

Proclamation – Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024

Explanatory notes for SL 2024 No. 64

made under the

Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024

General Outline

Short title

Proclamation commencing certain provisions of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024*

Authorising law

Section 2 of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The policy objective of this proclamation is to commence certain provisions of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024* (ERTJ Act). Provisions commenced by this proclamation will support a coordinated, planned, and methodical energy transformation in Queensland. In particular, the provisions commenced by the proclamation:

- Outline the purposes of the Act, as well as key definitions used throughout the Act (Part 1);
- Enshrine in legislation Queensland’s renewable energy targets and the process for periodic reviews of the targets (Part 2, other than section 11);
- Establish a requirement to prepare a public ownership strategy that sets targets for public ownership of generation, transmission and distribution, and deep storage assets in Queensland, and outlines how the State proposes to achieve and maintain the targets, as well as establishing reporting requirements (Part 3);
- Create the requirement to review the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint (Blueprint) by May 2025 and at further intervals of two years (Part 4);
- Establish the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) framework to support the efficient and coordinated development of transmission networks to connect renewable energy. The framework includes requirements relating to the declaration of REZs, management plans for REZs, the regulation of connection and access to transmission networks and transmission assets, REZ assessments, and arrangements to recover costs. In addition, the framework provides for the appointment and functions of a REZ delivery body (Part 6);

- Create the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board (Board) and its functions and processes (Part 8, other than section 94(a) and Division 5);
- Create the Queensland Energy Industry Council (Council) and its functions and processes, (Part 9, other than division 6);
- Enable the creation of the role of Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate (Jobs Advocate) and its functions and processes (Part 10, other than division 4);
- Create overarching confidentiality obligations for officials, delegation powers and liability protections, as well as the ability to create a Regulation under the Act (Part 11, other than section 176);
- Provide for key transitional requirements under the Act (Part 12, other than sections 179 and 180);
- Make amendments to the *Electricity Act 1994* to:
 - create a head of power to derogate from transmission ring-fencing obligations under the National Electricity Rules;
 - establish social licence criteria (including a head of power to create a code of conduct) in relation to the grant or transfer of a generation authority or special approval; and
 - clarify or define the terms ‘operating works’, ‘battery storage device’ and ‘reactive power compensation device’ to assist the integration of new grid supporting technologies with the electricity grid and generating plant;
- Make amendments to a number of other Acts, including:
 - Amendments to the Regulation-making powers in the *Electricity-National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997* and the *National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014*, as well as a minor amendment to the *National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014* to correct a numbering error; and
 - An amendment to the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* to reflect a change in terminology for economically regulated gas pipelines under the National Gas (Queensland) Law;
- Commence relevant definitions in Schedule 1 (Dictionary).

Achievement of policy objectives

The policy objective is achieved by fixing the commencement date of 31 May 2024 for the provisions supporting the above-mentioned policy objectives.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The proclamation is consistent with the policy objectives of the ERTJ Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The proclamation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The proclamation is the only effective means of achieving the policy objective.

Benefits and costs of implementation

There are no costs to government associated with the proclamation of these provisions.

The cost for government implementation of the provisions to be commenced by the Proclamation will be met by future Budgetary processes. The remuneration and any allowances for paid members of the Board, the Jobs Advocate and the Chairperson of the Council will be decided by the Governor in Council. Any government costs for monitoring and reporting on commitments and the implementation of the REZ framework will be met from within existing budget allocations.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The proclamation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Extensive government and public consultation took place as part of the development and progression of the ERTJ Act.

No further consultation has been undertaken in relation to the proclamation.