

Australian Local Government Association - 2023 National General Assembly

Regional Transition Authority

<p>Motion</p>	<p>The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a regional transition authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate across all levels of government, industry and community the transition of the energy sector and resource dependent regions, to renewable energy • Undertake planning that informs effective policies to improve coordination, clarity and mitigate disruptions • Support regions to strengthen existing long-term industries and seize a range of economic opportunities
<p>National Objective (max 200 words)</p> <p><i>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?</i></p>	<p>There is a significant need for planning and coordination at a national level to manage the rapid pace of change across the energy sector and mining sectors. Additionally, detailed and transparent planning at a federal level is needed to ensure better coordination and consistent regulations across the National Energy Market as it adapts to high levels of renewable energy generation.</p> <p>Coordination between different levels of government is needed to avoid different energy proponents undertaking their own planning or risk mitigation with limited community and industry information, policy understanding and cumulative impact considerations.</p> <p>Development of a Regional Transition Authority to coordinate efforts across government, industry and community as renewable energy expands and fossil fuel use declines to ensure that changes in the energy sector contribute to broader social, economic, and environmental benefits while minimising negative impacts.</p>
<p>Summary of Key Arguments (max 500 words)</p> <p><i>Background information and supporting arguments.</i></p>	<p>The pace of change in the energy sector has accelerated greatly over the last 12 months, fuelled by a number of factors including ambitious decarbonisation targets set by governments across the world, financial pressures due to rising energy costs and global political instability. While the demand for Australian fossil fuel exports, particularly Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), has increased due to the Russian Ukraine conflict, this is unlikely to continue long term due to Europe’s decarbonisation efforts, as well as better emission reduction targets from China and India, and recently passed climate bills in the United State and Australia.</p> <p>There is a pressing need for overarching coordination and planning to manage the rapid pace of change across the energy sector, and to enable local government to take effective action now.</p> <p>Successfully transitioning of the nation to safe, reliable and affordable energy requires the need for a Regional Transition Authority to undertake planning that informs effective policies to improve coordination, lead planning and investment attraction activities, and mitigate disruptions to the energy transition.</p>

	<p>A lack of planning has the potential to lead to severe disruptions to the energy transition. Lack of coordination between different levels of government and different energy players undertaking their own planning without transparent and timely information sharing can continue to lead to different agencies and groups attempting to do their own planning or risk mitigation with limited community and industry information, policy understanding and cumulative impact considerations.</p> <p>Detailed and transparent information is needed to be shared along with consistent regulations across the National Energy Market as it adapts to high levels of renewable energy generation.</p> <p>Important responsibilities of a Regional Transition Authority could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support for long-term regional planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritising infrastructure to support the renewable energy sector e.g. highways and enabling roads that cater for oversized and over mass vehicle transport to enable the sector to develop ○ Social infrastructure to support communities facing the energy transition e.g. health and medical services, liveability for attraction and retention of workforce, education and future proofing skills and workforce • Ensuring energy security, stability, and affordability • Regional workforce support and planning • Economic diversification • Attracting investment • Infrastructure planning • Research and development • Land and water management • Community benefits
<p>Does this motion complement or build on the policy objectives of the Council's state local government association? Y/N</p>	<p>Yes, a similar motion is part of LGAQ's Resource Community Action Plan.</p>