



Queensland

Sustainable Development Youth Act 2008

Act No. 5 of 2008



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Sustainable Development Youth Act 2008

Act No. 5 of 2008

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

[Assented to 4 July 2008]

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The Parliament of Queensland enacts—

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Youth Act may be cited as the *Sustainable Development Youth Act 2008*.

2 Commencement

This Youth Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

3 Definitions

In this Youth Act—

biofuel means the low-emission gas or liquid fuel made from combusting biomass or dead material including wood, wood waste or cane.

business means a legally recognised organisational entity designed to provide goods and services to consumers or corporate entities such as governments, charities or other businesses.

coastal means areas which are within approximately 5km of the shoreline.

development means the construction of new buildings and facilities, or the upgrade of buildings and facilities, that alters the overall height or land usage.

geothermal 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.

household means the basic unit which refers to all individuals who live in the same dwelling.

hydro-electricity means electricity produced by using water stored in dams to spin turbines and generate electricity free of emissions.

industry means the manufacturing of a good or service within a category.

natural vegetation means areas of flora that have been left in a natural state, without being disrupted or diminished by development.

parkland 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.

rebate means an amount paid by way of reduction, return, or refund on what has been paid or contributed.

renewable energy means the provision of energy that meets current needs without compromising the ability to meet future needs.

solar means energy emitted from the sun which is harnessed by photovoltaics and converted into energy which exerts no greenhouse gases.

SSDA see section 4.

sustainable energy means a form of energy that has limited effects on the natural environment including solar energy, wind power, hydroelectricity, geothermal or bioenergy.

targets means the ideal level of renewable, sustainable energy use with which all households, businesses and industries must comply.

wind means the conversion of wind energy obtained from a wind turbine and converted into renewable and clean electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions.

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Part 2 State Sustainable Development Authority

4 Establishment

The State Sustainable Development Authority (the *SSDA*) will be established in consultation with the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change.

5 Responsibilities of the SSDA

The SSDA will be responsible for—

- (a) determining suitable renewable sources of energy; and
- (b) setting staggered targets and overseeing the distribution of subsidies; and
- (c) monitoring coastal and development restrictions; and
- (d) approving local government rezoning in coastal areas along with vegetation management; and
- (e) monitoring urban vegetation limitations; and
- (f) establishing coastal and urban development guidelines for local government authorities; and
- (g) penalisation of local government authorities whom do not enforce the specified development regulations.

6 SSDA membership

Membership of the SSDA will consist of—

- (a) the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change; and
- (b) one representative from each Local Government Area; and
- (c) two representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency; and

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

Part 3 Future energy requirements

7 Renewable and sustainable energy

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

8 Exceptions

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

9 Targets

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

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- (a) 15% renewable, sustainable energy usage in businesses by 2020; and
 - (b) an increase in renewable, sustainable energy usage of 5% every 5 years at the discretion of the SSDA.
- (3) Industrial targets are—
- (a) 30% renewable energy in industry by 2020; and
 - (b) an increase in renewable energy of 5% every 5 years at the discretion of the SSDA.

10 Government subsidies

- (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.
- (2) This excludes individual or personal purchasers of renewable energy.

Part 4 Future development regulations

11 Coastal development regulations

- (1) Future developments in coastal areas will be subject to the following restrictions—a minimum distance of 50m from sand dunes to prevent erosion.
- (2) Local government authorities have the authority to adjust building height restrictions to levels that are lower than the State-wide benchmark.
- (3) Local government authorities in coastal areas must apply to the SSDA for approval to undertake rezoning.

12 Urban development regulations

- (1) A minimum of 10% of the total area of newly built housing estates must be retained as parkland or natural vegetation.
- (2) The total area of land to be retained as parkland or natural vegetation is at the discretion of the SSDA.
- (3) Development applications may not be approved if the requirements of subsection (2) are not met.

13 Implementation

- (1) It is the responsibility of local government authorities to implement the guidelines set out in sections 11 and 12.
- (2) If local government authorities do not uphold the guidelines they will be penalised at the discretion of the SSDA.