



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations

Our ref: OUT25/2670

20 June 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2025 regarding petitions 4242-25 and 4174-25 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 20 May 2025 about renewable energy developments near Tara, in the Western Downs Region.

I appreciate the concerns raised by the petitioners and understand that wind farm developments can have significant social and environmental impacts on regional communities. Previously, Labor's flawed planning rules allowed for wind farm developments to proceed without mandatory community consultation, unlike other significant projects.

During the 2024 State election, the Crisafulli Government committed to "*requiring all renewable projects to be impact assessable and subject to the same rigorous approval processes as other resource projects.*"

Only months later, on 3 February 2025, we made all wind farms in Queensland subject to impact assessment. This means mandatory community consultation and third-party appeal rights to the planning process for wind farms in Queensland. This is something Labor did not do in 10 years, we did in 100 days.

Additional changes to 'State Code 23: Wind farm development' also mean the assessment process now includes security for landowners for decommissioning, plans are required to be in place for off-site workers accommodation and an assessment of the impact of wind farms on the environment, road network, bushfire risks and visual amenity is also required.

Finally, on 1 May 2025, I introduced into the Parliament the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill*. The introduction of the community benefit system will require proponents to invest time and effort into building social licence with a host community and local government well in advance of the formal development assessment process. Both wind farms and solar farms will be subject to the new legislation.

Marmadua Energy Park

On 18 March 2025, I issued a proposed call-in notice for the Marmadua Energy Park, located approximately 23 kilometres east of Tara and 41 kilometres south-west of Dalby. The notice sought submissions from the proponent, community and other interested parties about whether the proposed development involves a state interest and should be assessed by me.

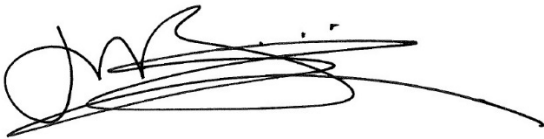
The 40-business day representation period ended on 19 May 2025, and on 12 June 2025, I issued a call-in notice for the application.

Tara Wind Farm

I am informed that the Tara Wind Farm project has not yet been lodged with the State Assessment and Referral Agency for assessment. Public information indicates that the lodgement of this development application is envisaged for the end of 2025. This application will be subject to the reformed more robust assessment process, including a period of community engagement during which I would encourage you to have your say on the project.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jarrod Bleijie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations