



ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

2026 Integrated System Plan

This document provides an overview of the 2026 Integrated System Plan engagement framework. The ISP is a roadmap for the transition of the National Electricity Market (NEM) to meet future energy needs and enable a net zero economy by 2050.

About AEMO

As Australia’s independent system and market operator and system planner, the Australian Energy Market Operator’s (AEMO’s) purpose is to ensure secure, reliable, and affordable energy and enable the energy transition for the benefit of all Australians.

We do this by operating the electricity and gas systems and markets of today and planning the energy system of the future.

This includes the NEM, an interconnected power system that delivers electricity to around 23 million energy users across Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

For more information:
www.aemo.com.au

About the ISP



Australia’s National Electricity Rules require AEMO to produce a plan every two years for essential infrastructure that will meet future energy needs, known as the Integrated System Plan (ISP).



The ISP’s optimal development path (ODP) sets out the needed generation, storage, and network investments in the NEM to transition to net zero by 2050 through current policy settings and doing so at the lowest long-run cost to consumers. This information supports governments and industry to plan and invest in infrastructure to meet current and future energy needs.

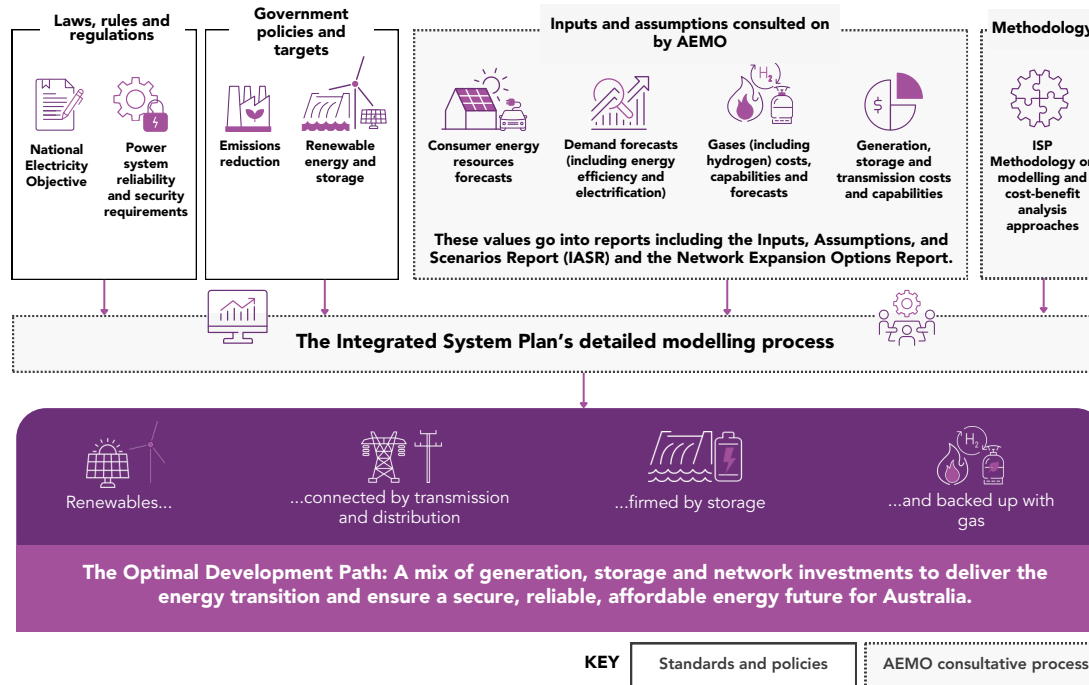


Developed in extensive consultation with consumer and community representatives, policy makers, regulators, industry bodies and other groups, it is informed by a broad variety of technical expertise, voices and views.



The ISP is designed to be responsive to economic, technical and policy changes, to ensure Australian homes and businesses continue to have access to reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost.

The ISP at a glance



For more information

The 2024 ISP is available online. You can also find details on relevant consultation forums, presentations and webinars on [AEMO’s website](http://www.aemo.com.au).

Key ISP Reports

Inputs, Assumptions, and Scenarios Report (IASR)

This report details the inputs, assumptions, and scenarios to be used in AEMO’s forecasting and planning functions.

- Open for consultation with the first stage of the draft published in December 2024, a second stage in February 2025, and the final published in July 2025.

ISP Methodology

This methodology sets out the modelling and cost benefit analysis approaches used to prepare the ISP.

- Issues paper open for consultation on 23 October 2024.
- The draft Methodology will be published in March 2025 and the final will be published in June 2025.

Network Expansion Options Report

This report explores conceptual network expansion options that could increase the network’s ability to host renewable energy and share electricity across the power system.

- Open for consultation in April to May 2025, and the final will be published July 2025.

Draft and final ISP

The ISP is a plan produced every two years for essential energy infrastructure that will meet future energy needs, based on current policies.

- The Draft 2026 ISP will be published December 2025 and will be open for submissions until February 2026.
- The final 2026 ISP will be published by June 2026.

Our promise to you

AEMO recognises that listening, understanding, and collaborating with our stakeholders is essential. In line with our [Stakeholder Engagement Framework](#), our approach to engaging stakeholders for the 2026 ISP will be underpinned by the following guiding principles.



Credible



Reliable



Staying close



Being self-aware

Engagement goal for the 2026 ISP

Provide interested stakeholders with appropriate time and opportunity to access and provide meaningful input into our planning. We want all interested stakeholders to get involved and shape our planning, for the efficient development of the energy system, for the benefit of all Australians as we work to achieve a net-zero future. Through our engagement, we commit to:

Respecting stakeholder time

by enabling more participation through verbal submission sessions.

Building trust through transparency

including providing information on when and how decisions are made.

Tailoring material for the audience

by ensuring technical material is made as accessible as possible to support effective engagement.

Closing the feedback loop

by increasing timely communication that summarises what we have heard from stakeholders, the impact of their feedback, and making these consultation reports accessible.

For more information

Further details are available in the [2026 ISP Engagement Plan](#). Details on relevant consultation forums, presentations and webinars are on [AEMO's website](#).

Contact the ISP team at ISP@aemo.com.au. All dates may be subject to change.

Opportunities to have your say in the 2026 ISP process

Preliminary scenarios

Draft Inputs, Assumptions & Scenarios Report (IASR) development

Draft IASR consultation

Final IASR development

Provide input or feedback on AEMO's inputs, assumptions and scenarios, for example consumer energy resources, energy efficiency, electrification and other factors that inform the modelling.

- Scenarios consultation - August 2024
- ISP Timetable - September 2024
- Draft 2025 IASR publication - December 2024 to February 2025
- Verbal consultations and webinars on draft IASR - December 2024 to March 2025
- Final IASR and Network Expansion Options Report published - July 2025

ISP Methodology consultation and development

Provide input or feedback on changes to the Methodology that impact the way we model and plan.

- ISP Methodology Issues paper published 23 October 2024
- Draft ISP Methodology published 13 March 2025
- Final ISP Methodology published 25 June 2025
- Publication webinar - June/July 2025

Network Expansion Options Report

Provide input or feedback on conceptual transmission and distribution network expansion options to be used as inputs to the 2026 ISP.

- Draft 2025 Network Expansion Options Report - April 2025
- Verbal consultations and webinars on Network Expansion Options Report - April to May 2025
- Final report published - July 2025
- Publication webinar - August 2025

Draft ISP development

Draft ISP consultation

Final ISP development

Provide input or feedback on the Draft ISP document, including on network projects, non-network options, industry developments, and implications on the long-term interests of consumers.

- Draft 2026 ISP published end of December 2025
- Consultation on Draft ISP - December 2025 to February 2026
- Verbal consultations and webinars on Draft ISP - December 2025 to February 2026
- Final ISP published end of June 2026
- Publication webinar - July 2026