

# National Energy Transition Authority Bill 2022 Senate Question response



Public Hearing 28/2/23, response 3/3/23

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## Response

**Question on Notice 1: What is your vision of the role of how the transition authority would interface with an organisation like AEMO?**

**Response -**

- AEMO's ISP does not always fully account for new industry opportunities, and this is an area in which a National Energy Transition Authority could provide more information given its remit.
- AEMO could collaborate with a National Energy Transition Authority in multiple ways. A National Energy Transition Authority can provide input to scenario planning with its input from industry. A National Energy Transition Authority could also contribute to AEMO assisting rural and remote communities that aren't currently part of AEMO's remit.
- AEMO can contribute to a National Energy Transition Authority by providing guidance on grid upgrades, costs, and skills needed. Then, a National Energy Transition Authority can provide oversight in how to meet those skills and cost shortages.

## **Question on Notice 2: Examples of where a REIPs-based model has worked and how it would relate to transition authority responsibilities**

### **Response -**

- There are a number of REIP-like models being progressed internationally that aim to transition large-scale industrial operations to low-carbon technologies and set up new manufacturing for future low/zero carbon industries. Examples include:
  - The UK Humber Precinct
  - The Port of Rotterdam Industrial Cluster in the Netherlands
  - The Helsingborg Project in Sweden
  - The HyGreen Provence project in France
  - The Hydrogen Valley project in Denmark
- These net-zero and low emission carbon industrial clusters all focus on different industries and technologies, but they all share the common goal of decarbonising industry and growing commercial opportunities for the clean economy using renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies. A place-based approach to planning offers efficiency – common user infrastructure, industry collaboration and wider community benefits from fostering an industrial ecosystem, rather than sole-industry towns.
- BZE's Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct model is recommended for a National Energy Transition Authority to consider. It is our vision of what such a net-zero carbon industrial cluster should look like in a local Australian context. Please refer to our work in Gladstone and The Hunter to see our proposal:  
<https://bze.org.au/repowering-australian-manufacturing/>
- In Australia, we have seen state governments begin to announce zero and low emission industrial cluster models, for example NSW announced its Clean Manufacturing Precinct policy for the Hunter and Illawarra and has recently named the successful bid team to develop the roadmap for these regions. In QLD, the state government and industry stakeholders have signed a Statement of Cooperation to unlock more opportunities for Central Queensland and advance QLD's industrial and advanced manufacturing future. The momentum this state-led support and industry appetite for renewables is generating is already delivering benefits like new job opportunities such as Alpha HPA in Gladstone and SwitchDin in the Hunter, which are only set to grow.
- What is needed is federal coordination to ensure that Australia makes the most of its opportunities as an international player in the clean economy, rather than seeing states competing against each other unnecessarily. Enhanced coordination, planning and funding support for Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts and the Renewable Energy Zones that support them will accelerate this. Beyond Zero Emissions research has shown that repowering industry with renewable energy through a Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct in Gladstone can protect over 4000 local manufacturing jobs in existing local industries such as aluminium smelting, alumina refining, chemical manufacturing and cement production as well as grow 11,000 new jobs in renewable

hydrogen, renewable ammonia, resource recovery, wind turbine manufacturing, and high purity aluminium products [https://bze.org.au/research\\_release/precincts-analysis/](https://bze.org.au/research_release/precincts-analysis/) .

**Question on Notice 3: Examples of best practice First Nations engagement and equity sharing**

- We refer to the work of the First Nations Clean Energy Network in leading on developing tools and particularly its release of the best practice guidelines:  
[https://www.firstnationscleanenergy.org.au/tool\\_kit](https://www.firstnationscleanenergy.org.au/tool_kit)
- Pilbara Solar is another example of a company that is striving to promote First Nations [ownership, equity, and benefits](#) in its projects. One such project is the Junja Solar Farm, which the company is developing in collaboration with Jinparinya Aboriginal Corporation. This solar farm is a groundbreaking initiative, being the first renewable energy project in the Pilbara region to be owned by First Nations, situated on Aboriginal community land, and an Independent Power Producer connected to the grid.
- Original Power's Ngardara Solar Microgrid Project: Original power is collaborating with community members in Borrooloola to design and build their own 3.2mW solar microgrid and BESS. This project provides a blueprint for a community-owned model for transitioning other remote communities in the region from diesel to renewable energy.
- The First Nations Guidelines for NSW were developed with input from Indigenous Energy Australia:  
<https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/major-state-projects/electricity-infrastructure-roadmap/first-nations>
- Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust provides strong advocacy for industry engagement with and benefit sharing to the First Nations Traditional Owners they represent in Central Queensland.