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SFF--Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

First print

Proposed amendments

No. 1 Recommendations by infrastructure planner

Pages 4 and 5, Schedule 1[6]–[8], line 24 on page 4 to line 6 on page 5. Omit all words on the lines.

No. 2 Consumer trustee

Page 5, Schedule 1[9], proposed section 30AA. Insert after line 27—

- (3A) If the consumer trustee refuses to authorise a REZ network infrastructure project or an amendment to the terms of an authorisation, the consumer trustee must give the Minister a written report that includes the following—
 - (a) the reasons for the refusal,
 - (b) the potential impact of the refusal for consumers and affected communities,
 - (c) any alternative measures or other recommendations the consumer trustee considers appropriate.
- (3B) The Minister must table a report given by the consumer trustee under subsection (3A) in both Houses of Parliament within 14 sitting days after being given the report.

No. 3 Maximum capital costs amount for authorised REZ network infrastructure projects

Page 6, Schedule 1[10], proposed section 31. Insert after line 17—

- (6A) Within 14 days after being given written notice of the maximum capital costs amount or an amended maximum capital costs amount by the consumer trustee under subsection (4), the Minister must table a written statement in both Houses of Parliament that includes the following information—
 - (a) the name and location of the relevant authorised REZ network infrastructure project,
 - (b) the maximum capital costs amount,
 - (c) for an amended maximum capital costs amount—
 - (i) the previous maximum capital costs amount, and
 - (ii) the reasons for the amendment, including whether the amendment reflects changes in project scope, market conditions or other factors,
 - (d) the total forecast cost of the relevant authorised REZ network infrastructure project to consumers,

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- (e) the total number of landholders affected by the relevant authorised REZ network infrastructure project,
 - (f) the value of any community benefit payments,
 - (g) a summary of any implications for total projected expenditure in relation to the electricity infrastructure investment safeguard.

No. 4 **Land restoration and biosecurity plans**

Page 9, Schedule 1[20], proposed Part 5, Division 4. Insert after line 32—

42B Land restoration and biodiversity plans

- (1) The infrastructure planner must prepare and maintain a plan (a *land restoration and biodiversity plan*) for each authorised REZ network infrastructure project in accordance with this section.
- (2) The land restoration and biodiversity plan for an approved REZ network project must—
 - (a) identify all land impacted by the project (*impacted land*), and
 - (b) be prepared in consultation with and approved by the following—
 - (i) the network operators appointed or directed to carry out the project under Division 1AA,
 - (ii) the landholders of impacted land, and
 - (c) be submitted to Local Land Services for approval before construction or other works relating to the project commence, and
 - (d) include the following—
 - (i) strategies for managing and controlling pests and weeds on impacted land,
 - (ii) strategies and measures for managing and controlling erosion of land impacted by the project,
 - (iii) conditions and requirements relating to the decommissioning of project infrastructure and the rehabilitation of affected land by relevant network operators and infrastructure owners,
 - (iv) other matters prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) The infrastructure planner must—
 - (a) review the land restoration and biodiversity plan for an approved REZ network project annually, and
 - (b) after each annual review, submit to Local Land Services an updated plan that has been approved by—
 - (i) the network operators appointed or directed to carry out the project under Division 1AA, and
 - (ii) the landholders of impacted land.
- (4) The regulations may make further provision about land restoration and biodiversity plans.

No. 5 **Planning pause clause**

Page 9, Schedule 1[20], proposed Part 5, Division 4. Insert after line 32—

42C Minister may suspend REZ network infrastructure projects

- (1) If the cumulative environmental or social impacts of an authorised REZ network infrastructure project for a renewable energy zone exceeds forecast thresholds, the Minister may, by written order given to the consumer trustee, suspend the consumer trustee's authorisation powers pending an independent review of the project.

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- (2) The Minister must commission an independent review of the project by a suitably qualified person as soon as practicable after giving the consumer trustee an order under subsection (1).
 - (3) The suspension of the consumer trustee's authorisation powers under this section has effect despite another provision of this Act or another law.
 - (4) In this section—
authorisation powers means the consumer trustee's powers to—
 - (a) authorise REZ network infrastructure projects under section 30AA(1)(a), and
 - (b) authorise amendments of authorisations under section 30AA(2)(a).

No. 6 **Consumer trustee**

Page 10, Schedule 1. Insert after line 6—

[23A] Section 60 Consumer trustee

Omit section 60(2). Insert instead—

- (2) If a person's or body's appointment as consumer trustee is suspended under section 68(2A)(b), the Secretary must exercise the functions of the consumer trustee for the duration of the suspension.
- (2A) If a person's or body's appointment as consumer trustee is terminated under section 68(2A)—
 - (a) the Secretary must exercise the functions of the consumer trustee, for a period of not more than 3 months, until the appointment of another person or body as consumer trustee, and
 - (b) if another person or body is not appointed as the consumer trustee by the date that is 3 months after the termination—the Secretary may continue to exercise the functions of the consumer trustee only with the approval of Parliament, having tabled a report in both houses of Parliament setting out—
 - (i) the reasons for the continued exercise of the consumer trustee's functions, and
 - (ii) the steps taken to recruit and appoint a person or body as the consumer trustee.

No. 7 **Annual REZ impact report to Parliament**

Page 10, Schedule 1. Insert after line 38—

71A Annual REZ impact report

- (1) The Minister must prepare a report for each financial year (an **annual REZ impact report**) about the community, environmental and economic impacts experienced in renewable energy zones.
- (2) The REZ impact report must include the following information in relation to each renewable energy zone for the relevant year—
 - (a) statistics about land acquisitions,
 - (b) details of complaints made,
 - (c) details of compensation paid,
 - (d) details about how fees paid by participants in any applicable access schemes have been used,
 - (e) local employment outcomes,
 - (f) other matters prescribed by the regulations.

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- (3) The Minister must table the REZ impact report in both Houses of Parliament by 1 November immediately following the end of the financial year to which the report relates.