

# Chalumbin Wind Farm

Changing Energy Market

February 2022

Australia's national energy market is in transition. Cleaner, renewable sources of energy are being developed to mitigate the impacts of climate change and meet electricity demand as coal-fired power stations reach the end of their operational lives and are retired over the next two decades.

Whole-of-system planning for Australia's energy transition is managed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) through its Integrated System Plan (ISP).

The ISP sets out a roadmap for the efficient development of the National Electricity Market (NEM) with the objective to: *maximise value to end consumers by designing the lowest cost, secure and reliable energy system capable of meeting any emissions trajectory determined by policy makers at an acceptable level of risk.*

The draft 2022 ISP is in development and forecasts the most likely scenario is that the NEM will need 135 GW of solar, 70 GW of wind and 45 GW of storage by 2050. This is triple the previous forecasts for renewable energy capacity and means the NEM will require nine-times the utility-scale variable renewable energy capacity that it has now.

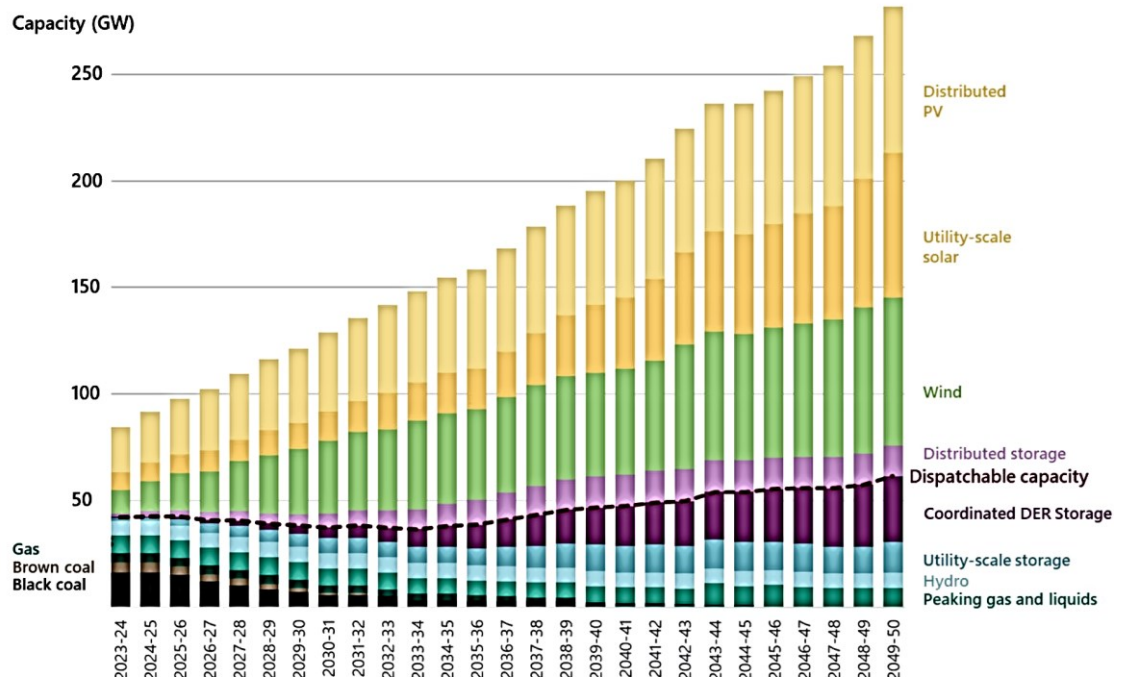
To facilitate the transition governments have set renewable energy targets and AEMO has identified optimal renewable energy zones with high-quality renewable energy resources and proximity to existing or planned network infrastructure.

*“ An affordable, reliable energy supply underpins our economic recovery, and today is further proof renewables is playing a central role. For the fourth year in a row, Queensland's renewable revolution is driving power prices down across the state. ”*

The Honourable Mick de Brenni  
Minister for Energy,  
Renewables  
and Hydrogen

Media statement, 11 June 2021

Figure 1 Forecast NEM capacity to 2050, Step Change scenario, with transmission



Source: AEMO 2021, Draft 2022 Integrated System Plan

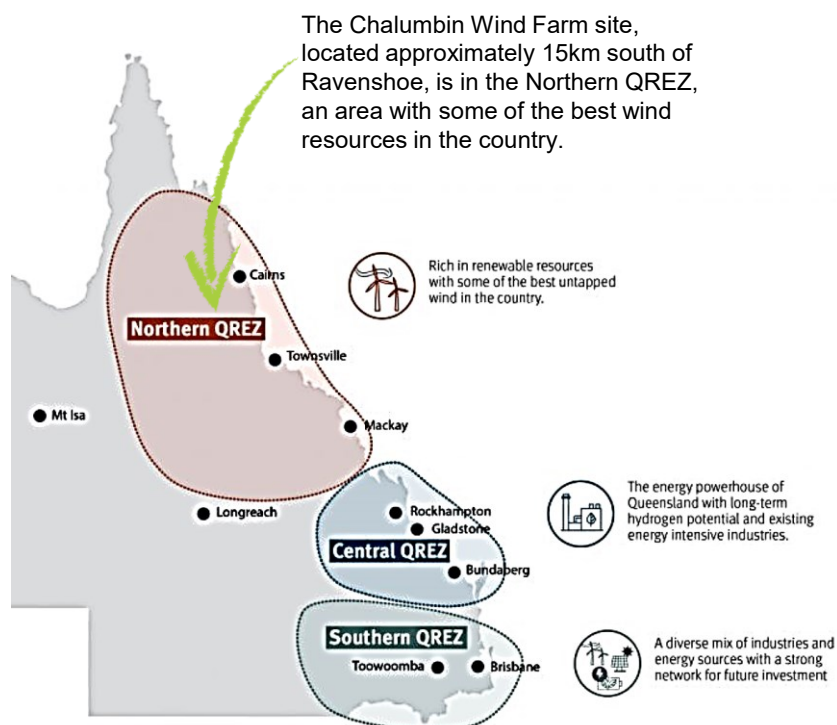
Queensland's renewable energy target requires 50% renewable energy generation by 2030. About 20% of electricity used in Queensland is produced from renewable energy sources (current as at January 2022). Meeting the 2030 target will require harnessing the state's considerable renewable energy potential.

AEMO has identified renewable energy zones (REZ) in Queensland; Northern, Central and Southern (see below) and the draft 2022 ISP projects development of a further 47 GW of new variable renewable energy capacity in Queensland by 2050.

The Queensland Government has committed \$145 million to establishing the REZs through strategic network investments, streamlining the development of new renewable energy projects and working to match new and existing industrial energy demand with cheap, clean renewable energy.

It has committed to a Powering North Queensland Plan, to strengthen and diversify the North's energy supply and create a North Queensland clean energy hub. This includes \$40 million to upgrade the transmission lines between Cairns and Townsville to support new projects in the north, unlock the world-class wind resources in the region and improve the security of energy supply to Cairns.

In June 2021 the government announced a \$2 billion investment in energy assets and the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, and the Premier commissioned the Ministers for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen, and Public Works and Procurement, to develop a new Queensland Energy Plan.



Source: [epw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/renewable-energy-zones](http://epw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/renewable-energy-zones)

## More information

Scan QR codes for direct link

Queensland Department of Energy and Public Works – Queensland's renewable energy target



Australian Energy Market Operator - [aemo.com.au](http://aemo.com.au)



The National Electricity Market Fact Sheet (PDF)



Powering North Queensland Fact Sheet (PDF)



Northern QREZ Fact Sheet (PDF)



For more information about Chalumbin Wind Farm visit [chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](http://chalumbinwindfarm.com.au)

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