

Creating 'lasting and meaningful benefits'

What communities in Queensland's Renewable
Energy Zones expect from new energy projects

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Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

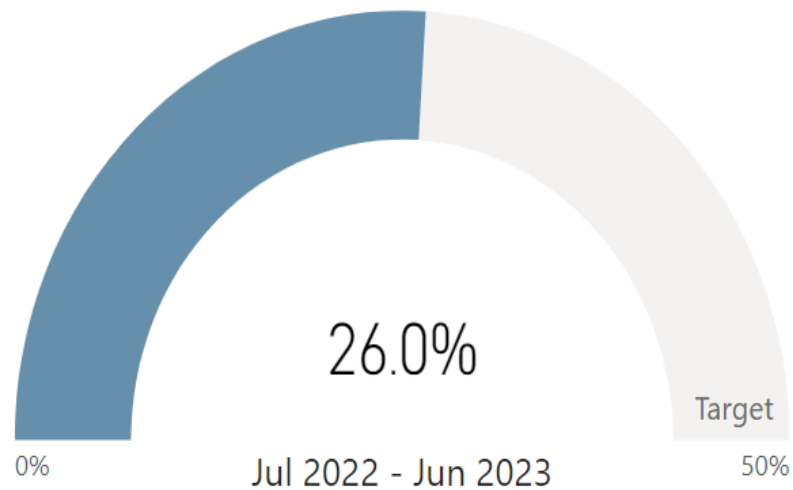
The Brisbane River pattern from *A Guidance Through Time*
by Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow.



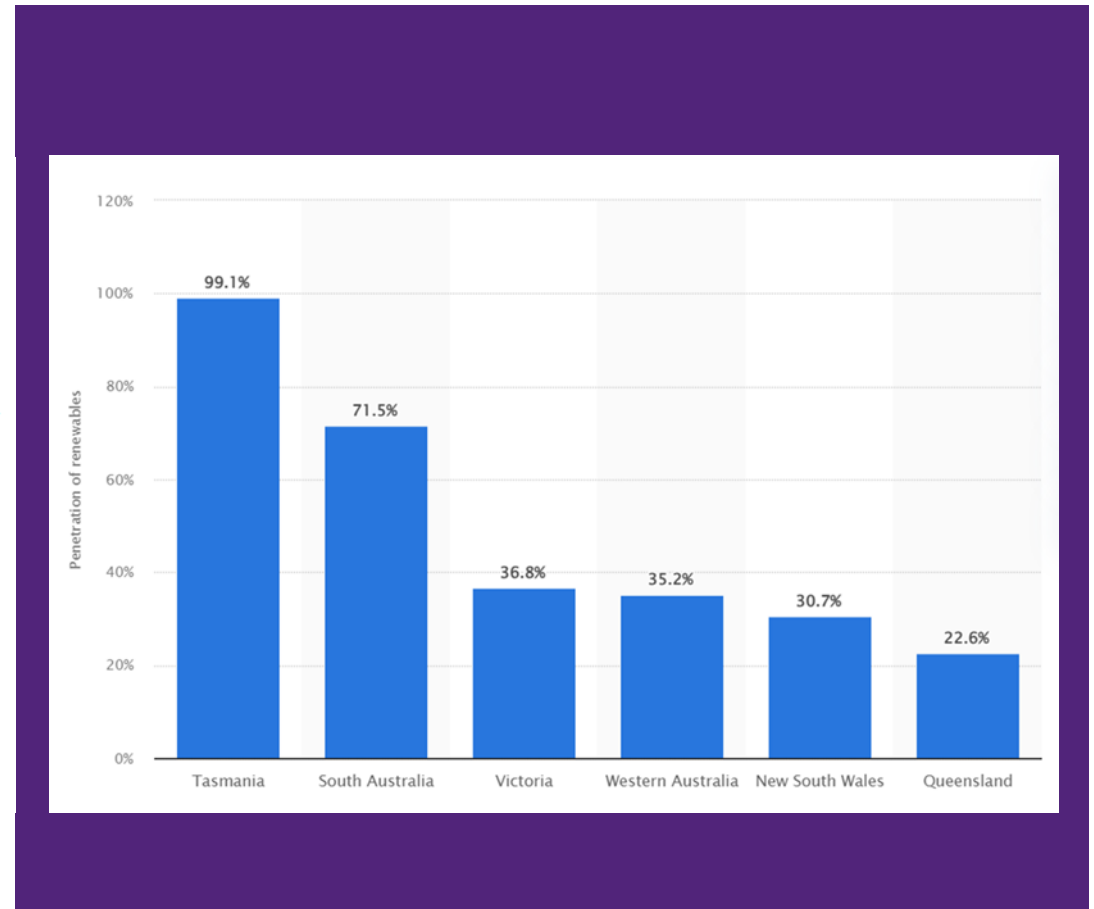
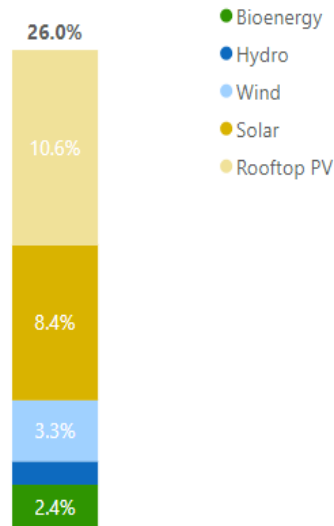
Renewable energy in Queensland

Renewable energy penetration needs to grow rapidly – in Queensland even more so.

Queensland's renewable energy past 12 months



Renewable mix past 12 months



<https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/renewable-energy-targets>

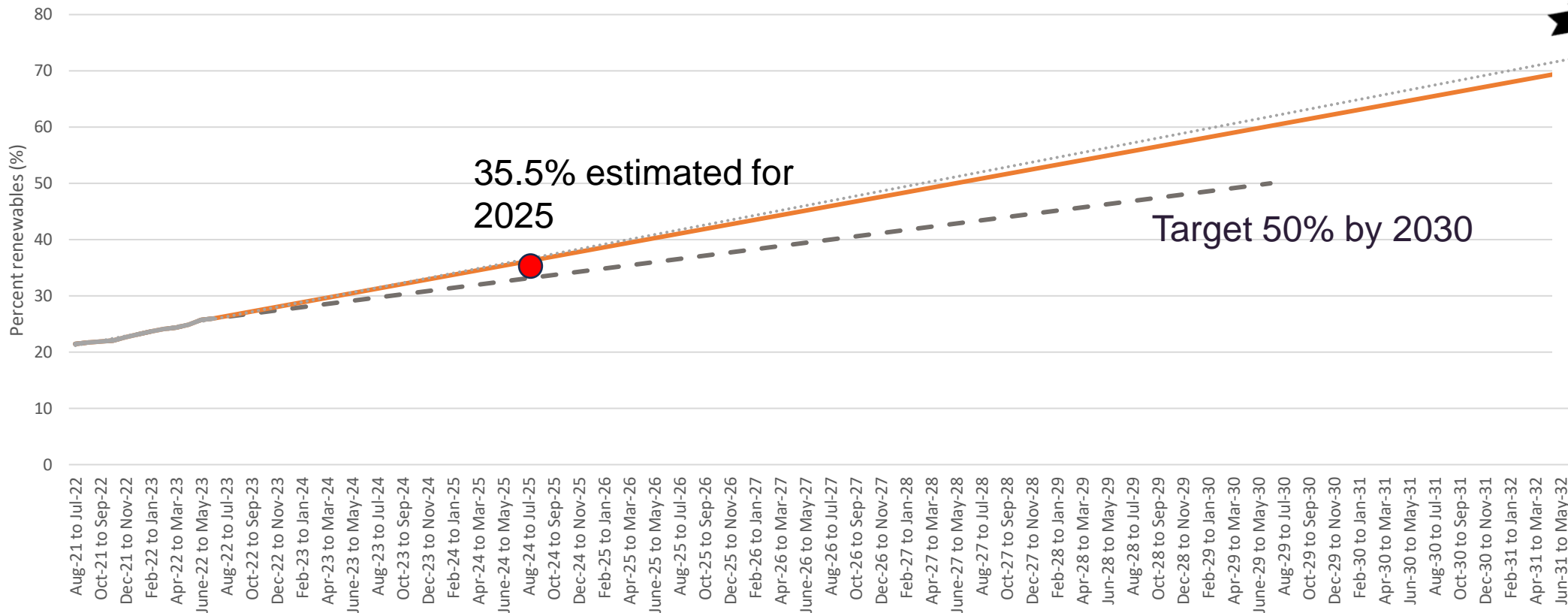
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1087804/australia-renewable-energy-penetration-by-state/>

Target 70% renewables by 2032 ...and 80% by 2035



On track to reach target, *so long as we can keep up the current pace!*

Queensland's path to 70% renewables by 2032

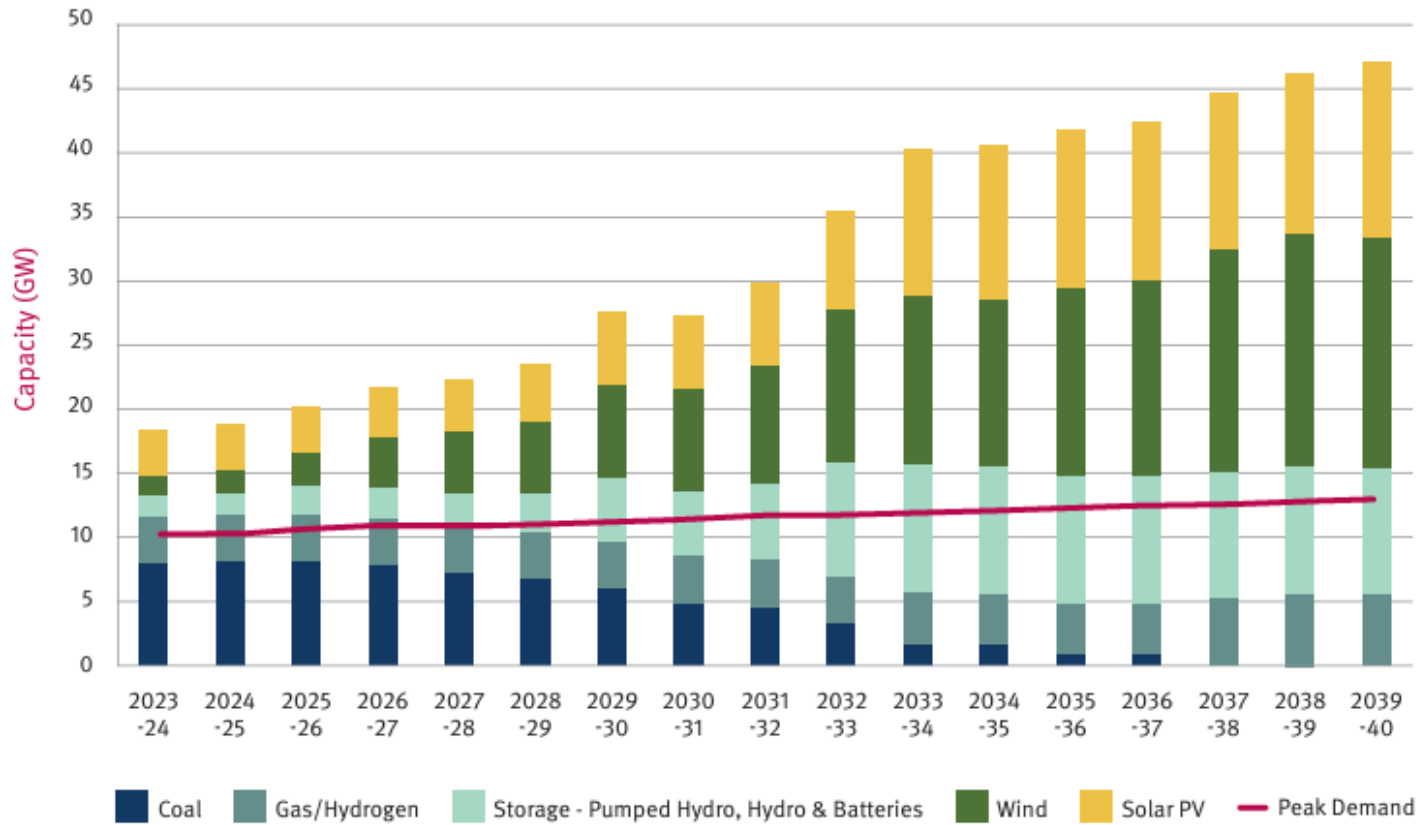


Brisbane 2032
Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host
Queensland



Queensland's SuperGrid will deliver clean, reliable and affordable power

Queensland's generation mix will transform over time to include more wind, solar and storage to ensure we always have enough energy to meet Queensland's energy demand including at peak times.



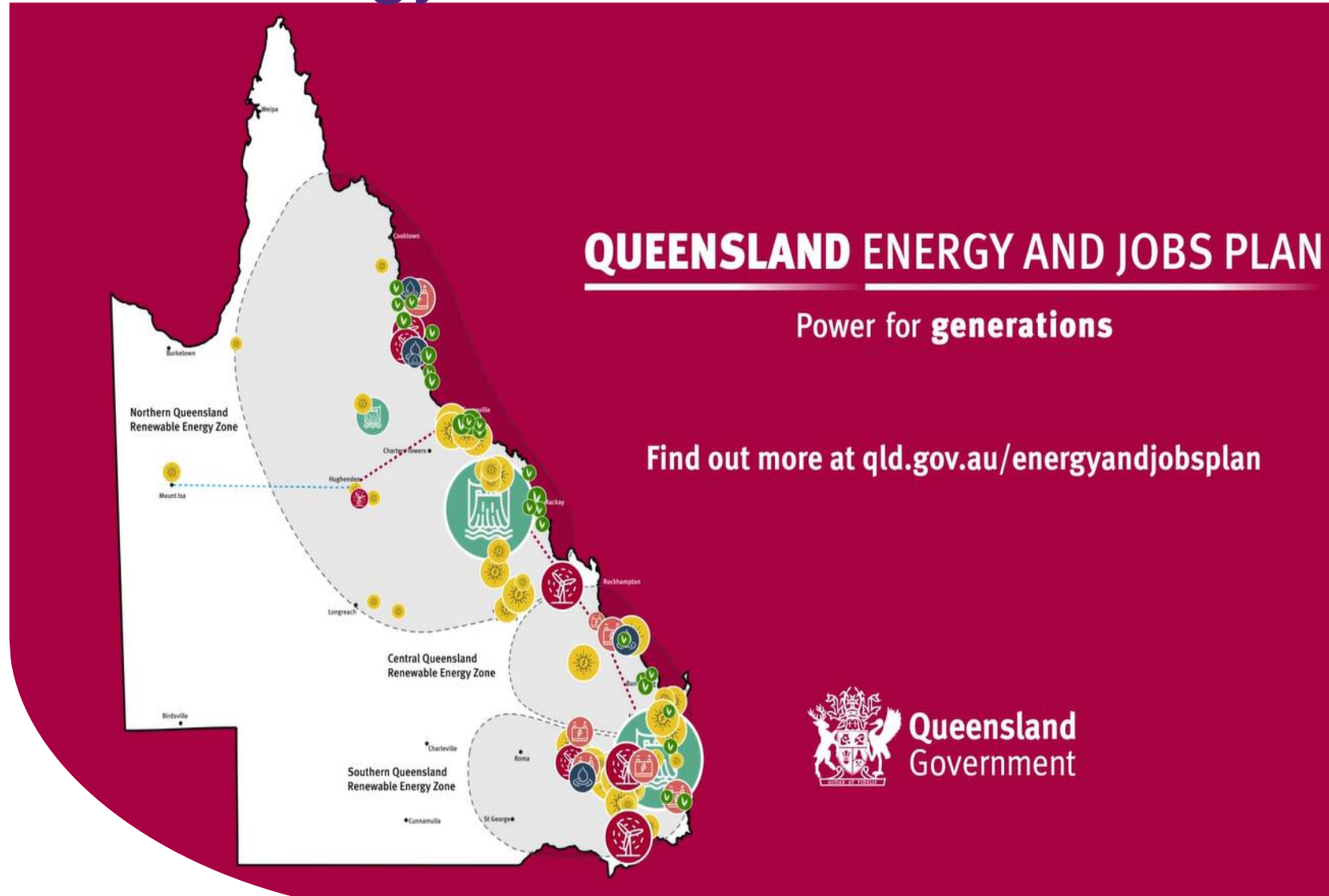
Based on independent modelling

https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/32989/queensland-energy-and-jobs-plan-overview.pdf

How: The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

Key features

- Builds a SuperGrid – energy, transmission, high reliance on pumped hydro
- Establishes 3 major Renewable Energy Zones (12 total)
- Maintains public ownership of assets
- Protects jobs
- **95% of infrastructure in regional communities**



Benefit sharing...but what does that mean?

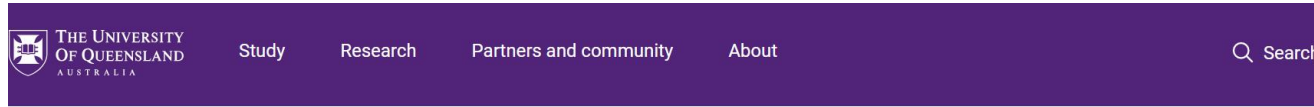
In a consultation paper for Queensland Renewable Energy Zones (2021)
Queensland Government commits to

*“... **deliver lasting, meaningful benefits** for communities, businesses and workers...”*

Similarly, the National Hydrogen Strategy 2019 commits to developing a hydrogen industry that:

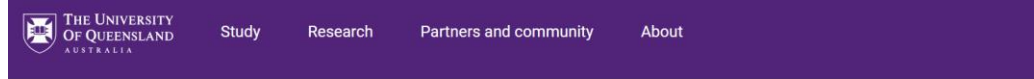
- *“**maximises benefits** for local host communities”*
- *“...ensure **benefits and impacts are shared fairly** and that community concerns are heard and responded to”*

CSG-LNG: Lessons to be learned...



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Coexistence Opportunities for Coal Seam Gas and Agribusiness

Syeda U. Mehreen and Jim R. Underschultz



Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Study – Trends and Benefits



Community Expectations and Coal Seam Gas Development

Rachel Williams and Andrea Walton
January 2014
Milestone Report to GISERA



Benefits and Burdens for Rural Towns from Queensland's Onshore Gas Development 💰

W.. Rifkin; K.. Witt; J.. Everingham; V.. Uhlmann

Paper presented at the SPE Asia Pacific Unconventional Resources Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane, Australia, November 2015.

This project:

Enabling transition: understanding co-benefits of new energy projects drawing on lessons learned from CSG-LNG development

- 3-year Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship
- A novel funding partnership –QG/UQ + CSIRO, APLNG, Santos, Arrow, Comet Ridge, QFF, SQNRM.

Phase	Question	Method
Year 1	What are the key lessons from LNG?	24 interviews with LNG stakeholders
Year 2	How are they relevant to new energy projects?	22 interviews with new energy projects
Year 3	What do communities expect?	5 focus groups in 3 REZ

1. Lessons from CSG-LNG

Pathways for creating benefits – analytical framework from literature review

Categories	Components
Economic benefits	Local procurement and participation Local employment Compensation payments to landowners Rates and taxes (royalties)
Social investment	Flows of financial benefits to local communities Sponsorships and grants Contributions in kind to local assets and facilities (incl. volunteering) Apprenticeships & scholarships
Provision of other local services	Roads and telecommunications upgrades Waste management Health, childcare
Involvement in the development process	Engagement and information delivery Social licence through relationships and neighbourliness
Maximising benefits and managing impacts	Preparedness – capacity building Coordination to create benefits and mitigate impacts

1. Lessons from CSG-LNG

Involvement in the development process

Engagement and information delivery

- Provide clear and best available information to local stakeholders early. Make it clear where there are uncertainties.
- Understand differences within communities and tailor engagement for different need
- Be honest and upfront about project benefits and challenges equally. Do not only focus on positive messages.
- Provide regular updates as the project changes and progresses
- Engage with a view to create understanding, not acceptance
- Early engagement and education should be facilitated by government

Social licence through relationships and neighbourliness

- Social licence is about having good relationships, not just acceptance or tolerance. Take time and effort to build relationships of trust and cooperation within the community.
- Seek to understand the local community – its connections, culture and capacities.
- Have staff live in and/or participate in the community wherever practicable.
- Understand community concerns and respond to problems promptly

2. Translating to new energy projects

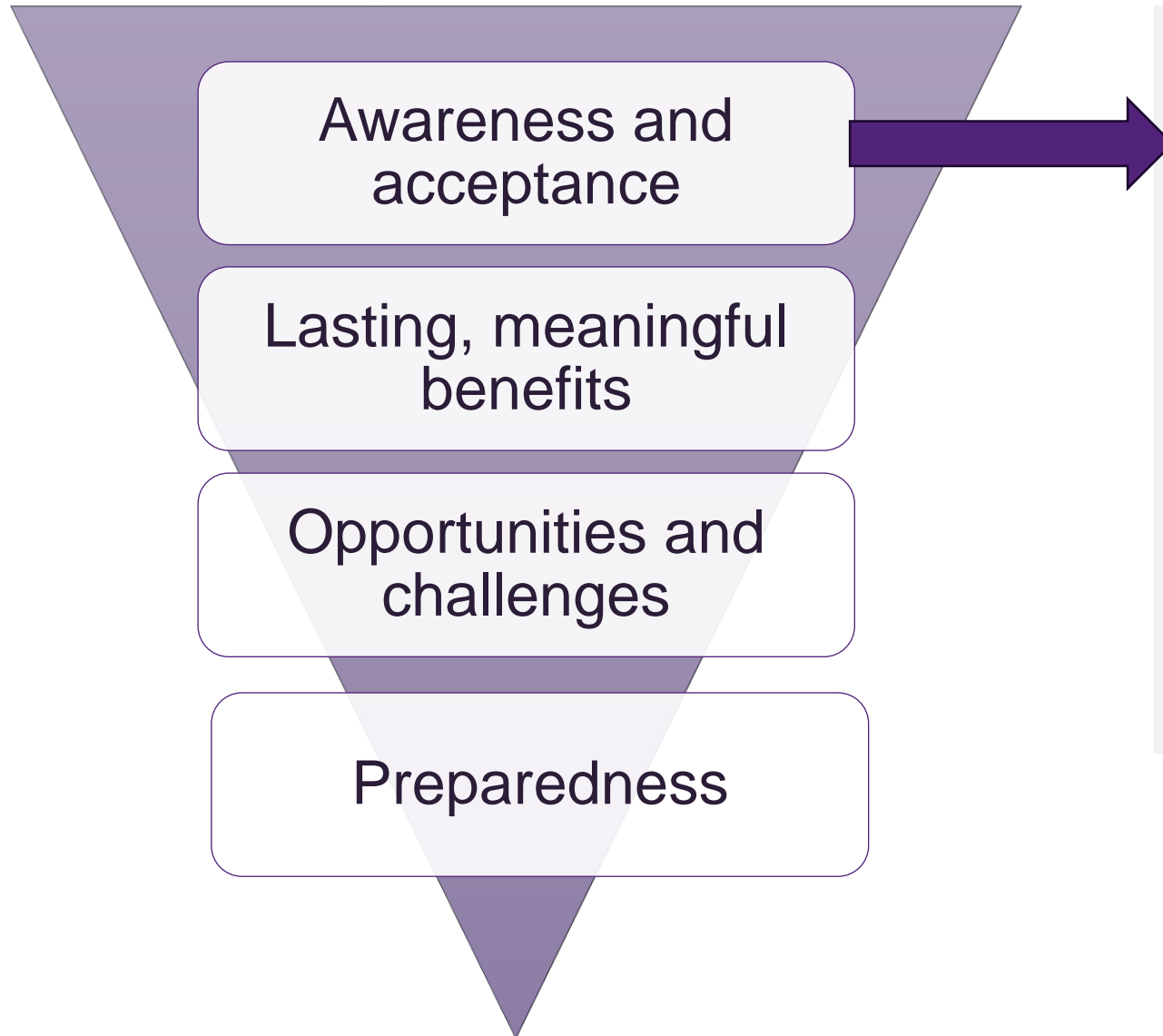
Q. How do you see yourself creating benefits for local communities?

1. Energy security
2. Emissions reductions (climate)
3. Local jobs and procurement
4. Local economic development (direct income)
5. Striving for justice

Q. What challenges and opportunities do you see in relation to the lessons from LNG?

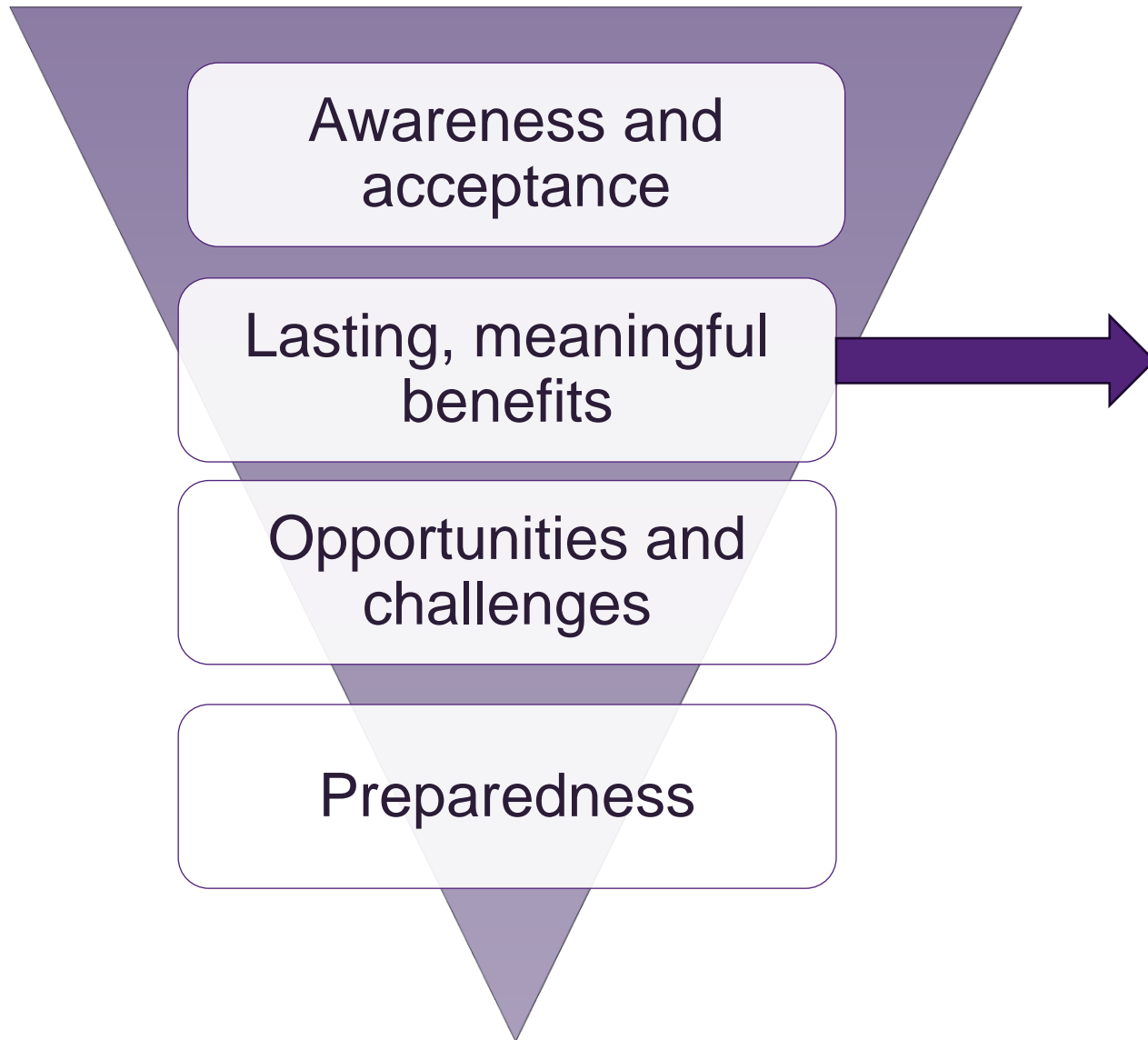
Theme	Opportunities	Challenges
Local procurement and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for jobs • Opportunities for reskilling and upskilling local workers • Support of local content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The message about job creation needed to be cautiously managed- not only focus on the number of jobs created but the type of jobs and skills required (i.e. mostly short-term, construction and low skills) • Skills shortages in general and in regional areas
Social performance and investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefit funds are getting common for renewable energy projects, but are voluntary and vary from project to project. • Local presence with authority to make decisions is crucial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community investment may depend on the development models (e.g. “Develop and flip” and “Develop, build and operate”). • Social investment might make renewable projects (which operate in a fine margin) more expensive to go ahead with. • Differentiate the expectation and the different scales of social investment

3. Community expectations



- Low awareness among the local residents about what a REZ is and what it means for them *“We don’t sit around reading the new energy plan”*.
- Local councils and engaged local businesspeople have more awareness but still don’t feel they understand the implications for them.
- Broad support for new energy projects, particularly if they bring local jobs, but *“it’s all about engagement, take the community along with them”*
- Acceptance conditional and *“up to a point”*

3. Community expectations



- Increases the liveability of regional centres
- Access to (cheap, reliable, clean) energy
- Supports emerging and future industry opportunities
- Investment in local services (beforehand) so they can support the construction phase
- Attention to housing and legacy infrastructure
- Investment and training in a range of job types *“not building a workforce for a construction site but a workforce for the future”*
- Help local businesses plan and grow
- Increase connectivity – digital, transport, sociopolitical
- Increases local voice
- Builds local leadership and innovation
- Recognition and respect for regional centres and their role in energy transition

3. Community expectations




Awareness and acceptance

Lasting, meaningful benefits

Opportunities and challenges

Preparedness

- “**truthful information**”, even where uncertainty
- “clear channels for communication and education”
- Knowledgeable councillors and council staff
- “**clear visibility** of what the workforce looks like because you do get this big construction boom”.
-  **Lead time** – to build capacity, housing, skills, to plan.
- Strong networks and linkages - with other REZs, industry, governments
- Some global examples/ case studies to help people understand and contextualise
- “proper analysis” of options “*So it's not completely reliant on voices and who screams the loudest.*”
- Leadership



Thank you

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