



25 November 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed National Energy Transition Authority Bill 2022. Queensland Conservation Council is the peak environment body in Queensland and has been supporting communities to protect our unique natural environment since 1969.

We strongly support regional transition authorities to ensure that the rapid transition to renewable energy which will achieve a safe climate future protects and enhances the environment and communities around Queensland.

Queensland's ecosystems are extremely diverse from our Wet Tropics World Heritage Area to open floodplains in the Channel Country and outback desert regions. The communities that live around Queensland are as diverse, from industry focused areas such as Gladstone, to coal mining communities in central Queensland, agricultural based industries in the Darling Downs and tourism and nature focused communities in Far North Queensland.

We would like to draw attention to the excellent work The Next Economy has done in Queensland to understand the needs of Queenslanders, presented in their report [What Regions Need on the Path to Net Zero](#). Their work has uncovered strong support from industry and community for the establishment of a transition authority. It is important that any transition authority is an **independent statutory authority**, with transparent and legislated powers.

It is important that a transition authority takes a **regional economic development approach**. The needs of a region with an established energy industry, such as Gladstone, and central Queensland, will be different from a region with a less developed energy industry but good renewable resources, such as Far North Queensland, and different again from the North West region with existing mining and huge potential to expand critical mineral mining.

A transition authority should help regions and Australia manage the risks and take advantage of many economic opportunities emerging. While enabling energy exports through infrastructure planning and water management is critical, a transition authority should take a wider regional approach to identify ways to strengthen and diversify each region's economy in the long-term. It should place workers and communities at the heart of decisions to build economic prosperity.

The function in the Bill to provide 'advice on sources of renewable energy' should include community ownership and decentralised generation, in collaboration with regional communities.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Silcock  
Energy Strategist  
Queensland Conservation Council