

Sustainable electricity supply options for the Daintree

Newsletter 1 – July 2019

Daintree Electricity Supply Feasibility Study

To help deliver a reliable and sustainable electricity supply for the Daintree region, the Queensland Government has committed funding under the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to undertake the Daintree Electricity Supply Feasibility Study, which will assess and compare possible fit-for-purpose options.

Community and stakeholder engagement is a priority for the study and we are working with stakeholders throughout 2019 to investigate potential future electricity supply options for the region.

We will be seeking your feedback in relation to different electricity supply options for the region, and the impacts and opportunities associated with the various options.

Any option will need to balance the needs of the community, the impact on the natural environment and cultural heritage values, and the potential cost to Daintree residents.

What we already know

Several studies have been conducted regarding electricity supply in the Daintree region over many years, which have provided us with a foundation of knowledge including: electricity supply challenges; different power supply options; and some basic costings and potential reliability of different power supply options.

While these studies have been valuable, information gaps remain and there is currently insufficient information in those reports to determine the most appropriate electricity supply options for the community. In addition, advances in electricity generation and storage technologies over the last two decades mean that electricity supply options continue to evolve.

What are the gaps?

The study aims to:

- Identify and assess fit-for-purpose electricity supply options for the Daintree
- Investigate possible delivery models and implementation requirements
- Develop a more comprehensive understanding of the costs customers may be responsible for under different supply options.

The Federal Government is also investigating electricity supply in the Daintree region through its Regional and Remote Communities Fund, and is focussing on a solar-to-hydrogen microgrid. A solar-to-hydrogen microgrid represents one of many different options for the Daintree, and the Queensland Government will consider this approach as part of its assessment of options.

Two stage approach

The study will be conducted in two stages. The first stage will help the Queensland Government, the Daintree community and other key stakeholders understand the practical considerations of different electricity supply options, including indicative costs.

Stage one will:

- Assess on a like-for-like basis a broad set of electricity supply options, including key options presented in previous studies as well as new approaches that might be practical
- Identify key infrastructure requirements for the different options, and analyse issues around project costs and energy affordability



Building on these findings, stage two will:

- Explore in more detail the option(s) that appears most feasible for the Daintree region
- Identify how the option(s) could be practically delivered, including potential arrangements for purchasing, owning and maintaining assets
- Consider the roles and responsibilities of community members, key stakeholders and the Queensland Government.

It is important to note that the study is about identifying the best electricity supply option or options for the Daintree community. The study does not include any trials or construction of electricity infrastructure.

Community engagement

We are interested in what you think about different electricity supply options. As the study progresses there will be opportunities to meet members of the study team and discuss the study and what is important to you.

Dates, times and locations of community engagement activities will be communicated on the DNRME website, via email updates and other channels. Information about how to register for email updates is outlined below.

Next steps

The first stage of the study has started, which includes establishing a stakeholder reference group with representatives from community, business and indigenous organisations, government, regulatory and funding agencies, and technical experts.

We expect to be in the Daintree to discuss the different electricity supply options with the community in the second half of 2019.

Learn more

You can visit the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy website at www.dnrme.qld.gov.au for more information about the study. If you would like to receive updates from the study team, or if you have any questions about the engagement activities, please contact the department by emailing daintree@dnrme.qld.gov.au, phoning **134 387** or via post at PO BOX 15216, City East, QLD 4002.

To learn more about the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund visit the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning website at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/jobs-and-regional-growth-fund or contact the department by emailing investment@dsmip.qld.gov.au or phoning **1300 785 106**.

