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OPP--Opposition

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

First print

Proposed amendments

No. 1 **Community benefits equity**

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 37—

[2A] Part 4, Division 2, heading

Omit “zones”. Insert instead “projects”.

No. 2 **Community benefits equity**

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 37—

[2B] Section 24, heading

Omit “zone”. Insert instead “project”.

No. 3 **Community benefits equity**

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 37—

[2C] Section 24(1) and (2)

Omit the subsections. Insert instead—

- (1) The Minister must, by order published in the Gazette, declare the access scheme that applies—
 - (a) in a renewable energy zone or part of a renewable energy zone, and
 - (b) in relation to each renewable energy project that—
 - (i) has been declared State significant development under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, section 4.36, and
 - (ii) is not in a renewable energy zone.
- (2) An access scheme is a scheme that authorises or prohibits access to, and use of, the following by network operators and operators of generation and storage infrastructure—
 - (a) specified network infrastructure in the renewable energy zone, or the part of the renewable energy zone, to which the scheme applies,

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- (b) specified network infrastructure constructed or operated under the renewable energy project in relation to which the scheme applies.

No. 4 **Community benefits equity**

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 37—

[2D] Section 26 Fees for access schemes

Insert “or in relation to the renewable energy project” after “zone” in section 26(1)(c).

No. 5 **Community benefits equity**

Page 3, Schedule 1[3], lines 38 and 39. Omit all words on the lines. Insert instead—

[3] Section 26(7)

Omit the subsection. Insert instead—

No. 6 **Community benefits equity**

Page 3, Schedule 1[3], proposed section 26(7), lines 41–44. Omit all words on the lines. Insert instead—

community purpose means a purpose that benefits the community in a council area that, at any time after the declaration of the access scheme, is or has been wholly or partly within—

- (a) the geographic area that forms the renewable energy zone to which the access scheme applies, or
- (b) the geographic area of the renewable energy project in relation to which the access scheme applies.

No. 7 **Community benefits equity**

Page 4, Schedule 1[3], proposed section 26(7), lines 5–9. Omit all words on the lines. Insert instead—

employment purpose means a purpose that promotes employment, skills and training for persons who live or work in a council area that, at any time after the declaration of the access scheme, is or has been wholly or partly within—

- (a) the geographic area that forms the renewable energy zone to which the access scheme applies, or
- (b) the geographic area of the renewable energy project in relation to which the access scheme applies.

No. 8 **Infrastructure planner—summary of recommendations**

Page 4, Schedule 1. Insert after line 31—

[6A] Section 30(1A)

Insert after section 30(1)—

- (1A) The infrastructure planner must publish a summary of each recommendation made by the infrastructure planner under subsection (1)(b) on a publicly available website maintained by the infrastructure planner.

No. 9 **Infrastructure planner—summary of recommendations**

Page 5, Schedule 1. Insert after line 6—

[8A] Section 30(5)(d)

Omit “requirements.” from section 30(5)(c). Insert instead—
requirements,

- (d) the information that must be included in a summary required to be published by the infrastructure planner under subsection (1A).

No. 10 **Independence of the consumer trustee**

Pages 10, Schedule 1[24], lines 7–27. Omit all words on the lines.

No. 11 **Prohibition on solar cost-shifting**

Page 14, Schedule 2[4], proposed Part 4, Division 5. Insert after line 13—

43I Solar costs protection for non-solar small customers

A retailer or exempt seller must not charge or pass any of the following costs or amounts on to a customer who does not have a grid-connected solar energy system—

- (a) costs to, or incurred by, the retailer or exempt seller in complying with section 43G or 43H, or
- (b) all or part of the amount of a deficit between the costs incurred by the retailer or exempt seller in accepting solar-generated electricity.

Example of a deficit— when the National Energy Market wholesale price is negative or the cost of transmission for solar-generated electricity from a customer is greater than the National Energy Market wholesale price offered