



Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025

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Prepared by

Jo Sheppard, CEO, QFF
E: qfarmers@qff.org.au

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The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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This submission is provided to:

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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Our members

- Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers
- Cotton Australia
- Canegrowers
- Greenlife Industry QLD
- eastAUSmilk
- Australian Cane Farmers Association
- Queensland United Egg Producers
- Turf Queensland
- Pork Queensland
- Australian Chicken Meat Federation
- Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group
- Burdekin River Irrigation Area
- Central Downs Irrigators Ltd
- Fairburn Irrigation Network
- Mallawa Irrigation
- Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Ltd
- Theodore Water Pty Ltd
- Eton Irrigation
- Lockyer Valley Water Users

About the Queensland Farmers' Federation

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is the united voice of agriculture in Queensland.

Our members are agricultural peak bodies who collectively represent more than 13,000 farmers who produce food, fibre and foliage across the state.

QFF's peak body members come together to develop policy and lead projects on the key issues that are important to their farmer members and the Queensland agriculture sector.

Together, we form a strong, unified voice leveraging our effectiveness by working together to drive policy and initiatives that support a strong future for Queensland agriculture.

Submission

QFF welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill). We provide this submission without prejudice to any additional submission from our members or individual farmers.

Introduction

QFF notes the deliberate and pragmatic approach taken in developing the Energy Roadmap, which thoughtfully reflects the complexity of Queensland's evolving energy landscape. Its strong focus on system planning, reliability, and transition management is a positive step toward ensuring energy security for Queensland's diverse industries and communities.

QFF acknowledges the release of the Queensland Government's Energy Roadmap (the Roadmap) and accompanying Bill which provides clarity and policy direction for Queensland's energy future. For the state's farmers, landholders, and rural communities, energy policy directly influences productivity, profitability, and resilience.

Our support is coupled with a request to continue to work closely with the Government to ensure the Roadmap's implementation meets the needs of farmers now and into the future, as industry continues to evolve and strives to maintain global competitiveness.

1. Access to accurate, independent information so farmers can make informed decisions about energy investments and participation in renewable projects.
2. Secure, reliable and affordable energy infrastructure that meets the specific needs of primary producers and supports long-term regional growth.
3. Energy market transparency, innovation and fair pricing, with retail options and tariff structures that recognise the unique energy profiles of agricultural enterprises.

QFF remains committed to working with government, industry and its member organisations to ensure energy policy supports sustainable land use, protects farm productivity, and enables Queensland agriculture to play an active and enduring role in the state's energy transition.

With regard to the specifics of this Bill, QFF provides the following recommendations to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee (the Committee) for its consideration:

1. Repeal the current renewable energy targets under the Energy Act and update the energy system planning framework to implement a flexible and market-based approach

Queensland's energy system must deliver reliable and affordable power for farmers while supporting the state's transition to a low-emissions future. Decarbonisation is important to meet international commitments and ensure Queensland's agricultural sector remains competitive in rapidly decarbonising global markets.

Recommendation: While QFF supports in principle a more flexible, market-driven approach to achieving net zero by 2050, the Act should require the Energy System Outlook to publish binding, quantified planning outputs (e.g., legislated emissions budgets or formally adopted multi-scenario generation trajectories with attendant modelling inputs). QFF recommends that outputs should be independently peer-reviewed and updated at mandated intervals (at least biennially) to enable accurate price-impact modelling. This would continue to provide the private sector with policy certainty.

2. Clarify public ownership provisions to confirm the State will retain 100 per cent public ownership of its existing operational generation assets

The proposal to maintain 100 per cent public ownership of Queensland's existing generation assets offers stability, accountability, and fair pricing that can benefit farmers and agribusinesses, particularly in regional areas where reliable and affordable energy is essential. However, limiting private investment may slow renewable energy development and reduce flexibility for on-farm renewables, microgrids, and other clean energy solutions critical to agricultural productivity. Excluding Power Purchase Agreements from public ownership definitions could also constrain innovative partnerships between state-owned generators and landholders.

Recommendation: While the amendments strengthen energy security and public accountability, consideration should also be given to ensure they do not unintentionally constrain renewable energy investment or innovation in regional and agricultural areas.

3. Streamlining the PTI framework

The Priority Transmission Investment (PTI) framework, established under Queensland's *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024*, enables the government to identify, assess and fast-track key transmission projects that support the state's SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint. Streamlining this process would allow critical grid upgrades to be delivered faster and more efficiently, reducing delays, costs and bottlenecks for new renewable generation and regional industries. It would strengthen network reliability, attract private investment, and support economic growth in regional Queensland while ensuring the state's energy transition goals are met in a timely and coordinated way.

Recommendation: QFF urges the government to ensure that the proposed amendments to the PTI framework are balanced with the need to ensure landholders, agricultural production, and regional communities are not adversely impacted, that cumulative risks and impacts are managed, and opportunities maximised.

4. Governance and repeal of advisory bodies

The Bill repeals the Energy Industry Council, the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board and the Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate, citing duplication and administrative cost savings; it asserts the government can obtain advice administratively as and when needed. Formal statutory bodies provide continuity, transparency and a mandated channel for worker and regional interests (particularly for coal transition and worker redeployment). Their removal reduces institutional visibility and may weaken coordinated worker transition and regional economic planning.

Recommendation: QFF urges that if these bodies are removed, the Government embeds statutory consultative and reporting obligations to retain the core functions (worker transition planning, regional engagement, and technical advisory functions) and continues to ensure input is actively sought from industry and community on key aspects critical to a successful energy system.

5. Regional energy hubs (renamed REZ)

The Bill renames renewable energy zones (REZs) as regional energy hubs and expands flexibility in the way these hubs are managed, and the way hub-controlled assets (including proposed assets) are identified. Project proponents and impacted landholders require clear spatial boundaries and cumulative impact assessments that considers transmission projects and offsets locations to understand development constraints, compensate affected parties, and coordinate land-use planning. Without this, communities experience consultation fatigue, uncertainty and potential loss of social licence. Agricultural stakeholders, particularly irrigators and horticulturalists, will need clarity on land-use and water impacts.

Recommendation: QFF urges the government to ensure that the proposed amendments relating to regional energy hubs are balanced with the need to ensure landholders, agricultural production, and regional communities are not adversely impacted, that cumulative risks and impacts are managed, and opportunities maximised.

Conclusion

Queensland's energy future must balance ambition with practicality, delivering reliable, affordable power for agriculture and regional communities while achieving the state's decarbonisation goals. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 provides an important framework to guide this transition, but its success will depend on how effectively it integrates the needs of landholders, farm businesses, and regional industries into its design, implementation and ongoing evaluation.

QFF urges the Committee to ensure that the final legislation protects agricultural productivity, provides certainty for landholders, and promotes meaningful engagement with the communities who are involved. The transformation of our energy system presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen Queensland's regional economies, but only if farmers are supported as active partners in shaping and benefiting from it.

By embedding clear governance, transparency, and accountability mechanisms, and by ensuring that planning and investment frameworks work for both industry and community, Queensland can achieve an energy system that is resilient, fair, and future-ready. QFF stands ready to work collaboratively with government, industry and stakeholders to deliver an energy transition that keeps Queensland farming strong and competitive in a decarbonising global market.

Yours sincerely

Jo Sheppard
Chief Executive Officer



This submission is provided by the Queensland Farmers' Federation

PO Box 12009 George Street, Brisbane Qld 4003
Level 8, 183 North Quay, Brisbane Qld 4000
ABN 44 055 764 488

Contact QFF

E: qfarmers@qff.org.au
P: 07 3837 4720
W: www.qff.org.au

