

Renewable Energy Zones

May 2024

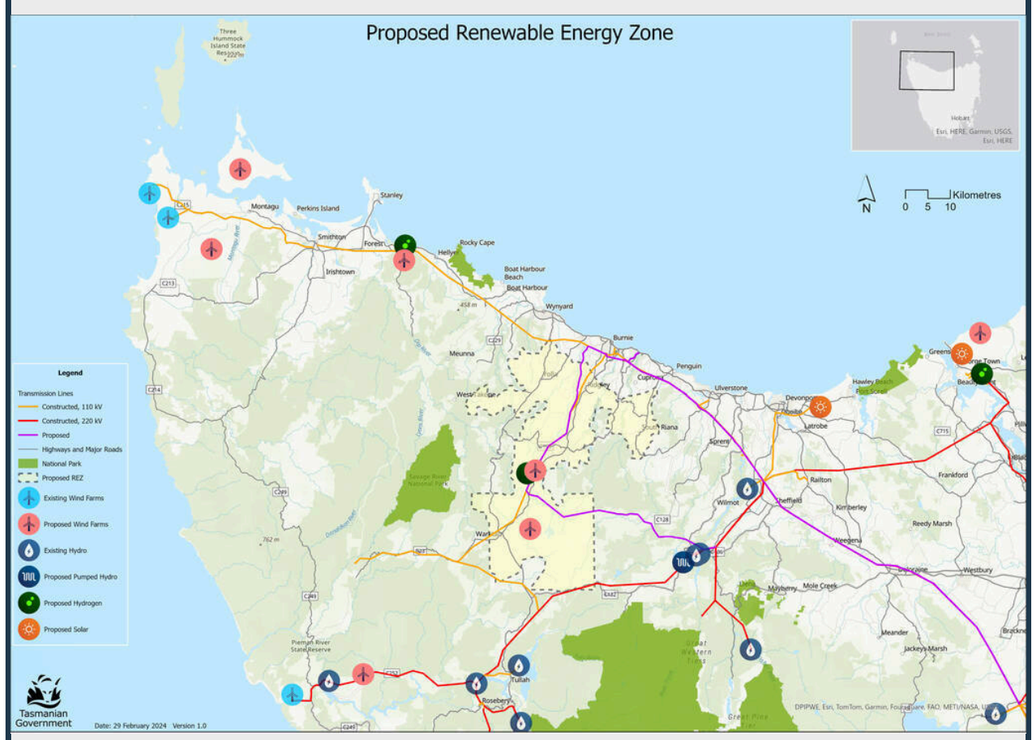
Welcome to our third newsletter for the north west Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

We are excited to announce that we have now launched the consultation period to support Tasmania's first REZ. We are seeking community feedback on several elements of the proposed REZ, including the spatial boundary and the community benefit sharing framework. **Visit our website to learn more**.

Proposed Renewable Energy Zone

Throughout 2023, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken with government and community to determine the spatial boundaries for a north west REZ. The proposed area identified is suitable to host renewable energy projects at a larger scale, while protecting community, environmental, and cultural values. It is located south of Burnie and extends on both sides of the Cam River as illustrated below.

Visit the consultation hub on our website and provide feedback.



Delivering REZ is also about securing benefits within regional Tasmania. You can have input into our proposed Community Benefit Sharing framework for the host region.

If you live within or near the priority REZ, you can also submit your name to help co-design the community benefit framework as a member of our Community Advisory Board.

Previous Community Involvement

We had a busy 2023 with many great opportunities to talk to a wide range of people about renewable energy, REZ and how it can be done well in the north west. These conversations have informed how we have approached REZ in Tasmania and will continue to be valued throughout the consultation period.

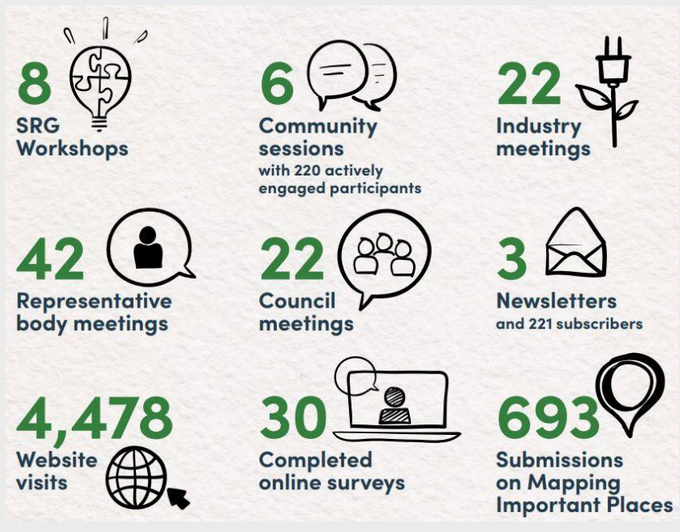
We heard from communities that there is general understanding that Tasmania needs more energy and there is support for new renewables if they are located in places that consider environment and community. There is also need for coordination of new generation and transmission.

Through our Mapping Important Places exercise held throughout July 2023, we learnt that coastal areas are important for Aboriginal cultural heritage, bird habitat, agriculture and visual amenity. Generally, community identified areas suitable for hosting renewables that were located inland and in already altered landscapes.

Click here to see our consultation outcomes report that summarises our engagement activities.

A big shout out to the invaluable contributions the two Stakeholder Reference Groups have made throughout 2023. We thank all members who have provided local knowledge across a whole range of topics.

We also want to thank everyone who have had a chat with us at our stalls, followed along with our newsletters, completed a survey, participated in our Mapping Important Places initiative or visited our website. We appreciate the ongoing support and involvement, and hope that this continues throughout the consultation period.



Bass Strait Offshore Wind Declaration Process

In October 2023, the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, proposed an area in the Bass Strait region off the coast of northern Tasmania for offshore renewable energy, including offshore wind.

ReCFIT attended community drop-in sessions held throughout the consultation period and it was a great opportunity to start the conversation with community about a potential offshore wind industry in Bass Strait.

Minister Bowen is now considering public submissions to help inform his decision as to whether the proposed area is suitable for offshore wind development.

A summary of submissions and the consultation will be posted HERE once finalised.



Renewable energy approval pathway

In January 2024, the Tasmanian Government announced a plan to introduce a pathway to support renewable energy generation and transmission projects critical to achieving its 200 per cent renewable energy target and supporting the transition nationally to net zero emissions.

The need for a new Renewable Energy Approval Pathway (REAP) was identified following a review of Tasmania's existing policy and legislation relating to renewable energy development. This is a key action of the Renewable Energy Coordination Framework.

This change will make it easier for renewable energy developers to navigate the approval process to establish a renewable energy project in Tasmania.

Click here to find out more about the REAP

Tasmanian allocation in Capacity Investment Scheme

The Commonwealth has recently announced that Tasmania has been provided an allocation under its national Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS). The CIS provides revenue certainty to new renewables projects which is likely to help them commit to construction.

The Tasmanian allocation is for up to 300MW of new generation in wind or solar, with an auction process to commence later in May 2024 for eligible projects.

Thank you!

We appreciate everyone who has joined us and contributed important feedback on our REZ journey so far. A lot is happening in 2024 and we will no doubt be in touch again soon.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns you can get in touch with our REZ team at rez@recfit.tas.gov.au

Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania

Tasmanian Government