



## RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE FACTSHEET

# What are the benefits of a Renewable Energy Zone?

### Who is Powerlink?

Powerlink is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the transmission network in Queensland.

We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 businesses. We are also responsible for connecting large-scale renewable energy developments, including wind and solar, and providing electricity to large industrial customers in the rail, mining and LNG sectors.

Powerlink is working with the Queensland Government to create Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) to help meet our energy needs by connecting Queenslanders to renewable energy in the most coordinated and cost-effective way.

REZs are critical to ensuring Queenslanders have access to reliable, affordable energy in the long term, as well as creating regional job opportunities, lowering emissions and delivering benefits for host communities.



### Achieve Renewable Energy Targets



Powerlink acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands and waters of Queensland and in particular, the lands on which we operate. We pay our respect to their Ancestors, Elders and knowledge holders and recognise their deep history and ongoing connection to Country.

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### What is a Renewable Energy Zone?

A Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is a geographic area which has a high amount of renewable energy resources, like sun and/or wind, and is in a location that has hosting capacity in the nearby transmission network.

These factors, combined with others, make the area an optimal location for renewable energy generation and connection into Powerlink's transmission network.

### What is hosting capacity?

Hosting capacity refers to available energy capacity in the transmission network which will allow connection of a new renewable energy generator without the need for a network upgrade.

For more information on how a REZ works, please see our website by scanning the QR code.



### The coordinated planning and development approach to REZs will seek to minimise impacts on communities and optimise associated benefits.

Each REZ will be unique and subject to its own planning and investigation of detailed benefits for local communities, landholders, the environment, renewable energy companies and all Queenslanders. These local benefits will be tailored to each REZ area and will be guided by the values discussed in this factsheet.



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Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.

## Benefits for Queenslanders

### Cost-effective and coordinated

REZs facilitate and support the efficient development of Queensland's future energy system. Renewable electricity, an affordable form of energy, is best enabled by scale-efficient and coordinated infrastructure.

### Energy reliability

REZs facilitate diversity in Queensland's energy mix, supporting energy system resilience and reduced dependence on fossil fuels, meaning a reliable and secure future energy supply for Queenslanders. REZs coupled with efficient development of the Queensland electricity network will provide this reliability.

### Sustainable clean energy

REZs directly promote and support more investment in generation from renewable energy sources. Producing clean energy directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the energy we use and reduces the impacts of climate change for decades to come.

## Benefits for landholders

### Genuine and ongoing engagement

A higher and more consistent standard of landholder engagement is required for renewable energy companies seeking to connect to transmission infrastructure in a declared REZ.

### Efficient infrastructure

Shared transmission infrastructure in declared REZs leads to scale-efficient and coordinated infrastructure to minimise impacts on landholders and the environment.





## Benefits for communities

### Community context

Queensland's REZ readiness assessment process will establish a baseline understanding of community context and resilience in relation to new energy infrastructure in their region. This will help guide identification and delivery of community benefits.

### Consistent engagement

In a declared REZ, the REZ management plan will outline the engagement requirements through eligibility criteria, providing a standard for community engagement and behaviour for Powerlink and the renewable energy companies seeking to connect to transmission infrastructure within the REZ.

### Community input and influence

Planning will be guided by REZ readiness assessments and the formation of local reference groups. This will ensure benefits align with community values and needs, and can be widely shared. The **Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap** provides further information on REZ readiness assessments.

### Long-term certainty

Planned establishment of REZs provides stability and increased certainty for communities, encouraging sustained investments and a consistent approach to renewable energy development.

### Cumulative benefits

A coordinated approach, informed by community input, will provide opportunities to minimise cumulative impacts and maximise community-aligned benefits.

### Economic growth

REZs will attract investment, create jobs and stimulate innovation, which fosters economic development and capacity building in local regions.

### Digital coverage

The SuperGrid Telecommunications Program will leverage new transmission infrastructure to boost digital connectivity and increase internet speeds across REZ communities.

### Scale efficiency and coordinated development

Building scale-efficient infrastructure will minimise the transmission footprint and impacts on local communities.

## Benefits for renewable energy companies

### Lower costs

REZs will minimise connection costs through the scale-efficient deployment of infrastructure.

### Simplified access arrangements

REZs will provide clear access arrangements for renewable energy companies seeking to connect.

### Shared community investment

REZs will provide a collaborative approach to community engagement and investment opportunities, which will be facilitated by Powerlink and government to deliver benefits for communities.

### Optimised location

REZs will be strategically deployed to align renewable resources with transmission network capacity to meet the needs of Queensland's energy use.

### Streamlined connection approvals

Faster approval processes on Generator Performance Standards to provide greater certainty and speed to market.

### Commercial framework

REZs will provide a commercial framework that enables multi-party access without individual parties being dependent on others.

### Clarity and certainty

REZs will provide transparency on available hosting capacity, transmission assets and access principles to provide greater investment certainty to the renewable energy companies.

## Further information

REZs will be legislated under the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024*



The Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap



Powerlink's Renewable Energy Zone webpage



Read our **What is different about Queensland REZs?** factsheet on the resources section of our website by scanning the QR code.