



RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE FACTSHEET

Who is involved in 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.

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 company's project without the need for a network upgrade.

To make sure a REZ can be successfully planned and delivered, participation and coordination is required across four key groups:

1. Local communities
2. Powerlink
3. Government – Queensland, Commonwealth and local
4. Renewable energy companies

The effective design and implementation of a REZ will rely heavily on the active participation and feedback from local communities.



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Powerlink’s role in Renewable Energy Zones

Powerlink’s experience and expertise in providing high voltage electricity transmission network services to Queenslanders will see us play two roles for Queensland REZs:

1. Our existing role as a Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP)
2. Our new role of REZ Delivery Body (RDB)

As the TNSP, Powerlink’s role is to...

- » engage with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on individual transmission connections within the REZ (as per Powerlink’s Transmission Easement Engagement Process)
- » enter into agreements with eligible renewable energy companies for connection and access to the REZ
- » build, own, operate and maintain the REZ transmission network as appropriate
- » manage connection and access to other parts of Powerlink’s transmission network.

As RDB, Powerlink’s role is to...

- » identify areas of Queensland suitable to be declared a REZ
- » provide a recommendation to the responsible Minister on whether a REZ should be declared
- » develop REZ management plans for each REZ in line with the legislated declaration process
- » engage with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on relevant aspects of the REZ, including the REZ management plan
- » provide input to the Queensland Government’s REZ Roadmap.

Community, landholder, government and developer roles in Renewable Energy Zones

It is not just Powerlink that has a role in the successful delivery of a declared REZ.

Community and landholders including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may...

- » enter into voluntary negotiations with renewable energy companies for land access (if approached)
- » give feedback and make submissions on the draft REZ management plan
- » have a say on local issues and priorities
- » participate in engagement activities such as community information sessions.

Renewable energy companies proposing generation projects will...

- » need to secure all necessary approvals and agreements, including planning and environmental approvals, from relevant parties
- » need to secure all necessary agreements with Powerlink as the TNSP
- » engage with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on their individual projects
- » feed into coordinated community investment for declared REZs
- » construct and operate the generation asset/s within the declared REZ.

The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments will...

- » assess and provide the relevant planning and environmental approvals for renewable energy projects
- » develop bioregional plans to help protect areas of environmental significance.

The Queensland Government will also...

- » formally declare a REZ
- » feed into coordinated community investment for declared REZs
- » support necessary infrastructure upgrades and development
- » implement REZ readiness initiatives to support communities
- » engage with communities to provide local initiatives
- » publish the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint and Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap documents every two years.

The local government will...

- » assess and provide the relevant planning approvals for renewable energy projects.

Further information

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.