

# Powering North Queensland Plan

Burdekin Falls Dam spillway

The Queensland Government is investing \$386 million to strengthen and diversify North Queensland's energy supply, drive economic growth and support 5000 jobs

## A renewable boom has already started in the North

Since January 2016, Queensland has seen an unprecedented level of renewable energy investment activity in North Queensland, with over 830 megawatts of large-scale projects commencing construction or finalising commercial arrangements.

These projects will deliver \$1.6 billion of infrastructure spending, while creating over 1400 jobs.

The prospects for further renewable energy investment are strong, with over 4000 megawatts of projects in the pipeline in North Queensland.

The Queensland Government will invest in strategic energy infrastructure to help unlock North Queensland's renewable energy potential, as well as commit funds to strengthen the state's northern water infrastructure assets.

The Federal Government has loan funding available to support infrastructure projects in North Queensland, through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, and renewable energy through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. The Queensland Government would prefer that this funding is directed to mature projects and infrastructure that will help the transition to lower emissions.

## ACTIONS

- ▶ Develop strategic transmission infrastructure in North and North-West Queensland
- ▶ Commission a hydro-electric study to assess options for deploying hydro in the state
- ▶ Upgrade the Burdekin Falls Dam and develop the Burdekin Hydro power project
- ▶ Increase the supply of gas into the Australian market



**Queensland  
Government**

# Our actions in more detail

Windy Hill wind farm

## Develop strategic transmission infrastructure in North and North-West Queensland

Achieving a sustainable transition to 50 per cent renewable generation will require a diverse portfolio of renewable energy projects. While Queensland is well suited to large-scale solar projects, other forms of renewable energy generation will play important and significant roles in meeting the state's target.

Queensland has areas of high quality wind and hydro-electric resources in the northern hinterland region; however, transmission connection costs have been identified as a key barrier to unlocking these resources.

The Queensland Government will commit \$150 million to develop strategic transmission infrastructure in North and North-West Queensland to support a clean energy hub, subject to a feasibility study. This will unlock around 2000 megawatts of renewable energy projects and support up to 4600 jobs.



Indicative transmission path in North Queensland

## Commission a hydro-electric study to assess options for deploying hydro in the state

Queensland currently has around 200 megawatts of 'run-of-river' hydro plant and 500 megawatts of pump storage hydro plant. These facilities help stabilise the grid and maintain a secure supply of electricity to consumers.

Hydro-electric generation has the potential to play an important role in Queensland's future energy mix.

To assess this potential, the Queensland Government will undertake a feasibility study to assess options for the deployment of new hydro-electric and pumped storage generation capacity in the state.



Existing and proposed hydro-electric facilities in North Queensland



Doomadgee Solar Farm (photo courtesy of Ergon Energy)

## Upgrade the Burdekin Falls Dam and develop the Burdekin Hydro power project

The Queensland Government will provide a \$100 million equity injection into SunWater and reinvestment of dividends to deliver improvement works to ensure that the Burdekin Falls Dam continues to meet design standards. These works, which are estimated to support 250 jobs, will support the proposed hydro-electric power station.

The Government will invest a further \$100 million to help fund a 50 megawatt hydro-electric power station at the dam, subject to completion of a business case. The Burdekin Falls power project will create 200 jobs during construction and generate enough electricity to power 30 000 homes.

## Increase the supply of gas into the Australian market

The Queensland Government is committed to facilitating the development of new sources of gas supply for the domestic market to unlock future development.

In order to increase gas supply, in February 2017, the Government released a tender for gas development and production in the Surat Basin involving 58 square kilometres of land with an Australia-only sale condition on the gas produced.

The Government is looking at further and larger land releases in the Surat Basin with the same Australian market conditions, and will soon release another 395 square kilometres of land for gas development to supply the east coast Australian market. Releasing more land will drive employment and investment in regional Queensland and eventually add to the gas currently available for domestic use.

## North Queensland renewable projects – committed

Renewable projects in North Queensland are delivering investment and supporting regional jobs, with additional supply helping to put downward pressure on wholesale prices.

Once operational, the 11 currently committed projects would generate enough energy to power over 363,000 homes:

- ▶ Clare Solar Farm – powering 40,880 homes, supporting 200 jobs (\$190 million)
- ▶ Collinsville Solar Farm – powering 17,170 homes, supporting 84 jobs (\$96 million)
- ▶ Hamilton Solar Farm – powering 24,000 homes supporting 115 jobs (\$138 million)
- ▶ Kidston Solar Project – powering 24,090 homes, supporting 100 jobs (\$126 million)
- ▶ Lakeland Solar and Storage Project – powering 4,497 homes, supporting 60 jobs (\$43 million)
- ▶ Mt Emerald Wind Farm – powering 94,608 homes, supporting 150 jobs (\$360 million)
- ▶ Normanton Solar Farm – powering 2,044 homes, supporting 20 jobs (\$14 million)
- ▶ Ross River Solar Farm – powering 55,188 homes, supporting 270 jobs (\$225 million)
- ▶ Sun Metals Solar Farm – powering 51,100 homes, supporting 250 jobs (\$199 million)
- ▶ Tableland Sugar Mill – powering 26,280 homes, supporting 80 jobs (\$75 million)
- ▶ Whitsunday Solar Farm – powering 24,000 homes, supporting 116 jobs (\$122 million).





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