

ENERGY UPDATE

Cleaner energy for Queenslanders

June 2022 – Issue 6



Cost of living support for Queenslanders

This year, thanks to continued public ownership of our assets, Queensland households are set to receive a \$175 Cost of Living Rebate later in 2022. The rebate includes the \$50 asset ownership dividend announced earlier this year. The Queensland Government has increased this assistance for households in response to the extra cost of living pressures many Queenslanders are facing. The rebate will be automatically credited and will appear on residential customers' bills later this year.



Hydrogen in Queensland

There is no slowing down for the hydrogen industry in Queensland, with more steps being taken to secure the state as a leader in the new global renewable energy era. In May 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Port of Rotterdam in The Netherlands to collaborate on opportunities to develop a hydrogen export supply chain.

Domestically in Queensland, a \$35 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund continues to provide funding to the private sector for the development of renewable hydrogen projects. Recently approved projects in Round Two of the fund will demonstrate the commercial viability of using green hydrogen to transition to new technology that will help to decarbonise the transport industry. Approved projects include:

- Emerald Coaches – Up to \$2.7 million for Emerald Coaches to integrate two hydrogen fuel cell electric buses into its fleet in the Bowen Basin.
- Sealink Ferries – Up to \$5 million for Sealink Ferries to develop a world-first hydrogen fuel cell passenger ferry to transport workers between Gladstone and the LNG facilities on Curtis Island.

The fast pace at which projects like these are developing has highlighted the importance of ensuring that the workforce for emerging jobs in the green hydrogen industry is prepared by having the right safety guidelines in place. In May 2022, the draft Hydrogen Safety Code of Practice was released for consultation, making Queensland the first state in Australia to develop a clear pathway for hydrogen safety system compliance.



Energy Minister, Mick de Brenni and Dutch Honorary Consul Marjon Wind.



Queensland Renewable Energy Zones (QREZ)

From September 2021 to January 2022, we undertook two key pieces of QREZ consultation – the state-wide Community Consultation Paper and accompanying survey for Queenslanders to have their say on renewable development; and the Technical Discussion Paper on QREZ design and access for industry input.

Results indicate strong support for renewable energy, with more than 86% of participants wanting to see more renewable energy in their region with the three most supported technologies being solar, battery and wind farms. There was also overwhelming support for having clear local benefits principles to help guide renewable project development with 97% of survey respondents in favour of 'buy local, build local' and 'local jobs and secure work', and 95% supporting 'genuine and ongoing engagement' and 'shared benefits with communities' as guiding principles.

Feedback from industry on the proposed model for QREZ design and access overwhelmingly supported the development of QREZ and generally agreed with the proposed approaches to planning, notice and declaration. Respondents highlighted the importance of prioritising community engagement and community benefits to maintain and grow community acceptance.

The combined feedback shows that, in developing QREZ, the Queensland Government can play a key role in coordinating investment that expands Queensland's renewable generation capacity while delivering benefits for its regional communities. We will be engaging further with communities on local benefit opportunities and working with industry to further the design and implementation of the QREZ framework. Summaries of feedback and findings, along with public submissions, will be made available on the department's website.



Kaban Wind Farm.



Queensland
Government



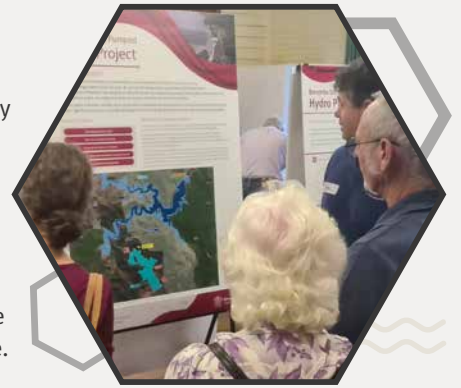
Pumped hydro energy storage

The Queensland Government is investigating a potential pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) facility at Borumba Dam. A range of engineering, environmental, geological, hydrological and commercial studies are being undertaken by Powerlink, and will be completed throughout 2022. In June 2022 the Queensland Government committed an additional \$13 million to broaden the scope of the feasibility studies for the project. This follows an initial investment of \$22 million for the studies.

Community and stakeholder engagement is a key priority for the project, with more than 130 residents attending community drop-in sessions in Imbil and Gympie in April 2022 to learn about the proposed project. The next community drop-in sessions will be held in July 2022 in Imbil and Gympie.

The project's first stakeholder reference group meeting was also held in Gympie in April 2022, with Minister de Brenni attending. This group is a consultative forum made up of organisations and individuals who represent environmental, conservation, economic, recreational and community interests.

In June 2022 the Queensland Government allocated \$35 million for additional studies to identify a second PHES site in Queensland. Studies will commence with a desktop analysis of potential sites, followed by specific site-based investigations, environmental and social assessments, engineering design and cost analysis.



Community drop-in session at Imbil.



National Battery Testing Centre \$15 million investment

In June 2022, the Queensland Government announced a \$15 million investment to scale up the National Battery Testing Centre (NBTC), based in Banyo on Brisbane's northside. The NBTC tests various types of batteries, including lithium-ion and redox flow batteries made in Australia or internationally. The \$15 million investment in the NBTC is expected to leverage up to \$35 million in university and industry investment, providing a total funding injection of approximately \$50 million over five years.

As we move to a more diversified energy system, batteries are critical to stabilising the grid and improving demand flexibility. The investment will give Queensland-based battery manufacturers access to much-needed testing services right here in Brisbane, boost jobs and support the growing renewables supply chain in Queensland.



Queensland's energy future

The Queensland Government has been widely consulting with industry stakeholders on the next phase in our clean energy future that will continue to be backed by majority Queensland Government ownership.

Our energy plan to be released later this year will inform the pathway of delivering affordable, cleaner, and reliable power. We are committed to delivering our 50% renewable energy target by 2030; positioning and delivering Queensland for net zero by 2050; and delivering a climate positive Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Queensland Government will lead this energy transformation through billions in investment in hydrogen, clean energy generation, transmission, distribution, and storage infrastructure.



Western Downs Green Power Hub.



Achieving our renewable energy targets

We are delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy solutions for Queenslanders. In 2015, we started a renewable energy boom in Queensland to reduce emissions, create new jobs and diversify the state's economy by establishing a 50% renewable energy target by 2030.

Large-scale renewable energy in Queensland (operational and committed since 2015)



50 projects



\$10+ billion invested



7,000+ construction jobs



5,700+ MW capacity

Renewable energy in Queensland



7,000+ MW renewable capacity (large-scale and small-scale currently operational)



21.3% from renewable sources

*All figures except 'renewable sources' current as at 1 May 2022. 'Renewable sources' figure current May 2021 to Apr 2022.



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