



RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE FACTSHEET

What is different about Queensland Renewable Energy Zones?

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.

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.

Countries all over the world have established, or are working to establish REZs, as the world moves to cut emissions as part of a decarbonising global economy. The United States, China, India and Germany are among some of the countries implementing REZs.

Renewable Energy Zones in Queensland

The Queensland Government, working with Powerlink, has identified 12 potential REZs across Southern, Central, North and Far North Queensland regions. The indicative location, size and timing of these REZs is based on a number of factors including renewable energy companies' interest, analysis of available network capacity, renewable resources and land uses (including environmental considerations).



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How are declared REZs in Queensland different to other states?

Market-led REZ approach

Queensland is currently pursuing a market-led REZ approach. The market-led REZ model is characterised by Powerlink working with renewable energy companies to identify projects which are of a size and maturity to drive efficient development of REZs. The model promotes the appropriate allocation of landholder, environmental and community impact, as well as risk and costs, and is predominantly funded by the renewable energy companies connecting to the REZ.

Each declared REZ will be unique

While REZs aim to achieve similar energy transformation goals, each declared REZ in Queensland will be unique and designed with the REZ's location, geography, connection into shared transmission infrastructure, resource availability and community context in mind. Each declared REZ will have its own REZ management plan. REZ management plans are further discussed on the next page of this factsheet.

Streamlined transmission connection and access

The REZ management plan, and accompanying documentation, will set out a streamlined connection and access process. More information on REZ management plans is on the next page of this factsheet.

State Government support

The Queensland Government intends to undertake REZ readiness assessments to understand the suitability of an area for REZ development, and how best to support the social, environmental and economic needs of regions and communities hosting future REZs. The outcomes of these assessments will inform investment in local services and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, waste facilities, workers' accommodation and social infrastructure to support REZ delivery.



REZ management plans

Each REZ management plan (or RMP) will be prepared to examine a range of factors associated with a potential REZ development. The plan will be tailored to the individual REZ and seek to balance outcomes between landholders, renewable energy companies, local communities, the environment, industry and the electricity network.

Key elements which may be included in a RMP are:

- » Technical elements such as:
 - transmission infrastructure
 - geographic location of the REZ
 - generation capacity of the REZ
 - mix of renewable generation (for example, the percentages of wind and solar proposed to comprise a REZ)
 - access principles that guide how renewable energy companies will connect and operate in the National Electricity Market.
- » Eligibility criteria for renewable energy companies
- » Process to connect to REZ transmission infrastructure
- » Dispute resolution process.

Each RMP will be accompanied by a companion document, **Getting involved in the REZ**, which will contain more information for landholders and local communities.

REZ access and connection

Each RMP will also outline the process that renewable energy companies must follow to enter into an agreement with Powerlink for connection and access to REZ transmission infrastructure.

The RMP may include:

- » Timeframes for processing applications or enquiries for proposed connection and access
- » Information that eligible entities must provide to Powerlink in relation to applications
- » Enquiries related to potential connection and access.



Transitional arrangements

The *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024* sets out transitional arrangements for renewable energy companies that were connected or are in the process of connecting to transmission infrastructure prior to a REZ being declared.

Further information

The Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap



Powerlink's Renewable Energy Zone webpage



The information in this factsheet is based on the current information available to Powerlink. It remains subject to change, and Powerlink disclaims any liability in relation to the information in this factsheet.



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