

# QUEENSLAND ENERGY AND JOBS PLAN

## Power for generations

### Interim Energy Industry Council

Tripartite representation of unions, industry and Government

Our commitment is to help form the bridge between our proud energy history and our bright energy future. Energy workers within our publicly owned energy businesses have been the backbone of Queensland's secure and reliable energy system.

Generations of workers in our traditional power generating assets have helped keep the lights on in Queensland and helped to build our great state. We respect their efforts and contributions while looking ahead to the future and the next generation of energy workers.

Our commitment is to put people first and to support workers, their families, and their communities and regions to continue to deliver a lasting legacy and prosperous future for Queensland.

### Meeting Communiqué – August 2023

The Queensland Energy Workers' Charter was signed on 28 September 2022, alongside the launch of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan by the Premier.

Early this year, the interim Energy Industry Council (EIC) agreed on the forward work program for 2023. Three key objectives were identified:

1. To see the EIC, Job Security Guarantee and Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate formally established in legislation.
2. Identify critical support mechanisms for workers; and
3. Have processes in place for developing individual transition plans for workers in government owned coal-fired power stations.

To support progress toward these objectives, a subcommittee was established with representatives from each member organisation.

#### Focus on worker engagement

The interim EIC has strengthened its commitment to early, open dialogue with workers at publicly owned coal-fired power stations and associated mines identified in the Charter (Meandu Mine and Kogan Creek Mine) through the engagement of 'Evidn'.

Evidn is a Queensland based behavioural science company that will work with the interim EIC to develop a worker-centric, evidence-based engagement framework to help understand the preferences and pathways that workers are seeking from the energy transformation.

Evidn's insights can help support shared understanding, ongoing collaboration and positive partnerships and their experience across energy sectors in Australia and the United States can inform the interim EIC's design of programs to best suit workers.

A careful and considered approach to engagement with workers will be delivered through three phases which will be customised for each site in consultation with interim EIC members, subcommittee and the Government Owned Corporations:

- 1. Relationship building through early site visits – August to September 2023**

These conversations, led by Evidn, will centre around meeting with existing site groups such as consultative committees, leadership teams and members of the interim EIC and its subcommittee.

## 2. Initial voluntary engagement – September to December 2023;

Voluntary engagement opportunities at each site are anticipated to occur in the last quarter of 2023. These sessions will be led by Evidn, with tripartite representation reflective of the interim EIC and subcommittee, and will seek to understand initial views and perspectives from workers. These will also be opportunities for workers to ask any questions they might have about Evidn, the process, or the interim EIC and subcommittee.

## 3. Follow up site visits to listen and test – January to June 2024.

Further, follow up engagements are planned for the first half of 2024. More information on these engagements will be disseminated over time. This engagement will be structured around the key questions and concerns raised through phase 1 and phase 2.

The overall objective for this engagement is to understand individual needs, perspectives and preferences of workers. This is to assist the interim EIC and subcommittee in its endeavours to provide customised, worker-centric support mechanisms.

It was acknowledged by the interim EIC that there may be conflicting messages in this early stage of Queensland's energy transition. This careful and considered approach to engagement ensures we can better engage on these important matters and underwork worker perspectives.

This communique seeks to provide a high-level overview of the key engagement phases. Site-based information with more specific dates and engagement opportunities will be developed, and will be circulated through various networks and communication channels in advance.

## Community support through the transformation

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) provided members with an overview of the government's approach to community support and the new Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy. This includes:

- A \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF) to support communities to seize industry development opportunities. The objective of the program is to support long term community sustainability by:
  - enhancing economic, social and environmental liveability
  - identifying opportunities for sustainable regional growth and economic diversification
  - supporting the transformation of regional communities to a low-emissions economy
- A new local economic opportunities network (LEO network) to assist regional councils and communities with decarbonisation and the economic opportunities associated with a decarbonised economy.
- Regional transformation strategies and implementation plans will be developed and delivered in consultation with communities, to assist with the transition in the following regions:
  - North-West Queensland
  - Greater Whitsunday
  - Central Queensland
  - Darling Downs, South-West and the South Burnett.

The following links provide more information about the REFF and other relevant programs:

- [Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy](#)
- [Regional Economic Futures Fund](#)
- [Local Economic Opportunities Network](#)

## Net Zero Economy Agency

Members of the Net Zero Economy Agency presented an overview of their purpose, timeframes and the names of people recently appointed to the Advisory Board.

The Agency is the federal body that will promote positive economic transformation as the world decarbonises. It will ensure Australia, its regions and workers realise and share the benefits of the net zero economy. They

are engaging with all levels of government and a variety of stakeholders to design and enshrine in legislation the Net Zero Authority. The interim EIC and subcommittee will continue to engage with the Federal Government as this Authority is established.

### Next Meeting

The next interim EIC meeting is scheduled for 20 September 2023.

### Membership

Interim EIC members represent the interests of signatories to the Queensland Energy Workers' Charter and are supported by the Department of Energy and Public Works.

Unions	Electrical Trades Union Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (Mining and Energy Division) Professionals Australia The Services Union
Publicly Owned Energy Businesses	CleanCo Queensland CS Energy Energy Queensland Powerlink Queensland Stanwell Corporation