

## Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023

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7 December 2023

Dear Committee Secretary

## **RE: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023**

RES in Australia (RES) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 (**Energy Bill**) and the overarching Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (**QEJP**) it enables.

### **About RES**

Active in Australia since 2004, RES Group has over 40 years of experience as an industry leader in renewable energy development. The largest privately owned renewable energy company in the world, RES Group has developed and / or constructed over 23GW of new renewable energy projects and, with the recent acquisition of Ingeteam, RES is now the largest provider of renewable energy support services globally with over 35GW of assets under management.

With an ever-increasing head count of more than 160 Australian based employees, the local RES business specialises in project development (onshore and offshore wind, solar, and BESS), identifying and securing PPA opportunities, and providing construction management and asset management support services.

Key development successes for RES in Australia include the development of the Taralga Wind Farm (NSW), Ararat Wind Farm (VIC), the Murra Warra I and Murra Warra II Wind Farms (VIC), and the Emerald Solar Farm and Dulacca Wind Farm (QLD).

### **Our Activities in QLD**

With an active development portfolio of more than 4GW of RES led development projects, and a further 3GW pipeline being advanced with our joint venture partner as part of the Central Queensland Power (**CQP**) project, RES is proudly supporting the energy transition in Queensland.

With the platform created by the release of the QEJP in September 2022, RES has increased its presence in Queensland with the move to larger premises to accommodate additional team members in Brisbane and the establishment of a new office in Rockhampton (supporting the CQP portfolio) to accommodate the growing team in the region,

Working with partners, government-owned corporations, councils and communities, RES is working to further broaden our project pipeline in Queensland. In terms of global outlook, RES regards Queensland as one of the priority jurisdictions to invest project development resources.

To coincide with the release of the QEJP, the Premier The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk announced a \$776 million funding injection for the Tarong West wind farm in the South Burnett and its ownership by Stanwell Corporation. Since then, the RES developed Dulacca Wind Farm has been completed with a power purchase agreement with CleanCo and the Government has announced the CQP owned Moah Creek Wind Farm would be progressed through an innovative partnership between publicly-owned generator CleanCo and the CQP joint venture.

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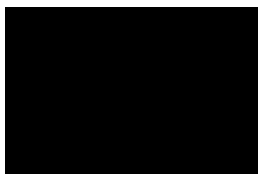
- 1.1 In making this submission RES acknowledges the ongoing leadership of the Queensland Government in supporting the energy transition.
- 1.2 In terms of the Energy Bill, RES welcomes the key features including:
  - Legislating renewable energy targets for Queensland of 50% renewable energy by 2030, 70% by 2032 and 80% by 2035;
  - creating a reporting and review mechanisms on the delivery of these targets;
  - requiring the Minister to develop the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint to identify and plan significant electricity and infrastructure projects with the first review of the Blueprint required by 31 May 2025; and
  - establishing advisory bodies like the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board, Energy Industry Council, to facilitate and oversee implementation of the legislative targets and frameworks, and the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate to advise on worker and industry impacts.
- 1.3 RES notes the other key feature of the Energy Bill is the public ownership of energy assets and requiring the Minister to prepare a strategy setting out targets of 100% ownership of transmission and distribution assets, 100% ownership of deep storage assets, and a target equal to or more than 54% ownership of generation assets. The strategy must be prepared by the end of 2025 and will set out how these targets will be achieved and maintained by 2035.
- 1.4 In terms of the generation asset public ownership target, RES supports the pivotal role of government-owned corporations in the delivery of the electricity system transformation. The Energy Bill does also highlight the role of the private sector to deliver up to 46% of generation assets, so confidence about the SuperGrid delivery, the Renewable Energy Zone framework and the shared task of promoting co-existence with existing industries and earning community acceptance are crucial.
- 1.5 On the latter point of co-existence and community acceptance, RES welcomes Queensland Government initiatives such supporting for the development of the Queensland Farmers' Federation Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit, the engagement with peak organisations representing local government and agriculture and expanding the GasFields Commission of Queensland mandate to include renewables.

- 1.6 The Transport and Resources Committee should recommend the Energy Bill be an opportunity to bring forward the renewables coverage for the GasFields Commission (GFCQ) (acting as ‘Coexistence Queensland’) to strengthen that co-existence with traditional industries, including agriculture and the resources sector.
- 1.7 RES has made a separate positive submission to the Queensland Department of Resources in relation to the proposed changes to the *Gas Fields Commission Act 2013* and the revised function and remit of the GFCQ. In providing this support, we have sought positive consideration of a number of matters including:
- the role and function of Coexistence Queensland be established with proactive engagement with the renewable energy industry, the Clean Energy Council, and the Queensland Renewable Energy Council; and
  - the Queensland Government giving regard to, and finding solutions for, legislative barriers to coexistence between the resources sector and the renewable energy industry. These barriers include material differences in access rights and an absence of investment protection for renewable energy developers with respect to development in location subject to rights enshrined under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

### Conclusion

Please feel free to contact Steph Froggatt, Project Compliance Manager, should you have any questions or if you require further information in support of his submission. Steph can be contacted by email

Sincerely,



**Annette Deveson**  
Chief Project Officer