

Backing
CopperString

A plan for NORTH QUEENSLAND



The Queensland Government is committed to delivering clean, reliable and affordable electricity supply for North Queensland and supporting economic and employment opportunities from clean energy investment.

As part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the government is working on a government-led model for delivering the CopperString Project to connect Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province.

This includes connecting Townsville to Hughenden which will unlock excellent renewable resources in this region, providing a critical step to connect Mount Isa to the Queensland SuperGrid.

The SuperGrid will bring all elements of our electricity system together with 1,500 km of transmission lines, delivering 70% renewable energy by 2032, and 80% by 2035.

Connecting Mount Isa will be a key step in moving renewables and stored energy across the state and will bolster a clean energy industrial ecosystem with the critical minerals from the North West Minerals Province to Townsville, growing job opportunities.

More than **900** construction jobs created and around **\$800 million** invested in clean energy since 2015.

More than **400MW** of renewable energy since 2015, equivalent to powering at least **160,000 homes**.

\$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, with **95%** of investment in regional Queensland.



Premier's message

Since the discovery of major copper deposits a century ago, North Queensland has been an economic powerhouse, processing minerals the world needs to produce electricity.

Now our government is investing to ensure that North Queensland is a magnet for investment and jobs during the clean energy industrial revolution.

North Queensland has the critical mineral resources below the ground to make renewables and batteries, combined with the solar and wind energy above the ground to manufacture with renewable energy.

Townsville sits as the renewable manufacturing epicentre between the world and the largest renewable energy zone in the nation and the world class North West Minerals Province.

That's why my government is backing CopperString to open up vast renewable energy resources and the North West Minerals Province.

I don't just want to see the critical minerals mined in Queensland, I want to also see batteries and renewables made in North Queensland because that means more good, secure jobs.

To deliver this, our government will back mining of Queensland's critical minerals and local battery manufacturing through our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

We will build Australia's first critical minerals demonstration facility in Townsville and we are backing the Townsville City Council's vision for the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct to make battery materials and hydrogen electrolyzers, along with the Federal Government's Townsville Hydrogen Hub.

By working together North Queensland's best days are well and truly ahead of us.

Anastacia Palaszczuk MP

Premier of Queensland and Minister for the Olympics and Paralympics

Power for generations Building the SuperGrid in North Queensland



A bright renewable future for Townsville

Townsville is set for an exciting period of growth as part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

With established industries and significant infrastructure, the region is in a unique position to capitalise on the growing demand of low-carbon products and rich renewable energy sources.

There is significant investment potential in traditional and new economy mineral projects planned for the North West Minerals Province, as well as manufacturing plants and processing of storage batteries.

These projects will support the production of electric vehicles, consumables, and renewable energy infrastructure.

The Queensland Government has committed \$10 million towards constructing a vanadium processing facility in Townsville, which will allow multiple small mining operations to process metal locally.

This project has the potential to kickstart a new supply chain that sees vanadium batteries produced within the state, for use in our energy grid and for export to overseas markets.

Townsville and the North Queensland region has the potential to be one of the lowest cost producers of renewable hydrogen by the end of the decade, supported by significant wind and solar resources and the world-class Port of Townsville.

Job Security Guarantee

Queensland's energy transformation will drive new investment, generating new jobs and opportunities for workers and communities. As our electricity mix changes, we will support communities and workers to become partners in this energy transformation.

The Queensland Energy Workers Charter is a landmark tripartite agreement between unions, government and our publicly owned energy businesses to support workers through the energy transformation. It will ensure all workers in Queensland's publicly owned coal-fired power stations have a secure future, choices, and clear employment pathways and opportunities.

We are establishing an Energy Industry Council to provide advice to government on a smooth transformation for workers and their communities. This Council will also provide input into the delivery of key actions under the Plan, including the \$150 million Job Security Guarantee.

Townsville home to a Hydrogen Hub

The renewable hydrogen industry is powering ahead in North Queensland with the Queensland Government's \$15 million commitment to supercharge, coordinate and plan for renewable Hydrogen Hubs in key locations across the state, including Townsville.

Townsville's proximity to reliable renewable resources, new economy minerals, its road and rail networks, as well as a major publicly owned port, are key to helping Queensland reach its renewable energy targets.

The Townsville Hydrogen Hub will be boosted by the Federal Government's recent announcement of a \$70 million Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program – Townsville Region Grant Opportunity.

The program will provide matched funding to project proponents to stimulate the development of Hydrogen Hubs in Queensland.

The State Government is committed to working with the Townsville Hydrogen Hub applicants and the Federal Government to ensure a coordinated approach to bring wider benefits to the North Queensland region, including a Hydrogen Hub supply chain.

We have the capacity and capability to unlock a renewable hydrogen future, increase local manufacturing and the networks and partnerships to help support businesses transition to new industries.



Port of Townsville.

Eco-Industrial Precinct to boost local jobs

The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct planned for Townsville will generate significant job opportunities and will support a local, clean energy economy.

The precinct will be Australia's first environmentally sustainable advanced manufacturing, processing and technology hub.

The project will create around 800 construction jobs and once in operation, will generate more than 1,700 jobs, including 300 highly-skilled advanced manufacturing roles at the facility.

Last year, the State Government approved zoning amendments for the precinct to enable new and emerging industries, such as renewable hydrogen, to easily access the Port of Townsville and tap into overseas markets.

A significant portion of the precinct has already been committed to clean energy and battery minerals processing industries.

Pure Minerals and Edify Energy have confirmed they will be based at the precinct and Queensland Pacific Metals will also have a presence at the site, producing battery-grade nickel and cobalt sulphate.



Artist impression of Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework

Have your say by completing this survey on how to maximise benefits for local communities and deliver on regional opportunities as part of the energy transformation.



qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan



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