

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTEMPORARY FRAMEWORK FOR RESOURCE, RENEWABLES AND CLEAN ENERGY SECTORS



MOTION TWO

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

- a. Undertake a wholesale review of the regulatory frameworks associated with resource, renewable and clean energy projects with consideration of a centralised agency approach to ensure consistent outcomes relative to size and impact of all projects;
- b. Develop and implement contemporary Social Impact Assessment (SIA) type values to underpin the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan and that those SIA values are applicable for all resource, renewable and clean energy projects with a legislated ability for the State Government to enforce compliance;
- c. Work with Local Government to develop a Contemporary Integrated Social Impact Assessment Framework for closure of resource, renewable and clean energy projects with outcomes focussed on sustainable communities; and
- d. Lead policy agendas in relation to the resource, renewable and clean energy sectors and that those policy settings inform regional planning and future sector investment.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Council strongly urges the State to consider a wholesale review of the regulatory frameworks associated with resource, renewable and clean energy projects to deliver consistent outcomes relative to the size and impact of the projects, as opposed to the multi-tiered and multi-agency assessment processes which lack integration and can overlook external impacts beyond the scope of their own assessment frameworks.

As part of that review the State Government:

- Works with Local Government to develop a Contemporary Integrated Social Impact Assessment Framework for closure of resource, renewable and clean energy projects with outcomes focussed on sustainable communities.
- Develops a contemporary framework and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) type values to underpin the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan and that these SIA values are applicable for all resource, renewable and clean energy projects with a legislated ability for the State Government to enforce compliance.
- Leads policy agendas in relation to the resource, renewable and clean energy sectors and that those policy settings inform regional planning and future sector investment, particularly on matters such as support for mine and port infrastructure and decisions on renewable and clean energy sources.

BACKGROUND

The motion and desired outcomes put forward, highlight the challenges experienced on the ground as a resource council and what that means for supporting communities and opportunities presented to ameliorate the challenges and harness the benefits provided by the development and implementation of the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan (QRIDP).

Not only for industry as it stands now, but for the transforming and new industries and the sustainability of communities supporting industry now and into the future.

This is an opportunity, through the establishment and implementation of the QRIDP, to provide a contemporary framework which applies principles similar to those developed by the State Government for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) guidelines as part of the *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017* (SSRC Act), for all resource, renewables, and clean energy sector development in Queensland.

This could be through an extension of the SSRC Act or similar legislation specific to the renewables and clean energy sectors.

Key social sustainability principles need to be entrenched in the planning of all future investment in the resources, renewables

and clean energy sectors, to ensure future sustainability for industry sectors and the communities that support them. Council's experience can be best summarised as:

- SSRC Act, nor any other legislative framework, capture or address the holistic cumulative impacts of currently operating and new resource, renewable or clean energy projects;
- While regulation underpins the Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) performance in the newly developed QRIDP, experience shows, unless commitments are conditioned, there are no mechanisms for enforcement and no community benefit and no flow on to community sustainability;
- Without the benefit of conditioned compliance on ESG elements, Local Government is left to engage in time, legal resource and rate payer consuming processes to advocate for outcomes that are committed to in pre-SSRC Act EIS documentation, but not enforceable as committed by proponents by the State unless conditioned.

It is through lived experience, and an extensive, costly advocacy commitment that one of our region's townships is in social and economic decline as a result of the absolute abandonment of ESG principles.