



Queensland

Sustainable Development Youth Bill 2008

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2008

A Bill

for

A Youth Act to introduce a State-wide sustainable development authority to regulate the use of sustainable energy sources and coastal and urban development

[s 1]

The Parliament of Queensland enacts—	1
Part 1 Preliminary	2
1 Short title	3
This Youth Act may be cited as the <i>Sustainable Development Youth Act 2008</i> .	4 5
2 Commencement	6
This Youth Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.	7 8
3 Definitions	9
In this Youth Act—	10
<i>biofuel</i> means the low-emission gas or liquid fuel made from combusting biomass or dead material including wood, wood waste or cane.	11 12 13
<i>business</i> means a legally recognised organisational entity designed to provide goods and services to consumers or corporate entities such as governments, charities or other businesses.	14 15 16 17
<i>coastal</i> means areas which are within approximately 5km of the shoreline.	18 19
<i>development</i> means the construction of new buildings and facilities, or the upgrade of buildings and facilities, that alters the overall height or land usage.	20 21 22
<i>geothermal</i> means heat products such as steam and hot water from deep within the earth which produce geothermal energy, and can be used as a source of energy.	23 24 25
<i>household</i> means the basic unit which refers to all individuals who live in the same dwelling.	26 27

<i>hydro-electricity</i> means electricity produced by using water stored in dams to spin turbines and generate electricity free of emissions.	1 2 3
<i>industry</i> means the manufacturing of a good or service within a category.	4 5
<i>natural vegetation</i> means areas of flora that have been left in a natural state, without being disrupted or diminished by development.	6 7 8
<i>parkland</i> means an area of land, containing as much natural vegetation as possible, which has been set aside for use by the community and which includes facilities such as play equipment, barbeques and bathrooms.	9 10 11 12
<i>rebate</i> means an amount paid by way of reduction, return, or refund on what has been paid or contributed.	13 14
<i>renewable energy</i> means the provision of energy that meets current needs without compromising the ability to meet future needs.	15 16 17
<i>solar</i> means energy emitted from the sun which is harnessed by photovoltaics and converted into energy which exerts no greenhouse gases.	18 19 20
<i>SSDA</i> see section 4.	21
<i>sustainable energy</i> means a form of energy that has limited effects on the natural environment including solar energy, wind power, hydroelectricity, geothermal or bioenergy.	22 23 24
<i>targets</i> means the ideal level of renewable, sustainable energy use with which all households, businesses and industries must comply.	25 26 27
<i>wind</i> means the conversion of wind energy obtained from a wind turbine and converted into renewable and clean electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions.	28 29 30

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Part 2	State Sustainable Development Authority	1 2
4	Establishment	3
	The State Sustainable Development Authority (the <i>SSDA</i>) will be established in consultation with the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change.	4 5 6
5	Responsibilities of the SSDA	7
	The SSDA will be responsible for—	8
	(a) determining suitable renewable sources of energy; and	9
	(b) setting staggered targets and overseeing the distribution of subsidies; and	10 11
	(c) monitoring coastal and development restrictions; and	12
	(d) approving local government rezoning in coastal areas along with vegetation management; and	13 14
	(e) monitoring urban vegetation limitations; and	15
	(f) establishing coastal and urban development guidelines for local government authorities; and	16 17
	(g) penalisation of local government authorities whom do not enforce the specified development regulations.	18 19
6	SSDA membership	20
	Membership of the SSDA will consist of—	21
	(a) the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change; and	22
	(b) one representative from each Local Government Area; and	23 24
	(c) two representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency; and	25 26

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- (d) one representative from the collective energy providers; 1
and 2
 - (e) one development industry professional. 3

Part 3 Future energy requirements 4

7 Renewable and sustainable energy 5

- (1) Energy providers will supply households, businesses and 6
industry with renewable and sustainable energy to the target 7
level specified in section 9 and set by the SSDA. 8
- (2) The renewable and sustainable energy requirements of this 9
Bill include wind, solar, hydro-electricity, biofuel and 10
geothermal energy. 11
- (3) Future sources of renewable and sustainable energy are to be 12
determined at the discretion of the SSDA. 13

8 Exceptions 14

- (1) The SSDA will not consider nuclear power as a source of 15
renewable and sustainable energy in the future, and in the 16
context of this Youth Act. 17
- (2) No rebates or subsidies will be permitted or allocated for the 18
use of nuclear technologies. 19

9 Targets 20

- (1) Households targets are— 21
 - (a) 10% renewable, sustainable energy usage in households 22
by 2020; and 23
 - (b) an increase in renewable, sustainable energy usage of 24
5% every 5 years at the discretion of the SSDA. 25
- (2) Business and commercial targets are— 26

[s 10]

(a)	15% renewable, sustainable energy usage in businesses by 2020; and	1 2
(b)	an increase in renewable, sustainable energy usage of 5% every 5 years at the discretion of the SSDA.	3 4
(3)	Industrial targets are—	5
(a)	30% renewable energy in industry by 2020; and	6
(b)	an increase in renewable energy of 5% every 5 years at the discretion of the SSDA.	7 8
10	Government subsidies	9
(1)	The Government will subsidise 80% of the difference between the cost of the traditional sources of energy and the newly introduced forms of renewable and sustainable technology for households, business and industrial sectors.	10 11 12 13
(2)	This excludes individual or personal purchasers of renewable energy.	14 15
Part 4	Future development regulations	16 17
11	Coastal development regulations	18
(1)	Future developments in coastal areas will be subject to the following restrictions—	19 20
(a)	a maximum building height of 6 storeys or 30m;	21
(b)	a minimum distance of 50m from sand dunes to prevent erosion.	22 23
(2)	Local government authorities have the authority to adjust building height restrictions to levels that are lower than the State-wide benchmark.	24 25 26

(3)	Local government authorities in coastal areas must apply to the SSDA for approval to undertake rezoning.	1 2
12	Urban development regulations	3
(1)	A minimum of 10% of the total area of newly built housing estates must be retained as parkland or natural vegetation.	4 5
(2)	The total area of land to be retained as parkland or natural vegetation is at the discretion of the SSDA.	6 7
(3)	Development applications may not be approved if the requirements of subsection (2) are not met.	8 9
13	Implementation	10
(1)	It is the responsibility of local government authorities to implement the guidelines set out in sections 11 and 12.	11 12
(2)	If local government authorities do not uphold the guidelines they will be penalised at the discretion of the SSDA.	13 14