

Creating ‘Lasting and Meaningful Benefits’

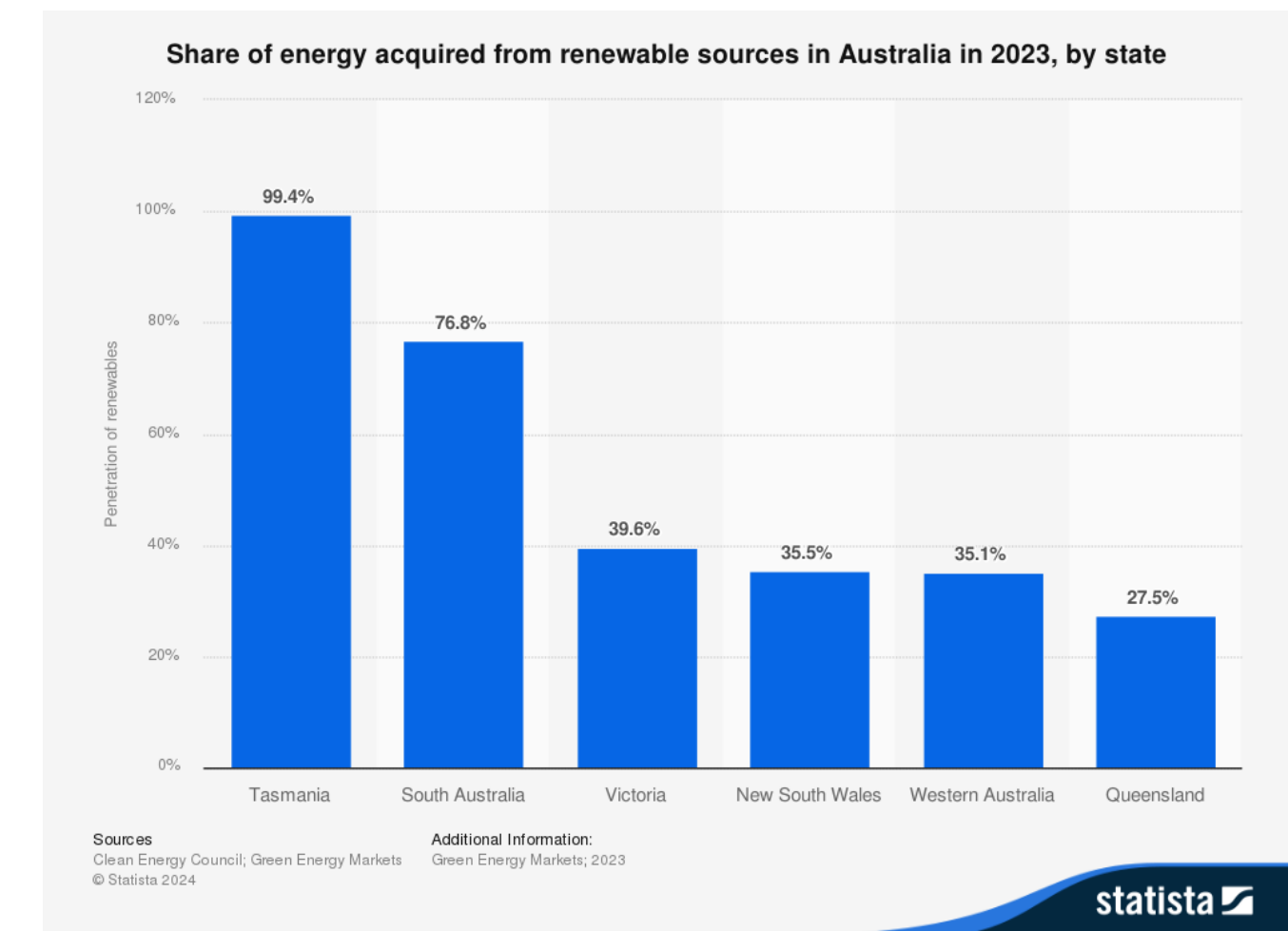
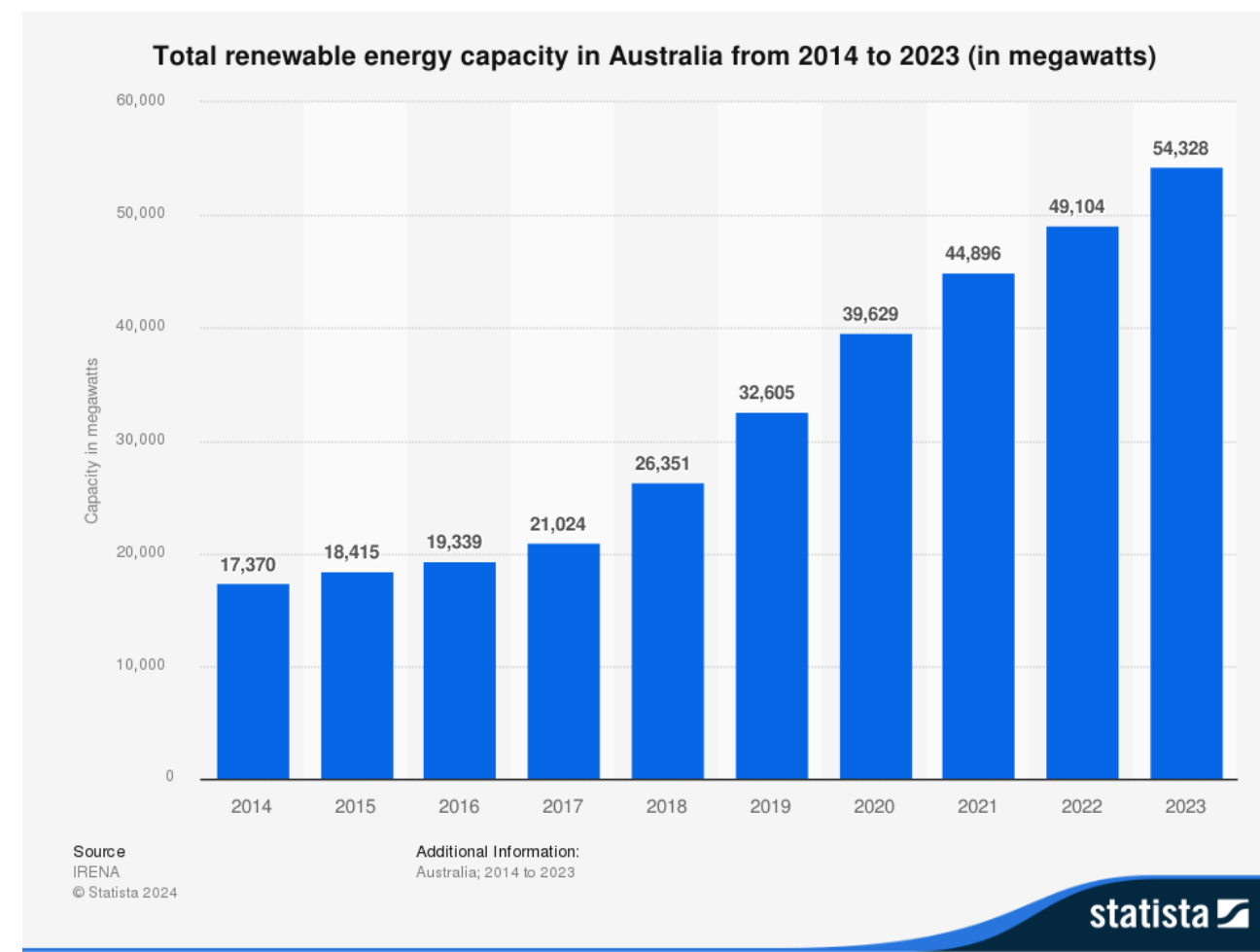
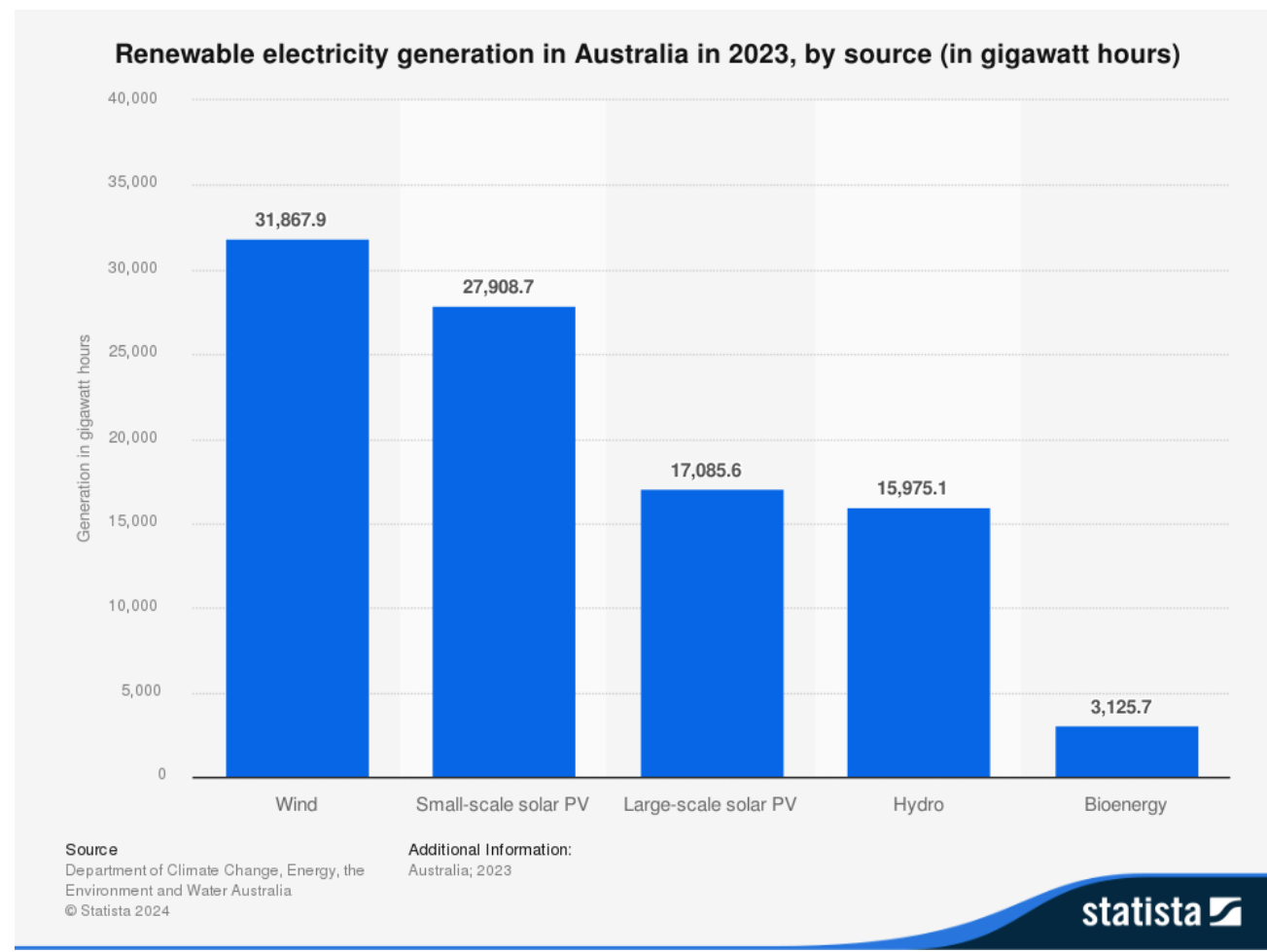
What communities in Queensland’s Renewable Energy Zones expect from new energy projects

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Introduction

- **Queensland's Renewable Energy Targets:** 70% renewable energy by 2032 and 80% by 2035, transforming its energy mix with more wind, solar, and storage.
- **SuperGrid and Renewable Energy Zones:** The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan includes a SuperGrid, 12 Renewable Energy Zones, and 95% regional infrastructure. It emphasizes public ownership, job protection, and benefits for regional communities.
- **Benefit Sharing Commitments:** Policies like the Queensland Renewable Energy Zones consultation paper and the National Hydrogen Strategy prioritize delivering meaningful, equitable benefits to host communities, businesses, and workers.
- **Understanding Co-Benefits:** This project explores how new energy projects can generate lasting social, economic, and environmental benefits, ensuring community concerns are addressed and opportunities are maximized for all stakeholders.



Methodology

- Year 1**
- Literature Review and Scoping
 - Conducted 24 in-depth interviews with LNG stakeholders.

- Year 2**
- Conducted 22 interviews with stakeholders involved in new energy projects.
 - Conducted comparative analysis with Year 1 data.

- Year 3**
- Organized 5 focus groups across 3 REZs.
 - Synthesized integrated findings and submitted reports.

Findings

1. Creating Local Benefits- Translating to new energy projects

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Energy Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abundance of energy for domestic and local use • Upgrade local energy generation and transmission infrastructure • Lower electricity prices for locals |
| Emissions reduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply clean energy • Create a ‘green’ manufacturing industry • Remote community as prosumer • Green hydrogen to support the transition |
| Local jobs and procurement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build local skills and apprenticeships • Attract new people to move to regional towns • Build a local supply chain |
| Local economic development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New opportunities for income for local councils • Coordinate across projects to pool funds • Land rental income to landholders, also compensation to neighbours |
| Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit sharing options • Benefits for the nearest community (proximity) • Benefits for First Nations people |

2. Pathways for Creating Benefits –Analytical Framework

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

3. Community Expectations

Awareness and Acceptance

- Better local awareness of REZ implications.
- Councils/businesses aware but seek clarity.
- Support tied to jobs and engagement.
- Conditional acceptance: “up to a point.”

Lasting, Meaningful Benefits

- Enhances liveability and regional infrastructure growth.
- Strengthens local leadership and innovation capacity.
- Provides clean energy access and affordability.
- Invests in diverse, future-focused job training.

Preparedness

- Enhance liveability and infrastructure in regions.
- Build capacity with clear lead time.
- Foster strong networks and informed leadership.
- Ensure transparent communication and education pathways.