1. The primary objective of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020 is to facilitate a pathway to tenure for the development of the Forest Wind Project by Forest Wind Holdings Pty Limited (the proponent), on plantation licence areas in the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie State forests in the Wide Bay Burnett region.
2. The proponent is seeking to establish a large-scale wind farm (up to 226 turbines) generating approximately 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy.
3. The project, if fully implemented, has the potential to increase Queensland’s large-scale renewable energy capacity by 40 per cent, with a reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions by approximately 78.6 million tonnes over 30 years.
4. If fully constructed, the project is likely to provide significant economic benefits to Queensland and the Wide Bay Burnett region.
5. The Bill:
	* outlines a pathway for the proponent of a development agreement to obtain tenure to access, occupy, develop and manage the land for the purpose of developing and operating the project, including conditions precedent to the giving of tenure;
	* limits the construction and operation of the wind farm to particular parts of the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie State forests and permitting the development and use of a road for access into the project area through native forest; and
	* exempts the development from or modifies the application of certain provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959* and *Land Act 1994*.
6. The Bill also includes amendments to the *Planning Act 2016* that seek to balance the introduction of new rights and obligations for third parties to undertake master planning and development in the Springfield area, and the protection of the current rights and obligations of the Springfield Land Corporation.
7. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020 into the Legislative Assembly.
8. *Attachments*
	* [Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
	* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)
	* [Human Rights Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.pdf)