

Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023

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Submitted by: David Arthur
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From: David Arthur [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 December 2023 1:48 PM
To: Transport and Resources Committee
Cc: Mike Moller; Admin - Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council; Clare Silcock
Subject: Submission regarding Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023

To Committee Secretary
Transport and Resources Committee,
Parliament House, George St, Brisbane

From David Arthur,
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023.

In general I consider the Bill to be worthwhile, albeit with some concerns regarding open decision-making. In particular, I am concerned at the tunnel vision of constructing a 500 kV transmission "Supergrid" adjacent to the Queensland coast. While this would connect Queensland's major load centres, it would inevitably necessitate clearing in what remains of Queensland's high-value native forests with consequential impacts on native flora and fauna, including rare and at-risk species and ecosystems.

Furthermore, it eschews much of Queensland's best solar and wind resources which are located further west, well inland, many of which are in the vicinity of the proposed Copperstring 2032 connection between Townsville and Mt Isa. The recent proposal from the Remote Area Planning & Development Board (RAPAD) to construct a 900 km transmission corridor between Hughenden and Biloela via the Barcaldine region (<https://rapad.com.au/publications/councils-partner-on-900km-western-power-grid-to-secure-clean-energy-jobs-and-growth/>; see map below) would

- avoid much disruption of forested mountain country
- minimise the need to construct transmission lines through populated areas.
- create welcome job opportunities away from Queensland's coastal strip
- have readily access to large areas of good wind and solar resources, particularly southwards of the Copperstring 2032 transmission line.

Together with the potential for increased availability of distributed energy storage that accompanies electrification of road transport, this may obviate any need for environmental disruption in the Pioneer-Burdekin region inland of Mackay, saving large sums of public funds in the process.

From David Arthur,
[REDACTED]

