Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 1 of 2025

Renewable Energy and Battery Storage Facilities

Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015

TEMPORARY LOCAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT NO. 1 OF 2025
RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BATTERY STORAGE FACILITIES
Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015

1. SHORT TITLE

1.1 This Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) may be cited as Temporary Local Planning Instrument 01/2025 – Renewable Energy and Battery Storage Facilities.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 This TLPI provides an interim policy response to strengthen the local planning framework for renewable energy developments, in particular Renewable Energy facilities and Battery Storage facilities.

2.2 This TLPI is in response to the growing demand in the region for Battery Storage and Renewable Energy Facilities.

2.3 The additional assessment benchmarks are necessary to provide for the safety of people and property and to manage renewable and battery storage development within the region.

3. PURPOSE OF THE TLPI

3.1 The purpose of the TLPI:

(a) is to further regulate renewable energy facilities and battery storage facilities to ensure development is located, designed and operated to protect the safety of the public, avoid environmental harm and nuisance and protect scenic and landscape amenity values.

(b) is to be achieved through development that is consistent with the assessment benchmarks outlined in ***Schedule 1.***

3.2 To achieve this purpose, the TLPI:

(a) suspends parts of the *Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015,* for development to which this TLPI applies;
(b) categorises development and prescribes a category of assessment for the aspects of development to which the TLPI applies in ***Schedule 1;*** *and*
(c) includes assessment benchmarks, for development to which this TLPI applies in ***Schedule 1.***

4. DURATION OF TLPI

4.1 This TLPI has effect for two years, unless otherwise repealed sooner.

4.2 In accordance with section 9(3)(a) of the *Planning Act 2016*, the effective date for the TLPI is the day on which public notice of the TLPI is published in the Queensland Government gazette.

5. INTERPRETATION

5.1 Where a term used in the TLPI is not defined, the term shall have the meaning assigned to it by –

i. the *Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015* or
ii. the *Planning Act 2016* where the term is not defined in the *Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015*.

5.2 To the extent of any inconsistency between the TLPI and the *Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015*, the TLPI prevails.

6. APPLICATION

6.1 This TLPI applies to development for a material change of use for a Renewable Energy Facility (other than wind farm and solar farm) and/or a Battery Storage Facility.

6.2 The TLPI does not apply to Renewable Energy Facilities for solar and wind farms as regulated under the *Planning Act 2016*, *Planning Regulation 2017* and Statewide codes 23 Wind Farm Development and 26 Solar Farm Development.

7. EFFECT OF THIS TLPI

7.1 This TLPI is a local categorising instrument under the *Planning Act 2016* which categorises development, specifies the categories of assessment and sets out assessment benchmarks for assessing development.

7.2 This TLPI suspends the following sections of the Rockhampton Planning Scheme 2015 to the extent those sections apply to the Renewable Energy and Battery Storage facilities as outlined in **Schedule 1**:

i. Part 3 – Strategic Framework, section 3.3.6 Element – Rural
ii. Part 3 – Strategic Framework section Element - 3.8.9 Renewable Energy and Battery Storage Facilities
iii. Part 5 – Table of Assessment
iv. Part 6 – Rural zone
v. Part 9 – Development Codes

8. DEFINITIONS

Term	**Definition**
Renewable energy facility	(a) means the use of premises for the generation of electricity or energy from a renewable energy source, including, for example, sources of bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, solar energy or wind energy; (b) does not include the use of premises to generate electricity or energy to be used mainly on the premises.

	Editor's note—Small scale renewable energy facility (e.g. roof top solar) that supply energy primarily for an existing use are excluded from this definition.
Battery storage facility	Means the use of premises for the operation of 1 or more battery storage devices. Editor's note—substation excludes works that are less than 66kV and used for: a. pole mounted substation, transformers or voltage regulators; or b. pad mounted substation or transformers.
Battery storage device	(a) means plant that— (i) converts electricity into stored energy; and (ii) releases stored energy as electricity; and (b) includes any equipment necessary for the operation of the plant. battery storage facility means the use of premises for the operation of 1 or more battery storage devices.

Schedule 1

Renewable Energy Facilities and Battery Storage Facilities in all zones – Category of Assessment and Assessment Benchmarks

Part 3 - Strategic Framework

The following additional sections of the Strategic Framework are to apply as follows:

Part 3 Strategic Framework – 3.3 Settlement Pattern

3.3.1 Strategic Outcomes

3.3.1 (21)

Renewable energy and Battery Storage facilities are located in areas that:

(a) avoids important agricultural areas and ALC;
(b) minimises off-site effects on sensitive land uses;
(c) avoids impacting upon the natural environment; and
(d) maintains local scenic amenity and rural landscape values.

3.3.6 Element – Rural

3.3.6.1 Specific outcomes

~~3.3.6.1 (16)~~

~~Renewable energy technology uses will be supported where there are no adverse impacts on adjoining and nearby uses, including impacts associated with noise, light, emissions, infrastructure requirements or transport movements on transport networks.~~

3.3.6.1 (16)

The region's renewable and non-renewable natural resources are managed, so they are retained for long-term productive use and capacity and not overused, fragmented or isolated. Areas used for renewable energy and battery storage facilities are rehabilitated, restored, repurposed or reused to minimise degradation, contamination or sterilisation of the site.

Part 5 – Table of assessment

5.4 Categories of development and assessment – Material Change of Use

Applicable to all zone categories within the Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme 2015

ALL ZONES

Battery Storage Facility

Use	Categories of development and assessment	Assessment benchmarks for assessable development and requirements for accepted development
• **Battery Storage Facility**	**Accepted**	
	If— (a) the facility is for a pad mounted battery storage device only and the total area of the premises covered by the facility is no more than $15m^2$; or (b) the facility is for a pole mounted battery storage device only and the total volume of the device is no more than $2m^3$.	Not applicable
Impact assessment		
• **Any other use not listed in this table.** • **Any use listed in this table and not meeting the description listed in the "Categories of development and assessment" column.** • **Any other undefined use.**		The planning scheme

Rural zone code

The following provision is removed from the Rural Zone Code – performance outcome 27.

~~**Renewable energy facility — wind farms**~~	
~~**PO27**~~ ~~Wind farms are located, designed and operated to minimise impacts on the environment and residential amenity, having regard to such matters as shadow flicker, noise (including low frequency noise), avifauna, separation from dwellings and site boundaries and scenic amenity.~~	~~No acceptable outcome is nominated.~~

Part 9 – Development Codes

9.2.3 Renewable energy facilities and Battery Storage facilities code

9.2.3.1

Application

This code applies to renewable energy facilities and battery storage facilities where the code is identified as applicable in the table of assessment.

When using this code, reference should be made to section 5.3.2 and where applicable, section 5.3.3 located in Part 5.

Editor's note – Wind and Large-Scale Solar Farms are regulated under the *Planning Act 2016, Planning Regulation 2017* and State-wide codes.

9.2.3.2

Purpose

(1) The purpose of the renewable energy facilities and battery storage facilities code is to ensure renewable energy facilities and battery storage facilities are located, designed and operated to protect the safety of the public, avoid environmental harm and nuisance and protect scenic and landscape amenity values.

(2) The purpose of the code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:

a. Development protects the character, amenity and scenic landscape values of the area through appropriate site location, design, setbacks and landscaping of the facility;

b. Development protects people, surrounding sensitive land uses and environments from adverse impacts through appropriate site location, design, location and operation.

c. Development is designed and operated to protect the safety of the public and avoid causing environmental harm or nuisance;

d. Development is designed and operated to be safe before and after natural hazard events and during construction, operation and decommissioning; and

e. Development co-locates at a site which has existing electricity infrastructure in circumstances where the potential cumulative effects of co-location do not compromise Overall Outcomes (a) to (d).

9.2.3.3 Specific benchmarks for assessment

Table 9.2.3.3.1 Development outcomes for assessable development

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
Renewable energy facilities and battery storage facilities	
Site characteristics	

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
PO1 Development is located on land that is suited for the purpose and: (a) maintains water quality and hydrogeological processes; (b) maintains ecological biodiversity and ecological connectivity; (c) prevents adverse effects on environmental and water quality values and receiving waters; (d) ensures a stabilised surface and maintains the natural topography for the land; (e) avoids character areas and heritage places; (f) avoids productive agricultural land; and (g) avoids natural hazards, or where it cannot be avoided, mitigates against the impact of natural hazards.	**AO1.1** Development is not located on land subject to the: (a) Agricultural land classification overlay; (b) Biodiversity areas overlay; (c) Biodiversity corridors and wildlife habitats overlay; (d) Biodiversity waterways overlay; (e) Biodiversity wetlands overlay; (f) Bushfire hazard overlay; (g) Character overlay; (h) Coastal erosion prone area overlay; (i) Coastal hazard overlay; (j) Fitzroy River flood overlay; (k) Floodplain investigation area overlay (l) Heritage place overlay; (m) Local catchment flood overlay; (n) Special management area overlay; (o) Steep land overlay; and (p) Water resource catchments overlay.
Facility location	
PO2 Development is connected to the power grid network and has regard to: (a) safety of the network connection; and (b) the location of the network connection and associated infrastructure; *Note—Compliance with this Performance outcome may be demonstrated by providing a technical assessment report including preliminary grid connection plans prepared by a suitably qualified professional.*	**AO2.1** Battery storage facilities are located towards the centre of the site and not adjacent to sensitive land uses and property boundaries. **AO2.2** Battery storage facilities in public areas (e.g. road reserve and parks) or residential zones are: (a) less than 2.4 metres in height; and (b) less than 4 metres in length. **AO2.3** Battery storage facilities are designed to: (a) maximise passive cooling;

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
	(b) use mechanical cooling where the ambient temperatures could cause battery explosion and fire; and (c) contain battery explosions and fire.
Amenity	
PO3 Development is located to protect and manage adverse effects on the amenity of surrounding sensitive land uses and the existing streetscape and broader region, having regard to: (a) the intent of the zone and surrounding zones that may be affected; (b) the scenic landscape character of the location. (c) the significance of the visual and character values; and (d) the streetscape character. *Note—a visual impact assessment will be required for sites visible from public roads, public viewer places and sensitive land uses. Visual impact assessment is required to be undertaken in accordance with the Scenic Amenity Planning Scheme Policy.* *The visual impact assessment must also consider the cumulative impact of adjoining and nearby developments within the area.*	**AO3.1** Development is setback: (a) 500 metres from Environmental Management and Conservation zone; (b) 1,500 metres from a Township zone, Rural residential zone, residential zone, emerging communities zone and any other surrounding sensitive land use; and **AO3.2** Battery storage facilities are located towards the centre of the site and located 30 metres from all property boundaries.
PO4 Development has regard to: (a) the sensitivity of the landscape, visual intrusion from public roads, public viewer places and from sensitive land uses; (b) the size, height, scale, spacing, colour and surface reflectivity of the facilities components;	No acceptable outcome is nominated.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
(c) the number of facilities located close to each other within the same landscape; (d) the excessive removal, or planting of inappropriate species of vegetation; (e) the location, size, height and scale of other ancillary uses, buildings and works including major electricity corridor or easement, battery storage units and associated access roads; and (f) the proximity to environmentally sensitive areas such as public land, waterways and low-lying areas. *Note—a visual impact assessment will be required for sites visible from public roads, public viewer places and sensitive land uses. Visual impact assessment is required to be undertaken in accordance with the Scenic Amenity Planning Scheme Policy.* *The visual impact assessment must also consider the cumulative impact of adjoining and nearby developments within the area.* *Note—an ecological assessment and environmental management plan in accordance with the ecological assessment planning scheme policy will be required for development removing vegetation from the site.*	
PO5 Development minimises impacts on character, amenity and landscape values by: (a) locating: i. with other energy facilities in circumstances where the cumulative visual impacts resulting from colocation are negligible; or ii. where possible and practical, in areas where the predominant land	No acceptable outcome is nominated.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
uses are energy facilities, industrial uses or commercial uses; and (b) facilitating future co-location with other energy facilities.	
Acoustic assessment measures	
PO6 Development is located to protect and manage adverse effects on the amenity of surrounding sensitive land uses, having regard to the outdoor (free field) daytime and night-time 'A' weighted equivalent acoustic level (Laeq), assessed at all noise affected existing or approved sensitive land uses. *Note—noise assessment is undertaken by a suitable qualified acoustic consultant. It is preferred that the person is a member of the Australian Acoustical Society, or the organisation contracted should be a member of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants*	**AO6.1** Development has an outdoor (free field) night-time (10pm to 6am) acoustic level that does not exceed: (a) 35dB(A); or (b) the background noise (LA90) by more than 3dB(A); whichever is the greater. **AO6.2** Development has an outdoor (free field) daytime (6am to 10 pm) acoustic level that does not exceed: (a) 37dB(A); or (b) the background noise (LA90) by more than 5dB(A); whichever is the greater.
Public safety	
PO7 The development is designed to: (a) optimise security; (b) minimise public safety incidents; and (c) prevent unauthorised or accidental public access to the site. *Note—Compliance with this Performance Outcome may be demonstrated by providing a design concept plan that is consistent with the State government Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines for Queensland.*	**AO7.1** The site is secured by a fence to prevent unauthorised or accidental public access to the facility. **AO7.2** Public warning and information signs are erected on a boundary or perimeter security fence to comply with workplace health and safety requirements. **AO7.3** Battery storage facilities in public areas (e.g. road reserve and parks) are vandal proof.
Landscaping	

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
PO8 Landscaping mitigates: (a) increases in heat on the microclimate; (b) minimises adverse visual impacts of the facility from the street, sensitive land uses and public viewer places; and (c) integrates existing native vegetation into the landscaping design in accordance with the Landscape design and street trees planning scheme policy.	**AO8.1** Landscaping minimises increases in heat on the microclimate of the site and surrounds by: (a) locating landscaping around the Renewable energy facilities; and (b) including dense mature screen landscaping, a minimum of 10 metres wide around the Renewable energy facilities. **AO8.2.1** Within the building setbacks, dense mature landscaping screens facilities from the public roads, surrounding sensitive land uses, or any other highly visible public vantage point. OR **AO8.2.2** A three metre high screen fence is provided to screen all facilities from public roads, surrounding sensitive land uses, or any other highly visible public vantage point. **AO8.3** Retention of mapped native vegetation areas may be used as dense screening where more than 10 metre wide.
PO9 Facilities assist with the movement of wildlife through the site by: (a) incorporating wildlife corridors and habitat refuges; and (b) incorporating fencing that allows the passage of small animals without unreasonably compromising the security of the facility.	No acceptable outcome is nominated.
Hazards and Risk Mitigation	
PO10 Battery storage facilities are appropriately located, designed and separated to avoid harm or mitigate the risk of harm to people, surrounding land uses and environmental values by:	No acceptable outcome is nominated.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
(a) avoiding or where unable to avoid, minimise the risks of fire, explosion, thermal emission and containment release on and from the premises; (b) avoiding or where unable to avoid, mitigate the risks to the use of bushfire (including airborne debris), flood and vehicular impact; and (c) facilitating effective and efficient fire and emergency service response in the event of a fire, bushfire, explosion, contamination leak or other incident triggering an emergency service response. *Note – Development applications must be supported by assessment material such as a risk management plan, fire and bushfire management plan and emergency plan. These plans must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person. Consultation is to be undertaken with Queensland Fire Department.* *Note—Compliance with this Performance Outcome may be demonstrated by addressing CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities.*	
Emergency Management	
PO11 Development has an emergency management plan that addresses natural hazards and extreme events to ensure that the facility does not unduly burden Emergency services. *Note—Compliance with this requirement must require the facilities to be consistent with AS.3745 Planning for emergencies in facilities battery explosion risk management*	No acceptable outcome is nominated.
Construction management	
PO12	**AO12.1**

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES
Development avoids, minimises or mitigates impacts on soils to ensure these can be maintained or returned to a pre-construction standard. *Note—Compliance with this Performance outcomes may be demonstrated by Transport impact assessment and management plan, for during both construction and operation of the Renewable energy facility..*	Development on land mapped as ALC provide for removable options for the foundations instead of buried concrete foundations. **AO12.2** Construction management practices minimise impacts on soil such as: (a) storage of excavated ALC soils and replacing these as part of decommissioning; (b) maintaining a stabilised surface; and (c) identify site configurations to avoid land fragmentation and to manage overland flows and stormwater from any increase in impervious area.
Decommissioning and rehabilitation	
PO13 Following cessation of the use, the site is rehabilitated to a condition which is suitable for other uses compatible with the planning scheme zone of the site.	**AO13.1** The development has a maximum operational lifespan of 20 years, after this time the use shall be decommissioned, unless otherwise approved by Council. **AO13.2** Restoration of land after decommissioning considers: (a) who will be responsible for decommissioning the facility; (b) at what stage the responsible authority will be advised the facility will be decommissioned; (c) the processes, plans and procedures for removing all built form and for restoring the land to its pre-developed or natural state; (d) where equipment and material will be disposed and if it can be reused or recycled; and (e) the timeline for the decommissioning work. **AO13.3** Restoration of the land is completed within 12 months after the use has ceased operation and the facility is decommissioned.

This is to certify that this is a true, correct and complete copy of the Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 1 of 2025, made in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2016, by the Rockhampton Regional Council, by resolution dated 25 November 2025 and having effect on and from 28 November 2025.

Signed

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Evan Pardon
Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council

Dated: 28 November 2025