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community deserves
to be a liveable one

Interim Report: Inquiry into investing in cheaper, cleaner energy and the net zero transformation

Submission to the Productivity Commission

September 2025

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About the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association established solely to serve councils and their needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting, and representing local councils since 1896, enabling them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The LGAQ does this by connecting councils to people and places; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and providing them with the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.

Equal Partners in Government Agreement

The LGAQ on behalf of all 77 Queensland local governments is a signatory to a three-year Equal Partners in Government Agreement¹ with the State of Queensland (signed 11 March 2025).

The Agreement details the key principles underlying the relationship between the state and local governments and establishes the foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The Agreement acknowledges that local government is the closest level of government to the community, affecting the lives of everyday Queenslanders and acknowledging local government as a genuine partner in the Australian government system.

The intent of the agreement was to continue the tradition of working in genuine partnership to improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders to enjoy. By identifying the roles and responsibilities of each party, it provides a solid foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The LGAQ is committed to working with the State Government and will continue to be a passionate advocate for councils, to serve our joint jurisdiction for the people of Queensland.

Rural and Remote Councils Compact

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact² signed on 14 August 2025, is a sub-agreement to the Equal Partners in Government Agreement between the LGAQ and the State Government.

It provides a platform to ensure issues of priority for these communities are properly considered by the Government when developing policies, programs, and legislation.

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact, pledges to amplify the voice of and improve outcomes for the state's 45 rural and remote councils and their local communities by enhancing engagement between both levels of government.

¹ [Equal Partners in Government Agreement](#)

² [Rural and Remote Councils Compact](#)

Interim Report: Inquiry into investing in cheaper, cleaner energy and the net zero transformation

1.0 Executive Summary

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Australian Productivity Commission (PC), on its Interim Report - *Investing in cheaper, cleaner energy and the net zero transformation* (the Interim Report), released for consultation in August 2025.

The LGAQ acknowledges the Interim Report's intent to provide advice on reforms needed to support Australia's commitment to achieving net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, with a focus on the three reform areas:

- Reducing the cost of meeting emissions targets,
- Speeding up approvals for new energy infrastructure, and
- Addressing barriers to private investment in adaptation.

It is important to emphasise that the LGAQ's response to the Interim Report, and our advocacy more broadly, is always evidence-led and derived from feedback from our member councils. This includes resolutions endorsed by the majority of delegates who attend the LGAQ Annual Conference each year. Resolutions that are carried at LGAQ Annual Conferences automatically become binding policy positions of the LGAQ and ensure that our views are truly representative of the local government sector in Queensland.

While the LGAQ does not have a formal position on the entire Interim Report, our feedback is guided by the principle that local communities hosting energy projects must not be left behind. We also stress that any proposed changes to policy or legislation should not impose additional financial burdens on local governments, which already operate within constrained fiscal environments.

As the level of government closest to the communities affected by the energy transition, councils offer valuable insights and local knowledge. These perspectives must be considered and prioritised in decisions made by other levels of government, to ensure the interests of local communities are adequately represented and protected.

Local governments are well-positioned to be partners in the energy transition, and the LGAQ supports a collaborative, multi-level governance approach to achieving Australia's net zero targets.

The LGAQ also supports the need for greater certainty and clearer approval processes to reduce costs and delays for energy projects. However, we caution that expedited processes must not compromise essential environmental, social, infrastructure, and cultural heritage considerations.

1.1 Recommendations

In total, the LGAQ has made 14 recommendations for consideration by the Productivity Commission in finalising the Interim Report. These are summarised below:

Recommendation 1: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government consults with local government and the broader waste management and resource recovery sector on any proposed changes to the Safeguard Mechanism that captures more landfills, to identify a suitable framework that recognises the differences between other industrial facilities and provides adequate support for local government in delivering essential services.

Recommendation 2: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government develops and implements a cost recovery mechanism for local governments to recoup costs associated with the higher road maintenance costs for heavier zero emission heavy vehicles.

Recommendation 3: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government accelerates reforms to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), in genuine consultation with the local government sector.

Recommendation 4: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government undertakes genuine consultation with local government as it develops the proposed national environmental standards in relation to regulatory decision for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), genuine consultation with the local government sector is undertaken.).

Recommendation 5: The LGAQ recommends the Federal and State governments work in partnership to ensure alignment and integration between existing bio-regional mapping and future regional planning processes.

Recommendation 6: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government consults with the LGAQ and local government, when developing pilot regional plans for renewable energy to test and refine the policy prior to broader implementation.

Recommendation 7: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government develops an effective nationally aligned EPBC Act offsets scheme in consultation with local government.

Recommendation 8: The LGAQ recommends that if the Federal Government implements a specialist 'strike team' for priority renewable energy projects, it must ensure that local government authority and capacity to represent their communities is not diminished.

Recommendation 9: The LGAQ recommends that if the Federal Government establishes a Coordinator-General for priority projects, it must ensure that local government authority and capacity to represent their communities under current State planning laws is not diminished.

Recommendation 10: The LGAQ recommends the State and Federal government, in consultation with local government, develops and implements solutions for managing renewable energy materials at end-of-life that support the principles of a circular economy and reduces the financial burden on local government.

Recommendation 11: The LGAQ recommends that if the Federal Government develops a national climate risk information database, it does so in collaboration with State and local governments to create a streamlined and cost-effective process for data exchange.

Recommendation 12: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government introduces funding and resourcing assistance to develop Climate Risk Management Strategies, undertake detailed risk assessments for priority risks and prepare and implement local government area wide action plans for the immediate, medium- and long-term protection and benefit of communities.

Recommendation 13: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government works in partnership with State and Territory governments to introduce statutory seller disclosure of natural hazard overlays where this is currently lacking.

Recommendation 14: The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government provides further funding for local governments to respond to the impacts of a changing climate. This should include resourcing to respond to any requirements imposed through federal adaptation policy, as well as to respond to any accountability measures overseen by the Climate Change Authority.

Please do not hesitate to contact Crystal Baker, Manager – Strategic Policy or Robert Chow, Lead, Resources and Energy Policy, should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

2.0 Introduction

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the PC on the Interim Report, released for consultation in August 2025.

Local government supports a whole-of-government approach to the energy transition and the targets set by Federal and State governments, as well as improving energy performance and security across all sectors.

The LGAQ understands the Federal Government is committed to a target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Recognising the significant investment and development of renewable energy projects across Queensland and with Queensland communities at the forefront of the renewable energy transition, the LGAQ and Queensland councils have a strong interest in ensuring Australia's net zero transformation is underpinned by a robust, contemporary and fit-for-purpose framework that supports streamlined renewable energy development and emissions reduction.

In recent years, the LGAQ on behalf of Queensland councils made multiple submissions to State and Federal governments on the energy and net zero transformation matters including the:

- *Draft 2023 Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap (September 2023),*
- *Draft State Code 23: Wind farm development and associated Planning Guidance (September 2023),*
- *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 (December 2023),*
- *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (May 2024),*
- Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia's Inquiry into Energy, food and water security in Northern Australia (January 2025)
- Draft Renewables Regulatory Framework Discussion Paper (February 2025).

Local governments are uniquely positioned to help address the challenges of energy transformation and emissions reduction. However, it is essential for State and Federal governments to provide local government with the necessary resources to support communities in planning for, and transitioning to, a net zero future - both locally and regionally.

Across Queensland, councils deliver a wide range of essential services and infrastructure that support the liveability of their communities. They do so while navigating significant financial pressure. The 2024 Queensland Audit Office report³ into local government financial sustainability, found that 48 out of Queensland's 77 councils are at moderate to high risk of not being financially sustainable.

This is further evidenced by research undertaken as part of the LGAQ's Cost Shifting Report⁴ which quantifies the impact of cost shifting by other levels of government on to councils and the communities in which they serve. This research found that local governments throughout Queensland are stepping in to provide extra services, outside of their core business, to ensure communities remain liveable.

As the level of government that is funded the least – earning around three cents in every dollar of taxation revenue compared to 80 cents for the Federal Government and almost 17 cents for

³ 2024 Queensland Audit Office report – available online [here](#).

⁴ LGAQ's Cost Shifting Report – available online [here](#).

the State Government – councils cannot continue to shoulder further cost and responsibility burdens from others.

This is why it is critical that any recommendations of the Interim Report, do not result in the loss of a council's ability to recoup costs associated with infrastructure or social impacts or to impose additional costs for councils adhering to new policies and legislation. Specific concerns have been identified in relation to the following:

- Lowering the Safeguard Mechanism threshold may capture local government managed landfill facilities, imposing additional regulatory burden
- Changes to federal adaptation policy, as well as the need to respond to any accountability measures overseen by the Climate Change Authority, may impose additional resource requirements
- Increased maintenance costs for the road network due to increased higher mass vehicles, without a suitable cost recovery mechanism.

In preparing this submission, the LGAQ consulted with a cross section of Queensland councils most impacted by the net zero transformation to ensure the views contained within reflect the practical experiences and concerns of local government.

2.1 LGAQ Policy Statement and Annual Conference resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member-driven advocacy and working with member councils to build stronger local governments and more resilient local communities.

The LGAQ Policy Statement⁵ is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland and provides several key policy positions of local government that are relevant to matters raised in the Interim Report. The relevant agreed policy positions of local government, as stated in the LGAQ Policy Statement, are included in **Attachment 1**.

In addition, 27 resolutions have been passed by Queensland councils at recent LGAQ Annual Conferences on matters relating to the energy transition and renewable energy developments occurring throughout Queensland's regions (refer **Attachment 2**).

⁵ LGAQ Policy Statement (2023) – available online [here](#).

3.0 LGAQ Response to the Interim Report

In preparing this submission, the LGAQ has considered the Interim Report's proposed recommendations with regard to the LGAQ Policy Statement, previous LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions and direct feedback provided by Queensland councils through consultation undertaken by the LGAQ in July and August 2025.

This submission is structured in line with the key headings in the Interim Report, with feedback provided as appropriate.

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to engage with the PC as the Interim Report progresses and remains committed to working together to ensure optimal outcomes are achieved, while considering the important role Queensland councils have in delivering essential services for their communities.

3.1 Reducing the cost of meeting emissions targets

3.1.1 Reducing emissions in the electricity sector after 2030

Draft recommendation 1.1 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal and State Government should prioritise introducing enduring, broad-based market settings in the electricity sector beyond 2030 and that the settings should:

- create nationally consistent incentives to ensure baseload production of energy is sufficient to meet current and future energy needs of all Queensland residents and businesses, considering all available technologies for lowest cost clean energy, irrespective of generation technology or jurisdiction
- embed investment incentives to ensure reliability and system security are maintained.

The LGAQ acknowledges the recommendation made by the PC for State and Federal governments to prioritise the introduction of broad-based market settings in the electricity sector beyond 2030.

Noting this recommendation largely sits outside of the local government remit, the LGAQ has only in principle feedback:

- Local government supports the need to create nationally consistent incentives to ensure baseload production of energy is sufficient to meet current and future energy needs of all Queensland residents and businesses, considering all available technologies
- Local government supports consistent incentives that support the lowest cost energy and to embed investment incentives to ensure reliability is maintained.

3.1.2 The Safeguard Mechanism should cover more industrial facilities and carbon leakage provisions should be improved

Draft recommendation 1.2 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should lower the Safeguard Mechanism threshold so that it covers more industrial facilities.

The LGAQ understands the Safeguard Mechanism currently applies to facilities that emit more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in a year. The LGAQ also acknowledges the intent of the recommendation made by the PC to lower the Safeguard Mechanism to 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, is to capture more industrial facilities.

While the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) acknowledges the Safeguard Mechanism applies to industrial facilities, including waste facilities⁶, decreasing the threshold as proposed within draft recommendation 1.2 of the Interim Report is likely to result in a number of local government landfill sites being captured, imposing additional regulatory burden on to councils and therefore ratepayers.

As noted within the *Safeguard Mechanism Reforms Factsheet* published by DCCEEW in May 2024, landfills have different coverage and baseline setting arrangements to other facilities⁷. Local governments collect waste and manage landfills as an essential service, protecting the public health and amenity of their communities.

Noting this, and the challenges experienced at a regional level to divert more materials from landfill, it would not be appropriate to impose the same requirements on local government landfills as other industrial facilities.

It is important for local government and the broader waste and resource recovery sector to be involved in consultation on any future revisions of the Safeguard Mechanism, to identify a suitable framework that meets the intent, whilst avoiding an increase in regulatory burden for the management of landfills.

- **Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government consults with local government and the broader waste management and resource recovery sector on any proposed changes to the Safeguard Mechanism that captures more landfills, to identify a suitable framework that recognises the differences between other industrial facilities and provides adequate support for local government in delivering essential services.

3.1.3 Introduce an emissions-reduction incentive for heavy vehicles and phase-out policy overlaps for light vehicles

Draft recommendation 1.3 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should introduce a new emission reduction incentive to cover heavy vehicles and to phase out the exemption of electric vehicles from the Fringe Benefits Tax.

Overall, the LGAQ supports the need for greater consistency in incentives and policy settings that promote emission reduction and agrees that phasing out of overlapping policies will help establish a more coherent and effective framework based on best practice.

However, it is important to note that councils manage approximately 80 per cent of Queensland's road network. For the heavy vehicle industry, a key consideration when transitioning to low or zero-emission vehicles is access to that network. If access is more restricted for electric or hydrogen-powered heavy vehicles compared to traditional diesel fleets, industry uptake will be limited.

A growing challenge in this transition is the increasing mass and dimensions of zero-emission heavy vehicles, such as electric trucks. These vehicles tend to be heavier and wider than their diesel counterparts, which currently enjoy broader access across the road network. As a result, electric trucks often face limitations in road access, creating a disincentive for fleet conversion.

⁶ [Safeguard Mechanism - DCCEEW](#)

⁷ [Safeguard Mechanism Reforms Factsheet](#)

The 2023 report 'Potholes & Pitfalls: how to fix local roads'⁸, developed by the Grattan Institute highlighted the unfair challenge councils are faced with; the expectation to provide heavy vehicle access and maintain key freight routes, without compensation.

With local governments already struggling to recover costs associated with freight access, it is imperative that a funding mechanism be introduced to address infrastructure degradation caused by heavier vehicles.

While changes to vehicle mass and dimensions may be incremental, their cumulative impact on local infrastructure must be acknowledged and addressed to ensure sustainable freight access into the future.

- **Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government develops and implements a cost recovery mechanism for local governments to recoup costs associated with the higher road maintenance costs for heavier zero emission heavy vehicles.

3.1.4 Apply frameworks to achieve emissions targets at least cost and transparency

Noting this recommendation is not specifically within the local government remit, the LGAQ has no further feedback to provide.

3.2 Speeding up approvals for new energy infrastructure

3.2.1 Reform national environment laws

Draft recommendation 2.1 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should reform environment laws to expedite approvals for clean energy projects and better protect the environment, including reforms to:

- introduce national environmental standards
- facilitate regional planning, particularly within renewable energy zones, with stricter statutory deadlines for assessing projects in 'go zones'
- provide accessible, high-quality information about the environment and past assessment decisions
- make offsetting arrangements more efficient, such as by enabling developers to meet their offset obligations by contributing to an Australian Government offsets fund, and
- set clear expectations about engagement with local communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Introduce national environmental standards

The LGAQ supports the recommendation for the Federal Government to accelerate reforms to the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), in accordance with the recommendations of the 2020 EPBC review by Professor Graeme Samuel.

In relation to the EPBC Act, Queensland councils have identified issues regarding:

- a lack of transparency and communication with council where changes to protected matters occur,
- uncertainty regarding when referral processes are required, and

⁸ The 2023 report 'Potholes & Pitfalls: how to fix local roads' – is available online [here](#)

- limitations with the 'advanced credits' approach that does not recognise local governments' previous environmental protection efforts, including conservation acquisitions and revegetation.

At the 2023 LGAQ Annual Conference, Queensland councils passed Resolution #72 calling on the Federal Government to amend the EPBC Act referral process to provide local government with greater clarity around the application of the EPBC Act, and to provide retroactive recognition for previous environmental protection efforts, including conservation acquisitions and revegetation as part of advanced offset recognition.

In providing feedback to the Federal Government to inform discussions at the Economic Reform Roundtable recently held in August 2025, the LGAQ consolidated these issues and welcomes the Federal Government's commitment out of the Roundtable, to accelerate EPBC Act reforms.

The LGAQ understands the development of national standards would allow State governments to update and enact bilateral approval agreements under the EPBC Act, to delegate State Government to make the final decision about whether to approve a project under the EPBC Act in a nationally consistent approach to expedite decisions. National standards would need to recognise Australia's vast landscapes and existing jurisdictional frameworks and not dilute existing requirements for consultation with local government and local communities.

Outcomes-based conditions of approvals may allow proponents to develop more fit-for-purpose management plans and alleviate approval delays, however, it is suggested that conditions should specify a requirement for proponents to work collaboratively with local government and community stakeholders when developing site-specific mitigation action plans.

- **Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government accelerates reforms to the EPBC Act, in genuine consultation with the local government sector.
- **Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government undertakes genuine consultation with local government as it develops the proposed national environmental standards in relation to regulatory decision for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

Facilitate regional planning, particularly within renewable energy zones, with stricter statutory deadlines for assessing projects in 'go zones'

In the context of Queensland, 'regional planning' refers to the statutory planning processes undertaken by the State Government to develop regional (land use) plans under the *Planning Act 2016* in consultation with affected local governments.

As such, Queensland's State Government is referring to this process as 'bioregional planning' that aims to provide greater certainty for industry and better environmental outcomes through improved information, strategic planning, and guidance to support assessment under the EPBC Act.

Currently in Queensland, the State Government has commenced three bioregional planning pilots, with a view towards delivering the plans by mid-2026 and having these plans approved by the Federal Government under section 176 of the EPBC Act. The three pilot locations include:

- Urban development in Potential Future Growth Areas (PFGAs) in south-eastern Queensland.
- Wind farm developments in the Collinsville area in northern Queensland.
- Mineral mining in the Julia Creek and Richmond area in north-western Queensland.

Regional planning under the EPBC Act for 'go / no go zones' has the potential to streamline assessment and to assess cumulative impacts. However, mapping of these areas should not automatically exempt proponents from an environmental approval process in 'go zones'. The LGAQ considers site-specific assessment and consultation a necessary requirement for each proposed development, however, agrees that the level of detail may vary based on regional mapping outcomes.

In Queensland, the State Government has already begun a trial of bio-regional mapping. The LGAQ suggests that mapping of a 'go / no go development layer' should be applied to the existing project instead of creating separate additional mapping which may complicate and confuse stakeholders.

- **Recommendation 5:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal and State governments work in partnership to ensure alignment and integration between existing bio-regional mapping and future regional planning processes.
- **Recommendation 6:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government consults with the LGAQ and local government, when developing pilot regional plans for renewable energy to test and refine the policy prior to broader implementation.

Make offsetting arrangements more efficient

Consistent with the LGAQ Policy Statement, Queensland councils seek the following in relation to offsetting arrangements:

- reinstatement of a local government's right to seek offsets for matters of local environmental significance that are largely the same as matters of national or state environmental significance, in geographical areas where the State and Federal governments have determined they do not require offsets, and
- stronger alignment and less duplication in mapping advice and direction between Matters of National, State and Local Environmental Significance (MNES, MSES, MLES), including consolidated species distribution and habitat mapping for threatened species and ecological communities; consistency between recovery actions under the EPBC Act, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld); and availability of species-based data for incorporation into local government planning systems where appropriate.

The LGAQ understands that many proponents of other developments already struggle to find like-for-like biodiversity credits due to a lack of supply, this may impact the feasibility of the interim report recommendation to enable developers to meet their offset obligations by contributing to a Federal Government offsets fund instead of delivering direct offsets.

- **Recommendation 7:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government develops an effective nationally aligned EPBC Act offsets scheme in consultation with local government.

3.2.2 Set up a specialist 'strike team' for priority projects

Draft recommendation 2.2 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should set up a strike team focused on renewable energy projects and that the strike team should:

- be adequately resourced to ensure all priority projects can be efficiently assessed under the EPBC Act
- integrate environmental and clean energy expertise
- be issued with clear expectations, tools and escalation procedures
- work with state and territory counterparts to reduce duplication and share information and expertise.

The LGAQ acknowledges the PC's draft recommendation 2.2 for the Federal Government to establish a specialist 'strike team' for priority projects, noting this team would specialise in clean energy projects to provide enhanced advice and address potential barriers in adhering to the EPBC Act.

The LGAQ understands that the strike team's focus would be on streamlining environmental assessments under the EPBC Act for renewable energy projects and improve guidance to proponents. This would offer expertise in clean energy and clearer requirements for project approvals.

Overall, the LGAQ supports the need for improved clarity around the roles and responsibilities under the EPBC Act and supports the recommendation to work with State and Territory governments to reduce duplication and share information and expertise.

A potential barrier to efficient approval processes for renewable energy developments is the complexity of the overall assessment process and understanding of social, infrastructure and environmental impacts vital for achieving optimal outcomes for industry and communities.

A specialist 'strike team' could enhance the efficiency of the end-to-end approval process by providing clearer guidance on the relevant legislation, standards and requirements.

It is important to note that Queensland has well-defined planning requirements under the *Planning Act* and the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025*. These laws position local governments as key decision makers in ensuring social and cumulative impacts are identified through Social Impact Assessments and that these impacts are managed via development approvals, infrastructure agreements, community benefits agreements or other planning approval mechanisms.

Therefore, the LGAQ would only support the implementation of a strike team if its powers did not diminish or override local governments in managing community impacts of energy projects through existing planning and approval frameworks.

- **Recommendation 8:** The LGAQ recommends that if the Federal Government implements a specialist 'strike team' for priority renewable energy projects, it must ensure that local government authority and capacity to represent their communities is not diminished.

3.2.3 Establish a Coordinator-General for priority projects

Draft recommendation 2.3 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should establish an independent Clean Energy Coordinator General for priority renewable energy projects. The Coordinator General should:

- track the progress of all approvals needed to start construction
- investigate and help resolve delays
- report on progress to the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council
- provide advice based on objective criteria about the composition of the National Renewable Energy Priority List.

The LGAQ acknowledges the PC's draft recommendation 2.3 to establish a Federal Coordinator-General for priority projects and recognises the importance of efficient and consistent approvals. For matters relating to the EPBC Act, a Federal Coordinator-General for priority projects could play a valuable role in removing barriers to environmental approvals.

However, as noted in 3.2.2, Queensland has well-established planning legislation and a State Coordinator-General for priority projects. While Federal Government could support streamlined approvals under the EPBC Act and help address approval barriers, it is essential that State and Federal governments work collaboratively to avoid duplication of effort.

There would be further benefit if the State and Federal governments undertook a review of the current EPBC Act approval processes to provide greater clarity of requirements and the roles and responsibilities for energy proponents.

The LGAQ also supports the idea of incentivising a proponent's rating under the developer rating scheme currently being developed, as well as investments in improving transparency and guidance for all parties involved in approving energy projects, as this will streamline and expedite the end-to-end process.

Importantly, the LGAQ would not support the implementation of a Federal Coordinator-General if its powers diminish local governments in managing the community impacts of an energy's projects. This includes responsibilities under planning approvals, infrastructure agreements and the community benefits framework.

- **Recommendation 9:** The LGAQ recommends that if the Federal Government establishes a Coordinator-General for priority projects, it must ensure that local government authority and capacity to represent their communities under current State planning laws is not diminished.

3.2.4 Consider the energy transition in approval decisions

Draft recommendation 2.4 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the EPBC Act should be amended to require the Minister to consider the needs of the energy transition when deciding whether to approve an energy project that will have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

The LGAQ acknowledges the PC's draft recommendation 2.4 to amend the EPBC Act to require the Minister to consider the needs of the energy transition when deciding whether to approve an energy project that will have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

While the energy transition is a national priority, the EPBC Act's core purpose is to safeguard Australia's most important environmental values. Introducing exemptions or preferential considerations for specific industries risks undermining the integrity of the legislation and sets a concerning precedent.

There are many positive policy mechanisms available to accelerate Australia's energy transition that do not require changes to foundational environmental legislation. These should be

prioritised to maintain strong environmental protections while supporting innovation and investment.

One critical environmental consideration not addressed in the Interim Report is the end-of-life management of materials from renewable energy infrastructure. Feedback sought from Queensland councils throughout consultation on the *Draft new Queensland Waste Strategy 2025-2030*⁹, identified the need for strong long-term action that addresses the challenges of managing new and emerging materials from large-scale renewable energy projects.

A resolution made at the 2023 LGAQ Annual Conference calls on the State and Federal governments to develop solutions for the disposal of solar panels, to shift the burden of managing these materials at end-of-life from local government.

With various emerging waste streams, local government must be supported through the appropriate governance frameworks that ensure extended producer responsibility in managing materials throughout their lifecycle. In considering actions toward achieving emissions targets, State and Federal governments must also demonstrate strong leadership in implementing product stewardship schemes for the management of waste streams that are generated from renewable energy projects, that support the principles of a circular economy and reduces the financial burden on local government.

- **Recommendation 10:** The LGAQ recommends the State and Federal government, in consultation with local government, develops and implements solutions for managing renewable energy materials at end-of-life that support the principles of a circular economy and reduce the financial burden on local government.

3.3 Addressing barriers to private investment in adaptation

3.3.1 Set up a climate risk information database covering all climate hazards

Draft recommendation 3.1 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should coordinate with relevant Federal, State and Territory organisations to support development of a central climate-risk information database to cover all climate hazards in different parts of Australia and that the database should enable the public, developers, insurers, government planners and policymakers to get granular and accessible climate risk information.

Consistent with the LGAQ Policy Statement, local government seeks timely access to high quality, nationally consistent but locally appropriate data, methodologies, standards and codes from the Federal and State governments to ensure responses to climate risk are safe, timely, proportionate and equitable.

As such, the LGAQ supports the recommendation for Federal, State and Territory governments to support the development of a central climate-risk information database, noting the following considerations:

- When developing a centralised information database, a streamlined process would enable local government to be more time responsive in reflecting the most-up-to-date information to local communities,
- Automated information sharing is required to ensure information remains current and does not impose additional administrative burden on councils, and
- Ongoing and increased levels of investment and funding are needed to support all levels of government in

⁹ [Draft new Queensland Waste Strategy 2025-2030](#)

- **Recommendation 11:** The LGAQ recommends that if the Federal Government develops a national climate risk information database, it does so in collaboration with State and local governments to create a streamlined and cost-effective process for data exchange.
- **Recommendation 12:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government introduces funding and resourcing assistance to develop Climate Risk Management Strategies, undertake detailed risk assessments for priority risks and prepare and implement local government area wide action plans for the immediate, medium- and long-term protection and benefit of communities.

3.3.2 Develop a nationally consistent climate resilience rating system for housing

Draft recommendation 3.3 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should lead development of a nationally consistent climate resilience star rating system for housing.

- The rating system should be outcome-based, with ratings reflecting potential damages from climate hazards. Ratings should account for location-specific climate hazards and the characteristics of a property.
- The rating system should be complemented by supporting material so that households, builders and insurers can easily identify upgrades that would improve a property's resilience.
- Development of the rating system and supporting material should build on work undertaken in this area and learn lessons from the development of the world-leading Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme.

The LGAQ does not have a formal position on climate resilience rating systems for housing specifically, however, more broadly, Queensland councils are invested in ensuring prospective homebuyers have the best available information to help them make informed decisions.

The LGAQ, on behalf of Queensland councils, has been a strong supporter of a statutory seller disclosure of natural hazard overlays. Unlike in other jurisdictions, when selling property in Queensland, there is no obligation for a seller to disclose any natural hazard overlays (such as flood and bushfire mapping) which may apply to a property. The continuation of Queensland's 'buyer beware' scheme, continues to expose Queenslanders to avoidable risks.

Developing a 'climate resilience rating system for housing', without first nationalising statutory seller disclosure of natural hazard overlays, may present challenges – as each state and territory is at differing levels of maturity. As such, before developing a nationally consistent climate resilience rating system for housing, the LGAQ recommends the Federal Government compel state and territory governments to introduce statutory seller disclosure of natural hazard overlays.

- **Recommendation 13:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government works in partnership with State and Territory governments to introduce statutory seller disclosure of natural hazard overlays where this is currently lacking.

3.3.3 Governments should agree on a series of actions to improve housing resilience over time

Draft recommendation 3.3 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should lead work with State and local governments to agree on a series of actions

that will improve the resilience of our housing stock over the coming decades. Older housing in high-risk areas will need the greatest focus.

- This work should be anchored around time-specific and outcome-based goals for household-level resilience, taking into account climate damages and the effects of heat. The goals will form the basis for a shared understanding of how agreed actions will improve resilience.
- Actions should only be taken where benefits exceed costs based on high quality impact assessments. They should be staged in line with the expected pace of climate change and coordinated with public investment to achieve measurable improvements in precinct resilience.

Queensland councils, and the LGAQ, have advocated for several actions to improve housing resilience over time. These include:

1. The introduction of a statutory seller disclosure system, as discussed above,
2. Allowing councils to prohibit development or certain types of development in areas subject to intolerable risks,
3. The development of standard development assessment codes (such as for development in flood hazard areas),
4. Streamlined processes to update natural hazard mapping, and
5. Greater transparency, availability and affordability of insurance premiums.

While the LGAQ and Queensland councils support these actions to improve housing resilience over time, the LGAQ cannot comment on a 'series of actions' without first understanding what these actions might be.

3.3.4 Give the Climate Change Authority responsibility for monitoring, evaluation and learning regarding adaptation policy

Draft recommendation 3.4 contained in the Interim Report proposes that the Federal Government should legislate for the Climate Change Authority to take responsibility for monitoring, evaluating and learning to inform governments and the public about progress in adapting to climate change, and whether policies are effective.

The LGAQ acknowledges that accountability mechanisms can be important for identifying and implementing effective ways to adapt to climate change. While legislating the Climate Change Authority (CCA) to monitor adaptation policy is a means to increase accountability, it is also important to recognise that local governments may not be appropriately resourced to respond to additional accountability requirements. An example of this is Queensland council's response to climate sustainability reporting.

In recent years, global and national momentum towards mandatory sustainability reporting has increased with Australia's new internationally aligned mandatory climate-related reporting regime, (*the Treasury Laws Amendment - Financial Market Infrastructure and Other Measures Bill 2024*) being introduced to Parliament in early 2024. The Bill provides for a phased introduction of climate sustainability reporting obligations, and currently, Queensland local governments are not required to lodge sustainability reports. However, as the policy framework for Queensland is still being formulated, this reporting obligation may change.

As new reporting obligations are likely to require a significant amount of work which councils are not resourced for, Queensland councils have called for a voluntary approach to the adoption of climate sustainability reporting alongside guidelines and resources for councils who do wish

to report. The LGAQ therefore opposes any additional accountability requirements on local governments if adequate support is not available to engage with and meet these requirements.

Furthermore, the LGAQ echoes the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)'s federal funding ask for a climate adaptation fund for Australian councils.¹⁰ For Queensland councils, federal funding can bolster and extend existing programs, such as the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (QCRC) program that seeks to embedding climate-risk considerations into core business processes for local governments.

- **Recommendation 14:** The LGAQ recommends the Federal Government provides further funding for local governments to respond to the impacts of a changing climate. This should include resourcing to respond to any requirements imposed through federal adaptation policy, as well as to respond to any accountability measures overseen by the Climate Change Authority.

4.0 Conclusion

Overall, the LGAQ appreciates the need to review and streamline current policies, legislation and approvals processes to support the Australian Government's emissions reduction targets and the broader net zero transformation. We thank the PC for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Interim Report.

Local government has a strong interest in ensuring Australia's net zero transformation is underpinned by a robust, contemporary and fit-for-purpose framework that supports streamlined renewable energy development and emissions reduction.

Local governments are well placed to be delivery partners alongside State and Federal governments and can play a critical role in supporting the strategies and policies required to meet national emissions targets.

However, it is essential that local governments are meaningfully engaged in this process to ensure that project approvals do not adversely impact local communities or impose additional cost burdens on councils, particularly where there is no mechanism for cost recovery.

¹⁰ <https://alga.com.au/climate-adaptation-fund-to-future-proof-communities/>

Attachment 1: LGAQ Policy Statement

The LGAQ Policy Statement¹¹ is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland. The relevant policy positions of local government in the context of the PC's Interim Report are as follows:

3.5 Climate Risk Management

3.5.1 Role of local government

3.5.1.1 Local government is committed to providing a leadership role to assist local communities, including industry, to understand and address climate risk including acute and chronic physical risks and transition risks associated with moving to a low carbon economy.

3.5.1.2 Local government is committed to working in partnership with all spheres of government, industry and the community to develop and implement effective climate risk management strategies focusing on emissions reduction and adaptation.

3.5.1.3 Local government is committed to utilising the best available scientific information, robust risk assessment methodologies and community engagement when developing climate risk management strategies and action plans, establishing priorities and the allocation of resources.

3.5.2 Empowering local government and communities to take climate risk management action

3.5.2.1 Local government seeks appropriate policy and legislative frameworks from the Federal and State governments to allow necessary decision making and responses to climate risk to occur without prejudice or undue risk exposure to councils.

3.5.2.2 Local government seeks timely access to high quality, nationally consistent but locally appropriate data, methodologies, standards and codes from the Federal and State governments to ensure responses to climate risk are safe, timely, proportionate and equitable.

3.5.2.3 Local government urgently seeks appropriate levels of funding and resourcing assistance to develop Climate Risk Management Strategies, undertake detailed risk assessments for priority risks and prepare and implement local government area wide action plans for the immediate, medium- and long-term protection and benefit of communities.

5.1 Environment Protection

5.1.5 Energy Use

5.1.5.1 Local government supports a whole of government approach to improving energy performance across all sectors and greater recognition of local governments' powers and capabilities in delivering improved energy use performance through access to appropriate programs and incentives.

5.1.5.2 Local government supports State Government provision of accessible and relevant information on energy use management.

5.1.5.3 Local government supports effective and consistent standards and regulations where necessary for cleaner and more efficient energy use management.

¹¹ [LGAQ Policy Statement \(October 2023\)](#)

5.1.5.4 Local government supports whole of government support for regional implementation of energy use management initiatives including capacity building programs, incentives schemes, regional strategies for land use planning and transport.

5.3 Natural Asset Management

5.3.8 Biodiversity

5.3.8.1 Local government seeks funding to assist the Queensland Government in the delivery of the Conserving Nature – a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

5.3.8.2 Local government seeks to work cooperatively with Federal and State governments to protect biodiversity values and threatened species in Queensland.

5.3.8.3 Local government seeks funding to implement recovery plans and on-ground actions to conserve species and communities listed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

5.3.8.4 Local government seeks the reinstatement of a local government's right to seek offsets for matters of local environmental significance that are largely the same as matters of national or state environmental significance in geographical areas where the State and Federal governments have determined they do not require offsets.

5.3.8.5 Local government seeks stronger alignment and less duplication in mapping advice and direction between Matters of National, State and Local Environmental Significance (MNES, MSES, MLES) including consolidated species distribution and habitat mapping for threatened species and ecological communities; consistency between recovery actions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; and availability of species-based data for incorporation into local government planning systems where appropriate.

5.3.8.6 Local government supports the use of proactive fire management regimes, including traditional burning, to protect biodiversity, as well as life and property.

5.4 Waste Management

5.4.5 Extended Producer Responsibility

5.4.5.1 Local government strongly supports the principle and introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility.

5.4.5.2 The State and Federal governments should establish the necessary policy and legislative frameworks for the effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility.

8.6 Infrastructure

8.6.1 Resource and Mineral Extraction

8.6.1.2 Local government, as an equal government partner in resource communities planning, requires early and comprehensive engagement in resource tenure approval processes to allow sufficient time to plan for impacts associated with the commencement or upgrading of a resource project.

8.6.1.3 Local government seeks equity and consistency across both resource and renewable sector projects.

8.6.1.4 Local government seeks that the State Government mandates the requirement for a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) based on the actual and/or potential impact of a resource project on local communities and not just on

whether the project has been the subject of an Environmental Impact statement (EIS) process.

8.6.1.6 Local government is opposed to 100% FIFO/DIDO/BIBO developments in established resource communities for the following reasons:

1. It discriminates against all Queensland workers outside of identified FIFO hubs for employment opportunities;
2. It negatively impacts the social cohesion of local communities; and
3. It diminishes the transfer of economic benefits to local and regional communities.

8.7 Energy

8.7.1 Local government supports the development of an integrated renewable energy strategy for Queensland by the State Government, in genuine consultation with Queensland councils.

8.7.2 Local governments should seek partnerships with electricity authorities to promote the use of environmentally friendly equipment and practices in line with ecologically sustainable objectives including alternative energy sources and off-grid or micro-grid technologies.

8.8 Economic Development

8.8.4 Local Government facilitates partnerships between government, industry, universities, and the community, with particular focus on technology commercialisation and emerging industry sectors. Local government recommends all government agencies have a whole of government approach and engage local councils on local projects in the early stages of interest to deliver the best possible outcomes for research translation and commercialisation to benefit the local economy.

8.8.5 Local government is a legitimate partner with State and Federal governments in facilitating sustainable economic and regional development. Local government does this through its role as purchaser, property owner/developer, regional leader, infrastructure provider, economic policy and community advocate, regulator and business development facilitator.

8.8.6 Local governments are frequently engaged in development projects in their communities and are suppliers of the infrastructure needed to ensure their success. State and Federal governments should engage with local governments on any proposed real estate development projects those levels of government initiate, and research the impacts of these projects (both positive and negative) on local communities and the local governments in the impacted region/s.

8.8.7 Where State Government departments are considering major developments in local government areas, the Coordinator-General may be directed by the state government to act as liaison in the first instance between the relevant department(s) and local government(s), in accordance with the Partners in Government Agreement between the State and local government. The use by State Government of major project status provisions of planning legislation should be consistent with the economic development objectives of local and regional areas.

8.8.9 Local government and their economic development teams should be consulted when developing state-wide infrastructure and regional planning and development.

8.9 Regional Development

8.9.1 Regional Queensland underpins the State's economy through a diverse industry base including agriculture, resources and tourism and seeks to be supported by appropriate levels of service and infrastructure.

8.9.2 All spheres of government must work collaboratively in the early stages of developing and subsequent implementation of policies and plans that impact on the social, environmental and economic growth of regional Queensland, such as the Queensland Plan, the Northern Australia White Paper and the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

8.9.3 The decision-making processes of State and Federal governments must be underpinned by the preparation of Regional Impact Assessment statements prepared independent of government, allowing reasonable time for regional consultation and made available for public scrutiny.

8.9.4 Development and investment in regional Queensland will occur through coordinated programs by Federal, State and local governments. Private sector investment in facilities and infrastructure in regional Queensland is crucial and should be encouraged by all spheres of government.

Attachment 2: LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member driven advocacy and working with members to build stronger local government and more resilient local communities. In the context of the PC Interim Report the following LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions passed by Queensland councils, are relevant.

Resolution 94 (2024): Improved engagement on large-scale renewable energy developments

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to improve regulation for large-scale renewable energy projects by developing a communication and engagement protocol (Code of Practice) to ensure renewable energy projects, including transmission projects, are planned, approved and constructed considering key social, environmental and economic regional considerations in proactive collaboration with all affected councils.

Resolution 93 (2024): Improved regulation for large-scale renewable energy developments

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to improve regulation for large-scale renewable energy projects by:

- *Developing State Codes within the State Development Assessment Provisions for the assessment of large-scale renewable energy projects by the State Assessment and Referral Agency; and*
- *Establishing public notification and council referral requirements for all large-scale renewable energy projects for all affected councils.*

Resolution 92 (2024): Future energy provision in Queensland

That the LGAQ calls on the State and Federal government to ensure baseload production of energy is sufficient to meet current and future energy needs of all Queensland residents and businesses, considering all available technologies.

Resolution 65 (2024): Introduction of climate sustainability reporting by councils

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

- *Implement a voluntary approach to the adoption of climate sustainability reporting by councils; and*
- *Provide appropriate guidelines and resources to assist those councils which do wish to proceed with climate sustainability reporting.*

Resolution 62 (2024): Funded positions in councils to manage large-scale renewable and resource developments

That the LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to fund positions in councils to manage the impact of large-scale renewable, critical minerals, mining and energy projects.

Resolution 136 (2023): Transition Fund for Renewable Infrastructure

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to establish a dedicated fund to invest in critical infrastructure and to support the workforce sectors needed to enable the transitioning energy sector.

Resolution 135 (2023): Supporting the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to support the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions through targeted operational and capital grants programs for councils to:

- *Establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories (including mapping and annual emissions tracking) and corporate emissions reduction plans; and*
- *Invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses, including dedicated council staff, that support identified emissions reduction priorities and climate mitigation strategies.*

Resolution 133 (2023): Renewable Energy Project Contributions and Engagement with Local Communities

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to introduce legislation and policy which requires proponents of renewable projects to make a 'local benefit' contribution to regional communities by implementing the following measures:

- *Have a mandatory notification process to local government for all renewable energy projects occurring within their region.*
- *Have meaningful engagement with local government, community, and local leaders.*
- *Have a community contribution fee, based on capacity, for all renewable projects to support better community outcomes.*
- *Provide access to Renewable Project Decommission Bonds, or local government hold these in trust, in order to protect prime agricultural land and support better decommissioning at an acceptable standard for community.*

Resolution 85 (2023): Disposal of solar panels

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal Governments to develop solutions for the disposal of solar panels, possibly including:

1. *reclamation, recycling, and implementation of a levy mechanism for solar panels to ensure better waste disposal; and*
2. *exploring manufacturers' liability for the photovoltaic (PV) panels to encourage sustainable management; and*
3. *working with State Government to legislate industry wide solutions.*

Resolution 78 (2023): Continuation of the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (Q CRC) Program and Associated Initiatives

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

1. *Extend the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (Q CRC) program and services for three years with increased funding.*
2. *Provide targeted operational and capital grants programs to enable councils to build climate resilience through local implementation of the Climate Risk Management Framework for Queensland Local Government and their associated Climate Risk Management Plans.*

Resolution 72 (2023): A fairer approach to the application of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The LGAQ calls on the Federal Government to amend the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 referral process to:

- *provide local government with greater clarity around the application of the EPBC Act, and*
- *provide retroactive recognition for previous environmental protection efforts, including conservation acquisitions and revegetation as part of advanced offset recognition.*

Resolution 64 (2023): Solar Farm Projects and Neighbouring Properties

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to require solar farm project proponents to enter into make-good agreements with immediate and impacted neighbouring properties, prior to the submission of the development application to council.

Resolution 63 (2023): State Government support for local governments assessing solar farm applications.

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to provide support to local governments assessing solar farm applications.

Resolution 62 (2023): Renewable Energy Community Contribution Fee

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

- *Regulate for proponents to be held accountable to the Clean Energy Council best practice charter for renewable energy projects; and*
- *Seek a community contribution fee of \$1000 per annum per megawatt of a renewable project site, with 50 per cent of these funds paid directly to the local government hosting the site to enable the construction, maintenance, and operational management of local community-owned infrastructure projects.*

Resolution 60 (2023): Road Infrastructure Renewable Energy Projects

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to require - through its State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) planning authority for renewable energy projects - that neighbouring councils with road infrastructure critical to the delivery of these projects are engaged and that appropriate road infrastructure agreements are made prior to the commencement of construction.

Resolution 59 (2023): Community Consultation for Renewable Projects

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to amend the Planning Act 2016 to enable submitter appeal rights for renewable energy projects such as solar farms and wind farms.

Resolution 78 (2022): Renewable Energy Project Contributions and Engagement with Local Communities

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to introduce legislation and policy which requires proponents of renewable projects to make a 'local benefit' contribution to regional communities by implementing the following measures:

- *Have a mandatory notification process to local government for all renewable energy projects occurring within their region.*
- *Have meaningful engagement with local government, community, and local leaders.*
- *Have a community contribution fee, based on capacity, for all renewable projects to support better community outcomes.*
- *Provide access to Renewable Project Decommission Bonds, or local government hold these in trust, in order to protect prime agricultural land and support better decommissioning at an acceptable standard for community.*

Resolution 75 (2022): Establishment of a Contemporary Framework for Resource, Renewables and Clean Energy Sector

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

1. *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.*

2. *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.*
3. *Work with local government to develop a Contemporary Integrated Social Impact Assessment Framework for closure of resource, renewable and clean energy projects with outcomes focused on sustainable communities;*
4. *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.*

Resolution 74 (2022): Resourcing State Regulators of Major Resource and Renewable Projects

The LGAQ calls on the State Government for investment to adequately resource State Regulators of Major Resource and Renewable Projects (including the Office of the Coordinator General, Department of Environment and Science and Department of Resources) to enable both upfront education and assessment processes and understanding of social impacts vital for achieving optimal outcomes for industry and communities in the facilitation of projects by:

- *Delivery of improved education and understanding of current legislation, standards, principles and guidelines administered by State agencies.*
- *Compliance and monitoring by State Government Agencies on delivery of Major Resource and Renewable Project commitments, conditions, and improved engagement with community to satisfy conditioning and project commitment deliverables.*
- *Improved engagement standards on mining lease permit processes outside of EIS assessment criteria are captured and transparently communicated to communities hosting these projects.*

Resolution 73 (2022): The Need for a Regional Transformation Authority

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to establish a Regional Transformation Authority with statutory powers inclusive of local governments, to:

- *Respond to changing supply and demand for fossil-fuel.*
- *Develop regional plans and coordinate a sustainable transformation, principally for Queensland's coal mining regions, but also for all Local Government Areas supplying to or reliant on the economic output of coal mining, as well as heavily coal reliant industrial regions, like the Bowen Basin, and ensure all planning supports the ongoing and sustainable diversification of the resources sectors.*

Resolution 72 (2022): Councils Right of First Refusal for Infrastructure Projects in Their Regions

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to implement a process to map all planned infrastructure investment in Indigenous communities in Queensland and offer a right of first refusal to tender for these projects to the local Indigenous Councils to deliver those works themselves and through local businesses.

Resolution 51 (2022): Local Governments' Transition to Net Zero Emissions

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to support Queensland local governments' transition to net zero emissions through the provision of targeted operational and capital grants programs that address local emissions reduction priorities.

Resolution 50 (2022): Supporting Communities Plan for Transition to a Lower Carbon Future

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to provide local governments with resourcing to support communities in planning for transition to a lower carbon future, both on a local government area and regional basis.

Resolution 23 (2022): All Councils in Queensland are Net Producers of Energy by 2035

The LGAQ calls on the State Government (through Queensland Treasury Corporation - QTC) to provide sufficient funds to each council to invest in renewable energy technologies that would see them become net producers of energy, substantially reduce operating costs, allowing for reinvestment of savings in new infrastructure or offsetting rate payer charges and drive down harmful emissions.

Resolution 43 (2021): Development of an Integrated Renewable Energy Strategy for Queensland

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to take the lead in planning how and where renewable energy projects are developed through the development of an integrated renewable energy strategy for Queensland.

Resolution 36 (2021): Strategic Management Framework for Carbon Farming in Queensland

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to work with local governments and other relevant stakeholders to:

Develop a strategic management framework for the emerging carbon farming industry in Queensland that supports (at a minimum):

- *a balanced approach to growing the industry, whilst protecting important agricultural areas across Queensland's regions;*
- *best practice by landholders through awareness of Federal, State and local government legislative requirements (e.g. under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and council planning schemes);*
- *an adaptive approach to managing the cumulative and social impacts of multiple projects within communities;*
- *improved communication and transparency whereby local governments are formally notified of carbon farming projects proposed within their local government area.*

Resolution 35 (2021): Capacity Building for the Procurement of Low Emissions Products and Services

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to develop:

1. *A targeted, long-term capacity building program for Queensland businesses, particularly suppliers to government, to support their transition to low emissions products and services, and*
2. *Guidance and capacity building for local governments to advance their emissions reduction goals through procurement.*