

Sustainable electricity supply options for the Daintree

Newsletter 2 – October 2019

Daintree Electricity Supply Study

The Queensland Government has committed funding under the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to undertake the Daintree Electricity Supply Study. The study aims to explore options for reliable and sustainable electricity for the region into the future.

What the study is doing

The Daintree Electricity Supply Study includes an independent evaluation and multi-criteria assessment of six different electricity supply options for the Daintree region.

KPMG, with the support of GHD, undertook this work 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 analysis prepared by KPMG will help inform the Daintree community and other stakeholders, including the Queensland Government, about the feasibility of different electricity supply options.

The Queensland Government has not made a decision to support any particular option at this time, and will carefully consider the findings of this report and stakeholder feedback.

Options assessment

The six options assessed range from large-scale investment in a single microgrid connecting all customers throughout the Daintree region, to incremental individual options.

The options included three microgrid based options, and three individual Stand-alone Power System (SAPS) options. The options included a combination of established technologies, such as solar panels and diesel generators, and emerging technologies, such as hydrogen and lithium-ion battery storage.

The options were assessed against seven criteria. These criteria included:

- Natural and cultural heritage
- Financial
- Environmental (carbon emissions)
- Reliability and security of supply
- Economic
- Learning and innovation
- Technical and commercial implementation risk.

Initial findings

The independent analysis found that no single option satisfies all of the evaluation criteria.

Overall, the individual SAPS options were able to better satisfy the evaluation criteria than the microgrid options.

Key findings of the KPMG analysis include:

- Large microgrids, while able to supply reliable and secure energy, present numerous technical, commercial and cultural heritage risks and are unlikely to be financially viable without significant upfront and ongoing Government support.
- Relative to a microgrid, SAPS based solutions better preserve the existing natural and cultural heritage values of the Daintree, and allow for incremental staged enhancement and replacement over time.



Learn more

To find out more about the Daintree Electricity Supply Study, the options assessed, and the key findings of the assessment, visit the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy website at: www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/energy/initiatives/sustainable-electricity-supply-options-for-the-daintree (or go to dnrme.qld.gov.au and search 'Daintree').

As well as the information available on our website, you can also visit our team and have a chat about the study during one of our scheduled drop-in sessions. The drop-in session details are listed in this newsletter.

To find out 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**.

Complete a Survey

Visit our website at www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/energy/initiatives/sustainable-electricity-supply-options-for-the-daintree (or go to dnrme.qld.gov.au and search 'Daintree') to complete a survey about the study.

If you are not able to complete the survey online please email us at daintree@dnrme.qld.gov.au and we will post a copy of the survey to you.

Have your say

Visit a Community Drop-in Session

Visit our team and have a chat about the study during one of our scheduled drop-in sessions:

Cape Tribulation drop-in session

Date: Friday 8 November 2019

Time: 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Location: Whet Restaurant

Cow Bay drop-in session

Date: Saturday 9 November

Time: 9.00am – 12.00pm

Location: Cow Bay Hotel

Register for updates

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 Daintree Electricity Study, PO BOX 15216, City East, QLD 4002.

