

Stakeholder Advisory Council Minutes Tuesday 17 September 2024

Name	
Stakeholder Advisory Council members	
Tracey Stinson	Clean Energy Council
Paul Hodgson	Centre for Hydrogen and Renewable Energy, CQUniversity Australia
Chris Hazzard	St Vincent's de Paul
Steve Bates	Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce
Lance McManus	TSBE
Wendy Miller	Powerlink
Rebecca Powlett (guest)	Powerlink
Nicole Quinn (guest)	Powerlink
Tara King (guest)	Powerlink
Claire Mitchell	Queensland Government
Nev Ferrier (guest)	Mayor, Banana Shire Council
Tom Upton (guest)	CEO, Banana Shire Council
Apologies	
Andrew Richards	EUAA
Ian Mackinnon	Centre for Clean Energy Technologies and Practices, QUT
Marion Callope	Acting Manager, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Abhiney Arora	Queensland Manufacturing Institute
Melissa Smyth	Queensland Government
Nev Hoehne (CS Energy)	Indigenous Engagement Adviser
Pauline Elliott (CS Energy)	Head of Commercial Partnerships
Andrew Broadbent (CS Energy)	Business Planning Manager
CS Energy	
Rebecca Kelly	Head of Corporate Affairs
Emma Roberts	EGM Customer and Growth
Brett Clark	Head of Customer & Retail Growth
Darrin Crompton (online)	Retail Business Lead
Lynda Crawford	Manager Engagement and Employee Communication

Caitlin Loader	Community Relations Advisor

Meeting summary

The day started with a tour of the Callide Power Station, including seeing the newly rebuilt cooling towers and the new C4 turbine. The group acknowledged the pride that people on site had in having C4 back online, the complexity of the site operations, and the large amount of people who have been on site.

1. Powerlink – Renewable Energy Zone presentation

Powerlink gave a presentation on their appointment as the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Delivery Body in August and the initiation of the proposed Callide REZ.

- 12 potential REZs in Queensland to connect new renewable generation to the transmission network
- 3 REZs are already ‘in-flight’ (Far North Queensland, Western Downs and Southern Downs) and pre-date the REZ legislation passed in April 2024. Powerlink’s role is to declare the new zones.
- They explained the declaration process, which will include a public consultation process and a final decision from the Energy Minister.
- Considerations for a REZ include the level and maturity of developer interest.
- Discussion included balancing timing to proceed with transmission investments with sufficient certainty of developer projects.
- Also discussion that projects outside the REZ won’t be de-prioritised, Powerlink has an obligation to connect under the National Electricity Rules.
- Also discussed the scale and pace of change and the need to be sensitive to how this will affect different communities.

2. The Banana Shire Mayor gave an update on key things happening in the region. This included:

- How Council are going to retain existing industries (power station, agriculture) and look for new opportunities
- Two companies have expressed interest in establishing resource waste recovery plants in Biloela – end of life tyres and solar panels.
- Progressing plans for a business incubator in Biloela offering reduced rates on pre-built industrial spaces so that light to medium industrial start-ups can get established.
- Renewable energy supply chain readiness – since 2018 as many as 30 potential projects have contacted Council. Of these 10 have secured approval. In late 2022 Council facilitated a supply chain workshop for Biloela and was successful in establishing relationships with suppliers and developers. Council will continue to facilitate opportunities for local business.
- Accommodation working group established for anticipated increase in short term workforce for renewable projects. The working group comprises existing providers, existing major industries and new project proponents – explore how to meet demand, and solutions like business creating

cooperatives and Council fast tracking camp assessments. Council are putting land aside and putting the road in and proponents can build the camp.

- Project housing policy – Council requires renewable project proponents to contribute to local housing supply 0.7% of capital value of the project to construct new houses. The houses can be used for their workforce or made available on an open market.
- Aukus Forum – Council has joined Aukus with membership intended to provide our industry access to global networks. Membership is a long-term investment
- Renew Australian and Queensland Small Business commission – regional place activation offering local small creative businesses and entrepreneurs rent free access to commercial spaces in town centres.
- Online businesses – an online directory – raising awareness of the local supply chain. 163 businesses registered.
- Renewable energy starter pack. Offering maps and information about the shire, community engagement guides, venues, etc to help proponents work with local community as much as possible.
- Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) – Council working with relevant departments to discuss issues such as logistics, resources, housing, supply chain.
- Economics future study – looking at the long-term prosperity of the shire. An action plan with 5 pathways:
 - leverage information about investment readiness
 - endorse economic future initiatives
 - ensure sustained benefits and collaborate with existing industry and facilitate expansion into new industries
 - inform stakeholders
 - monitoring initiative for local industry, neighbouring councils and other levels of government.

3. Energy Charter Disclosure

CS Energy publishes a disclosure report against the Energy Charter principles each year. Meeting attendees provided feedback on our self assessment for goals this year and aims for next year.

Feedback included:

- Clean Energy Council has recently employed a safety and ESG policy officer who is setting up a working group on ESG. Suggested we connect with this policy officer.
- The Uniting Energy Support Program is providing a much-needed advisory service to consumers who are struggling with energy affordability. CS Energy was encouraged to help increase awareness of the service and how to refer people for support.
- A council member asked if retail competition could be introduced to the electricity market for households and small business in regional Queensland. CS Energy explained that retail competition is limited in regional Queensland, with most regional and rural consumers being supplied by Ergon Energy and paying regulated prices.
- The work CS Energy is doing to implement its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan is highly valued. There was a call out to not place the cultural load of awareness and education on First Nations people. There was also feedback to maintain partnerships developed as part of RAP actions.

- There was positive interest in CS Energy's 'Amplify' development program to build the capabilities of power station workers in new energy technologies.
- CS Energy was encouraged to keep working on its partnerships that will build capability in its local communities and explore opportunities for benefit sharing for its new energy assets.

We will seek further feedback from the council at our upcoming joint accountability session with Powerlink Queensland and Energy Queensland in November 2024.

4. White space

Members discussed:

- Question about the future Callide B1 and B2. Noted that we are working closely with our shareholder and under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan it is very clear that until reliability is assured coal fired power stations won't be retired. Operations may change – seasonal operations for example.
- An action on CS Energy to make contact with an Agforce member to add to our council.
- Discussion that a three times a year meeting cadence worked for members.