



Queensland Renewable Energy Zones

Government: Queensland

Region: Asia-Pacific

Population: 5,174,437

GDP: \$360 billion

Sector(s): Renewable energy

Date of publication: July 2021



\$145m
investment to establish
three Queensland
renewable energy
zones.

Summary

The Queensland Government has committed \$145 million to establish three renewable energy zones in Northern, Central and Southern Queensland.

Spanning from Far North Queensland to the Darling Downs west of Brisbane, the long-term investment in these zones will solidify Queensland's position as a renewable energy investment destination of choice, create long-term, sustainable employment, and inject economic activity into our regional communities - supporting the Queensland Government's COVID-19 road to recovery blueprint.

A renewable energy zone brings together a coordinated mix of generation, network upgrades, demand, and potentially storage, to deliver reliable electricity investments more efficiently than developing projects individually.

In our three QREZ the government will conduct energy network analysis and stakeholder engagement, invest in strategic network upgrades to unlock new renewable generation, streamline the development of new renewable energy projects, and work to match new and existing industrial energy demand with affordable, renewable energy.

Queensland Renewable Energy Zones (QREZ)

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Energy storage will play an important role in a low emissions future, offering the ability to dispatch clean energy on demand.

Mick de Brenni, Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement

The Queensland Government is investing \$145 million to establish three Queensland renewable energy zones (QREZ) across the state - enabling more renewable projects, attracting new industries, and supporting the achievement of Queensland's targets for 50% renewable energy by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050.

Additionally, the Queensland Government committed \$500 million to create a Renewable Energy Fund, supporting its government-owned energy corporations to increase ownership of commercial renewable energy projects and infrastructure, including in partnership with the private sector.

In June 2021, a further \$1.5 billion was injected into the Renewable Energy Fund, transforming it into the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, which will now better enable investments by Queensland's government-owned energy corporations in commercial renewable energy and hydrogen projects, as well as supporting infrastructure.

Since 2015, Queensland's transition to a clean energy future has delivered around \$10 billion worth of investment in renewable energy, 7,000 construction jobs, 5,156 megawatts of clean energy and more than 12.6 million tonnes of avoided emissions each year (current as at April 2021).

Queensland is currently generating around 20% of its electricity from renewable resources, and the latest investment in renewable energy zones will mean it can add more of this clean energy to the state's electricity grid.

As part of Queensland's COVID-19 road to recovery blueprint to attract investment and jobs, three QREZ will be established in the state's southern, central and northern regions.

Coordinated development of QREZ means multiple generators can be connected in a cost-effective way. This supports an optimal generation mix in Queensland that can benefit existing and emerging industries and local communities.

In these areas, the Queensland Government will:

- Undertake strategic network investments
- Streamline the development of new renewable energy projects
- Work to match new and existing industrial energy demand with our cheap, clean renewable energy

Progress

The Northern QREZ kicked off development in May 2021, with the government committing \$40 million to upgrade transmission lines between Cairns and Townsville, unlocking up to 500 MW of renewable capacity in Far North Queensland.

This investment supports the first new project in the QREZ, Neoen Australia's 157 megawatt Kaban Green Power Hub wind farm, worth over \$370 million. It is expected that 250 construction jobs will be created through the network upgrades and wind farm construction.

Next steps

- The first round of registrations of interest from renewable energy project proponents closed in September 2020, with 192 project submissions received. This is informing ongoing analysis on the location, scale and timing of QREZ development.
- For further information about QREZ delivery and future opportunities for stakeholder engagement check the [department's website](#).

More information

www.epw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/renewable-energy-zones