

# Industry Response

Review of Oversize Overmass Wind Farm Transport Arrangements - Queensland Energy & Jobs Plan Wind Farm Transportation

March 2024

## Introduction

The renewable energy sector is on the cusp of a large growth phase spanning multiple Queensland regions over the next decade. Building this new infrastructure will require efficient transport and logistic processes, adequate road and bridge infrastructure and consideration of the towns and communities that will receive the increase in oversize overmass (OSOM) transport movements from new wind farm projects.

The Queensland Renewable Energy Council (QREC) is a not for profit organisation, focused on providing policy leadership and advocacy on matters relating to the development and operation of large-scale renewable energy projects in Queensland. We act in the best interests of our members and connecting stakeholders to build a clean, reliable and affordable energy future where Queensland communities prosper.

While efficiency of process is critical to allow a coordinated process that is devoid of delay and unnecessary costs, it is essential to maintaining the social licence of new large-scale projects in Queensland's regions. The renewable energy industry is highly aware of the importance of road infrastructure to regional Queensland and the industry is keen to maintain or improve road infrastructure as well as the processes in place to ensure it is efficient use so as to accommodate all road users. Above all, road safety should be the highest priority and the industry is committed to working with the Government in maintaining the highest safety standards.

QREC is highly supportive of the work of the Queensland Transport and Logistics Council (QTLC) and their efforts in consulting widely with the Queensland renewable energy industry on this important work. The [Review of Oversize Overmass Wind Farm Arrangements](#) report ('the report') outlines a number of recommendations for reform. While the recommendations do not include timeframes for reform, QREC suggests many of the recommendations should be implemented with a matter of urgency. This is particularly important where Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) Readiness Assessments are currently being undertaken ahead of Queensland's first REZ declaration.

## Response to the Report Recommendations

QREC supports all the recommendations in the report and offers the below industry commentary on each recommendation.

### **Recommendation 1- The creation of pre-approved routes, specifically on major highways and exits from each of the Qld port facilities**

This recommendation is supported. Pre-determined routes provide a level of needed certainty to industry as well as the community that should reduce time and cost on industry and impacts to the community.

### **Recommendation 2- Streamlining permits and permit conditions.**

Industry supports this recommendation as it provides for an accelerated pathway for projects with pre-determined routes as well as outside a REZ.

### **Recommendation 3- Creation of transport corridors which are designed for OSOM movements, with a focus on routes from Queensland Ports to major highways.**

Industry supports this recommendation with a current trial being undertaken through Clarke Creek where distribution lines are lifted resulting in additional escorts not being required. The outcomes of this trial should be taken into consideration in the implementation of a more State-wide process.

The Clare Creek trial has been documented and can be found [here](#).

### **Recommendation 4- State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) process re-mapping with the inclusion of State and Local Road Managers for early discovery of route development.**

Industry supports the recommendation, however suggests it is difficult for projects to lock in wind farm load lengths and weights early in the application process. These particulars are not fixed at the point of application, rather refined through the assessment process.

Industry acknowledges where there are pre-determined routes identified for a REZ, early identification of load length and weight variability will become less of an issue.

### **Recommendation 5- Inclusion of telematics for monitoring of transport movements by Local Road Managers.**

This recommendation is supported.

### **Recommendation 6- Creation of a reference group to coordinate the multi-faceted project teams involved in the transportation of wind farm components from Port to destination, reporting to the EPW Renewable Facilitation Sub-committee.**

Industry supports this recommendation as it provides an platform to understand issues at an early stage as well as oversight of multiple projects that can identify and address systemic issues or inefficiencies across the various processes involved in OSOM transport movements.

**Recommendation 7- Formation of a taskforce to ensure all Qld ports are operationally ready for wind farm projects.**

Industry supports this recommendation, however has a strong view that port assessment needs to be undertaken concurrently with road/bridge route assessment (pre-determined routes).

Without adequate planning, our ports could be a significant bottleneck in supply of infrastructure for wind farm projects.

Industry is seeking greater coordination between ports to understand what can be serviced where- port capacity/capability mapping and analysis compared to REZ needs to be undertaken.

Industry supports this coordination role being undertaken by a central body, the REZ development body that is already slated in the Energy (Renewable Transformation & Jobs) Bill 2023. Industry further suggests the delivery element of the REZ and transport of infrastructure more broadly, also needs to be part of this governance and implementation priority.

Industry supports the establishment of a Ports Taskforce; however this initiative should have focused deliverables and implementation timeframes. Industry also suggests this work be undertaken by a body that is able to link all the users of the ports, including existing mining users, critical minerals, agriculture and renewables.

**Recommendation 8- Development of an online mapping tool to assist in route planning.**

Industry supports the development of more holistic mapping tools available for project assessment for transport corridors, including roads, bridges, and ports.

**Recommendation 9 - Local Road Managers to work with the NHVR to identify and develop transportation routes.**

This recommendation is supported.

**Recommendation 10- Use of industry pilots to escort low risk OSOM moves, reducing the demand for Queensland Police Service (QPS) officers that are in short supply and better utilised in Policing matters.**

Industry supports this recommendation. The Queensland Police Service play a critical role in safety of OSOM movements, with the safety of all road users a priority.

Industry welcomes a more risk-based approach to escorts, including defining what are higher risk loads. Current practice is that risk is based on route, type of load and its volume. The employment of a risk-based approach aligns with current health and safety frameworks in Queensland.

**Recommendation 11- Support the expansion of convoy moves.**

This recommendation is supported.

**Recommendation 12 - Review of the Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2020 to streamline the requirements of Surveys on key transport corridors**

This recommendation is supported. Industry supports leading practice in safety practice and supports efficiency measure that can be achieved while maintaining the highest safety standards.



**QREC works with industry, communities and all levels of government to deliver a thriving new energy sector for Queensland.**

We are a not-for-profit industry body that represents solar, wind, pumped hydro, electricity transmission, battery storage and hydrogen proponents, operators and their suppliers.

Our role is to be a leader in policy development and ensure best practices and successful coexistence with communities. With this focus, our exciting new industry will support the regions and Queensland's economic development while ensuring we all have access to clean and secure energy.

## Contact

**Phone:** (07) 3556 7995

**Email:** [info@qrec.org.au](mailto:info@qrec.org.au)

Level 14, 100 Edward Street,  
Brisbane City, Queensland 4000,  
Australia

ABN 37 670 943 209