

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Application for an Electricity Generation Authority

Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station

Information Paper

June 2025

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The State of Queensland (Queensland Treasury) Application for an Electricity Generation Authority – Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station.



Translating and interpreting assistance

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1. Background

Kidston Hydro Project Co Pty Ltd (the applicant) has applied to the Regulator for a generation authority under section 179 of the *Electricity Act 1994* (the Act). Under the Act, the Regulator is the Under Treasurer being the chief executive of the department (Queensland Treasury) that administers the Act.

The application is for a proposed pumped hydro storage power station – the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station, located at Lot1, SP289310, via Old Kidston Township Road, Kidston, QLD, 4871. The Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station is located within the Etheridge Shire Council in central north Queensland.

The generation authority, if issued, will authorise the operation of the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station and its connection to the Aurumfield Substation via a 275 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, operated by Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink).

The Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station will have a maximum capacity of 250 megawatts (MW) at the connection point and will deliver a total of 2000 megawatt hours (MWh) of continuous power generation per generation cycle.

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals (including this generation authority), the applicants anticipate the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station will be complete and operational by June 2026.

2. Consideration of an Application

Section 180 of the Act provides that the Regulator may issue a generation authority only if satisfied:

- (a) the applicant will operate the generating plant stated in the application;
- (b) the generating plant will be able to provide electricity of a quality suitable for the transmission grid or supply network stated in the application;
- (c) the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity;
- (d) the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner; and
- (e) the applicant meets the additional criteria prescribed under a regulation.
(Note that no additional criteria are prescribed by regulation.)

In deciding whether the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity, or the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner, the Act states the Regulator may consider:

- (a) the person's previous commercial and other dealings and the standard of honesty and integrity shown in the dealings;
- (b) any failure by the person to perform commercial or statutory obligations and the reasons for the failure;
- (c) the person's criminal history;

- (d) if the person is a corporation – the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) for persons who are shareholders, directors or holders of other interests in the corporation;
- (e) for the applicant – the applicant’s competence to be the operator; and
- (f) additional matters prescribed by regulation.
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation.)

Further, the Act provides that, in deciding whether to issue the generation authority, the Regulator must consider:

- (a) the objects of the Act;
- (b) relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues and the likely environmental effects of building and operating the generating plant; and
- (c) additional matters prescribed under a regulation.
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation).

Section 179A of the Act also stipulates that, before issuing a generation authority, the Regulator must invite interested persons to make submissions about the application for the authority and the Regulator must consider the submissions made.

3. The Applicant

The information set out in sections 3 to 5 of this Information Paper was provided by the applicant as part of the formal application to the Regulator for a generation authority.

The applicant and operator, Kidston Hydro Project Co Pty Ltd holds ownership, construction and operating duties for the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station. The applicant is fully owned by Genex Power Limited which is an ASX-listed company focused on developing a portfolio of renewable energy generation and storage projects across Australia.

The applicant also has an operations and maintenance services agreement with ANDRITZ Hydro Pty Ltd (ANDRITZ Hydro). ANDRITZ Hydro is a leading supplier for hydro power station equipment and after sales services in Australia.

4. The proposed generating plant

The proposed generating plant will be known as the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station located on the site of the disused Kidston gold mine as part of the Kidston Clean Energy Hub project, approximately 330 kilometres west of Ingham in North Queensland.

The location of the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station is Lot1, SP289310, via Old Kidston Township Road, Kidston, QLD, 4871.

The Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station will have a total installed capacity of 250 MW of renewable energy storage, allowing for efficient and flexible electricity generation. The project stabilises the grid by storing excess renewable energy during low demand and supplying it back to the grid in periods of high demand.

The applicant has a Connection and Access Agreement in place with Powerlink to connect the pumped hydro storage power station to the transmission grid via the Aurumfield Substation.

The applicant is in the process of seeking generator registration with the Australia Energy Market Operator.

5. Approvals for construction of the generating plant

A generation authority issued under the Act authorises its holder to operate the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station and connect to the transmission grid or supply network.

It should be noted that a generation authority does not authorise or approve the construction of the generating plant and, indeed, that is not a matter within the jurisdiction of the Act or the Regulator. Section 26(2) of the Act states:

‘a generation authority does not relieve its holder or anyone else from complying with laws applying to the development, building, operation or maintenance of generating plant’.

The proponent of the project has the responsibility to obtain all approvals necessary for construction and ongoing operation of the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station. This includes relevant environmental, cultural heritage and local government approvals.

All relevant development approvals from the Etheridge Shire Council have been obtained for the Kidston Pumped Hydro Storage Power Station. The development application was decided on the 19 September 2018 for Material Change of Use against a planning scheme for a Hydro Storage Facility and Associated Ancillary Infrastructure.

6. Submissions

Submissions are invited from interested persons in relation to the application for a generation authority from Kidston Hydro Project Co Pty Ltd.

In particular, the Regulator is interested in matters that may impact on the suitability of the applicant to be a generation entity, as well as the other issues the Regulator must consider under the Act.

Please note that private personal and commercial-in-confidence information contained within a submission may be provided to a third party for the purpose of consideration of the application.

In the case where the Regulator provides an opportunity for an applicant to respond to matters raised in a submission, the private personal information and commercial-in-confidence information of the person making the submission will not be provided to the applicant.

The State of Queensland through the Queensland Treasury has taken steps to ensure the appropriate treatment of such information by departmental staff and contractors. By submitting a submission, you agree that your submission will be used by Treasury and its contractors in reviewing and processing the applications.

All private personal and commercial-in-confidence information will be stored by Treasury, and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Treasury’s privacy statement can be found at: www.treasury.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy/.

If you have any questions or queries you can email Treasury’s privacy unit at rtiadmin@treasury.qld.gov.au.

Submissions must be made in writing, and sent by email or mail to:

Mail

Attention: The Manager
Regulation
Energy Division
Queensland Treasury
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Phone: 13 43 87

Email

energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au

Closing date for submissions is 5pm on the 27 June 2025.