



**ALGA**

Australian Local  
Government Association

# Review of the Statutory Review of Part 5 of the *Net Zero Economy Authority Act 2024*

## **ALGA Submission**

September 2025



## About ALGA

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the voice of local government in Australia, representing 537 councils across the nation. ALGA was established in 1947 and throughout its history has been actively involved in issues of national significance affecting local government and local communities.

ALGA is a federation of all state and territory local government associations. This submission should be read in conjunction with any separate submissions received from state and territory associations as well as individual councils.

ALGA's CEO is a member of the Net Zero Economy Authority's (NZEA) Stakeholder Reference Group.

## Local governments are indispensable to net zero transition

Local governments play a vital role in community development and prosperity. Councils are democratically elected and maintain deep local knowledge, serving communities in perpetuity. They build relationships, elicit the community's vision and turn it into reality through strategic planning, and delivery of essential infrastructure and services.

These roles are critical in achieving net zero transition. Councils provide oversight and understanding of the interconnecting economic, social, cultural and environmental elements in their communities. When councils can help communities engage and define how they want to benefit from new projects in their area, net zero transition can be a constructive process that delivers real outcomes for the communities hosting it.

## Energy Industry Jobs Plans are more effective when local governments are engaged as partners

ALGA is pleased to make this submission for the Statutory Review of Part 5 of the *Net Zero Economy Authority Act 2024* (henceforth, the Review'). Part 5 sets out the definitions and process for establishing and implementing an Energy Industry Jobs Plan.

The Review will benefit from considering local government as a valuable adviser which can support the NZEA to navigate the nuances and complexities in supporting the communities that are directly impacted by closure of major fossil fuel industries, and the opportunities of new industries. NZEA should continue to engage with local governments in priority regions regularly and involve them in decision making, as these are the local institutions which will continue to serve their communities long after net zero transition has occurred.



In respect to the Energy Industry Jobs Plan, local governments in specified regions can:

- Provide a critical on-the-ground and strategic perspective – based on their knowledge of community history, culture, social and economic factors, and needs – which can inform sound decision making about whether a Jobs Plan is required.
- Provide advice on the knock-on consequences of requirements in a Jobs Plan, helping to avoid unintended outcomes.
- Incorporate NZEA information and decisions into their own planning and decision making to deliver coherence in how services, infrastructure, community engagement and other supports are delivered.
- Support the community to engage with NZEA's processes and planning, to broker smoother and more constructive relationships and combat disinformation.
- Develop community wide change programs that are place based and tailored to each specific community's need.

In respect to specifics of Part 5 of the *Net Zero Economy Authority Act 2024*, ALGA recommends the following.

| Section                              | Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Community of Interest process</b> | Community involvement is critical, and councils need clear mechanisms for formal input and adequate notice. Giving the opportunity for local governments to engage early in the Community of Interest process benefits NZEA – local governments can advise NZEA on specificities for approaching and executing the Community of Interest process in each community to deliver more effective and constructive engagement. | <p>Introduce an obligation for NZEA to consult with local government through the Community of Interest process and establish timelines to align with local planning cycles.</p> <p>Provide appropriate resourcing to local governments to maximise participation in this goal.</p> |
| <b>Employer obligations</b>          | Supports provided by employers should be adaptable to regional context. Local governments are well placed to advise on what will be effective and suitable not just in their local government area, but more granular specifics within the community and the region.                                                                                                                                                      | Introduce local government liaison requirements to coordinate employer supports with community strategic planning and existing local government projects.                                                                                                                          |



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|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Energy Industry Worker Redeployment Advisory Group</b> | These groups have a significant opportunity to benefit from the extensive knowledge and up-to-date information that local governments hold about how the workforce transition and regional economy is faring.                                                 | Provide the opportunity for regional local government representation in the Advisory Group to reflect area-specific workforce dynamics.                                |
| <b>Information Management</b>                             | Communities can benefit where local governments are able to access NZEA information on closures and workforce data, as community supports, infrastructure and service provision can be planned with the best available information.                           | Develop a data-sharing protocol between the Authority and local government for planning purposes.                                                                      |
| <b>Compliance Promotion</b>                               | As a trusted point of contact and information for residents, councils can be partners in promoting awareness and access to support services.                                                                                                                  | Provide resources to local governments to provide to community members about job plans, support services, and feedback mechanisms on the effectiveness of a Jobs Plan. |
| <b>Timing and Future Reviews</b>                          | Review cycles should consider the long lead times and ripple effects of closures on local economies. Review cycles can also be timed to align with council planning cycles so that updates and information can be efficiently incorporated into council work. | Schedule interim reviews aligned with major closure milestones and fund local cumulative impact assessments.                                                           |



Thank you for engaging with ALGA and recognising the importance of local governments. Please contact Eleanor Robson (Policy Director – Environment) or Simon Booth (Policy Director – Jobs and Skills) for any further information you may require.

Sincerely,



Amy Crawford  
CEO

### Further enquiries

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