



27 April 2023

Australian Government

Jobs and Skills Australia

Email: CleanEnergyWorkforce@jobsandskills.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

SUBMISSION – CLEAN ENERGY CAPACITY STUDY

With Cairns positioned as the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforest, our economy and way of life is intrinsically linked to the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment in which we live. There is strong alignment between the Clean Energy Capacity Study and the work we are undertaking locally to position Cairns and Far North Queensland as a leader in the [Smart Green Economy](#).

By leveraging global growth in the Smart Green Economy and the region's existing competitive advantages, Cairns is well-positioned to benefit from public and private sector investment which supports sustainable economic and employment growth, innovation, diversification and resilience. Through work completed to-date Smart Green Economy project concept has been narrowed to three main areas of opportunity for Cairns and Far North Queensland:

- 1) Net zero energy systems (renewables and clean energy)
- 2) Circular economy activation
- 3) Biodiversity and carbon markets

These three areas of opportunity are underpinned by knowledge and expertise across sectors and represent the greatest opportunity to unlock economy-wide outcomes.

The present and future skills requirements to enable Cairns and Far North Queensland to successfully transition and position itself as a leader in the Smart Green Economy are key considerations and we would welcome the opportunity to be one of the regional case studies undertaken as part of the Clean Energy Capacity Study to analyse the critical place-based success factors that support the transition to a clean energy workforce.

Cairns is an ideal location for this regional case study for the following reasons:

- The strong alignment with the strategic aspiration of Council and key regional stakeholders to grow our region as a leader in the Smart Green Economy.



- The broad regional support for the Smart Green Economy project, partners of which include the Queensland Government – Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Wet Tropics Management Authority, James Cook University, CQUniversity, Terrain NRM, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation, Advance Cairns and Regional Development Australia Tropical North.
- Cairns' location as the gateway to two of the most iconic natural assets in the world in the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforest both with extremely high biodiversity values.
- The significant nature protection, restoration and repair work already undertaken in our region led/supported by organisations such as Terrain NRM and the Wet Tropics Management Authority with the active involvement of First Peoples.
- Workforce planning, policy development and program design have all been identified as specific areas of focus within the Smart Green Economy project. These align with the aims of the Capacity Study.

Council would support a case study being undertaken for the Cairns and FNQ region and would be an active contributor to this important piece of work.

Should you have any further enquiries or require additional information, please contact Council's Director – Economic Development and Advocacy, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

