

Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023

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Committee Secretary
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Via e-mail: SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE - SUBMISSION

I am pleased to provide this submission on behalf of Moreton Bay Regional Council (Council) regarding key measures set out in the Climate Change Mitigation Bill 2023 that are of importance to Council.

I commend the parliament's broader efforts to address policy matters related to addressing the challenges of a changing climate. As a local government authority, we acknowledge that our responsibilities and obligations may differ from those of other councils. Therefore, we offer these comments in the context of our own local government area, understanding that the experiences of other councils may vary considerably.

Council has developed six strategies under its Corporate Plan addressing key outcomes for the region in consultation with our community, including the draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy).

The Strategy sets out how we will achieve the 'Our Healthy Environments' goal and address the key challenges of responding to climate change, intensifying natural hazards (of which our region is susceptible) and reversing the impacts of habitat and biodiversity loss. Strong collaboration between the community, other levels of government, Traditional Custodians, tertiary/research institutions and industry/business owners is required to achieve the Strategy outcomes, specifically the outcome of understanding and proactively responding to climate change and natural hazard risks.

In that regard the formation of a statutory body to prepare the Queensland Climate Transition Strategic Plan (the Plan) and report on progress made to achieve reduction targets, has merit. However, it should be recognised that a successful transition should be locally driven with support from the State. In that regard, more detail should be provided on the matters that should be addressed in the Plan, either in the Act or supporting Regulations and recommend a means by which local governments can participate in contributing to the formation of the Plan.

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Providing more detailed guidance to the statutory body regarding the matters to consider or activities to undertake before exercising its powers under Division 2, Section 17, is crucial. This will ensure consistency and provide clarity and direction to the statutory body and stakeholders.

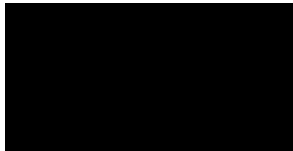
Regarding the legislative acknowledgement and inclusion of State reduction targets, this approach is supported. It will create a sense of accountability and responsibility, necessary to meet these ambitious targets.

Council recognises the diverse needs that local governments must meet to manage their communities effectively. We also understand that local governments have the best understanding of their communities and the support necessary to maintain the livability and economic prosperity of the regions they are responsible for. That is why Council supports a place-based or regionally-based planning approach and a review period to facilitate effective transitions for each Council. This approach ensures Councils are not exposed to a one size fits all approach and there are sufficient opportunities for customisation to respond to the unique requirements of each region. It also ensures progress is monitored, evaluated regularly and measured against clear, locally supported objectives.

Finally, it is suggested the statutory body could play a vital role in working with local governments to assist local communities in transitioning and implementing the outcomes / recommendations from the Plan. By doing so, local communities can be engaged in the process and have a say in the planning and implementation of the transition. This approach will ensure that the transition remains community-focused and that the needs of local communities are addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and I look forward to working with the government to achieve our shared goals to address the challenge of our changing climate.

Yours sincerely



PETER FLANNERY
Mayor

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