



# Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act 2024

Current as at 2 July 2026

© State of Queensland 2026



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



Queensland

# Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act 2024

## Contents

---

	Page
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>
1	Short title . . . . . 7
2	Commencement . . . . . 7
3	Main purposes of Act . . . . . 7
4	How main purposes are primarily achieved . . . . . 8
5	Act binds all persons . . . . . 8
6	Definitions . . . . . 8
7	Meaning of strategic infrastructure path . . . . . 8
8	Meaning of strategic infrastructure path objectives . . . . . 9
<b>Part 3</b>	<b>Public ownership of energy assets</b>
13	Public ownership targets . . . . . 9
<b>Part 4</b>	<b>Energy System Outlook</b>
15	Making and approving system outlook . . . . . 11
16	Review of system outlook . . . . . 13
<b>Part 5</b>	<b>Priority transmission investments</b>
<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>
17	Purpose of part . . . . . 14
18	Definitions for part . . . . . 14
19	Reference to construction of priority transmission investments etc. 15
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>Construction of priority transmission investments</b>
20	Eligible priority transmission investments . . . . . 15
22	Minister must consult before making declaration . . . . . 16
24	Minister may declare, and direct Powerlink to assess, candidate priority transmission investment . . . . . 17
25	Minister must seek advice about Powerlink's report . . . . . 18
25A	Minister may request further information from Powerlink about report 19

Contents

---

26	Responsible Ministers may declare, and direct Powerlink to construct, priority transmission investment . . . . .	20
<b>Division 3</b>	<b>Financial matters associated with priority transmission investments</b>	
28	Regulation-making power in relation to financial matters associated with priority transmission investments . . . . .	22
<b>Division 4</b>	<b>Other provisions</b>	
29	PTI guidelines . . . . .	23
30	Compliance with directions . . . . .	24
31	Information given to suitably qualified person . . . . .	24
32	Advice to Minister or Treasurer . . . . .	24
33	Relationship with national electricity laws . . . . .	25
<b>Part 6</b>	<b>Regional energy hubs</b>	
<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>	
35	Purposes of part . . . . .	26
36	Definitions for part . . . . .	26
37	References to connection and access . . . . .	28
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>Declaration of regional energy hubs</b>	
38	Declaration of regional energy hub . . . . .	28
39	Term of declaration and restriction on amendment or repeal . . . . .	30
40	Performance of functions under division . . . . .	30
<b>Division 3</b>	<b>Management plans for regional energy hubs</b>	
<b>Subdivision 1</b>	<b>Content of management plan</b>	
41	Content generally . . . . .	31
42	Information about hub transmission network . . . . .	32
43	Information about hub controlled assets . . . . .	33
<b>Subdivision 2</b>	<b>Preparation of management plan</b>	
44	Application of subdivision . . . . .	34
45	Draft management plan . . . . .	34
46	Consultation on draft management plan . . . . .	34
<b>Subdivision 3</b>	<b>Approval and amendment of management plan</b>	
47	Approval of management plan . . . . .	36
48	Amendment of management plan . . . . .	36
<b>Subdivision 4</b>	<b>Replacement management plan</b>	
49	Replacement management plan . . . . .	37
<b>Division 5</b>	<b>Hub transmission networks</b>	
<b>Subdivision 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>	

52	Purpose of division . . . . .	38
53	Definitions for division . . . . .	39
<b>Subdivision 2</b>	<b>Regulation of connection and access</b>	
54	Restriction on connection and access to hub transmission network	40
55	Negotiated access standards . . . . .	41
56	Connection agreement for hub transmission network entered into under this part . . . . .	43
57	Restriction on connection and access to hub controlled assets .	43
<b>Subdivision 3</b>	<b>Existing rights and expectations</b>	
58	Application of subdivision . . . . .	44
59	Existing applications to connect—hub transmission network . . .	45
60	Existing applications to connect—hub controlled assets . . . . .	46
61	Existing connection agreements . . . . .	47
62	Existing rights to receive DNA services . . . . .	47
63	Holders of existing connection and access rights may enter into new connection agreement . . . . .	49
<b>Subdivision 4</b>	<b>Rights and expectations for declared projects</b>	
64	Application of subdivision . . . . .	50
65	Meaning of declared project . . . . .	51
66	Application of ss 61 and 63 in relation to declared project . . . . .	51
67	Application of ss 62 and 63 in relation to declared project . . . . .	52
<b>Division 6</b>	<b>Cost recovery</b>	
<b>Subdivision 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>	
68	Purpose of division . . . . .	54
69	Definitions for division . . . . .	54
69A	Meaning of establishment and operational costs . . . . .	55
<b>Subdivision 2</b>	<b>Costs associated with hub transmission network</b>	
70	Fees and charges for connection and access to hub transmission network . . . . .	56
71	Responsible Ministers may allow cost recovery through charges for prescribed transmission services . . . . .	57
<b>Subdivision 3</b>	<b>Provisions facilitating cost recovery</b>	
73	Transmission determination providing for charges for prescribed transmission services . . . . .	59
74	Regulation about transmission services . . . . .	60
<b>Division 7</b>	<b>Hub design body</b>	
75	Appointment . . . . .	60

Contents

---

76	Functions .....	61
77	Obtaining information for performing functions .....	61
78	Using information for performing function .....	62
<b>Division 8</b>	<b>Other provisions</b>	
79	Minister or Treasurer may obtain information for performing function	63
80	Minister or Treasurer may obtain advice for performing function	65
82	Transmission network or part stops being hub transmission network or part .....	66
83	Authorisation for competition legislation .....	67
84	Relationship with national electricity laws .....	68
<b>Part 7</b>	<b>Job Security Guarantee Fund</b>	
85	Job security guarantee .....	69
86	Who is an affected energy worker .....	70
87	Establishment of fund .....	72
88	Fund bank account .....	72
89	Purposes of fund .....	72
90	Payments from fund .....	73
91	Fund guideline .....	74
92	Reporting requirement .....	74
<b>Part 8</b>	<b>CopperString project</b>	
<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>	
93	Purpose of part .....	75
94	Definitions for part .....	75
95	What is the CopperString project .....	76
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>Identification and declaration of stage</b>	
96	Identifying stage suitable for declaration .....	76
97	Obtaining advice from appropriately qualified person .....	76
98	Declaration of stage .....	77
<b>Division 3</b>	<b>Financial matters associated with declared stage</b>	
99	Regulation-making power in relation to financial matters associated with declared stage .....	78
100	Relationship with national electricity laws .....	80
<b>Division 4</b>	<b>Other matters</b>	
101	Minister or Treasurer may obtain information for performing function	81
<b>Part 11</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Application of transmission ring-fencing rule to Powerlink</b>	

170A	Application of transmission ring-fencing rule . . . . .	82
170B	Validation of particular acts and omissions of Powerlink . . . . .	83
170C	Review of operation of regulation made under section 170A . . . . .	84
170D	Expiry . . . . .	84
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>Other provisions</b>	
171	Definition for division . . . . .	84
172	False or misleading information . . . . .	85
173	Confidentiality . . . . .	85
174	Protecting officials from liability . . . . .	87
175	Delegation . . . . .	87
176	Review of particular parts of Act . . . . .	88
177	Regulation-making power . . . . .	89
<b>Part 12</b>	<b>Transitional provisions</b>	
<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Transitional provisions for Act No. 15 of 2024</b>	
<b>Subdivision 1</b>	<b>Infrastructure blueprint</b>	
178	First infrastructure blueprint . . . . .	89
<b>Subdivision 2</b>	<b>Other transitional provisions</b>	
179	Application of s 90 for initial regulation for payments from fund . . . . .	89
179A	Limited protection from liability for Powerlink . . . . .	90
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>Transitional provisions for Energy Roadmap Amendment Act 2025</b>	
181	Definitions for division . . . . .	91
182	First system outlook . . . . .	91
183	Reference to infrastructure blueprint . . . . .	92
184	Existing candidate priority transmission investments . . . . .	92
185	Appointment as REZ delivery body . . . . .	93
186	Dissolution of board . . . . .	93
187	Dissolution of council . . . . .	94
188	Dissolution of office of the jobs advocate . . . . .	94
189	Confidentiality . . . . .	95
190	Regulation under s 170A . . . . .	95
191	Application of s 179A . . . . .	95
192	Application of s 180 . . . . .	96
193	Transitional regulation-making power . . . . .	96
<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>Dictionary</b> . . . . .	98



---

# Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act 2024

**An Act to facilitate the development of infrastructure to promote an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system in Queensland, and to support affected workers and communities**

## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act 2024*.

### 2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

### 3 Main purposes of Act

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) to increase the amount of electricity generated in Queensland in a way that is cost-effective, safe, secure and reliable; and
- (b) to facilitate and support the efficient and coordinated augmentation of the national transmission grid in Queensland to accommodate the increased generation of electricity mentioned in paragraph (a); and
- (c) to provide for support for workers in the energy industry and communities affected by the increased generation of electricity mentioned in paragraph (a).

#### **4 How main purposes are primarily achieved**

- (1) The main purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b) are to be achieved primarily by providing a framework that includes—
  - (a) strategic infrastructure path objectives and ways to help achieve those objectives; and
  - (b) the identification and construction of priority transmission investments; and
  - (c) the development and operation of regional energy hubs and coordinated and streamlined connection and access to transmission networks for the hubs; and
  - (d) the facilitation and support of the delivery of the CopperString project.
- (2) The main purpose of this Act mentioned in section 3(c) is to be achieved primarily by establishing the Job Security Guarantee Fund, including for the purpose of implementing the job security guarantee.

#### **5 Act binds all persons**

This Act binds all persons, including the State.

#### **6 Definitions**

The dictionary in schedule 1 defines particular words used in this Act.

#### **7 Meaning of *strategic infrastructure path***

The *strategic infrastructure path* is—

- (a) the significant electricity infrastructure projects, including sequencing and timing of delivery of the projects, identified in the system outlook under section 15(2)(a); and

- (b) any project that is an eligible priority transmission investment if section 20(2)(b) applies in relation to the project; and
- (c) any hub transmission network for a regional energy hub not mentioned in the system outlook.

## 8 Meaning of *strategic infrastructure path objectives*

The *strategic infrastructure path objectives* are the following objectives—

- (a) the long-term minimisation of the cost of electricity for Queensland consumers;
- (b) the provision of a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity to Queensland consumers;
- (c) the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity in Queensland.

# Part 3 Public ownership of energy assets

## 13 Public ownership targets

- (1) Each of the following is a *public ownership target* for a class of energy asset—
  - (a) that 100% of public ownership of generation assets publicly owned and in operation on the commencement of this subsection, and that continue in operation, is maintained;
  - (b) that public ownership of transmission and distribution assets is 100%;
  - (c) that public ownership of deep storage assets is 100%.
- (2) The Minister must prepare a report about whether each public ownership target is being achieved—
  - (a) on 31 May 2027; and

- (b) at further intervals of 2 years.
- (3) The report must—
  - (a) include a description of how the percentage of publicly owned assets for each class of energy assets is worked out; and
  - (b) be published on the department’s website.

- (4) In this section—

***class of energy assets*** means the following classes of assets in Queensland—

- (a) generation assets;
- (b) transmission and distribution assets;
- (c) deep storage assets.

***deep storage assets*** means assets for pumped hydro energy storage that are—

- (a) capable of generating at least 1,500MW for 24 hours; and
- (b) prescribed by regulation.

***generation assets*** means assets that constitute a generating system for which a person is registered as a generator or intermediary under the National Electricity Rules, other than the following—

- (a) assets that are—
  - (i) predominantly used to generate electricity for conversion to a form of energy suitable for export; and
  - (ii) prescribed by regulation;
- (b) a generating system with a nameplate rating of less than 30MW;
- (c) a generating system comprised of generating units with a combined nameplate rating of less than 30MW;

- (d) an asset used for pumped hydro energy storage, including a deep storage asset;
- (e) another asset that directly or indirectly uses electricity to create a stored source of energy that may later be converted by the generating system to electricity.

***public ownership***, in relation to a class of energy assets, means—

- (a) ownership, whether wholly or partly, of assets of the class by the State; or
- (b) if the State directly or indirectly holds a right or interest in another entity that owns assets of the class—ownership, whether wholly or partly, of the assets by the other entity.

***transmission and distribution assets*** means assets that constitute the following, other than an asset excluded from this definition by regulation—

- (a) a transmission system that is regulated by a transmission determination;
- (b) a distribution system under the National Electricity (Queensland) Law that is regulated by a distribution determination under that Law;
- (c) the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub.

## Part 4 Energy System Outlook

### 15 Making and approving system outlook

- (1) The Minister must make a document called the ‘Energy System Outlook’ (the ***system outlook***) which may be part of another document.
- (2) The system outlook must—
  - (a) identify the particular significant electricity infrastructure projects, including the sequencing and

timing of delivery of the projects, that each help to meet the strategic infrastructure path objectives; and

*Examples of significant electricity infrastructure projects—*

- priority transmission investments
  - hub transmission networks for regional energy hubs
  - large scale energy storage
- (b) describe how the electricity infrastructure projects mentioned in paragraph (a) each help to meet the strategic infrastructure path objectives; and
- (c) identify parts of Queensland regions that are possibly suitable to be regional energy hubs; and
- (d) include any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (3) The system outlook may also include—
- (a) an estimate of the operating life of each publicly owned coal-fired power station; and
- (b) estimates, at intervals the Minister considers appropriate, of matters relating to the capacity of energy infrastructure that are required to achieve the strategic infrastructure path objectives; and

*Examples of matters relating to the capacity of energy infrastructure for paragraph (b)—*

- the total nameplate rating of generating systems in Queensland that are capable of producing electricity
  - the total capacity of infrastructure connected to transmission systems in Queensland to generate electricity on demand
  - the total capacity for storage of energy in a form capable of being converted to electricity in Queensland
  - the total capacity of devices that generate electricity that are owned by Queensland consumers
- (c) any other matter the Minister considers relevant to achieving—
- (i) the strategic infrastructure path objectives; or
- (ii) the purposes of this Act.

- (4) The system outlook takes effect only if it has been approved by regulation.
- (5) The Minister must publish the system outlook on the department's website.

## **16 Review of system outlook**

- (1) The Minister must review the system outlook—
  - (a) by 31 May 2027; and
  - (b) at further intervals of 2 years.
- (2) However, subsection (1) does not prevent the Minister from reviewing the system outlook or a part of the system outlook at any time.
- (3) In reviewing the system outlook or a part of the system outlook, the Minister must have regard to the following matters—
  - (a) the Integrated System Plan;
  - (b) the strategic infrastructure path objectives;
  - (c) the purposes of this Act;
  - (d) the policies of the State in relation to energy or electricity;
  - (e) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (4) After reviewing the system outlook or a part of the system outlook, the Minister may make a replacement system outlook.
- (5) A replacement system outlook must include a summary of the difference between the content of the replacement system outlook and the system outlook in effect immediately before the replacement system outlook takes effect.
- (6) Section 15(2) to (5) applies in relation to the making and approval of the replacement system outlook.

## **Part 5**                      **Priority transmission investments**

### **Division 1**                **Preliminary**

#### **17**      **Purpose of part**

The purpose of this part is—

- (a) to facilitate the identification and construction of priority transmission investments; and
- (b) to make provision for financial matters associated with the investments.

#### **18**      **Definitions for part**

In this part—

*assessment documents* means documents declared by regulation to be assessment documents.

*candidate priority transmission investment* means an eligible priority transmission investment declared to be a candidate priority transmission investment under section 24(1).

*eligible priority transmission investment* means a project prescribed as an eligible priority transmission investment under section 20(1).

*identified need*, for an eligible priority transmission investment, candidate priority transmission investment or priority transmission investment, means the objective the investment is intended to achieve.

*priority transmission investment* see section 26(2).

---

**19 Reference to construction of priority transmission investments etc.**

In this part, a reference to construction of an eligible priority transmission investment, candidate priority transmission investment or priority transmission investment is a reference to the construction, testing and commissioning of the infrastructure that is the subject of the investment.

**Division 2 Construction of priority transmission investments**

**20 Eligible priority transmission investments**

- (1) A regulation may prescribe a project as an eligible priority transmission investment.
- (2) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (1) prescribing a project as an eligible priority transmission investment only if the Minister is satisfied that—
  - (a) the project is identified in the system outlook as part of the strategic infrastructure path; or
  - (b) if paragraph (a) does not apply—
    - (i) since the Minister made the system outlook under section 15(1), or last reviewed the system outlook under section 16, the Minister has become aware of information about changes in the likely production or storage of, or demand for, electricity in Queensland or a part of Queensland; and
    - (ii) the Minister is satisfied that, had the Minister been aware of the information when making or reviewing the system outlook, the Minister would have included the project in the system outlook and identified the project as part of the strategic infrastructure path.
- (3) In this section—

*project* means a project for—

- (a) the construction of infrastructure that transmits electricity and associated plant and equipment; and
- (b) the acquisition of land associated with that construction.

## **22 Minister must consult before making declaration**

- (1) This section applies if the Minister proposes to make a declaration and give a direction under section 24 for an eligible priority transmission investment.
- (2) Before making the declaration, the Minister must consult with Powerlink and a suitably qualified person about the proposed direction, including—
  - (a) the matters the direction may, or must, state under section 24; and
  - (b) any other matter the Minister considers appropriate.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the Minister must consult with Powerlink about—
  - (a) the identified need for the eligible priority transmission investment; and
  - (b) the anticipated date for commencing construction of the investment; and
  - (c) the anticipated date for completion of construction of the investment; and
  - (d) the appropriate assessment documents for assessing the investment; and
  - (e) the minimum modifications to the assessment documents likely to be necessary or appropriate for the investment.
- (4) Also, without limiting subsection (2), after consulting with Powerlink about the matters mentioned in subsection (3), the Minister must consult a suitably qualified person about—

- 
- (a) whether the identified need for the eligible priority transmission investment proposed by Powerlink or the Minister has been sufficiently described; and
  - (b) whether the assessment documents recommended by Powerlink or the Minister are appropriate; and
  - (c) in relation to any modifications to the assessment documents recommended by Powerlink or the Minister, whether—
    - (i) the modifications are appropriate; and
    - (ii) the modifications are as minimal as is practical.
- (5) In consulting with a suitably qualified person about a matter under subsection (2), (3) or (4), the Minister is not limited by the matters the Minister consults with Powerlink about under this section.

## **24 Minister may declare, and direct Powerlink to assess, candidate priority transmission investment**

- (1) If, after consulting with Powerlink and a suitably qualified person under section 22, the Minister decides that an eligible priority transmission investment should be assessed by Powerlink, the Minister may, by written notice given to Powerlink, declare the investment to be a candidate priority transmission investment.
- (2) If the Minister makes a declaration under subsection (1), the Minister must immediately direct Powerlink to—
  - (a) assess the candidate priority transmission investment; and
  - (b) following the assessment, give a report to the Minister stating—
    - (i) each option considered by Powerlink to address the identified need for the investment; and
    - (ii) the option to address the identified need for the investment that, in Powerlink’s opinion, maximises

[s 25]

---

- the net economic benefit associated with the investment consistent with—
- (A) the achievement of the identified need; and
  - (B) the anticipated date for completion of construction of the investment stated by the Minister in the direction; and
- (iii) any other matter the Minister directs Powerlink to include in the report.
- (3) For subsection (2)(b)(ii), the option identified by Powerlink may have a negative net economic benefit.
- (4) A direction under this section must state—
- (a) the assessment documents, modified by the Minister as stated in the direction, to be used by Powerlink to assess the candidate priority transmission investment; and
  - (b) an identified need for the investment decided by the Minister; and
  - (c) the date by which the report must be given to the Minister.
- (5) For subsection (4)(a), the modifications of the assessment documents must be the modifications the Minister considers are appropriate and are as minimal as is practical.

## **25 Minister must seek advice about Powerlink’s report**

- (1) If the Minister receives a report from Powerlink under section 24(2)(b) about a candidate priority transmission investment, the Minister must seek advice on the report from a suitably qualified person.
- (2) The advice the Minister must seek is—
- (a) whether Powerlink has assessed the candidate priority transmission investment in accordance with the direction given about the investment under section 24; and

- 
- (b) whether the expenditure on the investment proposed, or already made, by Powerlink is the expenditure that would be required by an efficient and prudent operator in Powerlink's circumstances.
  - (3) The Minister may also seek advice from a suitably qualified person about any other matter relevant to whether a declaration should be made for the candidate priority transmission investment under section 26.
  - (4) A request for advice under subsection (2) or (3) must state the date by which the advice must be given to the Minister.
  - (5) If the Minister seeks advice from a suitably qualified person under this section, the suitably qualified person may ask Powerlink for any information the person reasonably requires to give their advice.
  - (6) Powerlink must, within a reasonable time, give the requested information to the suitably qualified person.
  - (7) If, following receipt of the advice, the Minister considers Powerlink has not assessed the candidate priority transmission investment as directed, the Minister may direct Powerlink to provide a replacement report under section 24(2)(b) that addresses the matters stated in the direction.
  - (8) Subsections (1) to (7) apply in relation to the replacement report the subject of the direction under subsection (7) as if the replacement report were a report received under section 24(2)(b).

## **25A Minister may request further information from Powerlink about report**

- (1) Before a declaration is made under section 26 in relation to a candidate priority transmission investment, the Minister may request further information from Powerlink about—
  - (a) the report given by Powerlink under section 24(2)(b); or
  - (b) any other matter relevant to the making of a declaration, and giving of a direction, for the investment under section 26.

[s 26]

---

- (2) The request must state the date by which the information must be given to the Minister.
- (3) Powerlink must comply with the request.

## **26 Responsible Ministers may declare, and direct Powerlink to construct, priority transmission investment**

- (1) This section applies if the responsible Ministers are satisfied—
  - (a) Powerlink has assessed a candidate priority transmission investment as directed under section 24; and
  - (b) it would be appropriate to construct the investment to address the identified need for the investment, as decided by the Minister in the direction given under section 24(4)(b), having regard to the following matters—
    - (i) the report given to the Minister by Powerlink for the investment under section 24;
    - (ii) advice given to the Minister by a suitably qualified person for the investment under section 25;
    - (iii) any further information given to the Minister by Powerlink under section 25A.
- (2) The responsible Ministers may declare the candidate priority transmission investment to be a *priority transmission investment* to be constructed as directed under this section.
- (3) The Minister must notify the making of the declaration in the gazette and publish the declaration on the department's website.
- (4) As soon as practicable after making the declaration, the responsible Ministers must direct Powerlink to construct the priority transmission investment.
- (5) The direction must—
  - (a) state an option to address the identified need for the priority transmission investment; and

- (b) require Powerlink to construct the investment using the option stated under paragraph (a); and
  - (c) state the anticipated date decided by the responsible Ministers by which Powerlink will commence construction of the investment; and
  - (d) state the anticipated date for completion of construction of the investment decided by the responsible Ministers.
- (6) The stated option to address the identified need for the investment mentioned in subsection (5)(a) must be the same as the option proposed by Powerlink in the report given to the Minister under section 24(2)(b)(i), unless—
- (a) the Minister has requested further information in relation to the option under section 25A; and
  - (b) having regard to the matters stated in subsection (1), the responsible Ministers consider it would be appropriate to vary the option proposed by Powerlink under section 24(2)(b)(ii).
- (7) Powerlink must take all reasonable steps to—
- (a) commence construction of the priority transmission investment using the option to address the identified need stated in the direction by the anticipated date mentioned in subsection (5)(c); and
  - (b) complete construction of the investment by the anticipated date mentioned in subsection (5)(d).
- (8) If there is an inconsistency between subsection (7) and section 30(1), subsection (7) prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
- (9) To remove any doubt, it is declared that Powerlink is not prevented from designing the infrastructure the subject of the priority transmission investment, or acquiring land associated with construction of the investment, before the investment is declared under subsection (2) or a direction is given in relation to the investment under subsection (4).

## **Division 3                      Financial matters associated with priority transmission investments**

### **28            Regulation-making power in relation to financial matters associated with priority transmission investments**

- (1) A regulation may—
  - (a) require Powerlink to include particular amounts associated with a priority transmission investment in a revenue proposal by Powerlink; or
  - (b) enable the responsible Ministers to direct Powerlink to—
    - (i) apply to the AER for the AER to amend Powerlink’s revenue determination to account for a priority transmission investment; or
    - (ii) include particular amounts associated with a priority transmission investment in a revenue proposal by Powerlink; or
    - (iii) apply to the AER for the AER to adjust the value of Powerlink’s regulatory asset base by particular amounts to account for a priority transmission investment; or
  - (c) require Powerlink to give information about a priority transmission investment, candidate priority transmission investment or eligible priority transmission investment to a particular entity, including the AER, for the purposes of an application or revenue proposal made acting under—
    - (i) a requirement under paragraph (a); or
    - (ii) a direction mentioned in paragraph (b); or
  - (d) provide for particular action to be taken by the AER in relation to Powerlink’s revenue determination, regulatory asset base or revenue proposal if Powerlink acts under—
    - (i) a requirement under paragraph (a); or

- 
- (ii) a direction mentioned in paragraph (b).
- (2) In subsection (1)(a) and (b)(ii), a reference to particular amounts associated with a priority transmission investment includes a reference to expenditure on the investment, whether before or after the commencement, while the investment is in the form of—
- (a) a candidate priority transmission investment; or
  - (b) an eligible priority transmission investment; or
  - (c) a project that is later prescribed under section 20 as an eligible priority transmission investment.
- (3) In subsection (1)(b)(i) and (iii), a reference to accounting for a priority transmission investment includes a reference to accounting for expenditure on the investment, whether before or after the commencement, while the investment was in a form mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c).
- (4) In this section—
- revenue determination* has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

## Division 4            Other provisions

### 29    PTI guidelines

- (1) The Minister may approve guidelines (*PTI guidelines*) for directing Powerlink, or consulting with or seeking advice from a suitably qualified person, under this part.
- (2) If the Minister is not the Treasurer, the Minister must, before approving the guidelines under subsection (1), consult with the Treasurer about any guidelines relating to the Treasurer.
- (3) The Minister must notify the making of the PTI guidelines in the gazette.
- (4) The PTI guidelines take effect on the later of the following days—

[s 30]

---

- (a) the day the making of the guidelines is notified in the gazette;
  - (b) the day the guidelines state they are to take effect.
- (5) The Minister must publish the PTI guidelines on the department's website.
- (6) The following things must be done in accordance with the PTI guidelines—
- (a) the giving of a direction to Powerlink under this part, including under a regulation made under section 28;
  - (b) consultation with, or the making of a request for advice from, a suitably qualified person under this part.

### **30 Compliance with directions**

- (1) Powerlink must comply with a direction given to it by the Minister or responsible Ministers under this part.
- (2) An act or decision of Powerlink's board in purported implementation of a direction mentioned in subsection (1) is not invalid merely because of a failure to comply with the direction.

### **31 Information given to suitably qualified person**

A suitably qualified person who is given information by Powerlink under this part may disclose the information to the Minister or, if the Minister is not the Treasurer, the Minister or Treasurer.

*Note—*

See also the confidentiality requirement under section 173.

### **32 Advice to Minister or Treasurer**

- (1) Nothing in this part limits the ability of the Minister or, if the Minister is not the Treasurer, the Minister or Treasurer, to seek the advice of another person about a matter under this part.

- 
- (2) The Minister or, if the Minister is not the Treasurer, the Minister or Treasurer, may disclose advice received under this part to Powerlink.

### **33 Relationship with national electricity laws**

- (1) It is the intention of Parliament that this part applies despite anything stated in the national electricity laws.
- (2) It is also the intention of Parliament that the national electricity laws continue to apply in relation to a priority transmission investment to the extent the national electricity laws are not inconsistent with this part.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies in relation to a provision of this part, or a regulation under a provision of this part, that provides for a matter relating to a priority transmission investment to which the national electricity laws apply or would otherwise apply.
- (4) A regulation—
- (a) may provide for the application of a provision of the national electricity laws (a *national provision*) in relation to the priority transmission investment; and
  - (b) for that purpose, may—
    - (i) provide that a national provision does not apply in relation to a matter or applies in relation to a matter with stated modifications; and
    - (ii) state how other provisions of the national electricity laws apply in relation to a matter having regard to a national provision not applying or applying with stated modifications in relation to the matter.
- (5) In this section, a reference to a priority transmission investment includes a reference to an eligible priority transmission investment or a candidate priority transmission investment.

## Part 6 Regional energy hubs

### Division 1 Preliminary

#### 35 Purposes of part

The purposes of this part are—

- (a) to provide for suitable parts of Queensland regions to be declared to be regional energy hubs; and
- (b) to ensure relevant matters are taken into account in the declaration of regional energy hubs, including, for example, the impact of the declaration on Queensland communities; and
- (c) to provide for coordinated and streamlined connection and access to transmission networks in regional energy hubs by regulating connection and access to—
  - (i) the transmission networks; and
  - (ii) transmission assets that materially affect, or are likely to materially affect, the capacity or functioning of the transmission networks; and
- (d) to facilitate and support the development and operation of transmission networks in regional energy hubs, including by providing for the recovery of costs associated with the provision of the transmission networks.

#### 36 Definitions for part

In this part—

***connection agreement*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***hub controlled assets***, for a regional energy hub, means transmission assets that—

- (a) materially affect, or are likely to materially affect, the capacity or functioning of the hub transmission network for the hub; and
- (b) are outside the hub or inside the hub but not part of the hub transmission network for the hub; and
- (c) are identified in the hub declaration for the hub as hub controlled assets for the hub.

**hub declaration** means the regulation under section 38 declaring a part of a Queensland region to be a regional energy hub.

**hub design body**—

- (a) generally, means an entity appointed to be a hub design body under section 75; and
- (b) in relation to a particular regional energy hub, means the hub design body that recommended the hub be declared.

**hub transmission network**, for a regional energy hub, means the transmission network, or a part of a transmission network, that is—

- (a) in the hub; and
- (b) identified in the hub declaration for the hub as the hub transmission network for the hub.

**management plan**, for a regional energy hub, means a management plan for the hub approved under section 47.

**participant**, for a regional energy hub, means an entity that has entered into a connection agreement for connection and access to the hub transmission network for the hub with the transmission network service provider.

**regional energy hub** means a part of a Queensland region that is declared under section 38 to be a regional energy hub.

**regulate**, in relation to connection and access to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub, means authorise, prohibit, restrict or otherwise regulate.

*relevant transmission network service provider*, for hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub, means the transmission network service provider for the transmission system of which the hub controlled assets are a component.

*transmission network service provider*—

- (a) generally, means a Transmission Network Service Provider under the National Electricity Rules; and
- (b) in relation to a particular regional energy hub, means Powerlink in its capacity as the Transmission Network Service Provider for the hub transmission network for the hub.

### **37 References to connection and access**

In this part, the terms connection and access, in relation to a transmission network or transmission assets, have the same meaning as they have in the National Electricity Rules.

## **Division 2 Declaration of regional energy hubs**

### **38 Declaration of regional energy hub**

- (1) A regulation may declare a part of a Queensland region to be a regional energy hub.
- (2) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (1)—
  - (a) if the Minister is not the Treasurer, only with the Treasurer's approval; and
  - (b) only if a hub design body has recommended the part of the Queensland region be declared to be a regional energy hub and the Minister is satisfied—
    - (i) the part of the region is suitable to be a regional energy hub; and
    - (ii) the declaration will help achieve the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b).

*Note—*

See also section 40 for matters to which the Minister and the Treasurer must have regard when performing a function under this division.

- (3) A regulation under subsection (1) must—
- (a) identify—
    - (i) the Queensland region in which the regional energy hub is located; and
    - (ii) the geographic boundary of the regional energy hub; and
  - (b) state the objectives of the regional energy hub; and
  - (c) identify—
    - (i) the management plan for the regional energy hub; and

*Note—*

Under section 47(3), the Minister must keep a copy of the management plan available on the department's website.

- (ii) the existing or proposed transmission network, or the part of an existing or proposed transmission network, that is the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub; and
    - (iii) the existing or proposed transmission assets that are hub controlled assets for the regional energy hub; and
  - (d) state the term of the declaration, which must be a stated period of not less than 15 years after the day on which the first participant is connected to the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub.
- (4) The Minister must, as soon as practicable, publish a notice on the department's website stating the day on which the first participant is connected to the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub.

### **39 Term of declaration and restriction on amendment or repeal**

- (1) A hub declaration continues in effect for the term stated under section 38(3)(d), unless the declaration is repealed.
- (2) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation amending (including amending the term of the declaration) or repealing a hub declaration—
  - (a) if the Minister is not the Treasurer, only with the approval of the Treasurer; and
  - (b) only if the Minister is satisfied—
    - (i) the amendment or repeal will not adversely affect, in a material way, any participant for the regional energy hub; and
    - (ii) for an amendment—the amendment is consistent with achieving the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b).

*Note—*

See also section 40 for matters to which the Minister and the Treasurer must have regard when performing a function under this division.

### **40 Performance of functions under division**

In performing a function under this division, the Minister and the Treasurer must have regard to—

- (a) the system outlook; and
- (b) the impact that the development and operation of a transmission network in a regional energy hub has, or is likely to have, on communities, including, for example, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and
- (c) any other matter the Minister or Treasurer considers relevant.

*Example of another matter—*

advice of the hub design body or another entity obtained by the Minister or Treasurer in relation to the regional energy hub

---

## **Division 3                      Management plans for regional energy hubs**

### **Subdivision 1                Content of management plan**

#### **41                      Content generally**

- (1) A management plan for a regional energy hub must—
  - (a) be consistent with achieving the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b); and
  - (b) state the objectives of the hub; and
  - (c) identify—
    - (i) the Queensland region in which the hub is located; and
    - (ii) the geographic boundary of the hub; and
    - (iii) the hub transmission network for the hub; and
    - (iv) the hub controlled assets for the hub; and
  - (d) include the following information—
    - (i) the term of the declaration of the hub under section 38(3)(d);
    - (ii) information stated in section 42 about the hub transmission network for the hub;
    - (iii) information stated in section 43 about the hub controlled assets for the hub; and
  - (e) include any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit what may be included in a management plan.

## **42 Information about hub transmission network**

- (1) A management plan for a regional energy hub must contain the following information about the hub transmission network for the hub—
  - (a) the proposed timing of the development of, and connection and access to, the hub transmission network;
  - (b) details about the regulation of connection and access to the hub transmission network under this part, including each of the following—
    - (i) the capacity of the transmission network;
    - (ii) if more than 1 energy source is available in the hub, the percentage of the capacity intended to be derived from each source;
    - (iii) technical requirements for connection to the transmission network;
    - (iv) the process to be used by the transmission network service provider to identify entities that may connect to and access the transmission network and the projects in relation to which the connection and access may be granted;
    - (v) the process to be used by entities mentioned in subparagraph (iv) and the transmission network service provider to enter into a connection agreement for connection and access to the transmission network, including, for example—
      - (A) the making, processing and assessing of applications or enquiries for the connection and access, including the timeframes for processing the applications or enquiries and the functions of AEMO in assessing the applications or enquiries; and
      - (B) fees and charges payable for applications or enquiries mentioned in subparagraph (A), including fees and charges for negotiating

- 
- access standards under section 55 in relation to the connection and access; and
- (C) information that must be provided to the service provider in relation to applications or enquiries for the connection and access;
- (c) any other arrangements that are to apply under this part to the operation of the hub transmission network while the hub declaration for the hub is in effect;
- (d) the arrangements that are to apply under this part in relation to the hub transmission network when the hub declaration for the hub ends.
- (2) The fees and charges mentioned in subsection (1)(b)(v)(B)—
- (a) must not be more than the reasonable cost of performing the functions to which the fees and charges relate; and
- (b) must include fees and charges payable to AEMO for performing its functions in relation to the applications or enquiries.

### **43 Information about hub controlled assets**

A management plan for a regional energy hub must contain the following information about hub controlled assets for the hub—

- (a) details of how the hub controlled assets materially affect, or are likely to materially affect, the capacity or functioning of the hub transmission network for the hub;
- (b) the process to be used by the relevant transmission network service provider to identify entities that may connect to and access the hub controlled assets and the projects in relation to which the connection and access may be granted;
- (c) any other matter relating to the regulation of connection and access to the hub controlled assets under this part.

## **Subdivision 2      Preparation of management plan**

### **44      Application of subdivision**

This subdivision applies if a hub design body is proposing to recommend to the Minister that a part of a Queensland region be declared to be a regional energy hub.

*Note—*

See subdivision 4 in relation to the application of this subdivision for replacing a management plan for a regional energy hub.

### **45      Draft management plan**

- (1) The hub design body must prepare a draft management plan complying with subdivision 1 for the proposed regional energy hub, and submit the draft management plan to the responsible Ministers for endorsement.
- (2) The hub design body may ask the Minister to endorse the following matters to help the hub design body prepare the draft management plan—
  - (a) the existing or proposed transmission network, or the part of an existing or proposed transmission network, that is proposed to be the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub;
  - (b) the proposed process to be included in the management plan under section 42(1)(b)(iv).
- (3) The responsible Ministers may endorse the draft management plan if the responsible Ministers are satisfied the management plan complies with subdivision 1.
- (4) The responsible Ministers may ask the hub design body to make stated amendments to the draft management plan before the responsible Ministers endorse the draft management plan.

### **46      Consultation on draft management plan**

- (1) The Minister must publish on the department's website—

- (a) the draft management plan for the proposed regional energy hub endorsed under section 45; and
- (b) the following information—
  - (i) the period within which a person may make submissions to the hub design body about the draft management plan;
  - (ii) how the submissions may be made.
- (2) The period mentioned in subsection (1)(b)(i) must be at least 60 days after the draft management plan is published under subsection (1)(a).
- (3) The hub design body must—
  - (a) consider each submission made in relation to the draft management plan; and
  - (b) make amendments to the draft management plan the hub design body considers appropriate to deal with the submissions, if any; and
  - (c) give the responsible Ministers—
    - (i) a proposed management plan incorporating any amendments under paragraph (b); and
    - (ii) a report outlining the submissions made in relation to the draft management plan and how the submissions have been dealt with.
- (4) The responsible Ministers may ask the hub design body to make stated amendments to the proposed management plan to ensure the submissions made in relation to the draft management plan have been appropriately dealt with.
- (5) The hub design body must make the amendments to the proposed management plan requested under subsection (4).

### **Subdivision 3      Approval and amendment of management plan**

#### **47      Approval of management plan**

- (1) A proposed management plan prepared under subdivision 2 or 4 for a part of a Queensland region declared to be a regional energy hub under section 38 takes effect as the management plan for the hub when the management plan is approved by regulation.
- (2) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation approving a management plan for a regional energy hub only if the responsible Ministers are satisfied—
  - (a) the management plan complies with subdivision 1; and
  - (b) subdivision 2 has been complied with in relation to the management plan.
- (3) The Minister must keep a copy of the management plan for a regional energy hub available on the department’s website.

#### **48      Amendment of management plan**

- (1) A management plan for a regional energy hub may be amended only as provided under this section.
- (2) The hub design body may amend the management plan, with the approval of the chief executive—
  - (a) to correct a minor error in the management plan; or
  - (b) to update a matter mentioned in section 41(1)(b), (c) or (d)(i) to reflect an amendment of the hub declaration for the regional energy hub; or
  - (c) to make a minor change to the technical specifications for the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for the regional energy hub; or
  - (d) to make another change that is not a change of substance.

- 
- (3) The hub design body may amend the management plan with the approval of the responsible Ministers to make a change that is consequential to an amendment of the hub declaration for the regional energy hub.
  - (4) If an amendment of the hub declaration for the regional energy hub changes the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for the hub, the management plan may be amended under subsection (3) to the extent necessary to apply the management plan to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for the hub as changed.
  - (5) The responsible Ministers may approve an amendment of the management plan under subsection (3) only if satisfied the amendment does not—
    - (a) affect the operation of this part, other than as allowed under subsection (4); or
    - (b) adversely affect, in a material way, any participant for the regional energy hub.
  - (6) An amendment of a management plan for a regional energy hub under this section takes effect when the Minister publishes a copy of the management plan incorporating the amendment on the department's website.

## Subdivision 4 Replacement management plan

### 49 Replacement management plan

- (1) The hub design body may replace a management plan for a regional energy hub (the *existing management plan*) with a new management plan for the hub (the *replacement management plan*).
- (2) Subdivisions 2 and 3 apply in relation to the replacement management plan, subject to subsections (3) to (5).
- (3) The Minister must ensure the following information is also published under section 46(1)(a) with the draft replacement management plan—

[s 52]

---

- (a) the changes between the existing management plan and the draft replacement management plan;
  - (b) that submissions to the hub design body about the draft replacement management plan may be made only about a change mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (4) The period mentioned in section 46(1)(b)(i) must be a reasonable period decided by the Minister having regard to the nature of the changes mentioned in subsection (3)(a).
- (5) For applying section 46(3) to the draft replacement management plan—
- (a) the hub design body—
    - (i) must consider each submission to the extent it relates to a change mentioned in subsection (3)(a); and
    - (ii) may, but is not required to, consider a submission to the extent it relates to a matter other than a change mentioned in subsection (3)(a); and
  - (b) the reference to submissions in section 46(3)(c)(ii) is taken to be a reference to submissions to the extent they are considered by the hub design body under paragraph (a).

## **Division 5                    Hub transmission networks**

### **Subdivision 1            Preliminary**

#### **52            Purpose of division**

- (1) This division provides for the regulation of connection and access to—
- (a) the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub; and
  - (b) hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub.

- 
- (2) This division regulates the connection and access by—
- (a) restricting the circumstances in which an entity may connect to and access the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets; and
  - (b) providing for a more streamlined process for the negotiation of access standards for the hub transmission network.
- (3) This division also provides for the continued effect of particular rights and expectations relating to—
- (a) a transmission network or a part of a transmission network that becomes the hub transmission network or a part of the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub; or
  - (b) transmission assets that become hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub.

### 53 Definitions for division

In this division—

*access policy* has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

*access standard*, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, means a standard of performance for a technical requirement of access for plant connected, or to be connected, to the transmission network.

*application to connect* has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

*connection and access process*, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, means the process for entering into a connection agreement stated in the management plan for the hub under section 42(1)(b)(v).

*designated network asset* has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***DNA service*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***eligible entity*** means an entity—

- (a) for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub—identified under the process stated in the management plan for the hub, under section 42(1)(b)(iv), as an entity that may connect to and access the hub transmission network; or
- (b) for hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub—identified under the process stated in the management plan for the hub, under section 43(b), as an entity that may connect to and access the hub controlled assets.

***eligible project*** means a project—

- (a) for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub—identified under the process stated in the management plan for the hub, under section 42(1)(b)(iv), as a project in relation to which an entity may connect to and access the hub transmission network; or
- (b) for hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub—identified under the process stated in the management plan for the hub, under section 43(b), as a project in relation to which to an entity may connect to and access the hub controlled assets.

***plant*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

## **Subdivision 2      Regulation of connection and access**

### **54      Restriction on connection and access to hub transmission network**

- (1) An entity may connect to and access the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub only under a connection

---

agreement entered into between the entity and the transmission network service provider.

- (2) The transmission network service provider may enter into a connection agreement for connection and access to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub—
  - (a) only with an eligible entity for an eligible project; and
  - (b) only if any conditions on which the entity is an eligible entity or the project is an eligible project are met; and
  - (c) only in accordance with the connection and access process for the transmission network.
- (3) The terms and conditions of a connection agreement for connection and access to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub entered into by the transmission network service provider and an eligible entity must be in accordance with—
  - (a) the matters mentioned in the management plan for the hub under section 42(1)(b)(i) to (iii); and
  - (b) the conditions mentioned in subsection (2)(b).
- (4) The national electricity laws apply in relation to connection and access to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub with necessary changes to give effect to the restriction on connection and access under this section, including, for example, by restricting—
  - (a) who may apply for connection and access to the transmission network; and
  - (b) the circumstances in which the transmission network service provider may enter into a connection agreement with an entity for connection and access to the transmission network.

## **55 Negotiated access standards**

- (1) The transmission network service provider and a relevant entity for a regional energy hub may negotiate an access standard for the hub transmission network for the hub in the

way, and in accordance with the requirements, prescribed by regulation.

- (2) The regulation may prescribe—
  - (a) the process that is to apply to the negotiation, which may—
    - (i) provide for the extent to which AEMO is to be involved in the negotiation; and
    - (ii) permit or require the transmission network service provider to consider the performance of all participants for the hub as a whole when negotiating with a particular relevant entity; and
  - (b) requirements about—
    - (i) deciding the access standard; and
    - (ii) how performance against the access standard is to be assessed; and
  - (c) arrangements for access standards for technical requirements for plant connected or to be connected, to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, under subdivision 3 or 4.
- (3) An access standard negotiated under this section is taken to be—
  - (a) an agreed standard of performance determined in accordance with the National Electricity Rules; and
  - (b) if included in a connection agreement—a negotiated access standard for the purposes of the National Electricity Rules.
- (4) In this section—

***relevant entity***, for a regional energy hub, means an entity who proposes to be, or is, a participant for the hub.

---

**56 Connection agreement for hub transmission network entered into under this part**

- (1) This section applies in relation to a connection agreement for connection and access to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub that is entered into in accordance with the national electricity laws except that—
  - (a) the agreement is entered into as provided under section 54; or
  - (b) the agreement includes an access standard negotiated under section 55.
- (2) The connection agreement is taken to be a connection agreement entered into in accordance with the National Electricity Rules.

**57 Restriction on connection and access to hub controlled assets**

- (1) An entity may connect to and access hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub only under a connection agreement entered into between the entity and the relevant transmission network service provider.
- (2) The relevant transmission network service provider may enter into a connection agreement for connection and access to hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub—
  - (a) only with an eligible entity for an eligible project; and
  - (b) only if any conditions on which the entity is an eligible entity or the project is an eligible project are met.
- (3) The national electricity laws apply in relation to connection and access to hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub with necessary changes to give effect to the restriction on connection and access under this section, including, for example, by restricting—
  - (a) who may apply for connection and access to the hub controlled assets; and

- (b) the circumstances in which the relevant transmission network service provider may enter into a connection agreement with an entity for connection and access to the hub controlled assets.

### **Subdivision 3 Existing rights and expectations**

#### **58 Application of subdivision**

- (1) This subdivision—
  - (a) applies in relation to a transmission network or a part of a transmission network if the transmission network or the part of the transmission network becomes the hub transmission network, or a part of the hub transmission network, for a regional energy hub; and
  - (b) applies in relation to transmission assets if the transmission assets become hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub.
- (2) For applying this subdivision in relation to a transmission network or a part of a transmission network mentioned in subsection (1)(a)—
  - (a) a reference to the hub transmission network is a reference to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub that the transmission network or the part of the transmission network has become or has become part of; and
  - (b) a reference to the relevant event is a reference to the commencement of the regulation under section 38(1) or 39 that includes the transmission network or the part of the transmission network as or as part of the hub transmission network for the hub.
- (3) For applying this subdivision in relation to transmission assets mentioned in subsection (1)(b)—

- 
- (a) a reference to the hub controlled assets is a reference to the hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub that the transmission assets have become; and
  - (b) a reference to the relevant event is a reference to the commencement of the regulation under section 38(1) or 39 that includes the transmission assets as hub controlled assets for the hub.

## **59 Existing applications to connect—hub transmission network**

- (1) An existing application to connect for a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies made by an entity other than an eligible entity, or for a project other than an eligible project, for the hub transmission network lapses when the relevant event happens.
- (2) An existing application to connect for a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies made by an eligible entity for an eligible project for the hub transmission network is taken to be an application to connect to the hub transmission network for the eligible project made in accordance with the connection and access process for the hub transmission network.
- (3) Anything done in relation to an existing application to connect mentioned in subsection (2) is taken to have been done under the connection and access process for the hub transmission network, to the extent the thing is relevant to and may be done under that process.
- (4) This section does not apply to an existing application to connect for a transmission network or a part of the transmission network made for a declared project in relation to which subdivision 4 applies.

### *Note—*

See section 66 in relation to existing applications to connect for a transmission network or a part of a transmission network made for a declared project in relation to which subdivision 4 applies.

(5) In this section—

*existing application to connect*, for a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies, means an application to connect for the transmission network or the part of the transmission network made before the relevant event happened if, immediately before the relevant event happened—

- (a) the application had not been withdrawn; and
- (b) the assessment of the application under the National Electricity Rules had not been completed.

## **60 Existing applications to connect—hub controlled assets**

(1) An existing application to connect for transmission assets in relation to which this subdivision applies made by an entity other than an eligible entity, or for a project other than an eligible project, for the hub controlled assets lapses when the relevant event happens.

(2) An existing application to connect for transmission assets in relation to which this subdivision applies made by an eligible entity for an eligible project for the hub controlled assets is taken to be an application to connect for the hub controlled assets for the eligible project.

(3) Anything done in relation to an existing application to connect mentioned in subsection (2) continues to have effect under the National Electricity Rules in relation to the application to connect for the hub controlled assets for the eligible project.

(4) In this section—

*existing application to connect*, for transmission assets in relation to which this subdivision applies, means an application to connect for the transmission assets made before the relevant event happened if, immediately before the relevant event happened—

- (a) the application had not been withdrawn; and

- 
- (b) the assessment of the application under the National Electricity Rules had not been completed.

## 61 Existing connection agreements

- (1) This section applies to an existing connection agreement for—
  - (a) a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies; or
  - (b) transmission assets in relation to which this subdivision applies.
- (2) The existing connection agreement continues in effect as a connection agreement for the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for the regional energy hub.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies despite any inconsistency with this part or the management plan for the regional energy hub.
- (4) In this section—

*existing connection agreement*, for a transmission network or a part of a transmission network or transmission assets in relation to which this subdivision applies, means a connection agreement entered into for the transmission network or the part of the transmission network or the transmission assets that was in effect immediately before the relevant event happened.

## 62 Existing rights to receive DNA services

- (1) This section applies—
  - (a) if a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies is or includes a designated network asset; and
  - (b) in relation to a right, whether conditional or unconditional, to receive a DNA service from the owner of the designated network asset that existed immediately before the relevant event happened (an *existing DNA right*).

- (2) The relevant event does not affect the existing DNA right other than as provided under this section.
- (3) An existing access policy for the designated network asset providing for the existing DNA right continues in effect under the National Electricity Rules to the extent necessary to preserve the existing DNA right under this section.
- (4) An existing DNA agreement for the designated network asset relating to the existing DNA right applies—
  - (a) in relation to the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub; and
  - (b) despite any inconsistency with this part or the management plan for the hub.
- (5) A regulation may provide for—
  - (a) how the existing DNA right, existing access policy or existing DNA agreement is to be given effect in relation to the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub; and
  - (b) any permitted or restricted variations of the existing DNA right, existing access policy or existing DNA agreement to allow the existing DNA right to be preserved under this section; and
  - (c) any other matter necessary to preserve the existing DNA right under this section.

- (6) In this section—

***existing access policy***, for a designated network asset mentioned in subsection (1)(a), means an access policy for the designated network asset that was in effect under the National Electricity Rules immediately before the relevant event happened.

***existing DNA agreement***, for a designated network asset mentioned in subsection (1)(a), means an agreement providing for connection and access to the designated network asset that was in effect immediately before the relevant event happened.

---

**63 Holders of existing connection and access rights may enter into new connection agreement**

- (1) This section applies in relation to an entity that, under section 61 or 62, may connect to and access the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub that is a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies.
- (2) The entity may, within the opt-in period, give the transmission network service provider written notice stating the entity's intention to seek connection and access to the hub transmission network under a connection agreement entered into in accordance with section 54(2)(c) and (3).
- (3) If a notice is given under subsection (2), the entity may, within 14 days after the notice is given, apply for connection and access to the hub transmission network, and the transmission network service provider may enter into a connection agreement with the entity for connection and access to the hub transmission network, under this part as if—
  - (a) the entity were an eligible entity; and
  - (b) the project in relation to which the entity is seeking connection and access to the hub transmission network were an eligible project.
- (4) The entity's right to connect to and access the hub transmission network under section 61 or 62 continues to apply while the entity's application under subsection (3) is being assessed.
- (5) If the entity and transmission network service provider do not enter into a connection agreement under subsection (3), the entity's right to connect to and access the hub transmission network under section 61 or 62 continues unaffected.
- (6) If the entity and transmission network service provider enter into a connection agreement under subsection (3) (the *new connection agreement*)—
  - (a) the entity may connect to and access the hub transmission network in accordance with the new connection agreement; and

[s 64]

---

- (b) the entity’s right to connect to and access the hub transmission network under section 61 or 62 ends; and
  - (c) any existing connection agreement under section 61, existing DNA agreement under section 62, or any other agreement relating to the entity’s right to connect to and access the hub transmission network under section 61 or 62, continues in effect to the extent the agreement—
    - (i) provides for a matter not provided for under this part or the new connection agreement; and
    - (ii) is consistent with this part and the new connection agreement.
- (7) In this section—
- opt-in period*, in relation to a transmission network or a part of a transmission network in relation to which this subdivision applies, means the period of 4 weeks from when the relevant event happened.

## **Subdivision 4      Rights and expectations for declared projects**

### **64      Application of subdivision**

This subdivision applies in relation to a declared project if—

- (a) the project is intended to be connected and have access to a transmission network or a part of a transmission network that, on the making of a hub declaration, becomes the hub transmission network, or a part of the hub transmission network, for a regional energy hub; and
- (b) immediately before the hub declaration for the hub was made, at least 1 of the following existed for, or applied to, the project in relation to the transmission network or the part of the transmission network—
  - (i) a connection agreement;

- (ii) a right, whether conditional or unconditional, to receive a DNA service from the owner of a designated network asset;
- (iii) an access policy that was in effect;
- (iv) an access policy that had been submitted to the AER for approval under the National Electricity Rules, but had not been approved or withdrawn.

## 65 Meaning of *declared project*

- (1) Each of the following is a *declared project* for this subdivision—
  - (a) the MacIntyre wind farm project;
  - (b) the Wambo wind farm project.
- (2) For subsection (1)—
  - (a) the *MacIntyre wind farm project* is the wind farm project for the approved development described in the State Assessment and Referral Agency decision notice 2010-19438 SDA dated 20 April 2021; and
  - (b) the *Wambo wind farm project* is the wind farm project for the approved development described in the State Assessment and Referral Agency decision notice 2007-17946 SDA dated 13 October 2020.

## 66 Application of ss 61 and 63 in relation to declared project

- (1) Section 61 applies in relation to a declared project as if each of the following connection agreements for the transmission network or the part of the transmission network mentioned in section 64(a) were an existing connection agreement under section 61—
  - (a) a connection agreement providing for an entity to be connected to or have access to the transmission network or the part of the transmission network for the project that is in effect immediately before the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made;

[s 67]

---

- (b) a connection agreement providing for an entity to be connected to or have access to the transmission network or the part of the transmission network for the project that is entered into within 12 months after the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made.
- (2) For subsection (1)(b), an application to connect for the transmission network or the part of the transmission network may be made in relation to the declared project, and may be assessed or continue to be assessed, under the National Electricity Rules as if the hub declaration for the regional energy hub had not been made.
- (3) Also, section 63 applies in relation to an entity that may connect to and access the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub for the declared project under section 61 as applying under this section as if the reference to the opt-in period were a reference to the period of 13 months from when the hub declaration for the hub was made.

## **67 Application of ss 62 and 63 in relation to declared project**

- (1) Section 62 applies in relation to a declared project as if each of the following rights relating to a designated network asset that is or is part of the transmission network or the part of the transmission network mentioned in section 64(a) were an existing DNA right under section 62, and as provided under subsection (2)—
  - (a) a right, whether conditional or unconditional, to receive a DNA service from the owner of the designated network asset that existed for the declared project immediately before the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made;
  - (b) a right, whether conditional or unconditional, to receive a DNA service from the owner of the designated network asset that is acquired for the declared project within 12 months after the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made;

- (c) a right, whether conditional or unconditional, to receive a DNA service from the owner of the designated network asset that is—
  - (i) of a kind provided for under a submitted access policy; and
  - (ii) acquired for the declared project under an approved access policy for the submitted access policy within 1 month after the access policy is approved by the AER.
- (2) For subsection (1)—
  - (a) a submitted access policy may be dealt with by the AER under the National Electricity Rules as if the hub declaration for the regional energy hub had not been made; and
  - (b) an existing access policy or approved access policy for a submitted access policy—
    - (i) continues in effect under the National Electricity Rules to the extent necessary to confer or preserve a right mentioned in subsection (1); and
    - (ii) is taken to be an existing access policy under section 62 even if it is approved by the AER under the National Electricity Rules after the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made; and
  - (c) an agreement providing for connection and access to the designated network asset entered into in relation to a right mentioned in subsection (1) is taken to be an existing DNA agreement under section 62 even if it is entered into after the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made.
- (3) Also, section 63 applies in relation to an entity that may connect to and access the hub transmission network for the regional energy hub for the declared project under section 62 as applying under this section as if the reference to the opt-in period were a reference to the following period—

[s 68]

---

- (a) the period of 13 months from when the hub declaration for the hub was made;
  - (b) if the entity may connect to and access the hub transmission network in relation to a right acquired under an approved access policy for a submitted access policy—the period of 2 months from when the access policy was approved by the AER under the National Electricity Rules.
- (4) In this section—

*approved access policy*, for a submitted access policy, means an access policy approved by the AER under the National Electricity Rules in relation to the submitted access policy.

*existing access policy* means an access policy mentioned in section 64(b)(iii).

*submitted access policy* means an access policy mentioned in section 64(b)(iv).

## **Division 6            Cost recovery**

### **Subdivision 1        Preliminary**

#### **68        Purpose of division**

- (1) This division provides a framework for the recovery of costs associated with the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub incurred by the transmission network service provider or AEMO.
- (2) The framework provides for the costs to be recovered from the participants for the regional energy hub in the first instance.

#### **69        Definitions for division**

In this division—

---

***application fees and charges***, in relation to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, means fees and charges stated in the management plan for the hub under section 42(1)(b)(v)(B).

***establishment and operational costs***, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, see section 69A.

***prescribed transmission service*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

### **69A Meaning of *establishment and operational costs***

- (1) The ***establishment and operational costs***, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, are the costs reasonably and prudently incurred by the transmission network service provider for providing the transmission network.
- (2) For subsection (1)—
  - (a) it does not matter whether the costs are incurred before or after the hub declaration for the regional energy hub was made; and
  - (b) subject to paragraph (c), costs incurred by the transmission network service provider for any of the following matters are taken to be incurred for providing the hub transmission network—
    - (i) preparing a management plan in the service provider's capacity as a hub design body;
    - (ii) constructing, maintaining and operating the transmission network;
    - (iii) any other function under this part in relation to the transmission network, including a function performed in the service provider's capacity as a hub design body; and
  - (c) costs incurred by the transmission network service provider for performing functions for which application

[s 70]

---

fees and charges are payable are taken not to be incurred for providing the hub transmission network.

- (3) Also, in this section, a reference to costs incurred by the transmission network service provider is taken to be a reference to any costs, expenses or other financial outgoings incurred by the service provider, including, for example—
- (a) payments to investors to provide a return on capital; and
  - (b) depreciation of assets; and
  - (c) government taxes, fees or charges; and
  - (d) fees for legal, financial, technical or other expert advice.

*Example of other expert advice—*

advice from AEMO

## **Subdivision 2      Costs associated with hub transmission network**

### **70      Fees and charges for connection and access to hub transmission network**

- (1) The transmission network service provider may decide the fees and charges payable by a participant for connection and access to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub.
- (2) Fees and charges payable by a participant for connection and access to the hub transmission network do not include fees and charges for matters for which application fees and charges are payable.
- (3) The amount of the fees and charges—
  - (a) must include an amount representing the participant's contribution to AEMO's costs incurred for performing functions under this Act, other than functions for which application fees and charges are payable; and

*Example of a function for paragraph (a)—*

a function of AEMO under a regulation under section 55(2), other than a function for which application fees and charges are payable

- (b) may include an amount representing the participant's contribution to the establishment and operational costs for the hub transmission network.
- (4) The fees and charges decided under this section are payable for the participant's connection and access to the hub transmission network instead of any fees and charges payable for connection and access to the transmission network under the national electricity laws.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not affect the application fees and charges payable in relation to the hub transmission network.

## **71 Responsible Ministers may allow cost recovery through charges for prescribed transmission services**

- (1) This section applies in relation to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub if the responsible Ministers are satisfied—
  - (a) the transmission network service provider has acted reasonably and prudently in giving access to the transmission network, including, for example, in relation to negotiating connection agreements and deciding fees and charges under section 70; and
  - (b) the transmission network service provider has used the service provider's best endeavours to recover the establishment and operational costs for the transmission network from participants by charging fees and charges under section 70 or otherwise; and
  - (c) there is a shortfall between—
    - (i) the establishment and operational costs incurred by the transmission network service provider; and
    - (ii) the amount of fees and charges paid or payable by participants under section 70 or otherwise; and

- (d) there is no reasonable way for the transmission network service provider to recover the shortfall other than through charges for prescribed transmission services provided by the service provider.
- (2) The amount of the shortfall must be worked out using—
- (a) the present value of the establishment and operational costs, taking into account any inflation since any of the costs were incurred; and
  - (b) the present value of the fees and charges paid by participants under section 70 or otherwise, taking into account any inflation since the fees and charges were paid; and
  - (c) the present value of the fees and charges that will be payable by participants under section 70 or otherwise in the future, disregarding any future inflation.
- (3) The Minister may, by notice and, if the Minister is not the Treasurer, with the Treasurer’s approval, declare that all or a part of the shortfall may be recovered by the transmission network service provider through charges for prescribed transmission services provided by the service provider.
- (4) The declaration must state—
- (a) the amount of the shortfall that may be recovered through charges for prescribed transmission services provided by the transmission network service provider; and
  - (b) if, under subsection (2), the amount of the shortfall is worked out using the present value of an amount mentioned in the subsection—the way the present value is worked out; and
  - (c) the period over which the amount mentioned in paragraph (a) may be recovered as mentioned in the paragraph; and
  - (d) how the amount mentioned in paragraph (a) may be adjusted over the period mentioned in paragraph (c) to allow for future inflation; and

- 
- (e) the reasons why the responsible Ministers are satisfied of the matter mentioned in subsection (1)(d); and
  - (f) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (5) A notice under subsection (3) is subordinate legislation.

### **Subdivision 3 Provisions facilitating cost recovery**

#### **73 Transmission determination providing for charges for prescribed transmission services**

- (1) This section applies if the Minister makes a declaration under section 71 allowing a transmission network service provider to recover all or a part of relevant costs through charges for prescribed transmission services provided by the service provider over a period.
- (2) The transmission determination providing for charges for prescribed transmission services provided by the transmission network service provider for the period must be made in the way, and in accordance with the requirements, prescribed by regulation.
- (3) The regulation may provide for matters about the transmission determination that enable the transmission network service provider to recover the amount through the charges over the period, including, for example—
  - (a) declaring all or a part of the relevant costs to be operating expenditure under the National Electricity Rules; and
  - (b) providing for an increase of the maximum allowed revenue the service provider may earn under the National Electricity Rules for providing the prescribed transmission services; and
  - (c) modifying requirements applying to the service provider's pricing methodology under the National Electricity Rules; and

[s 74]

---

- (d) declaring that matters stated in the regulation are taken to be part of either or both of the following—
    - (i) the service provider’s revenue proposal;
    - (ii) the transmission determination; and
  - (e) providing for particular action to be taken by the AER in relation to the service provider’s revenue proposal or the transmission determination to ensure the transmission determination is made as required under this section.
- (4) In this section—  
*relevant costs* means establishment and operational costs for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub.

## 74 Regulation about transmission services

- (1) To support the application of a provision of this division to a transmission network service provider, a regulation may declare that a transmission service provided by the service provider is taken to be a negotiated transmission service, non-regulated transmission service or prescribed transmission service under the National Electricity Rules.
- (2) In this section—  
*transmission service* has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

## Division 7 Hub design body

### 75 Appointment

The Minister may, by gazette notice, appoint any of the following entities to be a hub design body, if the entity is appropriately qualified—

- (a) a government entity;
- (b) a regulatory body established under an Act of the Commonwealth;

- 
- (c) a government agency of the Commonwealth.

## **76 Functions**

- (1) The functions of a hub design body are—
- (a) to identify parts of Queensland regions that are suitable to be a regional energy hub and make recommendations to the Minister for the parts to be declared to be a regional energy hub; and
  - (b) to assess parts of Queensland regions identified in the system outlook as possibly suitable to be a regional energy hub, and decide whether to make recommendations to the Minister for the parts to be declared to be a regional energy hub; and
  - (c) to develop a management plan in accordance with division 3 for each part of a Queensland region the hub design body recommends to the Minister to be declared to be a regional energy hub; and
  - (d) to perform any other function for this part prescribed by regulation.
- (2) A hub design body may delegate any of its functions to an appropriately qualified officer or employee of the hub design body.
- (3) A hub design body must perform the functions of the hub design body in a way that is consistent with achieving the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b).

## **77 Obtaining information for performing functions**

- (1) This section applies if a hub design body has reason to believe that a relevant person has information the hub design body requires to perform a function of the hub design body under this part.
- (2) The hub design body may, by written notice given to the relevant person, require the person to give the information to the hub design body.

- (3) A notice under subsection (2) must state—
  - (a) the information the hub design body requires; and
  - (b) the way the information must be given; and
  - (c) the date by which the information must be given to the hub design body.
- (4) A relevant person who is given a notice under subsection (2) must comply with the notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

- (5) It is a reasonable excuse for an individual not to comply with a notice given under subsection (2) if complying with the notice might tend to incriminate the individual or expose the individual to a penalty.
- (6) A relevant person may disclose information to the hub design body under this section despite anything in the national electricity laws.
- (7) A relevant person who complies with a notice under subsection (2) incurs no liability for breach of contract, breach of confidence or any other civil wrong for the compliance.
- (8) In this section—

*relevant person* means—

- (a) a person engaged or proposing to engage in an activity mentioned in the National Electricity (Queensland) Law, section 11(1), (2) or (4); or
- (b) a participant or proposed participant for a regional energy hub; or
- (c) another person who may hold information relevant to the operation of the national transmission grid in Queensland.

## **78 Using information for performing function**

- (1) This section applies to the following information—

- 
- (a) information obtained by the hub design body under section 77;
  - (b) other information held by the hub design body about, or received from, a network service provider that the hub design body requires to perform a function of the hub design body under this part.
- (2) The hub design body—
- (a) may use the information for performing a function of the hub design body under this part; and
  - (b) may disclose the information to the Minister or Treasurer for the purpose of the Minister or Treasurer performing a function of the Minister or Treasurer under this part, including a function performed by the responsible Ministers.
- (3) The hub design body may use or disclose information under subsection (2) despite anything in the national electricity laws.
- (4) Subsection (2) does not limit section 173.
- (5) In this section—
- network service provider* means a Network Service Provider under the National Electricity Rules.

## Division 8                      Other provisions

### 79            **Minister or Treasurer may obtain information for performing function**

- (1) This section applies if the Minister or Treasurer has reason to believe that a person has information the Minister or Treasurer requires to perform a function of the Minister or Treasurer under this part, including a function performed by the responsible Ministers.

[s 79]

---

- (2) The Minister or Treasurer may, by written notice given to the person, require the person to give the information to the Minister or Treasurer.
- (3) A notice under subsection (2) must state—
  - (a) the information the Minister or Treasurer requires; and
  - (b) the way the information must be given; and
  - (c) the date by which the information must be given to the Minister or Treasurer.
- (4) A person who is given a notice under subsection (2) must comply with the notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

- (5) It is a reasonable excuse for an individual not to comply with a notice given under subsection (2) if complying with the notice might tend to incriminate the individual or expose the individual to a penalty.
- (6) A person may disclose information to the Minister or Treasurer under this section despite anything in the national electricity laws.
- (7) A person who complies with a notice under subsection (2) incurs no liability for breach of contract, breach of confidence or any other civil wrong for the compliance.
- (8) The Minister or Treasurer—
  - (a) may use information obtained under this section for performing a function of the Minister or Treasurer under this part, including a function performed by the responsible Ministers; and
  - (b) may disclose information obtained under this section to another person for the purpose of the other person performing a function of the other person under this part.
- (9) Subsection (8) does not limit section 173.

---

**80 Minister or Treasurer may obtain advice for performing function**

- (1) The Minister or Treasurer may seek advice from the AER or an appropriately qualified person about any matter relevant to the performance of a function of the Minister or Treasurer under this part, including a function performed by the responsible Ministers.
- (2) The advice the Minister or Treasurer may seek under this section includes advice about any of the following matters—
  - (a) whether a part of a Queensland region is suitable to be a regional energy hub;
  - (b) whether a proposed hub declaration for a regional energy hub will help achieve the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b);
  - (c) whether a proposed amendment or repeal of a hub declaration for a regional energy hub under section 39(2)—
    - (i) will adversely affect, in a material way, any participant for the hub; or
    - (ii) for a proposed amendment—is consistent with achieving the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b);
  - (d) whether a draft management plan for a proposed regional energy hub complies with division 3, subdivision 1;
  - (e) whether a proposed amendment of a management plan for a regional energy hub under section 48(3)—
    - (i) will adversely affect, in a material way, any participant for the hub; or
    - (ii) is consistent with achieving the purposes of this Act mentioned in section 3(a) and (b);
  - (f) any matter relevant to making a declaration under section 71.

[s 82]

---

- (3) For the purpose of obtaining the advice, the Minister or Treasurer may give the AER or appropriately qualified person any information held by the Minister or Treasurer, including, for example, information received from a person under section 79.

*Note—*

See section 173 for the restriction on a person disclosing or using information obtained under this section.

- (4) The AER must, if asked to give advice under subsection (1), give the advice as soon as reasonably practicable.

## **82 Transmission network or part stops being hub transmission network or part**

- (1) This section applies if a transmission network or a part of a transmission network stops being the hub transmission network or a part of the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, because any of the following (each a *relevant event*) happens—
  - (a) the term of the hub declaration for the hub ends;
  - (b) the hub declaration for the hub is repealed;
  - (c) the hub declaration for the hub is amended in a way that the transmission network or the part of the transmission network is no longer the hub transmission network or a part of the hub transmission network for the hub.
- (2) From the happening of the relevant event, the national electricity laws apply in relation to the transmission network or the part of the transmission network in the same way as the laws apply to any other transmission network or a part of a transmission network.
- (3) However—
  - (a) an access standard negotiated under section 55 for the transmission network or the part of the transmission network—

- (i) continues to be an agreed standard of performance determined in accordance with the National Electricity Rules; and
    - (ii) if included in a connection agreement—is taken to be a negotiated access standard for the purposes of the National Electricity Rules; and
  - (b) a connection agreement to which section 56 applied for the transmission network or the part of the transmission network continues to be taken to be a connection agreement entered into in accordance with the National Electricity Rules.
- (4) A regulation may provide for a matter to facilitate the transition of the transmission network or the part of the transmission network to the operation of the national electricity laws under this section.

### **83 Authorisation for competition legislation**

- (1) The following conduct is specifically authorised by this Act for the purposes of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cwlth), section 51(1)(b) and the Competition Code of Queensland—
- (a) conduct of an entity in the development of a management plan for a regional energy hub, including conduct relating to the preparation of, or consultation on, a draft of the management plan;
  - (b) conduct of an entity negotiating and entering into a connection agreement for the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub under this part;
  - (c) conduct of an entity related to regulating the connection and access to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub under this part, including, for example—
    - (i) giving effect to a management plan for the hub; or

[s 84]

---

- (ii) conduct under a connection agreement for the hub transmission network entered into under this part that relates to dispatch, dispatch bids, dispatch offers, or market ancillary service offers, within the meaning of the National Electricity Rules;
- (d) conduct, of an entity, prescribed by regulation that is necessary or incidental to facilitate—
  - (i) a part of a Queensland region to be declared to be a regional energy hub, even if the part is not ultimately declared to be a regional energy hub (a **proposed regional energy hub**); or
  - (ii) the development of a transmission network to be the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub or a proposed regional energy hub; or
  - (iii) the operation of the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub or a proposed regional energy hub; or
  - (iv) arrangements for connection and access to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub or a proposed regional energy hub, including the transition of arrangements under the national electricity laws to arrangements under this part.
- (2) However, anything authorised to be done by subsection (1) is authorised only to the extent to which it would otherwise contravene the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cwlth) or the Competition Code of Queensland.

## **84 Relationship with national electricity laws**

- (1) It is the intention of Parliament that this part applies despite anything stated in the national electricity laws.
- (2) It is also the intention of Parliament that the national electricity laws continue to apply in relation to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional

---

energy hub to the extent the national electricity laws are not inconsistent with this part.

- (3) Subsection (4) applies in relation to a provision of this part, or a regulation under a provision of this part, that provides for a matter, relating to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub, to which the national electricity laws apply or would otherwise apply.
- (4) A regulation—
  - (a) may provide for the application of a provision of the national electricity laws (a *national provision*) in relation to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets; and
  - (b) for that purpose, may—
    - (i) provide that a national provision does not apply in relation to a matter or applies in relation to a matter with stated modifications; and
    - (ii) state how other provisions of the national electricity laws apply in relation to a matter having regard to a national provision not applying or applying with stated modifications in relation to the matter.

## Part 7 Job Security Guarantee Fund

### 85 Job security guarantee

- (1) It is the intention of Parliament that the State will provide security and support to affected energy workers in relation to employment matters, including, for example, by—
  - (a) providing training for, or access to, employment opportunities within the energy sector or another sector; and
  - (b) providing other benefits or opportunities in relation to the change in operations mentioned in section 86(2)(b), (3)(c) or (4)(d).

- (2) The provision by the State of the security and support mentioned in subsection (1) is the *job security guarantee*.

## **86 Who is an *affected energy worker***

- (1) An individual is an *affected energy worker* if the individual is—
- (a) an affected energy GOC worker; or
  - (b) a prescribed energy worker; or
  - (c) an affected energy contractor.
- (2) For subsection (1), an individual is an *affected energy GOC worker* if—
- (a) the individual is, or was, an employee employed by a GOC or an entity wholly or partly owned by a GOC—
    - (i) to perform work at a publicly owned coal-fired power station; or
    - (ii) whose role is, or was, predominantly related to the operations of a publicly owned coal-fired power station; and
  - (b) the individual has been, or will be, directly and adversely affected because of a change in operations, including the reduction or ceasing of operations, of the publicly owned coal-fired power station as a coal-fired power station as a consequence of achieving the strategic infrastructure path objectives.
- (3) Also, for subsection (1), an individual is a *prescribed energy worker* if—
- (a) the individual performs work at a prescribed facility, other than as an employee mentioned in subsection (2); and
  - (b) the work is performed under a contract entered into—
    - (i) with the individual directly; or
    - (ii) with the entity that employs or engages the individual to perform the work; and

- 
- (c) the individual has been, or will be, directly and adversely affected because of a change in operations, including the reduction or ceasing of operations, of the prescribed facility as a consequence of achieving the strategic infrastructure path objectives.
- (4) In addition, for subsection (1), an individual is an ***affected energy contractor*** if—
- (a) the individual performs work at a publicly owned coal-fired power station other than as an employee or contractor mentioned in subsection (2) or (3); and
- (b) the work is performed under a contract entered into—
- (i) with the individual directly; or
- (ii) with the entity that employs or engages the individual to perform the work; and
- (c) the total amount of work performed by the individual at 1 or more publicly owned coal-fired power stations meets or exceeds the amount prescribed by regulation for this paragraph; and
- Example—*
- A regulation may prescribe an amount of time an employee performs work under 1 or more contracts at 1 or more power stations over a specified period of time.
- (d) the individual has been, or will be, directly and adversely affected because of a change in operations, including the reduction or ceasing of operations, of the publicly owned coal-fired power station as a coal-fired power station as a consequence of achieving the strategic infrastructure path objectives.
- (5) In this section—
- prescribed facility*** means a facility that—
- (a) is either—
- (i) a coal mine; or
- (ii) an electricity generating facility; and
- (b) is prescribed by regulation for this definition.

## **87 Establishment of fund**

The Job Security Guarantee Fund is established.

## **88 Fund bank account**

- (1) The department must keep a fund bank account.
- (2) The account is in addition to other accounts the department is required or permitted to keep under an Act.
- (3) The chief executive must pay all amounts received for the fund into the fund bank account, including amounts appropriated by Parliament and any other amounts received by the department for the fund.
- (4) The chief executive may pay amounts out of the fund bank account only in order to make a payment from the fund under section 90.
- (5) The Treasurer may give the chief executive a direction about the banking arrangements for the fund bank account.
- (6) The direction must be consistent with requirements applying to the department under this Act or another Act.
- (7) The chief executive must comply with a direction given under subsection (5).

## **89 Purposes of fund**

The purposes of the fund are—

- (a) to implement the job security guarantee; and
- (b) to ensure a sufficient number of workers have the necessary skills to ensure the safe and reliable operation of publicly owned coal-fired power stations, to the extent the power stations are required to support the achievement of the strategic infrastructure path objectives.

---

## 90 Payments from fund

- (1) The chief executive and under-Treasurer must decide jointly whether to make a payment from the fund.
- (2) An amount may be paid from the fund only if the amount will, or is likely to, contribute to achieving a purpose of the fund.
- (3) In making a payment from the fund, the chief executive and under-Treasurer must have regard to the following matters—
  - (a) how effectively the payment will contribute to achieving a purpose of the fund;
  - (b) whether the payment is the most practical or cost-effective way to achieve a purpose of the fund;
  - (c) whether there are alternative sources of funding available for the purpose for which the proposed payment is to be made;
  - (d) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (4) A regulation must prescribe the categories of costs for which amounts may be paid from the fund under subsection (2).

*Examples of categories—*

- training costs to support affected energy workers in gaining employment within the energy sector or another sector
- relocation costs for particular affected energy workers to support continued employment within the energy sector
- categories of costs necessary to achieve the purpose of the fund mentioned in section 89(b)

- (5) A regulation may prescribe—
  - (a) requirements or obligations that must be complied with by a recipient or proposed recipient of a payment from the fund; and

*Example of requirements or obligations—*

A regulation may require fund recipients to report on the use of the funds.

- (b) for a category of costs prescribed under subsection (4)—the entities to which, or the affected

[s 91]

---

- energy workers in relation to whom, amounts for the costs are to be paid; and
- (c) any other matter necessary or convenient to ensure the fund is administered—
    - (i) in accordance with this Act; and
    - (ii) in an effective and efficient way.
  - (6) Before the Minister recommends to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under this section, the chief executive must consult with the under-Treasurer about the proposed regulation.

## **91 Fund guideline**

- (1) The chief executive and under-Treasurer may make a guideline about the administration of the fund under this part, including—
  - (a) procedures relating to making payments from the fund; and
  - (b) procedures for dealing with complaints about payments from the fund.
- (2) The chief executive and under-Treasurer must comply with the guideline in administering the fund.

## **92 Reporting requirement**

The department must include the following information about the fund in the department's annual report under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, section 63—

- (a) the total funds held in the fund bank account kept under section 88 when the annual report is prepared; and
- (b) a summary of the payments made from the fund for the financial year; and
- (c) a description of how the payments have contributed to achieving the purposes of the fund.

---

## Part 8 CopperString project

### Division 1 Preliminary

#### 93 Purpose of part

The purpose of this part is to facilitate and support the delivery of the CopperString project by—

- (a) identifying and declaring stages of the project to which this part applies; and
- (b) providing for financial matters associated with a declared stage to enable the stage to be delivered in an efficient and coordinated way.

#### 94 Definitions for part

In this part—

*CopperString project* see section 95.

*declared stage*, of the CopperString project, means an identified stage of the project declared to be a declared stage of the project under section 98.

*forecast capital expenditure* has the same meaning as the term has in the National Electricity Rules.

*forecast operating expenditure* has the same meaning as the term has in the National Electricity Rules.

*identified stage*, of the CopperString project, means a stage of the project identified under section 96.

*proponent*, for a stage of the CopperString project, means the person who is or will be the transmission network service provider for the stage.

*stage*, of the CopperString project, means a part of the transmission network that is the subject of the project.

## **95 What is the *CopperString* project**

The *CopperString project* is the project known as CopperString—

- (a) involving the construction of a transmission network, and associated infrastructure, to connect Mount Isa to the national transmission grid near Woodstock; and
- (b) the delivery of which the State has agreed to facilitate and support.

## **Division 2 Identification and declaration of stage**

### **96 Identifying stage suitable for declaration**

- (1) The responsible Ministers may identify a stage of the CopperString project that may be suitable to be a declared stage of the project.
- (2) The Minister must publish on the department’s website—
  - (a) notice of each identified stage of the CopperString project; and
  - (b) details of the scope of the work involved in the identified stage of which the responsible Ministers are aware at the time the stage is identified under subsection (1).

### **97 Obtaining advice from appropriately qualified person**

- (1) As soon as practicable after identifying a stage of the CopperString project under section 96, the responsible Ministers must obtain advice about the following matters from an appropriately qualified person—
  - (a) the efficient costs of each of the following that may be incurred or expected to be incurred by a person who is or will be the transmission network service provider for the identified stage—

- 
- (i) constructing the identified stage;
  - (ii) operating the identified stage for a period, decided by the responsible Ministers, of at least 5 years;
  - (b) the amount of forecast capital expenditure and forecast operating expenditure for the identified stage that would be consistent with the efficient costs mentioned in paragraph (a);
  - (c) any other matter the responsible Ministers need advice about to make a declaration under section 98.
- (2) A request for advice under subsection (1) must state the date by which the advice must be given to the responsible Ministers.
- (3) For the purpose of obtaining the advice, the Minister or Treasurer may give the appropriately qualified person any information held by the Minister or Treasurer, including, for example, information received under section 101.

*Note—*

See section 173 for the restriction on a person disclosing or using information obtained under this section.

## **98 Declaration of stage**

- (1) This section applies if, having regard to advice obtained under section 97 about an identified stage of the CopperString project, the responsible Ministers—
- (a) have identified the efficient costs of each of the following that may be incurred by a person in the proponent’s circumstances—
    - (i) constructing the identified stage;
    - (ii) operating the identified stage for a period, decided by the responsible Ministers, of at least 5 years; and
  - (b) are satisfied it is necessary and appropriate to declare the stage to be a declared stage of the CopperString project to achieve the purpose of this part by enabling

the stage to be delivered in an efficient and coordinated way.

- (2) The Minister may, by notice, declare the identified stage of the CopperString project to be a declared stage of the project.
- (3) The declaration must—
  - (a) identify—
    - (i) the proponent; and
    - (ii) the scope of the work involved in the declared stage; and
  - (b) state the following amounts that are to be used to make or amend a transmission determination as mentioned in section 99(1)—
    - (i) the forecast capital expenditure for the declared stage;
    - (ii) the forecast operating expenditure for the declared stage for the first 5 years of operating the stage; and
  - (c) include any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (4) The forecast capital expenditure or forecast operating expenditure stated in the declaration under subsection (3)(b) must be consistent with the efficient costs of constructing and operating the stage mentioned in subsection (1)(a).
- (5) A notice under subsection (2) is subordinate legislation.

## **Division 3                      Financial matters associated with declared stage**

### **99                      Regulation-making power in relation to financial matters associated with declared stage**

- (1) The transmission determination, for the proponent of a declared stage of the CopperString project, that first applies to the stage must be—

- (a) made in the way, and in accordance with the requirements, prescribed by regulation; or
  - (b) if an existing transmission determination for the proponent is to be amended to apply to the stage—amended in the way, and in accordance with the requirements, prescribed by regulation.
- (2) A regulation made under subsection (1) may provide for matters to facilitate the making or amendment of the transmission determination, including, for example—
- (a) declaring a regulatory control period for the proponent that is different from the regulatory control period that would apply under the National Electricity Rules; and
  - (b) declaring transmission services provided by the proponent in relation to the declared stage that are, or are taken to be, prescribed transmission services; and
  - (c) declaring, and providing for the adjustment of, the proponent’s regulatory asset base; and
  - (d) declaring the revenue that the proponent may earn for providing prescribed transmission services, or the way the revenue may be worked out.
- (3) A regulation may provide for matters to facilitate the making of a transmission determination for the proponent of the declared stage, under the national electricity laws, for a regulatory control period starting after the regulatory control period to which the transmission determination mentioned in subsection (1) applies, including, for example—
- (a) declaring, and providing for the adjustment of, the proponent’s regulatory asset base; and
  - (b) declaring the proponent’s forecast capital expenditure for the declared stage for the purpose of making the transmission determination.
- (4) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under this section only if the Minister is satisfied the regulation is necessary and appropriate to

achieve the purpose of this part by enabling the declared stage to be delivered in an efficient and coordinated way.

(5) In this section—

*regulatory control period* has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

## **100 Relationship with national electricity laws**

- (1) It is the intention of Parliament that a regulation under section 99 applies despite anything stated in the national electricity laws.
- (2) It is also the intention of Parliament that the national electricity laws continue to apply in relation to a declared stage of the CopperString project to the extent the national electricity laws are not inconsistent with a regulation under section 99.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies in relation to a provision of a regulation under section 99 that provides for a matter relating to a declared stage of the CopperString project to which the national electricity laws apply or would otherwise apply.
- (4) A regulation—
  - (a) may provide for the application of a provision of the national electricity laws (a *national provision*) in relation to the declared stage; and
  - (b) for that purpose, may—
    - (i) provide that a national provision does not apply in relation to a matter or applies in relation to a matter with stated modifications; and
    - (ii) state how other provisions of the national electricity laws apply in relation to a matter having regard to a national provision not applying or applying with stated modifications in relation to the matter.

---

## Division 4                      Other matters

### 101      **Minister or Treasurer may obtain information for performing function**

- (1) This section applies if the Minister or Treasurer has reason to believe a person has information the Minister or Treasurer requires to perform a function under this part, including a function performed by the responsible Ministers.

*Example of a person who may have information mentioned in subsection (1)—*

a person who is or may be the proponent or proposed proponent for a stage of the CopperString project

- (2) The Minister or Treasurer may, by written notice given to the person, require the person to give the information to the Minister or Treasurer.
- (3) A notice under subsection (2) must state—
- (a) the information the Minister or Treasurer requires; and
  - (b) the way the information must be given; and
  - (c) the date by which the information must be given to the Minister or Treasurer.
- (4) A person who is given a notice under subsection (2) must comply with the notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

- (5) It is a reasonable excuse for an individual not to comply with a notice given under subsection (2) if complying with the notice might tend to incriminate the individual or expose the individual to a penalty.
- (6) A person may disclose information to the Minister or Treasurer under this section despite anything in the national electricity laws.
- (7) A person who complies with a notice under subsection (2) incurs no liability for breach of contract, breach of confidence or any other civil wrong for the compliance.

- (8) The Minister or Treasurer—
  - (a) may use information obtained by the Minister or Treasurer under this section for performing a function under this part, including a function performed by the responsible Ministers; and
  - (b) may disclose information obtained under this section to another person for the purpose of the other person performing a function of the other person under this part.
- (9) Subsection (8) does not limit section 173.

## **Part 11                      Miscellaneous**

### **Division 1                      Application of transmission ring-fencing rule to Powerlink**

#### **170A    Application of transmission ring-fencing rule**

- (1) The transmission ring-fencing rule and other provisions of the national electricity laws apply to Powerlink subject to a regulation made under this section.

*Note—*

See also sections 33 and 84.

- (2) A regulation—
  - (a) may provide for the application of the transmission ring-fencing rule to Powerlink; and
  - (b) for that purpose, may—
    - (i) provide that the transmission ring-fencing rule does not apply to Powerlink in relation to a matter or applies in relation to a matter with stated modifications; and
    - (ii) state how other provisions of the National Electricity Rules apply in relation to a matter

---

having regard to the transmission ring-fencing rule not applying or applying with stated modifications to Powerlink in relation to the matter.

- (3) Without limiting subsection (2)(b)(i), a regulation may provide that—
- (a) a stated requirement of the transmission ring-fencing rule does not apply to Powerlink; and
  - (b) another requirement applies in place of the requirement mentioned in paragraph (a).

*Example—*

The regulation may provide that 1 or more requirements, or all of the requirements, of a former version of the ‘Transmission ring-fencing guidelines’ made under the National Electricity Rules apply to Powerlink in place of 1 or more requirements, or all of the requirements, of the current version of the guidelines.

- (4) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under this section only if the Minister is satisfied the regulation is necessary to achieve the main purposes of this Act stated in section 3(a) or (b) by enabling Powerlink to comply with this Act.
- (5) In this section—

*transmission ring-fencing rule* means—

- (a) the National Electricity Rules, rule 6A.21; and
- (b) the ‘Transmission ring-fencing guidelines’ made under that rule.

## **170B Validation of particular acts and omissions of Powerlink**

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) during the period starting on 1 March 2024 and ending on the day a regulation is made under section 170A, an act done, or omission made, by Powerlink contravenes the transmission ring-fencing rule within the meaning of that section; and

[s 170C]

---

- (b) the act or omission would, if it had occurred after the day a regulation is made under section 170A, have been valid and lawful under the national electricity laws.
- (2) For the national electricity laws, the act or omission is declared to be, and to have always been, valid and lawful.

### **170C Review of operation of regulation made under section 170A**

- (1) The Minister must, within 3 years after a regulation is first made under section 170A, review the operation of the regulation.
- (2) In conducting the review, the Minister must—
  - (a) consult with Powerlink and the AER; and
  - (b) consider whether the regulation continues to be necessary to achieve the main purposes of this Act stated in section 3(a) or (b) by enabling Powerlink to comply with this Act.
- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that this section does not prevent the Minister from reviewing the operation of the regulation at any time.

### **170D Expiry**

This division expires on 31 December 2035.

## **Division 2 Other provisions**

### **171 Definition for division**

In this division—

*official* means—

- (a) the Minister; or
- (b) the Treasurer; or

- (c) the chief executive; or
- (d) a hub design body; or
- (e) a public service employee performing functions under or relating to the administration of this Act.

## 172 False or misleading information

- (1) A person must not, in relation to the administration of this Act, give an official information the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person if the person, when giving information in a document—
- (a) tells the official, to the best of the person’s ability, how the document is false or misleading; and
  - (b) if the person has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information—gives the correct information.

## 173 Confidentiality

- (1) This section applies to the following persons (each a *relevant person*)—

- (a) a person who—
  - (i) is, or has been, an official; and
  - (ii) in that capacity, has acquired or has access to confidential information about another person;
- (b) Powerlink, if Powerlink has acquired, or has access to, confidential information about another person under this Act;
- (c) a person who is, or has been, a suitably qualified person if the person has acquired, or has access to, confidential information about another person;
- (d) a person who has acquired, or has access to, confidential information about another person under section 80;

- (e) a person who has acquired, or has access to, confidential information about another person under section 97.
- (2) The relevant person must not disclose the information to anyone else, or use the information, other than under this section.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

- (3) The relevant person may disclose or use the information—
  - (a) to the extent the disclosure or use is—
    - (i) necessary to perform the person’s functions under or relating to this Act; or
    - (ii) otherwise required or permitted under this Act or another law; or
  - (b) with the consent of the person to whom the information relates; or
  - (c) in compliance with a lawful process requiring production of documents to, or giving evidence before, a court or tribunal.

- (4) In this section—  
***confidential information***—

- (a) means information that—
  - (i) could identify an individual; or
  - (ii) is about a person’s current financial position or financial background; or
  - (iii) would be likely to damage the commercial activities of a person to whom the information relates; but
- (b) does not include—
  - (i) information that is publicly available; or
  - (ii) statistical or other information that could not reasonably be expected to result in the identification of the person to whom the information relates.

---

## 174 Protecting officials from liability

- (1) An official is not civilly liable for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under this Act.
- (2) If subsection (1) prevents a civil liability attaching to an official, the liability attaches instead to the State.
- (3) This section—
  - (a) does not apply to an official who is a prescribed person under the *Public Sector Act 2022*; and

*Note—*

For protection from civil liability for prescribed persons under the *Public Sector Act 2022*, section 267, see section 269 of that Act.

- (b) applies to a hub design body only in relation to the performance of a function of the hub design body under this Act that is prescribed by regulation.

## 175 Delegation

- (1) The Minister may delegate the Minister's functions under this Act, other than the functions mentioned in subsection (2), to an appropriately qualified public service employee employed by the department.
- (2) The Minister must not delegate—
  - (a) the Minister's functions under section 20, 26(2) or (4) or 29(1); or
  - (b) the Minister's function of giving a direction under a regulation made under section 28(1)(b); or
  - (c) any of the following functions of the Minister under part 6—
    - (i) a function under part 6, division 2, other than publishing a notice under section 38(4);
    - (ii) a function under part 6, division 3, other than—
      - (A) publishing a management plan, or a copy of a management plan, for a regional energy

- hub under section 46(1), 47(3), 48(6) or information under section 49(3); and
- (B) deciding the period mentioned in section 46(1)(b)(i) under section 46(2) or 49(4);
- (iii) a function under part 6, division 6;
- (iv) a function under section 75; or
- (d) the Minister's functions under section 96 or 98.
- (3) The Treasurer may delegate the Treasurer's functions under sections 79 and 80 to an appropriately qualified public service employee employed by Queensland Treasury.
- (4) The chief executive may delegate the chief executive's functions under this Act to an appropriately qualified public service employee employed by the department.
- (5) The under-Treasurer may delegate the under-Treasurer's functions under sections 90 and 91 to an appropriately qualified public service employee employed by Queensland Treasury.
- (6) In this section—  
*functions* includes powers.

## **176 Review of particular parts of Act**

- (1) The Minister must review the operation and effectiveness of part 7 of this Act as soon as practicable after the day that is 5 years after the commencement.
- (2) The Minister must also review the operation and effectiveness of part 7 every 5 years after the review mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) The Minister must table a report about the outcome of each review in the Legislative Assembly.

**177 Regulation-making power**

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.
- (2) A regulation may—
  - (a) prescribe fees payable under this Act; and
  - (b) provide for a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units for a contravention of a regulation.

**Part 12 Transitional provisions**

**Division 1 Transitional provisions for Act No. 15 of 2024**

**Subdivision 1 Infrastructure blueprint**

**178 First infrastructure blueprint**

On the commencement, the document called the ‘Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint’ dated September 2022 and published on the department’s website is taken to be the infrastructure blueprint made and approved under section 15.

**Subdivision 2 Other transitional provisions**

**179 Application of s 90 for initial regulation for payments from fund**

Despite section 90(6), the Minister need not consult with the council before making a recommendation to the Governor in Council about the first regulation made under section 90 after the commencement.

### **179A Limited protection from liability for Powerlink**

- (1) Powerlink is not civilly liable for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence, that is necessary or incidental to facilitate—
  - (a) a part of Queensland to be declared to be a REZ, even if the part is not ultimately declared to be a REZ (a *proposed REZ*); or
  - (b) the development of a transmission network to be the REZ transmission network for a proposed REZ (the *proposed REZ transmission network*); or
  - (c) the operation of—
    - (i) the proposed REZ transmission network for a proposed REZ; or
    - (ii) transmission assets that are to be REZ controlled assets for a proposed REZ (the *proposed REZ controlled assets*); or
  - (d) arrangements for connection and access to the proposed REZ transmission network or proposed REZ controlled assets for a proposed REZ, including the transition of arrangements under the national electricity laws to arrangements under part 6.

*Note—*

See also section 191.

- (2) If subsection (1) prevents a civil liability attaching to Powerlink, the liability attaches instead to the State.
- (3) Subsection (1) applies to acts done, or omissions made, by Powerlink in relation to a proposed REZ—
  - (a) only in its capacity as a Transmission Network Service Provider under the National Electricity Rules; and
  - (b) only during the period—
    - (i) starting when this Act was assented to; and
    - (ii) ending when the first of the following happens—
      - (A) the proposed REZ is declared to be a REZ;

- (B) the end of 2 years after the day this Act was assented to.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies to acts done, or omissions made, by Powerlink during the period mentioned in subsection (3)(b) as if the relevant provisions had commenced on the day this Act was assented to.
- (5) In this section—
- relevant provisions* means—
- (a) this section; and
- (b) the other provisions of this Act relevant to the operation of this section.

## Division 2                      Transitional provisions for Energy Roadmap Amendment Act 2025

### 181      Definitions for division

In this division—

*amendment Act* means the *Energy Roadmap Amendment Act 2025*.

*former*, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force immediately before the commencement of the transitional provision in which the term is used.

*transitional provision* means a provision of this division.

### 182      First system outlook

Section 2 (headed ‘Investment Outlook’) of the document called the ‘Energy Roadmap’, published on the department’s website on 10 October 2025—

- (a) is taken to be the system outlook made under section 15; and

- (b) is taken to have been approved by regulation on the day this section commences.

### **183 Reference to infrastructure blueprint**

- (1) A reference in a document to the infrastructure blueprint may, if the context permits, be taken to be a reference to the system outlook.
- (2) In this section—  
*infrastructure blueprint* means the infrastructure blueprint made under former section 15.

### **184 Existing candidate priority transmission investments**

- (1) This section applies in relation to a candidate priority transmission investment under former section 18 if, immediately before the commencement, the responsible Ministers have not made a declaration for the investment under former section 26.
- (2) New part 5 applies in relation to the candidate priority transmission investment.
- (3) For applying subsection (2), from the commencement—
  - (a) the declaration of the eligible priority transmission investment as a candidate priority transmission investment under former section 21 is taken to be a declaration made under new section 24(1); and
  - (b) a direction given by the responsible Ministers under former section 24(2) is taken to be a direction given by the Minister under new section 24; and
  - (c) a report given by Powerlink in purported compliance with a direction given under former section 24 is taken to be a report given to the Minister in purported compliance with a direction mentioned in paragraph (b); and

(d) any advice sought by the responsible Ministers under former section 25(2) is taken to be advice sought by the Minister under new section 25(2).

(4) In this section—

*new*, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force on the commencement.

### **185 Appointment as REZ delivery body**

- (1) This section applies in relation to an entity that, immediately before the commencement, was a REZ delivery body appointed under former section 75.
- (2) From the commencement, the appointment of the entity as a REZ delivery body under former section 75 is taken to be an appointment of the entity as a hub design body under section 75 as in force on the commencement.

### **186 Dissolution of board**

- (1) On the commencement—
  - (a) the board is dissolved; and
  - (b) each board member goes out of office; and
  - (c) the State becomes the successor in law of the board.
- (2) No compensation is payable to a board member because of subsection (1).
- (3) Without limiting subsection (1)(c), the records and other documents held by the board immediately before the commencement become records and other documents of the State.
- (4) In this section—

*board* means the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board established under former section 93.

*board member* means a board member under former section 98.

## **187 Dissolution of council**

- (1) On the commencement—
  - (a) the council is dissolved; and
  - (b) each council member goes out of office; and
  - (c) the State becomes the successor in law of the council.
- (2) No compensation is payable to a council member because of subsection (1).
- (3) Without limiting subsection (1)(c), the records and other documents held by the council immediately before the commencement become records and other documents of the State.
- (4) In this section—

*council* means the Energy Industry Council established under former section 123.

*council member* means a council member under former section 129.

## **188 Dissolution of office of the jobs advocate**

- (1) On the commencement—
  - (a) the office of the jobs advocate is dissolved; and
  - (b) the jobs advocate goes out of office; and
  - (c) the State becomes the successor in law of the jobs advocate.
- (2) No compensation is payable to the jobs advocate because of subsection (1).
- (3) Without limiting subsection (1)(c), the records and other documents held by the jobs advocate immediately before the commencement become records and other documents of the State.
- (4) In this section—

---

*jobs advocate* means the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate under former section 154.

## 189 Confidentiality

- (1) Despite the repeal of the former criminal history provisions by the amendment Act, each former criminal history provision continues to apply in relation to criminal history information, as defined in the former criminal history provision, given to the Minister before the commencement.
- (2) The reference in section 173(1)(a)(i) to a person who has been an official includes a reference to a person who has been a board member, a council member or the jobs advocate.
- (3) In this section—

*board member* means a board member under former section 98.

*council member* means a council member under former section 129.

*former criminal history provision* means former section 108, 140 or 168.

*jobs advocate* means the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate under former section 154.

## 190 Regulation under s 170A

Despite the amendment of section 3 by the amendment Act, the regulation made under section 170A and in effect immediately before the commencement continues in effect.

## 191 Application of s 179A

- (1) Section 179A continues to apply in relation to acts done, or omissions made, by Powerlink in relation to a proposed REZ, within the meaning of that section, during the period mentioned in section 179A(3)(b).
- (2) From the commencement, section 179A applies as if—

[s 192]

---

- (a) a reference to a part of Queensland to be declared to be a REZ included a reference to a part of a Queensland region to be declared to be a regional energy hub (a *proposed hub*); and
- (b) a reference to a transmission network to be the REZ transmission network for a proposed REZ included a reference to a transmission network to be the hub transmission network for a proposed hub; and
- (c) a reference to transmission assets that are to be REZ controlled assets for a proposed REZ included a reference to transmission assets that are to be the hub controlled assets for a proposed hub; and
- (d) the reference in section 179A(3)(b)(ii)(A) to when the proposed REZ is declared to be a REZ included a reference to when the proposed REZ or proposed hub is declared to be a regional energy hub.

## 192 Application of s 180

From the commencement, section 180 applies as if a reference to a REZ matter included a reference to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub.

## 193 Transitional regulation-making power

- (1) A regulation (a *transitional regulation*) may make provision about a matter for which—
  - (a) it is necessary to make provision—
    - (i) to allow or facilitate the doing of anything to achieve the transition from the operation of this Act as in force before its amendment by the amendment Act to the operation of this Act after its amendment by the amendment Act; or
    - (ii) to allow or facilitate the doing of anything to help the operation of this Act or the national electricity laws to achieve the purpose of part 8; and

- (b) this Act does not provide or sufficiently provide.
- (2) A transitional regulation—
- (a) may provide for the application of a provision of the national electricity laws (a *national provision*) in relation to a matter mentioned in subsection (1); and
  - (b) for that purpose, may—
    - (i) provide that a national provision does not apply in relation to a matter or applies in relation to a matter with stated modifications; and
    - (ii) state how other provisions of the national electricity laws apply in relation to a matter having regard to a national provision not applying or applying with stated modifications in relation to the matter.
- (3) A transitional regulation may have retrospective operation to a day not earlier than—
- (a) the day this section commences; or
  - (b) for a transitional regulation relating to an amendment of this Act commencing after the day this section commences—the day the amendment commences.
- (4) A transitional regulation must declare it is a transitional regulation.
- (5) This section and any transitional regulation expire on the day that is 2 years after the day this section commences.

## Schedule 1 Dictionary

### section 6

*access policy*, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

*access standard*, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

*AEMO* means Australian Energy Market Operator Limited ACN 072 010 327.

*AER* means the Australian Energy Regulator established under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cwlth), section 44AE.

*affected energy worker* see section 86(1).

*application fees and charges*, in relation to the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, for part 6, division 6, see section 69.

*application to connect*, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

*assessment documents*, for part 5, see section 18.

*candidate priority transmission investment* see section 18.

*connection agreement*, for part 6, see section 36.

*connection and access process*, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

*CopperString project* see section 95.

*declared project*, for part 6, division 5, subdivision 4, see section 65.

*declared stage*, of the CopperString project, for part 8, see section 94.

*designated network asset*, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

*disclose* includes give access to.

**DNA service**, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

**eligible entity**, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

**eligible priority transmission investment** see section 18.

**eligible project**, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

**establishment and operational costs**, for the hub transmission network for a regional energy hub, for part 6, division 6, see section 69A.

**forecast capital expenditure**, for part 8, see section 94.

**forecast operating expenditure**, for part 8, see section 94.

**fund** means the Job Security Guarantee Fund established under section 87.

**government company** see the *Government Owned Corporations Act 1993*, section 2.

**government entity** means—

- (a) an entity that represents the State; or
- (b) a registry or other administrative office of a court of the State; or
- (c) a GOC; or
- (d) a government company; or
- (e) a local government; or
- (f) an instrumentality or agency of a local government; or
- (g) a corporation, or a subsidiary of a corporation, owned by a local government; or
- (h) an entity established under an Act, or under an authorisation given by the State, for a public purpose, other than an entity mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (g); or
- (i) a part of an entity mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (h).

**hub controlled assets**, for a regional energy hub, see section 36.

**hub declaration**, for part 6, see section 36.

**hub design body** see section 36.

**hub transmission network**, for a regional energy hub, see section 36.

**identified need**, for a candidate priority transmission investment, for part 5, see section 18.

**identified stage**, of the CopperString project, for part 8, see section 94.

**information** includes a document.

**Integrated System Plan** means the Integrated System Plan, published by AEMO, as in force from time to time.

**job security guarantee** see section 85(2).

**management plan**, for a regional energy hub, for part 6, see section 36.

**nameplate rating** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

**national electricity laws** means the National Electricity (Queensland) Law and the National Electricity Rules.

**National Electricity Rules** see the National Electricity (Queensland) Law, section 2(1).

**national transmission grid** has the meaning given by the National Electricity (Queensland) Law.

**official**, for part 11, division 2, see section 171.

**participant**, for a regional energy hub, for part 6, see section 36.

**plant**, for part 6, division 5, see section 53.

**Powerlink** means Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited ACN 078 849 233.

**prescribed transmission service**, for part 6, division 6, see section 69.

**priority transmission investment** see section 26(2).

**proponent**, for a stage of the CopperString project, for part 8, see section 94.

**publicly owned coal-fired power station** means a coal-fired power station in Queensland that is owned, wholly or partly and directly or indirectly, by a GOC.

**pumped hydro energy storage** means the storage of energy using water reservoirs at different elevations, in which energy may be stored by pumping water to a higher reservoir and from which energy may be generated by allowing the water to move to a lower reservoir through a turbine.

**regional energy hub** see section 36.

**regulate**, in relation to connection and access to the hub transmission network or hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub, for part 6, see section 36.

**regulatory asset base** has the same meaning as the term has in the National Electricity Rules.

**relevant transmission network service provider**, for hub controlled assets for a regional energy hub, for part 6, see section 36.

**responsible Ministers** means—

- (a) if the Minister is the Treasurer—the Treasurer; or
- (b) otherwise—the Minister and the Treasurer acting jointly.

**revenue proposal** means a Revenue Proposal under the National Electricity Rules.

**stage**, of the CopperString project, for part 8, see section 94.

**strategic infrastructure path** see section 7.

**strategic infrastructure path objectives** see section 8.

**suitably qualified person** means—

- (a) a person prescribed by regulation; or
- (b) a person the Minister considers is suitably qualified; or
- (c) the AER.

***system outlook*** see section 15(1).

***transmission asset*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***transmission determination*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***transmission network*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***transmission network service provider***, for part 6, see section 36.

***transmission system*** has the meaning given by the National Electricity Rules.

***under-Treasurer*** means the chief executive of Queensland Treasury.