

Our Climate Future: Renewable Energy and Thriving Nature

Here in Queensland, communities are excited to see the transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy, an essential step towards a safe climate future. As a collective we recognise that the transition to renewable energy is essential for the emissions reductions required to protect communities and nature from the impacts of climate change.

Fossil fuel development, particularly coal and gas projects, has created a legacy of environmental and cultural destruction. With a new age of energy comes an opportunity to create a better relationship between nature and energy projects. The transition to renewables must be just; for communities and for nature. While a transition to renewable energy is essential for a safe climate future, so is the protection and enhancement of Queensland's natural areas, its forests, water ecosystems and wildlife.

We will not support any energy development that comes at an unacceptable cost to nature, including renewable energy. That means it must not

- Be on the site of, directly adjacent to, or directly impact
 - Matters of National Environmental Significance
 - Matters of State Environmental Significance
- Reduce or remove threatened species habitat
- Adversely impact aquatic ecosystems or water sources

Further, renewable energy development must result in a positive outcomes for our communities and should not

- be developed on good quality agricultural land
- result in a decline in the proportion of state ownership of power generation in Queensland
- Be approved without well established and agreed Community Benefit Schemes

We have an opportunity to ensure that the renewable energy industry has a net positive impact on habitat and biodiversity. We can see a future where Australia has a thriving renewable energy industry, large tracts of protected and diverse natural areas and sustainable agriculture keeping communities healthy. We recommend that proponents seek to develop projects on land which has previously been developed, impacted or degraded, and commit to some restoration of this land. We also recommend that proponents genuinely seek the local community's social license to operate.

We also recognise that First Nations justice is an essential part of the transition and support First Nations aspirations for Country and Management of Country. We recommend that no project is advanced in the absence of free, prior and informed consent from relevant First Nations peoples and invite the integration of traditional ecological knowledge in the assessment of impacts and management of any relevant natural and cultural heritage.