

# REZ Readiness Assessments

**QUEENSLAND ENERGY AND JOBS PLAN**

Power for generations



 **Search:** QLD Energy & Jobs

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# Acknowledgement of Country

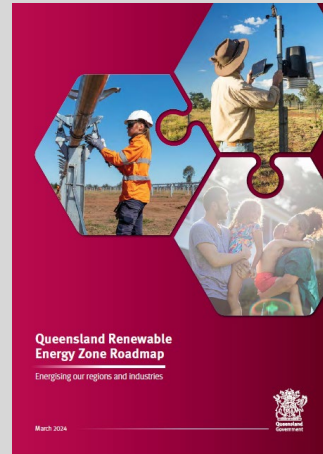
I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

# Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, REZ Roadmap and Legislation



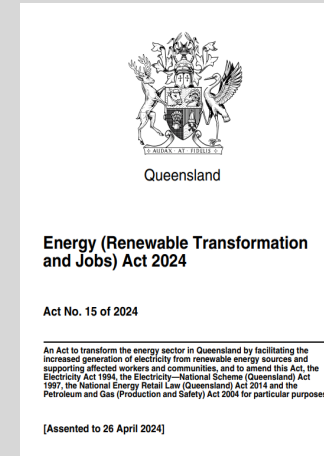
## Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

- 50% renewable energy by 2030
- 70% renewable energy by 2032
- 80% renewable energy by 2035



## REZ Roadmap

- 12 Potential REZs and process for updating
- \$6 million for REZ Readiness Assessments
- \$20 million to support outcomes from first assessments

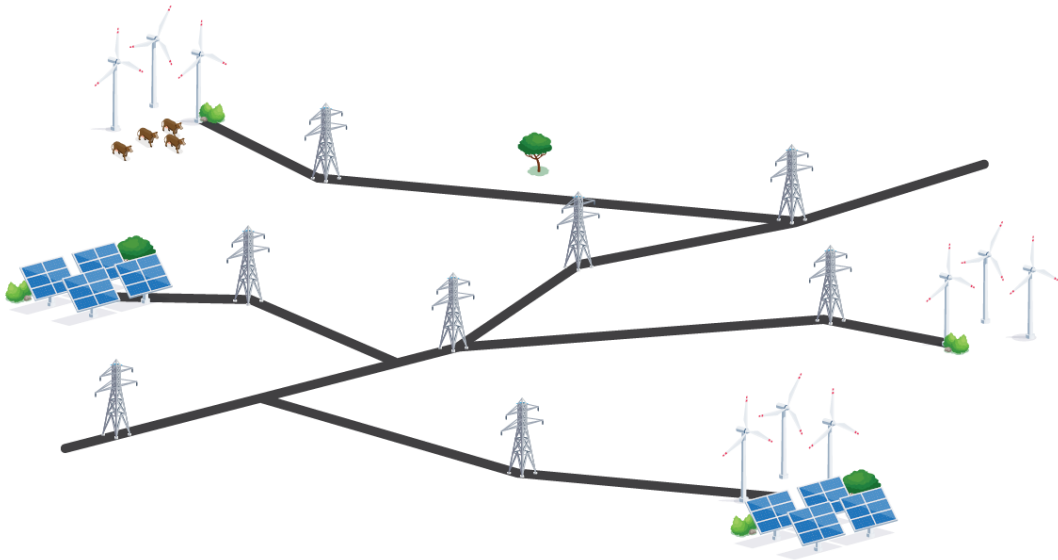


## Energy Act

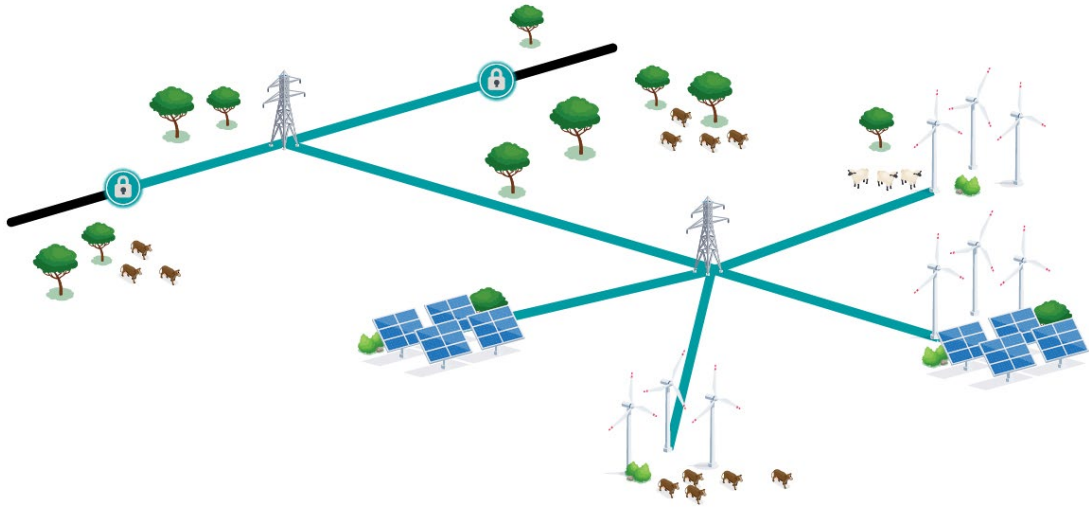
- New Levers for REZ Coordinated Development
- Passed Parliament on 18 April 2024



# What is a Queensland REZ?

## Uncoordinated development



## Coordinated REZ development



— Transmission network       REZ connections optimised       Coordinated REZ transmission network

***A Renewable Energy Zone or 'REZ' is an area suitable for wind and solar development that is strategically planned to connect multiple clean energy generators and deliver better local outcomes.***

# REZ Development Process



# Supporting Host Communities

**REZ Readiness Assessments** will help identify opportunities in regions as part of renewable energy development, as well as mitigations for cumulative impacts of development.



# REZ Readiness Assessment Outcomes

Technical assessment + Community views and priorities



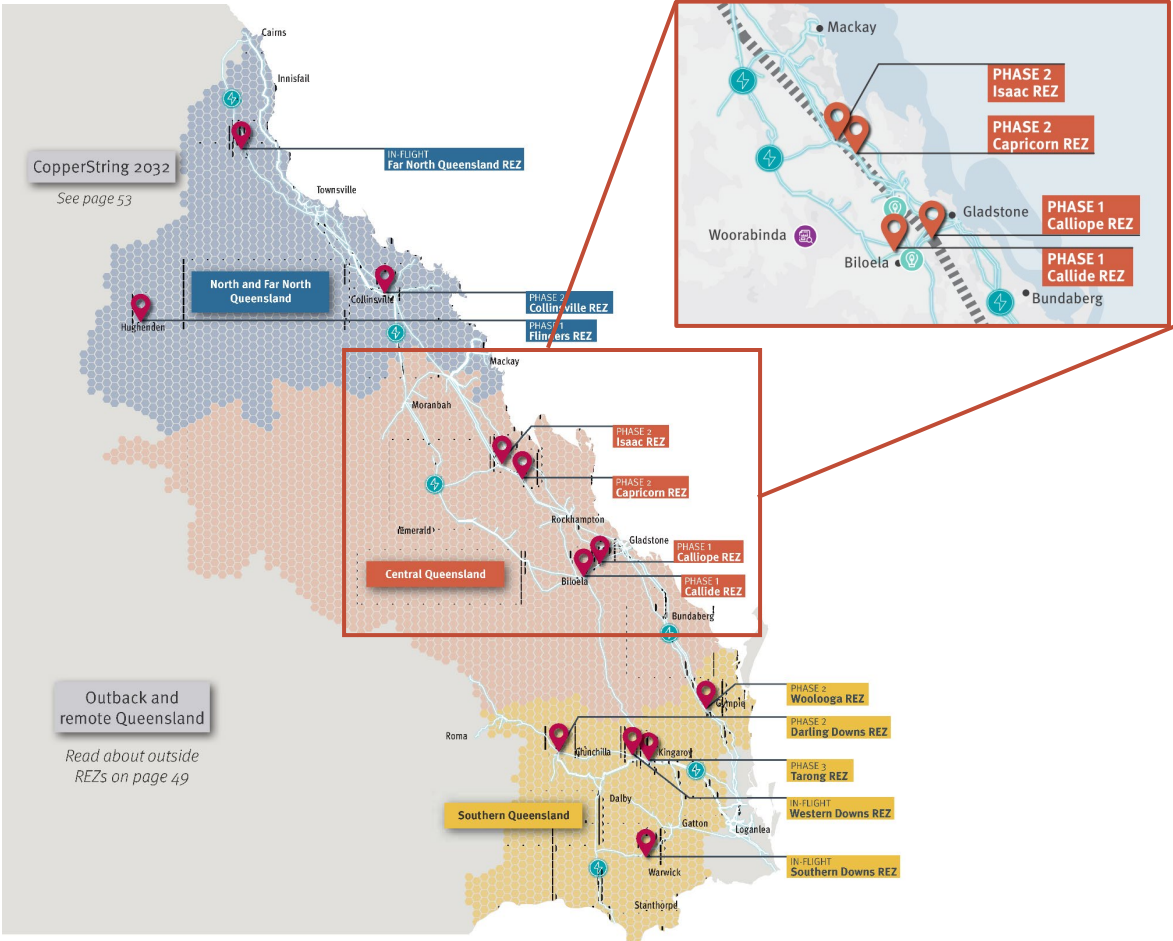
Initiatives to support local outcomes



Central Queensland and Callide REZ Readiness Report & Government Actions

Sep 2024

Queensland's REZ Regions and proposed REZs



# Engagement insights

Engagement for REZ Readiness was conducted between June and August, across:

- 12 locations in Central Queensland, including Gladstone and Calliope
- 10 facilitated workshops, including First Nations workshops
- 24 drop-in sessions, including 4 in Gladstone and 3 in Calliope
- 4 pop-ups, including at Gladstone Show
- 1,000+ conversations

Our direct engagement showed that communities want:

- 1 Consistent, focussed, and prompt engagement, along with a **role in shaping key decisions**.
- 2 Greater clarification to distinguish between **renewable energy projects and REZs**.
- 3 **Energy security** to be delivered as a priority, over the type of energy generation used.
- 4 **Stronger government regulation and coordination** to promote transparency and accountability.
- 5 A transparent **compensation framework** to build and sustain trust.
- 6 The renewables sector and government to **learn from the experiences of the resources sector**.



# First Nations engagement insights



## 313 First Nations stakeholders

- Traditional Owners
- First Nations community members
- First Nations organisations (incl. community-controlled organisations, education, training and employment)
- Local Councils and Decision-Making Bodies

- **Future engagement** must remain genuine, well-planned, inclusive, culturally respectful, and safe for all
- **Cultural heritage values** must be properly considered, along with **environmental concerns** such as pollution, noise, and water quality
- **Maximise opportunities** by ensuring local businesses benefit from opportunities, and by **providing pathways** for education, employment, and upskilling
- **Social barriers** remain, which prevent full participation in transformation, including health, housing and cost-of-living

# REZ Readiness Next Steps

## Government Actions and Report

September 2024

Queensland Government to release series of actions designed to support local communities and REZ development.

\$20 million has been committed to support these actions.

Summary Report to be released, summarising findings of Pilot assessments and key stakeholder insights.

## Community Engagement

Continuing in 2024

REZ Readiness Assessments are not a set and forget exercise. Community and stakeholder engagement will continue including through:

- Establishing REZ Local Reference Groups
- Partnering with peak bodies
- Working closely with and supporting Councils

## Future REZ Readiness Assessments

Ongoing

Regional REZ Readiness Assessments for Southern Qld and North and Far North Qld to be undertaken late 2024/early 2025.

Detailed assessments of other potential REZs in Central Qld, such as Calliope, Capricorn and Isaac, will occur over time.

# Broader Community Initiatives



More engagement  
with communities



Establishing  
Coexistence  
Queensland



Legislated renewable  
energy developer  
code of conduct



Partnering with  
peak bodies to  
engage and support  
communities



Supporting  
landholders  
through a  
toolkit and  
phone service



Supporting Local  
Councils through a  
Local Council Energy  
Partnership Program



Programs for  
recycling both  
small and large  
scale solar  
panels



Supporting First  
Nations peoples  
through engagement  
and capacity building  
program



Reviewing planning  
frameworks for  
renewables and  
considering pathways  
for community  
feedback



Powerlink increasing  
regional internet  
speeds and enhancing  
payment frameworks



\$200 million Regional  
Economic Future Fund and  
Regional Transformation  
Strategies



Establishing regional  
training hubs and  
delivering local careers fairs



Thank you