

Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
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Lodged via email to [EPAct.Policy@detsi.qld.gov.au](mailto:EPAct.Policy@detsi.qld.gov.au)

14 July 2025

### **Consultation on the Environmental Protection Act 1994**

The Australian Energy Council ('AEC') welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Queensland Government's consultation on *Realising efficiencies and streamlining in the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and other portfolio amendments* ('Consultation Paper').

The AEC is the peak industry body for electricity and downstream natural gas businesses operating in the competitive wholesale and retail energy markets. AEC members generate and sell energy to over 10 million homes and businesses and are major investors in renewable energy generation. The AEC supports reaching net-zero by 2050 as well as a 55 per cent emissions reduction target by 2035 and is committed to delivering the energy transition for the benefit of consumers.

The AEC's members are at the forefront of Australia's energy transition, reliably operating and maintaining existing generation assets, while investing in the suite of new technologies, including renewable generation, storage, and gas firming capacity, to help decarbonise the electricity system.

The AEC supports the intent of this consultation to streamline the *Environmental Protection Act* to improve the efficiency of environmental assessments and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on projects. Slow and administratively cumbersome environmental processes have been [identified](#) as an inhibitor to boosting productivity, which the Queensland Government has [earmarked](#) as a priority. Removing these barriers will help attract greater investment in Queensland.

To maximise efficiencies, it is important that the Department works with the Commonwealth to ensure consistency and alignment with reforms underway to the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

The AEC looks forward to further engagement with the Queensland Government and Queensland Productivity Commission as it looks to accelerate responsible economic development.

Any questions about this submission should be addressed to Rhys Thomas, by email [Rhys.Thomas@energycouncil.com.au](mailto:Rhys.Thomas@energycouncil.com.au) or mobile on 0450 150 794.

Yours sincerely,

**Rhys Thomas**  
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