local Communities**

*The LGAQ calls on the State Government to introduce legislation and policy which requires proponents of renewable projects to make a 'local benefit' contribution to regional communities by implementing the following measures:*

- *Have a mandatory notification process to local government for all renewable energy projects occurring within their region.*
- *Have meaningful engagement with local government, community, and local leaders.*
- *Have a community contribution fee, based on capacity, for all renewable projects to support better community outcomes.*
- *Provide access to Renewable Project Decommission Bonds, or local government hold these in trust, in order to protect prime agricultural land and support better decommissioning at an acceptable standard for community.*

## **Resolution 43 (2021): Development of an Integrated Renewable Energy Strategy for Queensland**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to take the lead in planning how and where renewable energy projects are developed through the development of an integrated renewable energy strategy for Queensland.*

## **Resolution 65 (2021): Biodiversity planning assessments and mapping of Good Quality Agricultural Land**

*That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to update biodiversity planning assessments and the detailed mapping of Good Quality Agricultural Land to ensure planning decisions about appropriate land use are based on current terrestrial ecological values.*

## **Resolution 27 (2020): Product Stewardship for Various Waste Streams**

*That the LGAQ lobby the State Government to fast track the implementation of product stewardship programs which support the principles of a circular economy and reduce the cost to local government of managing waste.*

## **Resolution 28 (2020): Recycling Legislation**

*That the LGAQ calls on the Federal Government to legislate on recycling product stewardship with greater consideration given as to how products are recycled.*