



Roadmap Annual Report 2024-25

Final Report

October 2025

Energy »

Acknowledgment of Country

IPART acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands where we live and work. Our office is located on Gadigal land and our work touches on Aboriginal lands and waterways across NSW.

We pay respect to their Elders both past and present, and recognise Aboriginal people's unique and continuing cultural connections, rights and relationships to land, water and Country.

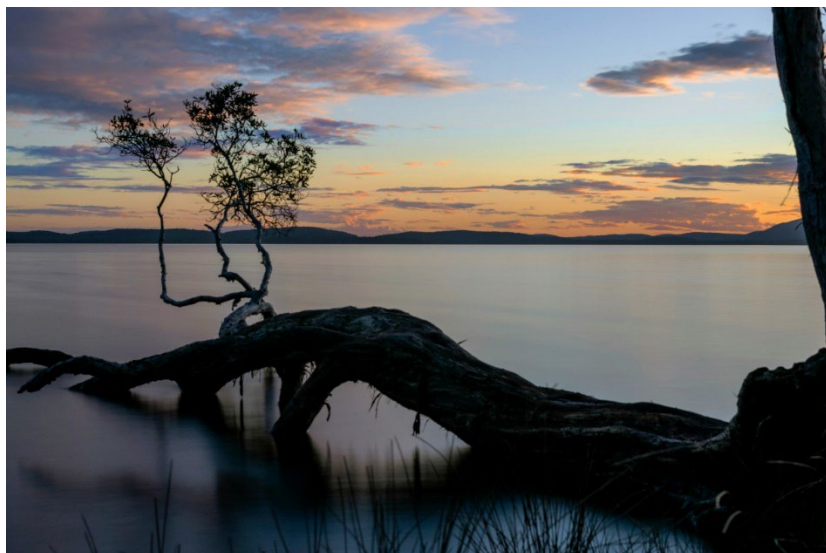


Image taken on Worimi Country (Myall Lakes)

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

IPART's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Further information on IPART can be obtained from [IPART's website](#).

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Contents

1	Executive Summary	6
1.1	Key milestones during FY 2024-25	7
1.2	Minister's information requirements	9
1.3	Outlook for FY 2025-26	10
2	The Roadmap	11
2.1	Reporting entities involved in the Roadmap	12
2.2	Our approach to reporting	15
2.3	Structure	15
3	Key Roadmap developments	16
3.1	Allocation of access rights at two REZs	16
3.2	Allocation of community grants in the Central-West Orana REZ	16
3.3	Financial close reached for Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Infrastructure Project	18
3.4	Preferred network operator selected for Hunter Transmission Project	19
3.5	Preferred network operator selected for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ infrastructure project	19
3.6	Waratah Super Battery commenced operating at partial capacity	19
3.7	Construction in Port to REZ Project commences	20
4	Minister's request for information	21
4.1	Local content commitments and outcomes	21
4.2	Consultation and commitments to local Aboriginal communities	23
4.3	Access rights awarded in FY 2024-25	25
4.4	LTESAs awarded and progress status	29
5	Access rights	33
5.1	Access schemes and access rights	33
5.2	Investor benefits of access rights	34
5.3	Access rights allocation process	35
5.4	Contractual arrangements	35
5.5	Access fees contribute to community benefits	35
5.6	Social licence considerations	36
6	REZ Infrastructure Planner's functions	39
6.1	Awarded access rights	39
6.2	Assessed REZ infrastructure projects	40
6.3	Conducted project planning and delivery	40
6.4	Administered access schemes	40
6.5	Administered community benefits for Central-West Orana REZ	41
6.6	REZ access standards	41
6.7	Supported revenue and contribution determinations	42
6.8	Conducted general functions and research	42
6.9	Priorities in FY 2025-26	42
7	System Strength Infrastructure Planner's functions	43
7.1	System Strength Project	43
7.2	Conducted competitive assessment processes	44

7.3	Priorities in FY 2025-26	45
8	Consumer Trustee's functions	46
8.1	Conducted tenders	46
8.2	Determined access fees	46
8.3	Authorised REZ network infrastructure projects	47
8.4	Managed financial risk	47
8.5	Conducted compliance and reporting functions	47
8.6	Priorities in FY 2025-26	48
9	Financial Trustee's functions	49
9.1	Administered and reported on the Scheme Financial Vehicle	49
9.2	Supported the work of Regulators	50
9.3	The Scheme Financial Vehicle's functions	50
10	Australian Energy Regulator's functions	53
10.1	Made revenue determinations	53
10.2	Made an annual contribution determination	54
10.3	Published guidelines, and conducted reviews and updates	55
10.4	Conducted consultee functions	56
10.5	New functions conferred on the AER	56
11	Environment Protection Authority's functions	58
11.1	Developed method for calculating emissions intensity and offset units	58
11.2	Calculated NSW grid greenhouse gas emissions intensity	59
11.3	Determined offset units requirements	59
12	IPART's functions	60
12.1	Prepared annual report	60
12.2	Made a recommendation on the Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan	60
12.3	Conducted performance audits	61
12.4	Priorities in FY 2025-26	63
A	Glossary	65
B	Minister's information requirement	67
C	MERI Indicators	70

1 Executive Summary

The NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (Roadmap), launched in 2020, is a 20-year plan to transition the state's electricity system from coal to affordable, reliable, and clean energy.¹ This is the fourth Roadmap annual report prepared by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). It describes the exercise of functions by key Roadmap entities under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (EII Act) and *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021* (EII Regulation) during the 2024–25 financial year (FY 2024–25).

At the end of the FY 2024–25^a, the Roadmap had progressed toward the minimum infrastructure investment objectives set for 2030 and 2034 by securing investment commitment for:

- 76% of the 12 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity required by 2030
- 40% of the 2 GW of long-duration storage capacity required by 2030
- 66% of the 28 gigawatt hours (GWh) of long-duration storage required by 2034.²

Tracking progress toward NSW's 2030 energy goals

44%

2023–24



committed projects for the
12 GW generation
minimum objective by 2030

76%↑↑

Aug 25

29%

2023–24



committed projects for the
2 GW long-duration storage
minimum objective by 2030

40%↑↑

Aug 25

^a These levels of committed generation and long-duration storage were reported as at 8 August 2025.

1.1 Key milestones during FY 2024-25

The Roadmap has progressed from the establishment phase to the operational phase, with Roadmap entities responsible for key deliverables appointed and actively carrying out their legislated functions. These entities have worked independently as well as collaboratively to deliver the necessary decisions and infrastructure to progress the Roadmap in FY 2024-25. During FY 2024-25, the achievements of the reporting Roadmap entities included the following:

- The Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Infrastructure Planner awarded 7.15 GW of access rights in the Central-West Orana REZ and 3.56 GW in the South West REZ.^{3,4} It also administered the Community and Employment Benefit Program, awarding \$60 million in grants to 54 projects in the Central-West Orana REZ.⁵
- The System Strength Infrastructure Planner was appointed and commenced tendering for components of the System Strength Project.⁶
- The Consumer Trustee awarded 3 Long-Term Energy Service Agreements (LTESAs) for long-duration storage projects, and determined access fees for both the Central-West Orana and the South West REZs.⁷
- The Central-West Orana REZ Network Infrastructure Project reached financial close, with construction started in June 2025, and is anticipated to reach completion in 2028, marking Australia's first competitively procured REZ transmission project.^{8,9}
- The Waratah Super Battery construction was completed in October 2024, with testing completed and the battery ready to operate at partial capacity on 30 June 2025.¹⁰
- IPART carried out the first performance audit of the Financial Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle.¹¹

In FY 2024-25, the REZ Infrastructure Planner granted access rights to 14 projects (totalling 19 access rights) in the Central-West Orana and the South West REZs.



This is an important milestone because access rights are an essential and unique feature of the Roadmap that attracts and secures private investment. Access rights guarantee that investors can connect their projects to the electricity grid. The access scheme declaration sets conditions, including a target transmission curtailment level which is a limit on how much electricity can be held back or curtailed from the grid. For access rights holders, this reduces investment risk by providing certainty on how much of their generation outputs can be exported to the grid at times of network congestion.

At the same time, access rights holders pay access fees, which include fees to fund community and employment benefits for the regions hosting Roadmap infrastructure. We have provided more information in Chapter 5 to explain how access rights work to deliver community and investor benefits.

1.2 Minister's information requirements

Each year the Minister may specify information that IPART is to include in the annual report. In accordance with the Minister's request for this report, we have included information on local content commitments and outcomes, including employment and income opportunities for local Aboriginal businesses and communities. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) track this information through the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework.

The local content commitments and outcomes MERI indicators^b are shown below.



^b Indicator values for FY 2024-25 are not yet available from the DCCEEW. The following indicators represent FY 2023-24 values. See Appendix C.

These indicators measure all Roadmap projects, however the values reported only include projects awarded with an LTESA that have data to report at this time. They do not capture projects without LTESAs and network infrastructure projects. The values reported only include projects that have commenced construction. They do not capture LTESA commitments where construction has not yet started. ^{c,d}

The REZ Infrastructure Planner and Consumer Trustee's consultation with, and commitments to, local Aboriginal communities, and the award and progress of LTESAs and access rights are detailed in Chapter 4.

1.3 Outlook for FY 2025-26

The Roadmap's outlook for FY 2025–26 includes the continued expansion of renewable generation and storage, further development of REZ network infrastructure, and a sustained focus on community and First Nations engagement. The coordinated efforts of all entities will remain critical to achieving the Roadmap's ambitious targets for affordability, reliability, and sustainability in electricity supply.

^c The Renewable Energy Sector Board has set the minimum requirements and stretch goals (benchmarks) for the percentage of local supply chain inputs for individual projects. More details can be found in the MERI Indicator Report in Appendix C.

^d The minimum First Nations participation benchmark of 1.5% may be met using one or a combination of % of the contract's Australian based workforce that directly contribute to the contract to be First Nations peoples, or % of the contract value to be subcontracted to First Nations businesses, or % of the contract value to be applied to the cost of education, training, or capacity building for First Nations staff or businesses directly contributing to the contract. Source: *NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan*, September 2022, p 33.

2 The Roadmap

The NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (the Roadmap) is the State's 20-year plan to modernise NSW's electricity network to improve affordability, reliability, security and sustainability of electricity supply.¹² The Roadmap provides a coordinated approach to private investment into new generation, storage, network and related infrastructure, while also delivering benefits to local communities and First Nations people.¹³

The intent of the Roadmap is to:

- create new generation infrastructure to replace aging coal-fired power stations
- create new storage and firming infrastructure to better respond to electricity needs and improve reliability of the grid
- create new network infrastructure for transmission and distribution for energy delivery, and
- attract over \$77 billion in private investment.^{14,15}

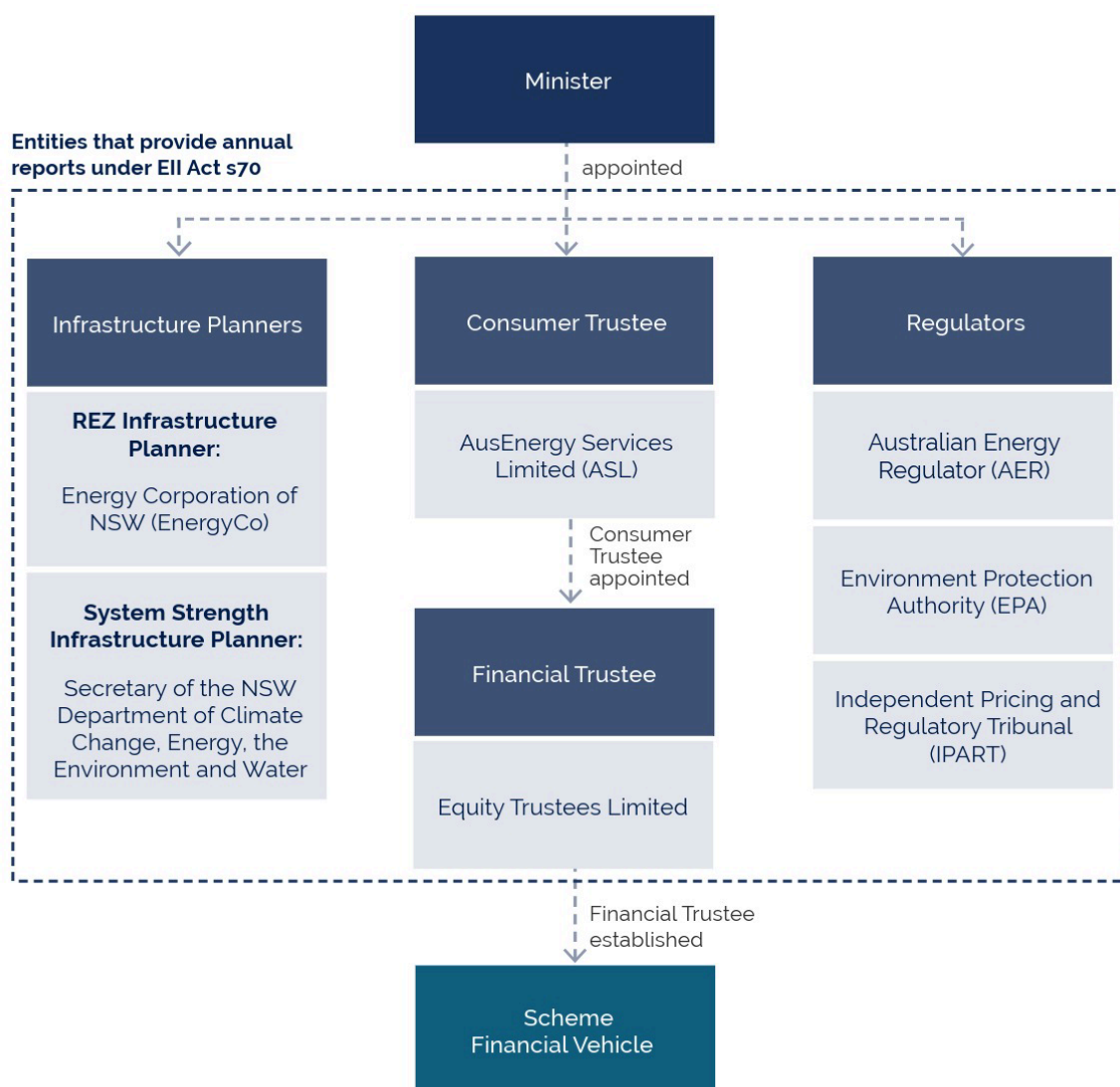
The Roadmap is given effect through the [Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020](#) (EII Act), and [Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021](#) (EII Regulation).

The minimum infrastructure investment objectives are:

- By 2030, construction of:
 - generation infrastructure with a generation capacity of 12 GW
 - long-duration storage infrastructure with capacity of 2 GW and storage of 16 GWh
- By 2034, construction of long-duration storage infrastructure with a total storage of 28 GWh.¹⁶

2.1 Reporting entities involved in the Roadmap

There are several entities under the EII Act that have responsibilities to deliver the Roadmap as well as annual reporting obligations (summarised in this Annual Report).



The functions of these entities are provided as a simplified summary in Box 2.1 below.

The Minister for Energy is supported by the DCCEEW. The DCCEEW assists the Minister to undertake several key functions necessary to implement the Roadmap.

Box 2.1 Statutory roles for entities under the Roadmap

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is one of 2 Infrastructure Planners. EnergyCo is the **REZ Infrastructure Planner** that:

- is responsible for planning the location of REZs and coordinating investment in generation, long-duration storage and firming capacity within the 5 REZs
- coordinates, contracts and oversees network operators to deliver the transmission network infrastructure required to connect the generation built in REZs to the electricity grid
- allocates the access rights for the Central-West Orana and South West REZ., and potentially for other REZs in the future.

The Secretary of DCCEEW is the **System Strength Project Infrastructure Planner (System Strength Infrastructure Planner)**. This function was delegated to the person in the role of Executive Director, Energy Infrastructure within DCCEEW on 23 December 2024. The System Strength Infrastructure Planner coordinates, contracts and oversees the planning, design and construction of synchronous condensers at 5 locations in NSW.

The **Consumer Trustee** is AusEnergy Services Limited (ASL). It was formerly known as AEMO Services Ltd until the entity changed its name on 10 July 2025. The Consumer Trustee:

- identifies when new generation, long-duration storage and firming infrastructure is required to meet the Infrastructure Investment Objectives and in the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity customers
- authorises, or recommends to the Minister, REZ network infrastructure projects and network operators, based on recommendation from the REZ Infrastructure Planner
- conducts competitive tenders for LTESAs for generation, long-duration storage and firming infrastructure
- conducts competitive tenders in relation to the granting or increasing of REZ access rights if the REZ Infrastructure Planner makes a request to the Consumer Trustee.

The **Financial Trustee** is Equity Trustees Limited, appointed by the Consumer Trustee through competitive tender. The Financial Trustee:

- establishes and administers the Scheme Financial Vehicle
- advises the AER in relation to contribution determinations.

Box 2.1 Statutory roles for entities under the Roadmap

The **Scheme Financial Vehicle** is a proprietary limited company under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth). The Scheme Financial Vehicle:

- administers the Electricity Infrastructure Fund (Fund), which includes providing revenue for network infrastructure projects as determined by the AER
- is counterparty to LTESAs with project proponents
- makes contribution orders based on the annual contribution determination made by the AER
- may enter risk management contracts.

The **Australian Energy Regulator** (AER) is one of 3 Regulators. The AER:

- makes revenue determinations for network infrastructure projects
- makes contribution determinations to facilitate the recovery of costs needed to support the continued operation of the Roadmap.

The **NSW Environment Protection Authority** (EPA), as a Regulator, determines:

- the greenhouse gas intensity of electricity generators and each firming infrastructure facility in NSW
- whether these operators have satisfied their offset obligations or need to surrender carbon credits to meet their obligations.

IPART as a Regulator is independent of the Minister. IPART:

- reports each year on the exercise of functions by the Roadmap entities
- is responsible for the performance audit of certain Roadmap entities
- reviews and makes recommendations to the Minister about the Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan or amendments to the plan.

Source: *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act* s60-64, s70; *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021*, cl 42A-E, Part 12, Part 13; *Instrument of Appointment of an Infrastructure Planner in relation to the System Strength Project under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*, dated 19 December 2024.

2.2 Our approach to reporting

Under the EII Act, IPART must prepare an annual report on the exercise of functions by key Roadmap entities i.e. the Infrastructure Planners, Consumer Trustee, Financial Trustee and Regulators. In this annual report to the Minister, we report on progress made by the Roadmap entities in carrying out their respective functions during FY 2024-25, including the functions the Minister has required us to report on.

Our annual report is based on the information provided in each entity's report to us pursuant to section 70(1) of the EII Act, and additional information and clarification from each entity sought by us in subsequent correspondence. We have also used publicly available information to provide context to the report where necessary. Each entity's section 70(1) report is available on [IPART's website](#).

Where an entity has exercised a function that has resulted in an output (e.g. a report or guideline which is publicly available) we have verified that the output has been delivered. We have not reviewed or assessed compliance with the requirements of the EII Act or EII Regulation or the quality of the output. The EII Act establishes specific review and approval functions for key outputs which should be relied upon for this purpose. IPART will consider the compliance and effectiveness of entities in undertaking their legislated functions when undertaking performance audits, as set out separately under the EII Act.

2.3 Structure

Chapter

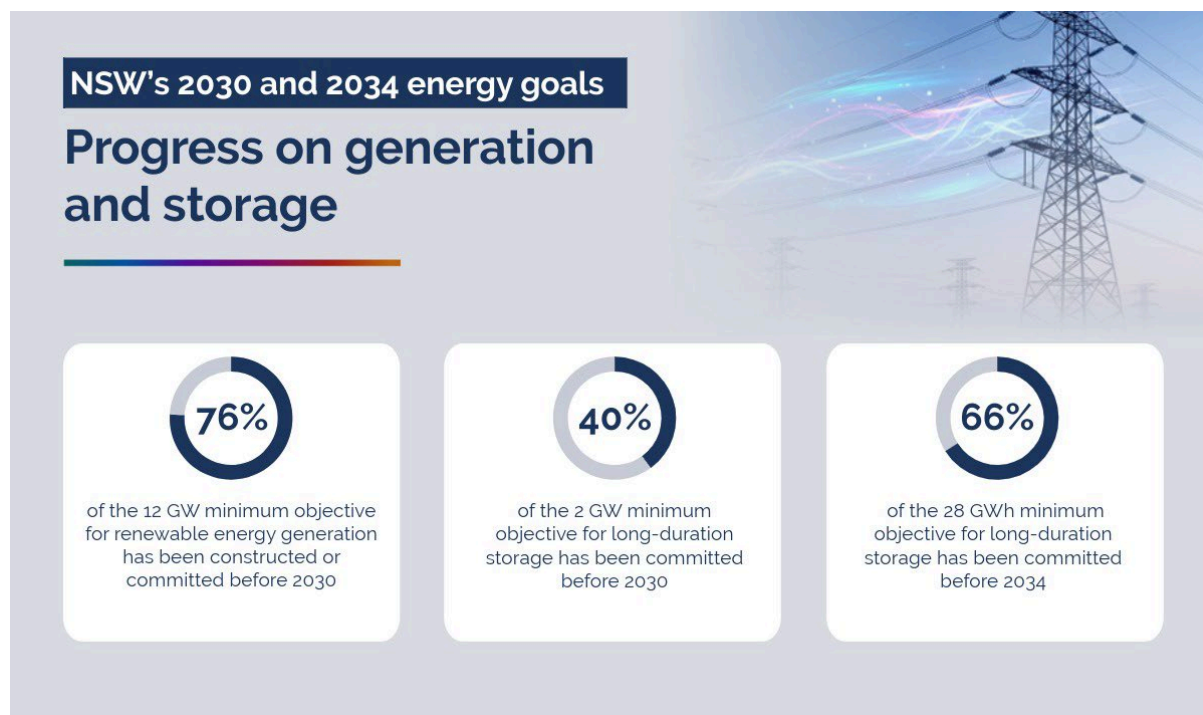
02	Introduction and describes the Roadmap entities' roles.
03	Summary of the key Roadmap developments in FY 2024-25.
04	Addresses the Minister's information requirements
05	Provides insights on Access Rights.
06-12	Report on each entity's exercise of their functions under the EII Act for FY 2024-25.

Appendix

A	Glossary
B	Copy of the letter from the Minister requiring IPART to report particular information.
C	DCCEEW's MERI indicators report.

3 Key Roadmap developments

As of August 2025, the following capacities have been committed towards the minimum infrastructure investment objectives.¹⁷



3.1 Allocation of access rights at two REZs

The REZ Infrastructure Planner awarded:

- 7.15 GW of access rights for Central-West Orana REZ on 7 May 2025, and
- 3.56 GW of access rights for South West REZ on 23 April 2025.^e

Table 4.1 contains a summary of all access rights. We also provide more information on what access rights are, the benefits and the allocation process in Chapter 5.

3.2 Allocation of community grants in the Central-West Orana REZ

The NSW Government committed a total of \$128 million to the Community and Employment Benefit Program for the Central-West Orana REZ.^{18,19} Upfront funding will come from the Transmission Acceleration Facility, and after 2028, the program will be funded through access fees paid by access rights holders in the Central-West Orana REZ.²⁰ The REZ Infrastructure Planner administers the Community and Employment Benefit Program.²¹

^e EnergyCo, *Response to IPART annual report request*, August 2025, p2.

In April 2025, the NSW Government announced that it has committed \$60 million of the \$128 million towards community grants to support councils, local communities, and First Nations groups within the Central-West Orana REZ region. The community grants aim to deliver social and economic benefits alongside infrastructure development. This includes funding for 54 local projects that support infrastructure, housing, training, health services, preschools, and water upgrades.²²

The \$60 million grant included a commitment of \$10 million to the First Nations Fund for the Central-West Orana REZ through the Community and Employment Benefit Program.²³ The First Nations Fund is for projects that increase capacity of local Aboriginal organisations, improve Aboriginal employment opportunities and improve outcomes for Aboriginal people by supporting better access to health services, housing and accommodation and other cultural programs or services.²⁴ Applications to the First Nations Fund closed in September 2024. Applications were still under assessment at the end of FY 2024-25.²⁵ The first recipients of the First Nations Fund were announced in September 2025.²⁶

Table 3.1 provides a summary of the Central-West Orana REZ Community and Employment Benefit Program.

Table 3.1 Projects awarded under the Central-West Orana REZ Community and Employment Benefit Program in FY2024-25

Category	Purpose	Amount	Projects awarded in FY 2024-25
Local Community	For community and First Nations projects that improve local amenity and foster community connections	\$15 million	28 projects, including: • improvements to recreational facilities, playgrounds, and park amenities, • upgrades to wastewater and electrical systems • establishment of a regional health hub to improve access to medical services, early intervention health projects for children and families. • expansion of youth centres with new gymnastics facilities and upgrades to sports facilities • rejuvenation of botanical gardens and arboretums.
Local Community Small Grants	To support small-scale events, initiatives or projects that deliver tangible benefits for local and First Nations communities	\$500,000	17 projects, including: • A program focused on building resilience through recreational activities for women and communities along the Wambuul Macquarie River. • Enhancements to security and safety at an aged care facility. • Installation of a firefighting water supply system for a rural fire service.
Legacy Infrastructure	For eligible councils to work with communities to deliver infrastructure projects that boost liveability and drive regional economic development	\$45 million	9 projects including: • upgrades to 2 sewage treatment plants in Dunedoo and Coolah, and construction of Cassilis sewage treatment plant. • upgrades to water supply schemes in Coolah and Dunedoo. • funding for Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training Centre in Wellington • Mudgee Key Worker Housing construction • construction of Cassilis footbridge, pathways and landscaping • funding for assisted living housing (Dunedoo Sullivan Street Independent Living project)

Category	Purpose	Amount	Projects awarded in FY 2024-25
First Nations	For projects that empower local Aboriginal organisations, create job opportunities and enhance outcomes for Aboriginal people	\$10 million	Under assessment at end of FY 2024-25.

Source: EnergyCo, *Community and Employment Benefit Program*, accessed 12 July 2025.

EnergyCo also provides community support services such as an independent Mental Health Support Line for residents and landowners affected by the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project.²⁷

3.3 Financial close reached for Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Infrastructure Project

In April 2025, the Central-West Orana Transmission Infrastructure Project reached a significant milestone as it advanced from the planning stage to the construction stage. The NSW Government awarded the contract and reached financial close with the ACERREZ consortium (ACCIONA, COBRA, Endeavour Energy) to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Central-West Orana REZ transmission network for 35 years. This project marks Australia's first competitively procured REZ transmission project.²⁸ Early works construction commenced in February 2025 with major construction commenced in June 2025. Completion is expected in December 2028.²⁹ In May 2025, the Social Impact Management Plan for the project was released. This plan is a guide for the REZ Infrastructure Planner and ACERREZ on monitoring and managing social impacts (positive, negative and cumulative) and identifying ways to enhance beneficial impacts during the construction of the project.³⁰

ACERREZ was also granted a NSW Transmission operator's licence in 2024. IPART assessed ACERREZ's application for a transmission operator's licence. The Minister considered our recommendation and granted ACERREZ's transmission operator's licence, with the conditions that we proposed, on 19 September 2024.³¹

The project will deliver an additional 4.5 GW of transmission capacity through the construction of two 500-kilovolt (kV) double circuits between Wollar and Merotherie, along with 330 kV lines connecting new energy hubs at Elong Elong, Uarbry East, and Uarbry West. In total, the development includes approximately 90 kilometres of 500 kV lines and 150 kilometres of 330 kV lines.³²

3.4 Preferred network operator selected for Hunter Transmission Project^f

In December 2024, the REZ Infrastructure Planner signed a commitment deed with Transgrid as the preferred network operator.³³ At the end of FY 2024-25, the REZ Infrastructure Planner was preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the development application.³⁴

The Hunter Transmission Project is to build a new above-ground 500 kV 110 km transmission line between Bayswater and Eraring in the Hunter region to connect to existing 500 kV transmission lines, two new switching stations at Bayswater and Olney, and upgrades to the existing Bayswater and Eraring substations.³⁵

The project will connect the state's existing 500 kV transmission lines, which will create a 500 kV ring of transmission infrastructure that will be part of the state's new electricity grid. The project will enable electricity supply to be imported from Central-West Orana and New England REZs via Bayswater and delivered to consumers across NSW.³⁶

3.5 Preferred network operator selected for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ infrastructure project

In December 2024, the REZ Infrastructure Planner selected Ausgrid as the preferred network operator following a competitive tender process.³⁷ On 17 April 2025, the Consumer Trustee authorised Ausgrid as the network operator to develop, construct, own, control and operate the Hunter-Central Coast REZ infrastructure project.³⁸

Ausgrid will upgrade the existing network to connect renewable generation from the REZ to the grid. Network upgrades include:

- upgrading 85 km of existing sub-transmission power lines
- building two new energy hubs (substations)
- upgrading two existing energy hubs (substations)
- installing 18 km new underground fibre optic communications cable.³⁹

3.6 Waratah Super Battery commenced operating at partial capacity

On 30 June 2025, the battery completed hold point 3 testing, enabling it to generate up to 369 MW, the level required for the Interim System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) Service, where the SIPS is operational at half capacity.

Full operations of the SIPS are forecast to commence in Q4 2025.⁴⁰

^f This is a separate project to the "Hunter-Central Coast REZ Infrastructure Project" which Ausgrid has been authorised as the network operator.

The battery is designed to have a power capacity of 850 MW and storage capacity of 1680 MWh. It is located on the site of the former Munmorah Power Station on the Central Coast, NSW.⁴¹ The project is designed to boost capacity of transmission lines carrying electricity from northern and southern NSW to Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The battery will operate as part of the SIPS, which monitors the network and allows the battery to provide energy to the electricity grid in response to sudden disruptions in the grid. The project has 4 parts:

- SIPS battery service (contestable)
- paired generation services (contestable)
- SIPS control system (non-contestable)
- network augmentations (non-contestable).⁴²

Akaysha Energy is responsible for delivering the battery and will operate it when it is fully energised in 2025. Transgrid is the network operator for the project and is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the delivery of the overall project.⁴³

3.7 Construction in Port to REZ Project commences

The Port to REZ Program commenced the first stage of road upgrades along key transport routes in May 2025.⁴⁴ Stage 1, awarded to BMD Constructions Pty Ltd, includes 19 road upgrades along the 320-kilometre route from the Port of Newcastle to Elong-Elong.⁴⁵

The Port to REZ Project will upgrade key roads and intersections to enable the movement of oversize and/or overmass (OSOM) loads from the Port of Newcastle to REZs. These upgrades, including pavement widening and intersection improvements, facilitate transport of oversized renewable energy equipment and support construction activities in the Central-West Orana REZ.⁴⁶ Road upgrades will be delivered in stages to unlock access to REZs as they progress. The project aims to minimise impact on road users and enable safe delivery of OSOM. The program is jointly funded by the NSW Government (\$110.5 million) and Australian Government (\$18 million) to a total of \$128.5 million.⁴⁷ Transport for NSW and the REZ Infrastructure Planner have a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate and facilitate the necessary upgrades to State road infrastructure.⁴⁸

4 Minister's request for information

On 26 May 2025, the Minister wrote to IPART to advise that our FY 2024-25 annual report must include information on:

- Local content commitments and outcomes through the Roadmap's MERI Framework, including employment and income opportunities for local Aboriginal businesses and communities. Where possible, provide detail on the quality, nature, and location of capacity building investments being made where commitments on Aboriginal participation are not able to be met.
- Consultation and commitments to local Aboriginal communities, including:
 - The REZ Infrastructure Planner's consultation with local Aboriginal communities when exercising its functions under section 3(2)(b) of the EII Act to "promote consultation and negotiations with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which generation, storage and network infrastructure is proposed to be constructed or operated".
 - The REZ Infrastructure Planner and Consumer Trustee's consultation and negotiation for the purposes of increasing income and employment opportunities for local Aboriginal communities informed by the First Nations Guidelines and section 4 of the EII Act.
- LTESAs and access rights that have been awarded in FY 2024-25, and a summary of progress of all projects that have been awarded an LTESA.

We have collated the information that the Minister requested in this chapter of the annual report.

We note that the Minister asked for where possible, provide detail on the quality, nature, and location of capacity building investments being made where commitments on Aboriginal participation are not able to be met. This data is not available in the MERI indicator report at this stage, however the data may become available overtime as the implementation of projects delivered under the Roadmap is still in its early stages.

4.1 Local content commitments and outcomes

The DCCEEW develops and monitors indicators to measure social and economic benefits for local communities and Aboriginal people. These indicators are part of the MERI Framework and reflect commitments made under the EII Act.⁴⁹

The MERI Framework includes key performance indicators and outcome indicators across immediate, intermediate, and ultimate outcomes to assess progress towards energy transition goals, including reliability, renewable energy share, investment risk reduction, and social benefits such as employment and First Nations participation.⁵⁰

The full MERI indicator report from the DCCEEW is provided in Appendix C.

The relevant social indicators include:⁵¹



The outcomes for the indicators presented above are from FY 2023-24 as the FY 2024-25 data was not available at the time of publishing this report. These indicators measure all Roadmap projects, however the values reported only include projects awarded with LTESAs that have data to report at this time. They do not capture projects without LTESAs and network infrastructure projects. The values reported only include projects that have commenced construction. They do not capture LTESA commitments where construction has not yet started. Future data sets are expected to also include projects awarded Access Rights and REZ or Priority Network Infrastructure Projects, when these become available.

The benchmarks are the minimum requirements or stretch goals set by the Renewable Energy Sector Board. The minimum First Nations participation benchmark of 1.5% may be met using one or a combination of:

- % of the contract's Australian based workforce that directly contribute to the contract to be First Nations peoples
- % of the contract value to be subcontracted to First Nations businesses
- % of the contract value to be applied to the cost of education, training, or capacity building for First Nations staff or businesses directly contributing to the contract.^{52,9}

The benchmarks for local supply chain inputs for individual projects vary depending on project phase, input material and project type (i.e. wind, solar, hydro, or network etc). The local supply chain indicator value presents the overall share of local supply chain inputs across all Roadmap projects. As such, it cannot be directly compared to benchmarks set for various stages of individual projects. However, the indicator value can be tentatively interpreted alongside the published minimum requirements as reference points.⁵³ For example, the minimum local supply chain input requirements are 23% for battery storage projects and 68% for network projects at development phase.⁵⁴

4.2 Consultation and commitments to local Aboriginal communities

4.2.1 The REZ Infrastructure Planner⁵⁵

The REZ Infrastructure Planner collaborates with Aboriginal communities to identify and realise economic, community, cultural and environmental opportunities as part of the Roadmap development. It has established regional Aboriginal working groups to ensure local Aboriginal people can participate in the energy transition and co-design the benefits.⁵⁶ There are currently 3 First Nations Working Groups in Central-West Orana, Hunter-Central Coast and South West REZs. The New England REZ working group is under development.

The First Nations Working Groups provide ongoing advice on cultural heritage, land use, economic participation, and community benefit initiatives, along with specific focus on local employment, capacity building, skills, and training development opportunities. The REZ Infrastructure Planner engages monthly with the First Nations Working Groups through targeted meetings and consultation sessions, tailoring discussions to the specific topic areas most relevant to each group and REZ. The REZ Infrastructure Planner also delivers project updates and opportunities for network operators to join the conversation, promoting the work underway.

The engagement with First Nations groups is informed by the First Nations Guidelines and the Aboriginal Procurement Policy.

In FY 2024-25, the REZ Infrastructure Planner worked on delivering programs that promote economic participation and increase tender readiness. It ran workshops that enable Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, and Aboriginal communities to participate in the Central-West Orana REZ.

⁹ The minimum requirement has been increased from 1.5% to 3%. Source: NSW Government, [NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan Addendum](#), August 2025, p 9.

Outcomes from these engagements include the co-design of programs, the identification of economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities, and the development of culturally appropriate engagement strategies. Key milestones achieved through this collaboration can include formal agreements, the launch of Aboriginal-led initiatives, and the integration of Aboriginal perspectives into project planning and delivery across the REZs.

The REZ Infrastructure Planner also collaborates and engages with Aboriginal communities through the Community Employment Benefit Program and the First Nations Fund. The collaboration is focused on delivering projects, programs, and infrastructure for Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, and not-for-profit organisations in the Central-West Orana REZ. These efforts directly support the objectives outlined in the First Nations Consultation Guidelines and the EII Act.

The First Nations Fund for Central-West Orana REZ was established to build capacity of Aboriginal organisations through the delivery of programs, services, infrastructure or future planning activities that are designed to reflect local needs and provide enduring benefit for local Aboriginal communities (see section 3.2). Successful grants for the First Nations Fund are expected to be announced following completion of the merit assessment.

4.2.2 The Consumer Trustee

The Consumer Trustee includes First Nations engagement and participation as merit criteria in LTESA and access rights tenders. In FY 2024-25, the successful projects from LTESA Tender Round 5 committed approximately \$53 million towards First Nations participation outcomes, meeting the Renewable Energy Sector Board's 1.5% minimum First Nations participation requirements.⁵⁷ The ASL (on behalf of Scheme Financial Vehicle) monitors delivery against commitment by LTES Operators under their project development agreements.

When considering authorising REZ network infrastructure projects⁵⁸, the Consumer Trustee also considers proponents' alignment with the NSW Government's First Nations Guidelines. In FY 2024-25, the Consumer Trustee took into account the Renewable Energy Sector Board Plan and First Nations Guidelines when assessing the Infrastructure Planner's recommendation in deciding whether to authorise the Hunter-Central Coast REZ network infrastructure project. In doing so, it accepted the REZ Infrastructure Planner's recommendation that the Consumer Trustee should not impose conditions in the Notice of Authorisation. The Consumer Trustee considered that the approach outlined in the REZ Infrastructure Planner's recommendation to finalise the Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan was appropriate and satisfies the relevant Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan and First Nations Guidelines recommendations, which are to be enforced under the Project Deed between Ausgrid and the REZ Infrastructure Planner.⁵⁹

In FY 2024-25, the Consumer Trustee also supported the NSW Government's review of the First Nations Guidelines to ensure the policy framework reflects best practice.⁶⁰

4.3 Access rights awarded in FY 2024-25

The REZ Infrastructure Planner ran an application process to select the projects eligible for access rights. The Consumer Trustee also ran a competitive tender for access rights.⁶¹

Access rights are then granted and managed by the REZ Infrastructure Planner. Fourteen projects with 19 access rights were granted during FY2024-25.



Table 4.1 lists the 19 access rights granted in FY 2024-25.⁶²

Table 4.1 Access rights awarded in FY 2024-25^a

Access right	Developer	Maximum capacity (MW) and Technology	Milestones
Birrawa BESS (Central-West Orana REZ)	ACEN Australia Pty Ltd	600 MW, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	• Aug 2024: Development consent granted.^b • May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana REZ • Late 2026 – early 2027: Acen Australia's expected date for commencing construction.^c
Birrawa Solar Farm (Central-West Orana REZ)	ACEN Australia Pty Ltd	600 MW, Solar	• As above
Valley of the Winds 1 (Central-West Orana REZ)	ACEN Australia Pty Ltd	148 MW, Wind	• Dec 2024: selected in Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender Round 1 – NEM generation (Federal)^d • Mar 2025: project was included in the Federal Government's inaugural Renewable Energy Priority List.^e • May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana • Jun 2025: Development consent granted.^f
Valley of the Winds 2 (Central-West Orana REZ)	ACEN Australia Pty Ltd	319 MW, Wind	• As per Valley of the Winds 1
Valley of the Winds 3 (Central-West Orana REZ)	ACEN Australia Pty Ltd	452 MW, Wind	• As per Valley of the Winds 1
Tallawang Solar Hybrid (Central-West Orana)	Potentia Energy	500 MW, Solar Hybrid	• May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana • Current: Development application under assessment.^g
Cobbora BESS (Central-West Orana)	Pacific Partnerships	400 MW BESS	• Mar 2025: project was included in the Federal Government's inaugural Renewable Energy Priority List^e • May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana • Current: Development application under assessment.^h • 2027: Pacific Partnership expected date for commencing construction.ⁱ
Cobbora Solar Farm (Central-West Orana)	Pacific Partnerships	700 MW Solar	• As above
Sandy Creek BESS (Central-West Orana)	Lightsource bp	700 MW, BESS	• Dec 2024: selected in Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender Round 1 – NEM generation (Federal)^d • May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana • Current: Undergoing EP&A Act planning assessment as a State Significant Development.^j
Sandy Creek Solar Farm (Central-West Orana)	Lightsource bp	700 MW, Solar	• As above

Access right	Developer	Maximum capacity (MW) and Technology	Milestones
Spicers Creek Wind Farm (Central-West Orana)	Squadron Energy	700 MW, Wind	Oct 2024: Development approval granted by NSW Independent Planning Commission.^k Dec 2024: selected in Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender Round 1 – NEM generation (Federal)^d Mar 2025: project was included in the Federal Government's inaugural Renewable Energy Priority List^e May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana
Liverpool Range Wind Farm Stage 1 (Central-West Orana)	Tilt Renewables	633.6 MW, Wind	Mar 2018: Development approval granted October 2024: Development consent modified.^l May 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to Central-West Orana
Liverpool Range Wind Farm Stage 2 (Central-West Orana)	Tilt Renewables	698.4 MW, Wind	As above
Bullawah Wind Farm (South West)	BayWa r.e. Project Australia Pty Ltd	262.3 MW, Wind	April 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to South West REZ. Current: Undergoing EP&A Act planning assessment as a State Significant Development.^m
Pottinger Energy Park (South West)	Someva Ptd Ltd and AGL Energy Hubs Ltd	831.2 MW, Wind and BESS	April 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to South West REZ. Current: Undergoing EP&A Act planning assessment as a State Significant Development.ⁿ
Yanco Delta Wind Farm (South West)	Origin Energy Pty Ltd	1,460 MW, Wind	Dec 2023: Development consent granted.^o Apr 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to South West REZ. Current: Modification Scoping Report submitted to NSW Planning outlining the intention to submit a Modification Report^p
Dinawan Energy Hub Point of Connection 1, (South West)	Spark Renewables Pty Ltd	357 MW, Wind	April 2025: access rights granted by EnergyCo to connect to South West REZ. Current: Undergoing EP&A Act planning assessment as a State Significant Development.^q
Dinawan Energy Hub Point of Connection 2 (South West)	Spark Renewables Pty Ltd	350 MW, Wind	As per Dinawan Point of Connection 1
Dinawan Energy Hub Point of Connection 3 (Sout West)	Spark Renewables Pty Ltd	300 MW, Solar and BESS	As per Dinawan Point of Connection 1

Source:

a. EnergyCo, [Central-West Orana Access Scheme](#), accessed 7 July 2025; EnergyCo, [South West REZ Access Scheme](#), accessed 7 July 2025; EnergyCo, [Access Rights Register](#), accessed 24 July 2025.

b. NSW Government, [Development consent for Birriwa Solar Farm \(SSD-29508870\)](#), 16 August 2024.

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- c. Acen Australia, [Birriwa Solar](#), accessed 24 July 2025.
 - d. AEMO Services, [CIS Tender 1 NEM Generation](#), accessed 24 July 2025.
 - e. DCCEEW (Australian Government), [National Renewable Energy Priority List](#), accessed 24 July 2025.
 - f. NSW Government, [Consolidated development consent for Valley of the Winds Wind Farm \(SD-10461\)](#), 11 June 2025.
 - g. NSW Government, [State Significant Development Assessment: Tallawang Solar Farm](#), accessed 29 July 2025.
 - h. NSW Government, [State Significant Development Assessment: Cobbora Solar Farm](#), accessed 29 July 2025.
 - i. Pacific Partnerships, [Cobbora Solar Farm](#), accessed 24 July 2025.
 - j. NSW Government, [State Significant Development Assessment: Sandy Creek Solar Farm](#), accessed 29 July 2025.
 - k. Independent Planning Commission of NSW, [Development Consent for Spicers Creek Wind Farm \(SSD-41134610\)](#), 31 October 2024.
 - l. NSW Government, [Consolidated development consent for Liverpool Range Wind Farm \(SD-6696\)](#), 27 March 2018.
 - m. NSW Government, [State Significant Development Assessment: Bullawah Wind Farm](#), accessed 29 July 2025.
 - n. NSW Government, [State Significant Development Assessment: Pottinger Wind Farm](#), accessed 29 July 2025.
 - o. NSW Government, [Consolidated development consent for Yanco Delta Wind Farm \(SD-41743746\)](#), 21 December 2023.
 - p. NSW Government [State Significant Development Assessment: Yanco Delta Wind Farm \(SSD-41743746-Mod 2\)](#), accessed 29 July 2025.
 - q. NSW Government, [State Significant Development Assessment: Dinawan Wind Farm](#), accessed 29 July 2025.

4.4 LTESAs awarded and progress status

The Consumer Trustee is responsible for running the competitive tender process for LTESAs and recommending the eligible projects for LTESAs. The Scheme Financial Vehicle is the responsible entity under the Roadmap for the ongoing management and reporting of LTESAs. ASL currently provides contract management services on behalf of the Scheme Financial Vehicle.⁶³

There were 3 LTESAs awarded in FY 2024-25 as part of Tender Round 5.

Table 4.2 LTESAs awarded in FY 2024-25

Project name	Developer	Project Details	Progress- next milestone
Griffith BESS	Eku Energy Projects (Australia) Pty Ltd	- LDS, BESS - Capacity: 100 MW / 800 MWh 8 hours storage - Location: Yoogali	Planning approval
Phoenix PHES	ACEN Phoenix Pty Ltd	- LDS, Pumped Hydro Energy Storage - Capacity: 800 MW / 11,990 MWh - Storage: 15 hours - Location: Lake Burrendong	Land tenure
Stoney Creek BESS	Enervest Utility Pty Ltd	- LDS, BESS - Capacity: 125 MW / 1,000 MWh - Storage: 8 hours - Location: Narrabri	Planning approval

Source: ASL, *Response to IPART annual report request*; 15 August 2025

By 30 June 2025, there were 20 LTESAs awarded through the 5 tender rounds.



Table 4.3 provides a summary on the progress of all 20 LTESA projects awarded by the Consumer Trustee as at June 2025.

Table 4.3 Progress status of LTESAs awarded in or before FY2024-25^{a,b}

Tender round	Project name	Developer	Project Details	Financial close achieved	Construction commenced	Commissioning/commercial operations achieved
1	Coppabella Wind Farm	Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd	• Generation, wind • Capacity: 275MW • Location: Yass	No	No	No
	Limondale BESS	RWE Renewables Australia	• LDS, BESS • Capacity: 50MW/400MWh • Location: Balranald	Yes, FY2023-24	Yes, FY2024-25	No
	New England Solar Farm	ACEN Australia	• Generation, solar • Capacity: 720MW • Location: Uralla	No	No	No
	Stubbo Solar Farm	ACEN Australia	• Generation, solar • Capacity: 400MW • Location: Gulgong	Yes, FY2022-23	Yes, FY2023-24	No
2	Liddell BESS	AGL Energy	• Firming, BESS • Capacity: 500 MW/1,000 MWh • Location: Muswellbrook	Yes, FY2023-24	Yes, FY2024-25	No
	Orana BESS	Akaysha Energy	• Firming, BESS • Capacity: 415 MW/1,660 MWh • Location: Wellington	Yes, FY2024-25	Yes, FY2024-25	No
	Smithfield BESS	Iberdrola Energy	• Firming, BESS • Capacity: 65 MW/130 MWh • Location: Western Sydney	Yes, FY 2024-25	Yes, FY2024-25	No
	Virtual Power Plant 1	Enel X Australia	• Firming, Demand Response • Capacity: 50 MW	N/A	N/A	Yes, FY 2025-26
	Virtual Power Plant 2	Enel X Australia	• Firming, Demand Response • Capacity: 20 MW	N/A	N/A	Yes, FY 2025-26
	Virtual Power Plant 4	Enel X Australia	• Firming, Demand Response • Capacity: 25 MW	N/A	N/A	Yes, FY 2025-26

Tender round	Project name	Developer	Project Details	Financial close achieved	Construction commenced	Commissioning/commercial operations achieved
3	Culcairn Solar Farm	Neoen Australia Pty Ltd	• Generation, solar • Capacity: 350 MW • Location: Culcairn	Yes, FY 2024-25	Yes, FY 2024-25	No. Expected commissioning FY 2025-26
	Goulburn River BESS	Lightsource Development Services Australia	• LDS, BESS as part of a hybrid project • capacity: 49 MW/392 MWh • 8-hour storage • Location: Merriwa	No	No	No
	Richmond Valley BESS	Ark Energy Projects	• LDS, BESS • Capacity: 275 MW/2200 MWh • 8-hour storage • Location: Myrtle Creek	No	No	No
	Silver City Energy Storage	A-CAES NSW Pty Ltd	• LDS, Advanced-compressed air energy storage system (A-CAES) • Capacity: 200 MW/1600 MWh • 8-hour storage • Location: Broken Hill	No	No	No
	Uungula Wind Farm	Squadron Energy	• Generation, wind • Capacity: 400 MW • Location: Wellington	Yes, FY2023-24	Yes FY2024-25	No
4	Flyers Creek Wind Farm	Iberdrola	• Generation, wind • Capacity: 140 MW • Location: Orange	Yes, FY2021-22	Yes, FY2023-24	Yes, FY 2024-25
	Maryvale Solar and BESS	Gentari Renewables Australia	• Generation +LDS; wind, solar and BESS • Capacity: 172 MW/372 MWh • Location: Dubbo	Yes, FY2024-25	Yes, FY2025-26	No
5	Griffith BESS	Eku Energy Projects (Australia) Pty Ltd	• LDS, BESS • Capacity: 100 MW / 800 MWh • 8 hours storage • Location: Yoogali	No	No	No
	Phoenix PHES	ACEN Phoenix Pty Ltd	• LDS, Pumped Hydro Energy Storage • Capacity: 800 MW / 11,990 MWh	No	No	No

Tender round	Project name	Developer	Project Details	Financial close achieved	Construction commenced	Commissioning/commercial operations achieved
			- Storage: 15 hours - Location: Lake Burrendong			
	Stoney Creek BESS	Enervest Utility Pty Ltd	- LDS, BESS - Capacity: 125 MW / 1,000 MWh - Storage: 8 hours - Location: Narrabri	No	No	No

a. ASL, Response to IPART annual report request; 15 August 2025; Equity Trustees, *Response to IPART annual report request*, 15 August 2025; AEMO Services, Equity Trustees, *Response to IPART fact check request*, received 13 October 2025; [Current NSW LTESA Projects](#), accessed 30 July 2025.

b. ASL, Response to IPART draft annual report, 9 October 2025.

5 Access rights

The REZ Infrastructure Planner grants and manages access rights.⁶⁴ During the FY 2024-25, the REZ Infrastructure Planner awarded 19 access rights across 2 access schemes. The awarding of access rights for the 2 access schemes is an important milestone in the delivery of the Roadmap because it provides investors a guaranteed path to connect to the electricity grid and provides for a target transmission curtailment level which reduces financial risks. Along with the awarding of LTESAs, access rights underpin the NSW Government's plan to deliver new generation, firming and storage infrastructure to replace coal fired power stations.

We have included this chapter on access rights to explain how access rights work under the access schemes to deliver community and investor benefits.

5.1 Access schemes and access rights

As of 30 June 2025, the Minister has declared two access schemes in NSW. These are the Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme and the South West REZ Access Scheme.

Box 5.1 Access schemes and access rights

An **access scheme** sets the conditions for how energy projects and network operators can use specific infrastructure within a REZ. The access scheme must be declared by the Minister by an order published in the NSW Gazette.^a

The access scheme is intended to streamline connection processes, improve infrastructure efficiency by reducing congestion/curtailment, and give developers greater confidence to invest.^b

It does this by controlling access to REZ infrastructure through:

- Access rights regimes – grant access based on the terms of the REZ declaration.
- Access control mechanisms – limit how infrastructure is accessed and used.

Access rights are contractual rights to connect and use the access rights network in a declared Access Scheme. Generation and storage projects that want to connect to network infrastructure which is part of an access scheme must apply for an access right or comply with any access control.^c

Source:

a. *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*, s24(1).

b. Minister for Energy, *Guidelines for Access Scheme Declarations*, April 2024, p4

c. NSW Government Gazette, *Number 126 In2024-0629l*, 12 April 2024, clause 6, pp 2-3.

The Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme was declared by the Minister on 19 December 2022 and amended on 5 April 2024 following consultation. The access scheme specifies:

- an initial aggregate maximum capacity of 5.84 GW network capacity
- target transmission curtailment level of 4.37%
- established community benefit funding via access fees
- term of 33 years.⁶⁵

Access rights have been granted to 10 projects in this access scheme, with a total allocated capacity of 7.15 GW.⁶⁶

The South West REZ Access Scheme was declared on 12 April 2024.⁶⁷ It specifies:

- an initial aggregate maximum capacity of 3.98 GW
- target transmission curtailment level of 3.86%
- established community benefit funding via access fees
- projects can locate partly outside of the REZ
- term of 15 years.

Access rights have been granted to 4 projects in this access scheme, with a total allocated capacity of 3.56 GW.⁶⁸

5.2 Investor benefits of access rights

A feature of access rights is to reduce risk for investors.⁶⁹ In NSW, curtailment of wind farms has averaged 1.1% while solar farms averaged 6.9%, although some solar farms have had 53.8% curtailment.⁷⁰ A wind or solar farm is 'curtailed' when it's not allowed to send all the electricity it produces into the grid.⁷¹ This means, for renewable energy generation projects, if energy generated cannot be stored it results in lost revenue for generators.

Access rights in the 2 declared access schemes provide investors with a:

- **Predictable curtailment risk:** Each scheme sets a target transmission curtailment level for the relevant network, which allows access rights holders to size and finance projects against a known curtailment envelope.^{72,73}
- **Defined access scheme term:** The access schemes have long durations. The Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme has been extended to 33 years⁷⁴, while the South West REZ Access Scheme has a term of 15 years⁷⁵. This gives more certainty for investors for financing purposes.
- **Priority/streamlined connection:** An access right holder is required to lodge a connection application.^{76,77} This replaces the open-access queue in the National Electricity Market and reduces rework and timing uncertainty.
- **Management approach to congestion:** There are limits on aggregate capacity and "headroom"^h assessments limit new connections and aim to protect existing access rights holders from excessive congestion.^{78,79}

^h EnergyCo has defined headroom as "the increase in aggregate maximum capacity in a capacity period that could be allocated without resulting in forecast curtailment on the access rights network exceeding the target transmission

5.3 Access rights allocation process

Under the Roadmap, access rights for declared access schemes can be granted or increased using either an application process run by the REZ Infrastructure Planner, or a competitive tender process conducted by the Consumer Trustee at the request of the REZ Infrastructure Planner.^{80,81}

Successful applicants must meet eligibility criteria and are scored against merit criteria that can be tailored to suit the access scheme.

The REZ Infrastructure Planner granted the initial access rights for the Central-West Orana REZ through an application process to enable access rights to be awarded ahead of the financial close of the Central-West Orana network infrastructure project and allow timely decisions in network design.⁸²

Access rights and LTESAs were granted for the South West REZ, through a competitive tender process administered by the Consumer Trustee.

5.4 Contractual arrangements

Once awarded an access right, the access right holder is required to enter into the following agreements:

- **Access Project Development Agreement** (Access PDA) with the REZ Infrastructure Planner which governs the development milestones and social licence commitments for the project.
- **Access Payment Deed** with the Scheme Financial Vehicle that sets the access fee schedule, indexation, security, and cross-links to the Access PDA. The fees include components dedicated to funding community and employment purposes in REZs.
- **Connection Agreement** with the REZ network operator to connect to the REZ network and to be entered into at the end of the connection process.⁸³

If an applicant is granted an LTESA and an access right for the same project, it will also enter into an LTESA PDA with the Scheme Financial Vehicle.

5.5 Access fees contribute to community benefits

Access right holders are required to pay access fees. The Consumer Trustee sets the access fees,⁸⁴ with the fees paid to the Scheme Financial Vehicle under an access payment deed.^{85,86} Access fees are paid into the Electricity Infrastructure Fund that is held by the Scheme Financial Vehicle in accordance with the EII Act.⁸⁷ The Scheme Financial Vehicle is required to make payments to the REZ Infrastructure Planner as prescribed in the REZ Access Scheme Declaration.^{88,89,90}

Access fees are intended to be payable once the project begins generating electricity.^{91,92}

Access fees consist of a base fee with the following components:

curtailment level" (*Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Access Scheme Target Transmission Curtailment Level & Headroom Assessment Method*, April 2024,p11).

- community and employment purposes
- an administration cost contribution component
- other cost components specific to the access scheme (described below).⁹³

Community purposes include local services, programs or infrastructure, environment programs, parks, education, tourism and First Nations programs; while employment purposes include employment and skills/training programs and related facilities.⁹⁴

The EII Regulation sets the minimum thresholds for community and employment purposes. For annual access fees $\geq$ \$2,600 per MW, with at least \$1,700 per MW allocated for community purposes, and \$600 per MW for employment purposes.⁹⁵ For annual access fees below the threshold, the allocation is 60% for community purposes and 20% for employment purposes.⁹⁶

Community and employment benefits for the Central-West Orana REZ are discussed in section 3.2. The programs are funded by the Transmission Acceleration Facility until collection of access fees commence.

The Central-West Orana access fee determination includes additional components specific to that access scheme. The additional components are:

- **Centralised system strength fee:** to pay for a centralised system strength to ensure grid stability and compliance with the National Electricity Rules. This will be provided by the network operator. The access rights holder will not be required to mitigate any system strength impact or pay for a system strength charge under the National Electricity Rules⁹⁷ (see Box 7.1 for definition of system strength).
- **Hub to project fee:** to cover costs for Hub-to-Project network infrastructure that extends the core infrastructure to generation projects in the REZ.⁹⁸

5.6 Social licence considerations

In addition to community and employment benefits through access fees, applicants for access rights are required to address social licence criteria in their tender bids or applications. The social licence commitments for access rights applications are assessed under the following merit criteria:

- **Community Engagement Plan commitments**, including shared benefits, land-use considerations, and (where relevant) whether items will be delivered via voluntary planning agreements.
- **Industry & Aboriginal Participation**, covering local content, workforce targets (apprentices, learning workers, under-represented groups), and First Nations participation in jobs and procurement.^{99,100}

The commitments made by proponents become contractual obligations attached as schedules to the Access PDA once the access rights are awarded. Where access right holders also have an LTESA, the same or consistent social licence commitment schedules can be attached to both the LTESA PDA and Access PDA, as the same merit criteria is applied to LTESA proponents.

The access rights agreements include enforcement frameworks:

- Periodic reporting in a specified format, director certification, and the right to require audits on social licence commitments.
- Cure plans if the access rights holder is unable to deliver the social licence commitment, including the option (at the REZ Infrastructure Planner's discretion) to accept an alternative, equivalent-merit commitment or an "alternative cash payment" in lieu — sized to the value of the original benefit and enabling delivery by the REZ Infrastructure Planner.
- Termination if the access right holder does not cure or pay the "alternative cash payment" as agreed (e.g. Access PDA termination for material social licence commitment breaches).¹⁰¹

Proponents for access rights must use the NSW Government's *First Nations Guidelines for the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap* to consult and negotiate with local Aboriginal communities and articulate concrete outcomes in their Industry & Aboriginal Participation Plans. Region-specific guidance and Aboriginal Working Groups in the REZs support that process.¹⁰²

The access rights holders are responsible for constructing and operating their generation and storage projects, complying with access rights agreements, and contributing access fees that fund network infrastructure and community benefits.

Below are some examples of the community benefits proposed to be delivered by access rights holders as social licence commitments or under development approval requirements.ⁱ

5.6.1 Central-West Orana REZ access scheme

Acen Australia, the developer for Birriwa Solar and BESS and the Valley of the Winds projects, has 2 social investment programs available to specific communities within the proximity of their project areas (and surroundings).^{103,104} The social investment programs are voluntary contributions by the developer to provide funding to not-for profit organisations and charities for activities that directly benefit and improve liveability.¹⁰⁵ The programs are available during the construction of the projects.^{106,107} Acen Australia states that it is proposing to enter into a voluntary planning agreements with Mid-Western Regional Council and with Warrumbungle Shire Council. The agreements are expected to commence when construction starts on the project and continue through to the end of life of the project. It is likely to consist of a payment to Council for the purpose of delivering and facilitating community projects and infrastructure.^{108,109}

Lightsource bp (Sandy Creek) has established a Neighbourhood Benefit Sharing Program to ensure those residents living closest to the project can share in its direct financial benefits.¹¹⁰ Benefits, dependent on meeting eligibility and proximity criteria, can include:

- Benefits during the construction phase: Residences within 1 km of the project boundary will be eligible to receive:
 - a home energy system, including rooftop solar and a battery (up to \$20,000), or
 - a \$15,000 one-off payment.
- Benefits during operational phase: Residences within 500m of the project boundary will be eligible for:

ⁱ Information on social commitments made by access holders has been obtained from publicly available information. The information here is not exhaustive and grants and benefits awarded have not been independently verified.

- annual payments of \$5,000 (indexed annually to CPI) for the project's 40-year lifespan, or
- frontloaded annual payments of \$20,000 (indexed annually to CPI) for 10 years.¹¹¹

Squadron Energy (Spicers Creek) has signed a memorandum of understanding in 2024 with Dubbo Regional Council to enter in a public private partnership to build a new 700 ML/yr advanced wastewater treatment facility at Dubbo Sewerage Treatment Plant.¹¹² Squadron Energy also has a voluntary planning agreement with Dubbo Regional Council that includes payment to the Council for the purpose of delivering and facilitating community projects and infrastructure.¹¹³

Tilt Renewables (Liverpool Range Wind Farm) has a voluntary planning agreement with Warrumbungle and Upper Hunter Shire Councils which allocates a minimum of \$100,000 to each council from commencement of construction. These funds are to be distributed with 77% towards a Community Enhancement Fund and 23% for a Road Maintenance Fund.¹¹⁴

5.6.2 South West REZ access scheme

BayWa r.e. (Bullawah Wind farm) has conducted three rounds of the Bullawah Wind Farm Community Grants Program since 2023 and delivered approximately \$95,000 of direct funding to local community and not-for-profit groups in the Hay, Murrumbidgee and Edward River regions.¹¹⁵

Someva Renewables (Pottinger Energy Park) is expecting to enter into voluntary planning agreements with Hay Shire Council and Edward River Council which will include administering of local community benefits funds.¹¹⁶

Origin (Yanco Delta Wind Farm) has entered into voluntary planning agreements with the Murrumbidgee and Edward River Councils as part of the project's planning and approvals process. Each agreement includes a \$5 million contribution to support local infrastructure projects, including the construction of a new Jerilderie medical centre in Murrumbidgee Shire.^{117, 118} Origin is also developing a Community Investment Plan and a Neighbourhood Benefits Program.¹¹⁹

Spark Renewables (Dinawan Energy Hub) has run a Pilot Grant Program that has provided approximately \$20,000 in funding for community benefits. It intends to transition the Pilot Grant Program into an annual community benefits program for the life of the Dinawan Energy Hub once the project commences construction.¹²⁰

6 REZ Infrastructure Planner's functions

The Infrastructure Planner for REZs (REZ Infrastructure Planner) is currently the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo). The REZ Infrastructure Planner plays a pivotal role in the State's electricity transition under the Roadmap. Its responsibilities include planning, technical design, delivery, and coordination of 5 REZs and 2 Priority Network Infrastructure Projects^j, which are essential for integrating large-scale renewable generation and storage into the grid.¹²¹

The REZ Infrastructure Planner is required to investigate, plan, co-ordinate and carry out planning and design of generation infrastructure and planning, design, construction, and operation of storage and network infrastructure projects.¹²² It also has a broad range of general functions under Part 4 of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987* to the extent reasonably necessary to enable the REZ Infrastructure Planner to exercise its functions under the EII Act. These included providing advice, recommendations, reports, consultations and carrying out research.

In FY 2024-25, the REZ Infrastructure Planner exercised the following key functions:

- awarded access rights
- assessed and made recommendations on REZ network infrastructure projects and priority network infrastructure projects
- undertook project planning and delivery
- administered access schemes
- administered community benefits for the Central-West Orana REZ
- reviewed REZ access standards
- supported revenue and contribution determinations
- carried out general functions and research.

This chapter provides further detail on the functions that the REZ Infrastructure Planner exercised in FY 2024-25, and its priorities in FY 2025-26.

Information submitted by entities for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#).

6.1 Awarded access rights

The REZ Infrastructure Planner awarded 7.15 GW of access rights for the Central-West Orana REZ on 7 May 2025 and 3.56 GW for the South West REZ on 23 April 2025.¹²³ These included solar, wind, and BESS projects across various proponents (see Table 4.1).

^j The EII Act was amended on 13 August 2025. Section 34 now refers to Priority Transmission Infrastructure Projects as Priority Network Infrastructure Projects.

6.2 Assessed REZ infrastructure projects

The REZ Infrastructure Planner conducted a select tender between Transgrid and Ausgrid for the Hunter–Central Coast REZ network infrastructure project. This was under a revenue determination framework for non-contestable procurement to appoint a network operator.

The REZ Infrastructure Planner:

- developed eligibility criteria,
- assessed technical specifications
- consulted with the AER as the Regulator,
- consulted with other entities as required under the EII Act including AEMO, relevant Network Service Providers in the REZ and local councils prior to making a recommendation, and
- recommended Ausgrid as the network operator to the Consumer Trustee.¹²⁴

6.3 Conducted project planning and delivery

In FY 2024-25, the REZ Infrastructure Planner was involved in the project planning and delivery of multiple projects, including:

- Waratah Super Battery: Oversaw the completion of construction and testing by Akaysha Energy.
- Central-West Orana REZ: Achieved financial close for the REZ network infrastructure project with ACERREZ, awarded access rights, and oversaw ACERREZ commencing construction in the REZ.
- Hunter Transmission Project: Refined corridor, signed a commitment deed with the preferred network operator (Transgrid), released tenders for the transmission lines and substation works, and conducted community engagement.
- New England REZ: Lodged scoping report, formed community groups, initiated a competitive assessment process to procure the network operator.
- Illawarra REZ: Commenced technical planning, signed MoU with Endeavour Energy, and conducted joint planning.^{125, 126}

6.4 Administered access schemes

The REZ Infrastructure Planner administered access schemes for Central-West Orana and South West REZs, maintained registers, granted rights, published notices, and recommended payment deeds. It also published a standard development agreement for the South West REZ (see Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Summary of REZ Infrastructure Planner access scheme functions exercised in FY 2024-25

Access Scheme	Functions exercised ^a
Central-West Orana REZ	- Administering the access scheme (Clause 1) - Establishing and maintaining the access rights register (Clause 2) - Granting access rights (Clause 5) - Addressing technical matters (Clause 8) - Issuing notices and publishing scheme-related information (Clause 11(1)) - Conducting an application process for granting access rights from 11 April 2024 to 8 May 2025 and making guidelines (Clause 13) - Consulting with the Scheme Financial Vehicle and Consumer Trustee on payment deed terms, including bonding arrangements (Clause 14(2)) - Recommending that the Scheme Financial Vehicle enter into payment deeds (Clause 14(1))
South West REZ	- Administering the access scheme (Clause 1) - Establishing and maintaining the access rights register (Clause 2) - Providing the Consumer Trustee with information relevant to access fees and competitive tender processes (Clause 3(2)) - Granting access rights (Clause 5) - Addressing technical matters (Clause 8) - Issuing notices and publishing scheme-related information (Clause 11(1)) - Consulting with the Scheme Financial Vehicle and Consumer Trustee on payment deed terms, including bonding arrangements (Clause 14(2)) - Recommending that the Scheme Financial Vehicle enter into payment deeds (Clause 14(1))

a. The functions are listed in Schedule 1A of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021*.

Source: EnergyCo, *Response to IPART annual report request*, August 2025, pp12-14.

6.5 Administered community benefits for Central-West Orana REZ

In April 2025, the REZ Infrastructure Planner announced an initial funding round to award \$60 million in grants to 54 projects under the Community and Employment Benefit Program (the Program) in the Central-West Orana REZ.¹²⁷

The REZ Infrastructure Planner prepared and published Guidelines, a Policy Paper and Summary Policy Paper, and prepared workshops to help community groups prepare their applications. The Program will be funded from the Transmission Acceleration Fund until 2028 after which funding will be from access fees.¹²⁸

6.6 REZ access standards

The REZ Infrastructure Planner reviewed the access standards for the Central-West Orana REZ in relation to a proposed capacity increase under the access scheme (amended on 16 January 2025).^{129,130}

No changes were made to the REZ access standards following this review. However, the REZ Infrastructure Planner intends to undertake a comprehensive review of the REZ access standards prior to allocating access rights for capacity beyond the initial tranche of 7.15 GW.^k

^k EII Regulation, Schedule 1B cl 3.

The REZ Infrastructure Planner also commenced early targeted consultations with AEMO and network service providers on potential REZ access standards for the proposed New England REZ access scheme.¹

6.7 Supported revenue and contribution determinations

The REZ Infrastructure Planner provided information to the AER for the purpose of making revenue determinations for the Waratah Super Battery (adjustments and remakes), Central-West Orana network project (initial revenue determination and financial close redetermination), and Hunter–Central Coast network project (non-contestable revenue proposal). The REZ Infrastructure Planner provided detailed input and evidence and was consulted by the AER before publication of determinations.¹³¹

The REZ Infrastructure Planner provided data to the Scheme Financial Vehicle, enabling the AER to make a contribution determination in February 2025. The data was audited and used to calculate the final determination.¹³²

6.8 Conducted general functions and research

The REZ Infrastructure Planner exercised functions under the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*, including planning, surveys, environmental studies, publishing information, stakeholder engagement, and submitting its Corporate Plan. It also conducted research and collaborated with other jurisdictions.¹³³

6.9 Priorities in FY 2025-26

The REZ Infrastructure Planner Annual Report will be published in October 2025 and will include long-term objectives through to 2030 and beyond. For FY 2025–26, the REZ Infrastructure Planner will continue to coordinate delivery of the network, generation and storage infrastructure needed to meet legislated renewable energy, energy security and emissions reduction targets.

¹ EII Regulation Sch 1B, cl 1 and 2

7 System Strength Infrastructure Planner's functions

The Minister for Energy appointed the Secretary of DCCEEW as the Infrastructure Planner for the System Strength Project (System Strength Infrastructure Planner) in an instrument of appointment dated 19 December 2024. These functions were delegated to a person in the role of Executive Director, Energy Infrastructure within DCCEEW on 23 December 2024.¹³⁴

7.1 System Strength Project

The System Strength Infrastructure Planner was appointed in 2024 to accelerate the process of installing and commissioning synchronous condensers to ensure ongoing stability and supply through NSW's transmission network.

The functions of the System Strength Infrastructure Planner relate solely to the System Strength Project and include:

- making and entering into contracts or agreements
- investigation and coordination functions related to planning, design, construction and operation
- undertake planning, assessment and development activities
- oversee the procurement, including any competitive assessment process
- assess and make recommendations to the Minister.¹³⁵

This chapter provides further detail on the functions that the System Strength Infrastructure Planner exercised in FY 2024-25, and its priorities in FY 2025-26.

Information submitted by entities for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#)

Box 7.1 System Strength Project

System strength refers to the power system's ability to maintain and control voltage waveforms at any location, both during normal operation and after disturbances. When system strength is insufficient, the risk of instability and supply interruptions increases, potentially affecting energy consumers.

Synchronous condensers are machines that can provide stability to the power grid (i.e. system strength) especially when adding intermittent energy sources such as renewables like wind and solar.

Box 7.1 System Strength Project

The System Strength Project involves the design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of synchronous condensers (at five of Transgrid's existing substations at Kemps Creek, Armidale, Darlington Point, Newcastle and Wellington) to address a forecast system strength shortfall in FY 2027-28. The System Strength Project also involves associated works required to integrate the synchronous condensers at the five existing substations.

Transgrid is the System Strength Service Provider in NSW and is responsible for ensuring sufficient system strength is available to maintain power system stability.

In September 2025, the Minister directed Transgrid, as the network operator under the Priority Network Infrastructure Project Order 2025, to carry out the System Strength Project.

Source: *System Strength Infrastructure Planner, Annual Report submission*, 20 August 2025, p1; AEMO, [2024 System Strength Report](#), February 2025, p4; NSW Government Gazette, Number 376 [INSWGG-2025-376-1](#), 18 September 2025, p3.

7.2 Conducted competitive assessment processes

In FY 2024-25, the System Strength Infrastructure Planner progressed the competitive assessment processes of persons who will assist the network operator to carry out the following two components of the project:

- Design, manufacture, supply, delivery, installation, commissioning, operational support and maintenance of synchronous condensers at five existing Transgrid substations. The tender process commenced in February 2025.
- Design and construction of the associated works. The tender process commenced in May 2025.

The System Strength Infrastructure Planner:

- requested that tenderers submit binding bids for both components of the System Strength Project
- developed eligibility criteria and a selection process with Transgrid in its Tender Evaluation Plans
- engaged with the Regulator (AER) both before and during the competitive process to ensure consistency with the requirement to consult with the Regulator and provide information about and obtained through the process.

7.3 Priorities in FY 2025-26

In FY 2025-26, the System Strength Infrastructure Planner expects to make assessments and recommendations to the Minister on:

- the System Strength Project
- network operators that are best placed to be authorised/directed to carry out the System Strength Project
- other persons who may assist the network operator to carry out the System Strength Project
- the contractual arrangements that a network operator may be required to enter into to carry out the System Strength Project.¹³⁶

8 Consumer Trustee's functions

The Consumer Trustee was appointed by the Minister for Energy to protect the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity consumers.¹³⁷

In FY 2024-25, The Consumer Trustee exercised the following key functions:

- conducted tenders for LTESAs
- determined access fees for the declared access schemes
- authorised the REZ infrastructure project.

This chapter provides further detail on the functions that the Consumer Trustee exercised in FY 2024-25, and its priorities in FY 2025-26.

Information submitted by entities for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#).

8.1 Conducted tenders

The Consumer Trustee is responsible for planning, designing and running competitive tender processes to recommend LTESAs to the Scheme Financial Vehicle.^m

In FY2024-25, the Consume Trustee ran competitive tenders to support the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. It finalised Tender Round 5 for Long Duration Storage (LDS) and Access Rights for the South West REZ, awarding three LDS projects.¹³⁸ The Consume Trustee also opened Tender Round 6 for LDS LTESAs, which is expected to conclude in FY2025-26.¹³⁹

8.2 Determined access fees

The Consumer Trustee is responsible for determining fees payable by access rights holders in an access scheme. These fees are payable to the Scheme Financial Vehicle.

The Consumer Trustee determined access fees for:

- South West REZ Access Scheme Initial Allocation on 10 December 2024
- Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme on 19 March 2025.¹⁴⁰

The Consumer Trustee has published a 'Statement of reasons' for each access fee determination.^{141,142} The Consumer Trustee also developed its Access Fee Determination Framework in July 2024, which was updated in December 2024 to improve clarity on how the Consumer Trustee determines access fees.¹⁴³

^m LTESAs are financial derivative contracts that intend to protect investors from the risk of unexpectedly low wholesale electricity prices. These contracts support the long-term stability of supplying and contracting energy projects that contribute to the objectives of the EII Act.

8.3 Authorised REZ network infrastructure projects

The Consumer Trustee authorised the recommended network operator (Ausgrid) for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure Project in April 2025.¹⁴⁴ It undertook a cost benefit analysis for the project and published its Statement of Reasons for this decision in May 2025. It also set a maximum capital cost for the project and notified the AER and the Minister.¹⁴⁵

8.4 Managed financial risk

The Risk Management Framework and subsidiary policies (to guide the management of financial risks related to LTESAs) remained in place. The Consumer Trustee reviewed the subsidiary policies, which were subsequently approved by the Consumer Trustee's Board on 17 July 2024.¹⁴⁶ The adoption of the updated subsidiary policies by the Scheme Financial Vehicle (excluding the Wholesale Electricity Policy) and new Scheme Financial Vehicle policies were approved by the Scheme Financial Vehicle Board in May 2025 pending Consumer Trustee's Board approval for inconsistencies.¹⁴⁷

The Scheme Financial Vehicle has reported to the Consumer Trustee via Monthly Management Reports or separate communications that relates to performance of Scheme Financial Vehicle functions, including breach and incident reporting.¹⁴⁸

The Consumer Trustee conducted a limited review of the Financial Trustee's performance before its decisions to extend the Financial Trustee's appointment for one year in July 2024. The Consumer Trustee had regard to this before its decision to extend the Financial Trustee's appointment for 2 more years in April 2025. The appointment now has an end date of 15 September 2027.¹⁴⁹

8.5 Conducted compliance and reporting functions

The Consumer Trustee is required to provide an annual compliance statement to IPART for the purpose of its annual reporting, including a summary of the performance of and any breaches under the Risk Management Framework, including any risk management contract.¹⁵⁰

The Consumer Trustee identified one potential non-compliance under the Risk Management Framework in relation to the performance criteria review. The Consumer Trustee has not reviewed the Scheme Financial Vehicle's performance in accordance with defined 'Performance Criteria' in the Instrument of Appointment. The Consumer Trustee continues to work with the Financial Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle to establish an agreed performance criteria and a process for performance assessment that apply to both the Scheme Financial Vehicle and the Financial Trustee and are fit for purpose.¹⁵¹

The Scheme Financial Vehicle has reported 5 breaches of the Risk Management Framework to the Consumer Trustee. Three of these were resolved and 2 were under management at the end of the reporting period. The 3 closed breaches relate to maintenance of a register, monthly reporting and development of reporting requirements. The 2 breaches under management are related to compliance with its internal approval process and the development and implementation of an enterprise risk management framework.¹⁵²

8.6 Priorities in FY 2025-26

The Consumer Trustee's expected key deliverables in FY 2025-26 include:

- delivery of Tender Round 6 for LDS LTESA
- delivery of Tender Round 7 for Firming Infrastructure LTESA
- publishing the 2025 IIO Report
- determining of access fees for New England REZ
- potential authorisation of existing network upgrade projects identified in the 2025 Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report
- establishing a process and undertaking a review of the Risk Management Framework and its subsidiary policies.

The Consumer Trustee's FY26 Statement of Corporate Intent will be published in October 2025. The Statement of Corporate Intent will provide further detail on all major business activities planned for the period FY 2025-26 to FY 2027-28.¹⁵³

9 Financial Trustee's functions

The Consumer Trustee appointed Equity Trustees Limited as the Financial Trustee in September 2022. The Financial Trustee subsequently established the Scheme Financial Vehicle. The Financial Trustee holds all shares in the Scheme Financial Vehicle on trust for the purposes of the EII Act.¹⁵⁴

In FY 2024-25, the Financial Trustee exercised the following key functions:

- Administer and report on the Scheme Financial Vehicle
- Consulted by the Regulators (the AER and IPART).

This chapter outlines the functions exercised by the Financial Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle in FY 2024-25.

Information submitted by entities for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#).

9.1 Administered and reported on the Scheme Financial Vehicle

The Financial Trustee advised IPART that it has continued to administer the Scheme Financial Vehicle in accordance with the Instrument of Appointment. Key administration services included:

- Entering into an Intermediary Authorisation and Limited Agency Deed with Scheme Financial Vehicle in June 2024. This enabled the issue, variation, or disposal of derivatives (including swaps) to wholesale clients under or in connection with LTESAs. The Financial Trustee acted as executing agent on behalf of Scheme Financial Vehicle.
- Company secretariat responsibilities, including meetings and resolutions associated with administering the Scheme Financial Vehicle. Corporate secretariat services were insourced by the Scheme Financial Vehicle in June 2025.
- Acting as payment agent, which involved receiving from and making payments on behalf of the Scheme Financial Vehicle in relation to ongoing administrative costs.
- Custody services, including the safekeeping of security documents (e.g. bank guarantees) on behalf of the Scheme Financial Vehicle.
- Governance support, including the appointment of a new Chairperson in accordance with the Scheme Financial Vehicle Constitution.
- Working closely with the Consumer Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle to ensure the Scheme Financial Vehicle operates as required under the EII Act.¹⁵⁵

The Financial Trustee also provided IPART with information in relation to the Scheme Financial Vehicle:

- a copy of the FY 2023-24 annual report, including audited financial reports, of the Scheme Financial Vehicle, in December 2024
- a summary of the LTESAs awarded in FY 2024-25
- a summary of the Access Payment Deeds entered into for projects in the Central-West Orana and South West REZs in FY 2024-25
- a summary of the progress of all projects that have been awarded LTESAs.¹⁵⁶

The Financial Trustee requested from the Scheme Financial Vehicle a summary of the LTESAs and access rights that have been awarded.¹⁵⁷ It then provided the summary to IPART for inclusion in this annual report to fulfil the Minister's request for information.

9.2 Supported the work of Regulators

9.2.1 AER's contribution determination

In December 2024, the AER consulted with the Financial Trustee on contribution determinations.¹⁵⁸ The Financial Trustee provided a response to advise the AER.¹⁵⁹

9.2.2 IPART's performance audit

In December 2024, IPART, as the auditor, consulted with the Financial Trustee, as an audit entity, on the performance audit scope.¹⁶⁰ The Financial Trustee provided a response in January 2025. During the period of January to June 2025, the Financial Trustee provided information to IPART that IPART considered reasonably necessary for the audit.

In August 2025, IPART consulted with the Financial Trustee on the draft audit report.¹⁶¹ The Financial Trustee provided a response in August 2025.¹⁶²

9.3 The Scheme Financial Vehicle's functions

The Scheme Financial Vehicle is a company limited by shares¹⁶³ and is governed by an independent board of directors that are appointed by the Financial Trustee.¹⁶⁴ It has several functions under the EII Act (Box 9.1).

Box 9.1 Scheme Financial Vehicle functions under the EII Act

The Scheme Financial Vehicle has the following functions under the EII Act:

- Establish and maintain the Electricity Infrastructure Fund for the purposes set out in the EII Act.¹⁶⁵
- Enter into risk management contracts, consistent with the Statutory Risk Management Framework established by the Consumer Trustee and approved by the AER.¹⁶⁶
- Enter into LTESAs with project proponents.¹⁶⁷
- Pay amounts from the EI Fund in accordance with the EII Act, including to network operators in accordance with revenue determinations of the AER.¹⁶⁸
- Make payments from the Fund to the Consumer Trustee, the Financial Trustee and Regulators as required in the Instrument of Appointment or otherwise authorised by the Minister, to enable the exercise of their functions under the EII Act.¹⁶⁹
- Make contribution orders to Distribution Network Service Providers based on the annual contribution determination made by the AER.¹⁷⁰
- Receive money under a contribution order from a Distributed Network Service Provider.¹⁷¹
- Prepare a financial report about the Electricity Infrastructure Fund as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year.¹⁷²
- Prepare monthly records of payments into and from the Electricity Infrastructure Fund.¹⁷³
- Enter into payment deeds with access right holders on certain terms and conditions for the payment of access fees determined by the Consumer Trustee under EII Act, section 26.¹⁷⁴
- Be consulted on the terms and conditions, including bonding arrangements, of a payment deed between the Scheme Financial Vehicle and access rights holder.¹⁷⁵

Source: EII Act and EII Regulation.

The Statutory Risk Management Framework provides for additional roles and responsibilities for Scheme Financial Vehicle.¹⁷⁶

The Scheme Financial Vehicle plays a critical role in facilitating the funding and payments to private sector participants in the Roadmap. The Scheme Financial Vehicle works alongside the other Roadmap entities to incentivise and bring forward private capital investment in electricity infrastructure assets.

In FY 2024-25, the Financial Trustee reported that the Scheme Financial Vehicle entered into the following new contracts:

- LTESAs for 3 projects¹⁷⁷
- payment deed with ACEREZ for the Central-West Orana main REZ network infrastructure project¹⁷⁸
- payment deeds for access rights for a total of 14 generation and storage projects in the Central-West Orana and South West REZs.¹⁷⁹

10 Australian Energy Regulator's functions

The NSW Government appointed the AER as a Regulator under the EII Act, in November 2021.¹⁸⁰ The Commonwealth and NSW Governments executed a conferral agreement, which sets out the AER's functions as a Regulator.¹⁸¹ New functions were conferred on the AER on 3 March 2025.¹⁸²

In FY 2024-25, the AER exercised the following key functions:

- made, remade, and adjusted the revenue for revenue determinations for network operators undertaking network infrastructure project
- made an annual contribution determination for the Electricity Infrastructure Fund
- issued guidelines and guidance notes on the exercise of functions by persons and bodies appointed under the EII Act
- consulted by the REZ Infrastructure Planner on assessment of contestable projects and by the Consumer Trustee on tendering rules.¹⁸³

This chapter provides further detail on the functions that the AER exercised in FY 2024-25.

Information submitted by entities for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#).

10.1 Made revenue determinations

The AER is responsible for determining the amount payable to network operators, for network infrastructure projects authorised by the Consumer Trustee, or authorised or directed by the Minister.¹⁸⁴ This includes calculating the prudent, efficient and reasonable capital costs of these projects. This is referred to as the 'transmission efficiency test' in the EII Act.

In FY 2024-25, the AER made one revenue determination and remade that determination for the main Central-West Orana REZ network project. It also made 2 revenue adjustment decisions for components of the Waratah Super Battery Project.¹⁸⁵

The determinations and revenue adjustment decisions were in accordance with the AER's *Revenue determination guideline for NSW contestable network projects* and *Revenue determination guideline for NSW non-contestable projects*.

10.1.1 Main Central-West Orana REZ network project revenue determination

On 24 October 2024, the authorised network operator (ACERZ), submitted a revenue proposal to the AER to recover efficient, prudent and reasonable costs resulting from the competitive assessment process for the project under the contestable framework.¹⁸⁶ The AER issued a Regulatory Information Notice to ACERZ for the contestable component of the Central-West Orana REZ network project in October 2024. The AER made its determination on 13 December 2024, meeting the 42-business day requirement.¹⁸⁷

The AER then remade the determination on 27 June 2025 after receiving an adjustment proposal from ACERZ following financial close of the project.¹⁸⁸

The initial revenue determination and a summary report of the remade determination were published on the AER's website.¹⁸⁹

The AER consulted with the REZ Infrastructure Planner and the Consumer Trustee prior to making the determinations. In making this revenue determination the AER relied on and adopted the information provided by the REZ Infrastructure Planner and the authorised network operator.¹⁹⁰

10.1.2 Waratah Super Battery Project revenue adjustments

On 28 March 2025, Transgrid submitted to the AER a revenue adjustment proposal on the SIPS battery service (contestable component) to reflect the occurrence of *Adjustment event 11: Delay in achieving Commercial Operation*.¹⁹¹ This resulted in a reduction to the amount payable to Transgrid over the project term triggered by Akaysha Energy's delay in achieving the commercial operation date. The AER assessed the revenue adjustment proposal in accordance with the EII Regulation and reduced the amount payable to Transgrid under the SIPS battery service revenue determination.¹⁹² The AER also made revenue adjustment decisions for the non-contestable component.¹⁹³

The AER published the notice of revenue adjustments and an updated schedule of payments for the non-contestable component of the Waratah Super Battery Project. It intends to publish an updated schedule of payments for the contestable component in FY 2025-26. This will be done as an aggregated total with the other contestable component of the Waratah Super Battery Project, to avoid revealing commercially sensitive information.¹⁹⁴

10.1.3 Hunter-Central Coast REZ network infrastructure project

A non-contestable revenue proposal for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ network infrastructure project was submitted on 16 May 2025. The AER is considering the requirements prior to making its revenue determination, which is expected in FY2025-26. Similarly, the AER is considering these requirements for the Central-West Orana REZ (non-contestable) enabling REZ network infrastructure project as it expects to make a revenue determination for this project in FY 2025-26.¹⁹⁵

A Regulatory Information Notice was also issued to Ausgrid for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure Project on 2 May 2025 and a response received on 16 May 2025.¹⁹⁶

10.2 Made an annual contribution determination

The AER makes annual contribution determinations setting out the amount needed for the Scheme Financial Vehicle to make payments for the delivery of Roadmap projects and functions as specified under the EII Act. This includes the cost of underwriting new renewable generation or storage investment through LTESAs, the capital and operating costs of network investment and the administration costs of the Roadmap entities. The determination also includes a minimum prudent cash balance and the amount required to be paid by each NSW distribution network service provider.¹⁹⁷

The Scheme Financial Vehicle recovers these amounts from the NSW distribution network service providers. The network service providers pass on these costs to retailers, and in turn to NSW electricity customers through their retail bills.

The AER made the contribution determination for FY 2025-26 on 7 February 2025. The contribution determination was gazetted on 19 February 2025.¹⁹⁸

10.3 Published guidelines, and conducted reviews and updates

The AER publishes guidelines to explain to how participants in the energy market must comply with the rules set by the Australian Energy Market Commission. Prior to FY 2024-25, the AER had issued 3 guidelines related to the EII Act:

- *Revenue determination guideline for NSW contestable network projects* (19 August 2022)
- *Transmission Efficiency Test and Revenue determination guideline for non-contestable network infrastructure projects* (27 April 2023)
- *NSW contribution determination guideline* (23 September 2022, revised August 2023).¹⁹⁹

In FY 2024-25, the AER released a revised version of the *Transmission Efficiency Test and revenue determination guideline for non-contestable network infrastructure project* on 25 July 2024.²⁰⁰ The AER also revised the *NSW contribution determination guideline* to introduce some minor changes to the process for NSW scheme entities to submit the input data.²⁰¹ The AER released the revised guideline and model on 15 August 2024.²⁰²

Prior to FY 2024-25, the AER had also released the following draft guidelines under the EII Act:

- *Cost allocation guideline*
- *Legal and functional separation guideline*
- *Confidentiality guideline* regarding the treatment of non-disclosure claims for information provided to the AER.

Changes to the EII Act and EII Regulation were made in December 2024, which include the repeal of clause 42 of the EII Regulation and the addition of Chapter 9A (NSW) into the National Electricity Rules (NER). The changes mean that Transmission Network Service Providers who are also network operators under the EII Act will no longer be required to follow the draft *cost allocation guideline* and the draft *legal and functional separation guideline* and are instead required to follow equivalent guidelines under the NER.²⁰³

The AER published a guidance note in May 2025, setting out how the requirements for cost allocation and ring-fencing now apply to network operators under the EII Act.

The AER expects further legislative amendments will be made which may remove the need for draft *cost allocation guideline* and the draft *legal and functional separation guideline*. The AER does not intend to finalise these draft guidelines until there is further clarity on the proposed amendments.²⁰⁴

10.4 Conducted consultee functions

The AER is required under the EII Act to be consulted before the Minister either directs or authorises a network operator to carry out a priority network infrastructure project.²⁰⁵ The AER must also be consulted on competitive assessment processes, and tendering rules.²⁰⁶ In FY 2024-25, the AER was consulted and provided responses to the:

- The System Strength Infrastructure Planner on: the System Strength Project, undertaken by the System Strength Infrastructure Planner, on behalf of the Minister. The Minister was considering directing or authorising Transgrid to carry out the project as a priority network infrastructure project. The AER issued a letter of response on 16 April 2025.²⁰⁷
- The REZ Infrastructure Planner on competitive assessment processes undertaken by the REZ Infrastructure Planner in FY 2024-25, which included the
 - Hunter Transmission Project
 - main Central-West Orana REZ network project
 - paired generation component of the Waratah Super Battery Project
 - System Strength Project
 - New England REZ network project.
- Consumer Trustee on 2 occasions on tendering rules.²⁰⁸

10.5 New functions conferred on the AER

On 3 March 2025, the AER had new functions conferred on it under the EII Act.²⁰⁹

The functions include:

- monitoring and enforcing compliance by network participants
- monitoring and enforcing compliance by the REZ Infrastructure Planner
- ability to disclose to the Minister information given to the AER in confidence about or in connection with the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under the Laws or the Rules
- ability to review and amend any guideline, instrument or document to account for the provisions under [Chapter 9A: Modification of the National Electricity Rules in New South Wales under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act](#), the EII Act or the EII Regulation
- requirement to consult with the REZ Infrastructure Planner on any access policy (including amended policies) before approving or deciding not to approve the policy
- requirement for a cost recovery declaration or the REZ Infrastructure Planner's consent for the AER to make a transmission determination for an EII Transmission Network Service Provider
- ability to amend the *NER Cost Allocation Guidelines* and the *NER Transmission Ring-Fencing Guideline* to address the application of those guidelines to a Transmission Network Service Provider who are also network operators under the EII Act.^{210,211}

No enforcement actions were taken under the EII Act in FY 2024-25 and the remaining functions were not required to be exercised by the AER in FY 2024-25.

11 Environment Protection Authority's functions

The EPA was officially appointed as a Regulator by the Minister on 12 July 2024.²¹² The EPA has functions prescribed under Part 12 of the EII Regulation. During FY 2024-25, the EPA signed an Appointment Agreement and a Scheme Administration Cost Payment Agreement with relevant parties to help it meet its obligations under the Roadmap.²¹³

The EPA's role as a Regulator under Part 12 of the EII Regulation is to ensure firming infrastructure operators in NSW meet their greenhouse gas emissions intensity obligations. Firing infrastructure operators can enter LTESAs with the Scheme Financial Vehicle. Operators would need to comply with the greenhouse gas emissions requirements under Part 12.

The EPA's role is to determine:

- the greenhouse gas intensity of NSW electricity generators (in total)
- the greenhouse gas intensity of each firming infrastructure facility in NSW
- whether these operators have satisfied their offset obligations
- whether these operators need to procure or surrender carbon credits to meet their obligations.²¹⁴

This chapter outlines the functions that the EPA exercised in FY 2024-25.

Information submitted by entities for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#).

11.1 Developed method for calculating emissions intensity and offset units

In 2023, the EPA published a [Guideline on offsetting requirements for electricity firming infrastructure](#) that includes the method for calculating emissions intensity and offset units. No updates were made to this guide in FY 2024-25.

The guide applies to facilities that have signed a firming LTESA with the Scheme Financial Vehicle. The guide does not apply to battery energy storage systems, as the emissions intensity is taken to be zero, and firming infrastructure operators who have entered Demand Responseⁿ LTESAs.²¹⁵

ⁿ Demand response is where energy consumers (usually businesses that use a lot of energy), reduce or shift their use of electricity from the NSW grid to free up electricity during peak periods or periods of high demand. Consumers contracted under a Demand Response LTESA are paid to reduce their loads on the NSW grid. Source: NSW EPA, [Firming infrastructure FAQ](#), accessed 11 August 2025.

11.2 Calculated NSW grid greenhouse gas emissions intensity

The EPA has calculated and published the NSW grid greenhouse gas emissions intensity for the 2021-2023 calendar years. The NSW grid's greenhouse gas emissions intensity was:

- 0.69 (tCO₂-e/MWh) in 2021
- 0.66 in 2022
- 0.64 in 2023.²¹⁶

The Scheme Financial Vehicle has executed 6 LTESAs for firming infrastructure i.e. 3 firming supply agreements and 3 demand response agreements. The EPA must ensure that facilities holding a firming supply agreement meet their emission intensity obligations. The facilities are expected to be operational from December 2025.²¹⁷ Once operational, the EPA must calculate the greenhouse gas emissions intensities of the NSW grid and the 3 firming supply facilities using the formulas prescribed in the EII Regulation.²¹⁸

11.3 Determined offset units requirements

The EPA needs to determine if firming infrastructure operators need to purchase and surrender offset units to meet their greenhouse gas emissions obligations.²¹⁹ Prior to 1 January 2036, offsets will be required if the emissions intensity of a facility is higher than that of the NSW grid for each calendar year. On or after 1 January 2036, firming infrastructure operators must achieve net zero by purchasing offset units equal to their facilities scope 1 emissions annually.²²⁰

The EPA has advised that in FY 2024-25, it has not needed to:

- calculate offset units
- estimate the cost of offset units and determine a reasonable administration fee
- procure and surrender the offset units required to be procured and surrendered by an LTES operator, who made a payment under clause 62(3) instead of procuring and surrendering the offset units.²²¹

The EPA has advised it is working closely with the DCCEE and Scheme Financial Vehicle to establish a simple and effective process, to enable the transfer of funds between the relevant parties and allow offsets to be procured and surrendered when needed.²²²

12 IPART's functions

The NSW Government appointed IPART as a Regulator in 2021 under section 64(1) of the EII Act.

In FY 2024-25, we exercised the following key functions:

- prepared annual reports on the exercise of functions under the EII Act by the Infrastructure Planners, Consumer Trustee, Financial Trustee and Regulators.
- reviewed amendments to the Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan and made a recommendation to the Minister.
- commenced audits of the performance of the Financial Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle.²²³

A Table of Functions containing IPART's information for the Annual Report is published on [IPART's website](#).

12.1 Prepared annual report

On 28 October 2024, IPART provided the annual report for FY 2023-24 to the Minister. The report was subsequently published on our website.²²⁴

The annual report for FY 2024-25 (this report) is due to the Minister by 31 October 2025. This annual report will be our fourth annual report to the Minister that provides of a factual account of the functions exercised by the entities under the EII Act. We have also included a summary of audit findings from the performance audits that we undertook during the reporting period in this chapter.

12.2 Made a recommendation on the Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan

The Minister established a Renewable Energy Sector Board to provide advice on the operation of the renewable energy sector and the manufacture and construction of infrastructure in the sector. The Minister appointed members to the Board, which consists of representatives from certain groups including unions, employers, project developers and NSW electricity customers.²²⁵

The Board must prepare a plan setting out how, in a cost-effective way, to:

- maximise the use of locally produced and supplied goods and services
- maximise the employment of suitable qualified local workers
- foster opportunities for apprentices and trainees.²²⁶

The plan should protect the financial interests of NSW electricity customers and be consistent with Australia's international trade obligations.²²⁷

The original Renewable Energy Sector Board plan was published in September 2022.

In November 2024, section 8A was added to the EII Act to anticipate amendments to the Renewable Energy Sector Board's plan. IPART may only recommend an amendment to the plan to the Minister for approval if IPART is satisfied that the proposed amendment:

- protects the financial interests of NSW electricity customers
- is consistent with Australia's international trade obligations
- promotes social and economic benefits for the NSW community and economy.²²⁸

In FY 2024-25, we completed a review of the amendments to the Renewable Energy Sector Board's plan as set out in an Addendum.

We made a recommendation to the Minister in June 2025. The Minister approved the Addendum in August 2025.²²⁹

12.3 Conducted performance audits

IPART must audit the performance of certain entities that perform functions under the EII Act, i.e. the Infrastructure Planners, Consumer Trustee, Financial Trustee and Scheme Financial Vehicle. The performance audits inform the Minister and the public about how well the Roadmap, and the above entities' functions, are delivered. The audits aim to improve administration and promote accountability and transparency. The EII Regulation restricts IPART to routinely auditing each Roadmap entity only once every 5 years. However, this limit does not apply to follow-up audits, or audits initiated when IPART reasonably suspects incompetence, misconduct or incapacity.

In FY 2024-25, we commenced performance audits of the Financial Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle. A summary of the audit findings is provided in Box 12.1 below. The objective of the audits was to assess whether the financial entities under the Electricity Roadmap have processes and systems of governance in place to ensure the Scheme Financial Vehicle is managing key financial risks to protect NSW electricity customers. This audit is important to assess whether entities carry out their activities effectively and do so economically and efficiently and in compliance with all relevant laws.

The audit fieldwork was complete as at 30 June 2025. We have published the audit report in September 2025.²³⁰

Box 12.1 Audit report snapshot

Audit conclusion

The overall audit conclusion is that the financial entities of the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (Roadmap), the Financial Trustee and the Scheme Financial Vehicle, have established foundational governance systems and processes and these are partially effective.

The risk of a major financial failure has been low to date, reflecting the early stage of Roadmap development and no failures were identified through our audit. However, some key governance functions, including enterprise-wide risk management, contract oversight, and inter-entity coordination, are as yet underdeveloped and will need to be strengthened to keep pace with the growing level of risk.

Core issues

The entities are on a positive trajectory, but further action is required to achieve a future state that includes clear oversight roles, strengthened risk management, and governance and operational systems that protect the financial interests of NSW electricity customers.

It is important that the entities finalise the approach to implementing the agreed operational model between the Financial Trustee, the Scheme Financial Vehicle and the Consumer Trustee (CT) as soon as practicable. This will ensure processes and systems developed are fit for purpose for the future state and are rolled out in a timely manner.

Future strengthening of the statutory framework, to address some of the gaps and ambiguities, would provide greater certainty.

Key findings

- The Scheme Financial Vehicle Board as yet has an incomplete view of enterprise risk, which may result in additional costs for electricity customers if not addressed.
- Current understanding of roles and responsibilities of the Consumer Trustee, Financial Trustee and Scheme Financial Vehicle needs clarity to provide the foundational layer of assurance required for the anticipated increase in Roadmap scale and complexity.
- Large contracts are currently managed with manual processes, with limited existing capacity to manage scale and complexity yet to be developed.

Box 12.1 Audit report snapshot

Key recommendations

- Formalise governance – The Financial Trustee and Scheme Financial Vehicle together with the Consumer Trustee establish a tripartite agreement, or other form of agreement, to define roles and enhance active oversight of ongoing financial risks.
- Strengthen financial and risk controls - The Scheme Financial Vehicle implement a comprehensive enterprise risk management framework to manage contribution volatility risks for NSW electricity customers and help protect the liquidity of the Electricity Infrastructure Fund.

Source: IPART, *Electricity Roadmap financial entities performance audit*, Report to the Minister, September 2025.

12.4 Priorities in FY 2025-26

IPART will commence 2 separate performance audits in FY 2025-26. We intend to commence the audit of the Consumer Trustee in FY 2025-26 Q2 and the audit of the REZ Infrastructure Planner in FY 2025-26 Q4.

Appendices

A Glossary

Table A.1 Glossary of terms

Term	Meaning
Access fees	Fees paid by access rights holders for access rights
Access rights	Rights granted by the REZ Infrastructure Planner to access and use specified network infrastructure within a REZ.
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator is a public company limited by guarantee with a membership of state and federal governments (60%) and energy industry members (40%). The AEMO's role is to manage the electricity and gas systems and markets across Australia.
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
Board's Plan	Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan
Consumer Trustee	An entity created under the Roadmap with various planning, advisory and procurement functions that acts independently and in the long-term financial interest of NSW electricity customers.
Curtailment	The intentional reduction of a generator's output below what it could produce at that time.
DCCEEW	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
EII Act	<i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i>
EII Regulation	<i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021</i>
Electricity Infrastructure Fund	An account kept with an authorised deposit-taking institution for the purposes of the Scheme Financial Vehicle
EnergyCo	The Energy Corporation of NSW
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
Financial Trustee	An entity created under the Roadmap that administers the Scheme Financial Vehicle
Fund	Electricity Infrastructure Fund
FY 2024-25	Financial year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
FY 2025-26	Financial year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
IPART	Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
LTESA	Long-Term Energy Service Agreement
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement framework for the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, developed by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water.
Minister	The Minister for Energy
Network operator	Means a person who owns, controls or operates, or proposes to own, control or operate, network infrastructure.
Regulator	The AER, EPA and IPART are appointed by the Minister as Regulators under the EII Act
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
REZ Infrastructure Planner	EnergyCo, appointed by the former Minister to plan the location of REZs and coordinate where generation, long duration storage and firming capacity will be built, as well as coordinate, contract and oversee network operators' delivery of network infrastructure required to connect the generation built in REZs to the electricity grid
Roadmap	Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap - the NSW Government's plan to transform the NSW electricity system. For the purposes of this report a reference to the Roadmap is a reference to the elements of the Roadmap that fall under the EII Act only.

Term	Meaning
Scheme Financial Vehicle	A corporation created and administered by the Financial Trustee that facilitates funding and payments to private sector participants in the Roadmap via the Electricity Infrastructure Fund
SIPS	System Integrity Protection Scheme
System Strength Project	Project for the design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of synchronous condensers at five of Transgrid's existing substations (at Kemps Creek, Armidale, Darlington Point, Newcastle and Wellington) to address a forecast system strength shortfall in FY 2027-28.
System Strength Infrastructure Planner	The Secretary of DCCEE is the System Strength Project Infrastructure Planner (System Strength Infrastructure Planner). This function was delegated to a person in the role of Executive Director, Energy Infrastructure within the Department on 23 December 2024.
Target transmission curtailment level	A set percentage that represents the maximum amount of electricity generation that is allowed to be "curtailed" (i.e., not sent out to the grid) due to limits in the transmission network within the REZ. It is a condition in the access scheme declaration.

B Minister's information requirement

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



Your ref: TBC
Our ref: DOC25/293957

Mr Andrew Nicholls PSM
Chief Executive Officer
IPART

By email: andrew_nicholls@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Nicholls

Thank you for the work IPART is undertaking to prepare the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap's Annual Report. As you know, under section 70(3) of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (EII Act) the Annual Report must contain information required by the Minister. This letter outlines the information required for the 2024-25 Annual Report.

MERI Framework

In line with my request last year, I continue to be interested in tracking local content commitments and outcomes. I ask you continue to work with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to include a selection of indicators from the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap's Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework as an appendix to the Annual Report.

Where data is available within the timeframes required for preparation of the Annual Report, I request the publication of indicators related to local content commitments and outcomes including employment and income opportunities for local Aboriginal businesses and communities. This should enable tracking against minimum requirements from the Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan. Where possible, please provide detail on the quantity, nature, and location of capacity building investments being made where commitments on Aboriginal participation are not able to be met.

As the implementation of projects delivered under the Roadmap are still in their early stages, I understand the data may be incomplete for some indicators.

Consultation and commitments to local Aboriginal communities

I continue to be interested in outcomes for local Aboriginal communities. I would like the Annual Report to include information on:

- the Infrastructure Planner's consultation with local Aboriginal communities when exercising its functions under section 3(2)(b) of the EII Act to "*promote consultation and negotiation with the traditional Aboriginal owners of land on which generation, storage and network infrastructure is proposed to be constructed or operated*"
- the Infrastructure Planner and Consumer Trustee's consultation and negotiation for the purposes of increasing income and employment opportunities for local Aboriginal communities informed by the First Nations Guidelines and section 4 of the EII Act.

Long-Term Energy Service Agreements and access rights

In line with my request last year, I would also like the Annual Report to include a summary of the Long-Term Energy Service Agreements and access rights that have been awarded in the 2024-25 financial year.

For the coming annual report, could IPART also include a summary of the progress of all projects that have been awarded a Long-Term Energy Service Agreement. Please include the financial year of:

- financial close achieved (where applicable)
- construction commenced (where applicable)
- commissioning achieved (where applicable)

I look forward to receiving the 2024-25 Annual Report and continuing the productive working relationship with IPART in its delivery.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact Mr Tim McMinn, Director Roadmap Governance, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water at tim.mcminn@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

26/5/25.

C MERI Indicators

Appendix - Selected Roadmap MERI Indicators

Introduction

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) has developed the Roadmap Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Improvement (MERI) Framework (the Framework). The Framework guides the implementation of MERI activities within the Roadmap by planning out evaluation and monitoring instruments, and high-level reporting and governance strategies. The framework includes outcome level indicators to track and monitor the performance of the Roadmap as a whole in achieving the objectives set forth in the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (EII Act).

In 2024, the Minister for Energy requested that selected MERI indicators be included in IPART's Roadmap Annual Report (Report). An initial set of nine indicators was reported in the 2023/24 Report based on data availability, relative relevance and importance to the Roadmap's implementation stage at the time. In early 2025, the Minister for Energy requested the inclusion of additional social indicators, particularly those relating to Aboriginal people. For the 2024/25 Report, six social indicators have been added alongside the original nine. More indicators will be incorporated into future reports as data maturity and availability improve.

Construction of MERI indicators

Outcome-based indicators

Roadmap MERI indicators are designed to assess the performance and progress of the Roadmap in achieving its objectives under the EII Act. These indicators consist of two main categories:

- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – each of the ten ultimate outcomes has designated KPI(s) to measure its achievement. The total number of KPIs is kept small to support headline reporting and strategic oversight.
- Outcome Indicators (OIs) – the KPIs are complemented by a set of OIs, which are identified along the delivery pathways connecting Roadmap actions to its ultimate outcomes in the Roadmap's program logic model. A relatively large number of OIs is necessary to track progress on the Roadmap's complex pathways.

Three levels of outcomes are used:

Immediate outcomes - Changes that occur directly as a result of the Roadmap's deliverables, such as the creation of a favourable operational environment for the energy transition.

Intermediate outcomes - Changes that follow the achievement of the immediate outcomes, indicating the Roadmap is on track to meet its targets and objectives.

Ultimate outcomes - The furthest-reaching changes that can reasonably be attributed to the Roadmap following the achievement of the intermediate outcomes, representing the achievement of objectives set out in the EII Act.

Net and gross effect

Some of the indicators describe the net impact of the Roadmap and others describe the gross impact.

- **Gross impact:** The total measurable change or benefit resulting from the Roadmap, without adjusting for what would have happened anyway because of non-Roadmap programs and market forces.
- **Net impact:** The portion of the gross impact that can be directly attributed to the Roadmap, after accounting for external factors like what would have occurred without the intervention (i.e., the counterfactual).

Gross impact reflects progress toward broad state-wide goals — such as improved electricity reliability or increased renewable energy penetration — that the Roadmap is expected to influence. However, these outcomes may also be shaped by other factors, so cannot be solely attributed to the Roadmap.

Understanding the net impact is highly desirable to assess the Roadmap's true effectiveness. However, it is sometimes difficult to establish net impacts due to incomplete knowledge of external factors and/or difficulty in separating out their effects.

Benchmark of indicator

To enable an indicator to measure certain performance, an indicator should consist of two components:

- The measured value of the performance of interest, and
- A benchmark to which the measured value is compared.

By benchmark, it is broadly meant one or more of the following:

- A set target, for example, the interim reliability measure for the measured reliability performance,
- A counterfactual baseline, for example, forecast electricity cost to consumers if the Roadmap had not been in place,
- A comparable result of peers / common expectation / performance of the field leader, for example, percent renewable penetration compared to other states.

Continuous Improvement

The indicators were developed in accordance with Indicator Method Papers prepared by the Department. Over time, additional MERI indicators will be incorporated into the report as data availability improves. All indicators and methodologies will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are based on the best available data.

Indicators in this report

The set of KPIs and OIs that were selected for being included in this annual report are listed in table 1 against the Roadmap ultimate outcomes and associated EII Act objects. Table 2 provides a description for each of the indicators.

Summary of indicators

Table 1 Roadmap MERI indicators for 2025 annual report (against Roadmap outcomes and EII Act objects)

Roadmap ultimate outcomes	Related objectives in EII Act	OIs selected for 2025 report		
		Ultimate	Intermediate	Immediate
NSW electricity customers have an affordable electricity supply avoiding major price spikes when coal-fired power plants are closed and enjoying long term bill savings relative to no Roadmap intervention	EII Act Objective (1) (a)	<i>Data not yet available</i>	Progress towards generation minimum objective	Subscription rate of LTESA
NSW electricity customers continue to enjoy reliable and secure energy supply resilient to peak demand surges and contingent events (against EST) during the energy transition	EII Act Objective (1) (a)	Percent unserved energy	Progress towards long duration storage minimum objective	
NSW has an increasing share of renewable energy in its power supply to contribute to the achievement of Net Zero target	EII Act Objective (1) (a)	Percent renewable energy share Grid emission intensity	Progress towards firming capacity sought Progress of network capacity development Percent of commissioned Roadmap supported project capacity that met agreed timeframe	
Roadmap actions reduce investment risks and attracts sufficient new energy investment in NSW	EII Act Objective (1) (c)	<i>Data not yet available</i>		
Investment in new energy infrastructures occurs in coordination to reduce risk and cost for investors	EII Act Objective (1)(b)	<i>Data not yet available</i>		
Investment in new energy infrastructure has local community support to further reduce the risk of the investment	EII Act Objective (1) (d)	<i>Data not yet available</i>		

Economic development, and the growth of manufacturing and exports are stimulated	EII Act Objectives (1) (e), (i)	<i>Data not yet available</i>		
Local industries, supply chains in the clean energy sector are thriving	EII Act Objectives (1) (e), (h)	Percent of local supply chain inputs		
New employment is created and there is a skilled workforce in the renewable energy sectors	EII Act Objectives (1) (f), (g), (h)	Percent of workforce drawn from local regions		Percent of apprentices as share of all trades positions Percent of workforce made up of learning workers Percent of workforce made up of people from under-represented groups
There are inter-generational benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and communities through a diverse range of income and employment opportunities	EII Act objectives (1)(f) and (2)(a)	First Nations Participation in Roadmap development		

Table 2 Description of Roadmap MERI indicators for 2025 annual report

Outcome level	Name	Description	Net (N) or Gross (G)	Year included
KPIs (ultimate)	Percent unserved energy	Percent of unserved energy in NSW as a proportion of total energy demand	G	2024
	Percent renewable energy share	Percent renewable energy in total electricity supply	G	2024
	Grid emission intensity	Emission intensity of grid electricity used in NSW (tonne CO ₂ eq/MWh)	G	2024
	Percent of local supply chain inputs	Percent of local supply chain inputs as a share of total project value for all Roadmap projects	N	2025
	Percent of workforce drawn from local regions	Percent of total project workforce that is drawn from the local region for all Roadmap projects	N	2025
	First Nations participation in	Percent of total Australian based workforce that are Aboriginal or	N	2025

	Roadmap development	Torres Strait Islander people, and the percent of total contract value that are subcontracted to First Nations businesses, from all Roadmap projects		
OIs (intermediate)	Percent of commissioned Roadmap supported project capacity that met agreed timeframe	Percent of Roadmap supported generation projects that meet agreed commissioning timeframe	N	2024
	Progress towards generation minimum objective	Ratio of constructed and expected energy generation to the minimum objective set out in EII Act	N	2024
	Progress towards long duration storage minimum objective	Ratio of constructed and expected long duration storage (LDS) capacity and storage capacity to the minimum objective set out in EII Act (GW for capacity and GWh for storage capacity)	N	2024
	Progress towards firming capacity sought	Ratio of new firming capacity to the firming capacity sought during tenders	N	2024
	Progress of network capacity development	Progress of REZ and PTIP network capacity development	N	2024
	Subscription rate of LTESA	Subscription rate during LTESA tender rounds	N	2024
OIs (immediate)	Percent of apprentices as share of all trades positions	Percent of apprentices as a share of all trades positions, from all Roadmap projects	N	2025
	Percent of workforce made up of learning workers	Percent of total project workforce made up of learning workers, from all Roadmap projects	N	2025
	Percent of workforce made up of people from under-represented groups	Percent of total project workforce made up of workers from underrepresented groups	N	2025

Description of indicators

The 15 MERI indicators are discussed below in more details.

1. Percent unserved energy

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's outcome of "NSW electricity customers continue to enjoy reliable and secure energy supply resilient to peak demand surges and contingent events (against EST) during the energy transition" underpinning a key objective of the EII Act to improve the reliability of electricity supply.

Unserved energy is "the amount of customer demand that cannot be supplied within a region of the NEM due to a shortage of generation, demand-side participation, or interconnector capacity. It describes the amount of wholesale unserved energy — as opposed to interruptions from networks (e.g. faults in the distribution and transmission

elements)”¹. In our method, we treat unserved energy as the sum of energy not served to NSW customers during actual Lack of Reserve level 3 (LOR3) load shedding events.

Benchmark: The benchmark of the indicator is the reliability standard that is defined in clause 3.9.3C of the National Electricity Rules (NER). The interim reliability measure (IRM) of 0.0006 per cent is currently applicable until 30 June 2028, reliability standard of 0.002 per cent will then become the benchmark from 1 July 2028². If the indicator value for a given financial year is above the IRM of 0.0006 per cent, or the reliability standard of 0.002 per cent³, whichever is applicable, reliability standard was not met in that financial year.

2. Percent renewable energy share

This indicator tracks the ultimate outcome of “NSW has an increasing share of renewable energy in its power supply to contribute to the achievement of Net Zero target”. It includes rooftop PV generation as well as off-grid generation and behind-the-meter non-scheduled generation.

For the purposes of this indicators, (1) NSW is defined as a region within the National Electricity Market (NEM), which includes the ACT, and (2) renewable fuels for electricity generation include biomass (bagasse, wood, and biogas), wind, hydro, large-scale solar PV, behind-the-meter small-scale solar PV, and geothermal.

Benchmark: As the indicator is purported to track a continuous increase in renewable energy penetration over time, the latest value of the indicator needs to be compared with the values for the preceding years to show a healthy level of increase. The baseline benchmark for this indicator is projected percent of renewable energy generation in NSW calculated from the generation mix projections under development pathway of the 2025 Infrastructure Investment Objectives (IIO) Report. This benchmark may be updated based on future IIO Reports. Based on the 2025 IIO Report, the forecast renewable energy generation share in 2030 for NSW electricity generation sector is at least 77%.

3. Grid emission intensity

This indicator tracks the ultimate outcome of “NSW has an increasing share of renewable energy in its power supply to contribute to the achievement of Net Zero target”.

The average emission intensity of grid electricity used in NSW, in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per megawatt hour, is a volumetric-weighted average, considering the emission intensities of NSW, Vic, and Qld based on net used NSW-generated electricity and imported electricity supplies from Vic and Qld. Emission intensity thus depends on energy generated and consumed NSW, as well as imports and exports between NSW to other regions in the National Electricity Market. It therefore reflects the average emissions intensity of all electricity consumed in NSW.

Benchmark: As the indicator is purported to track a continuous decrease in grid emission intensity over time, the latest value of the indicator is expected to be at least

¹ AEMC, 2020, Rule Determination – National Electricity Amendment (Transparency of Unserved Energy Calculation) Rule 2020 <https://www.aemc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/AEMC%20Final%20Determination%20-%20ERC0279%20%20-%20Transparency%20of%20Unserved%20Energy%20Calculation.pdf>

² Reliability standard – the Act, s 43, Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021 Clause 23

³ Reliability standard and interim reliability measure, National Electricity Rules Clause 3.9.3C

no greater than the value of the preceding year. In contrast to the Percent renewable energy share indicator, which is energy generated in NSW only, this indicator takes into account imports and exports to and from other regions. If there is insufficient new renewable energy generation built in NSW, this indicator may change due to the impact of increased imports from other regions. If the other region has a higher grid emissions intensity, increasing imports from this region will increase NSW grid emissions intensity. Currently there is no overall target adopted for grid emission intensity.

4. Percent of commissioned Roadmap supported project capacity that met agreed timeframe

This indicator tracks the intermediate outcome of “Roadmap supported projects, through Access Rights and Long-Term Energy Service Agreements (LTESA), reach financial close on schedule to enable the timely construction and commissioning of generation, firming and storage infrastructure”.

The indicator calculates the per cent of commissioned Roadmap supported project capacity, in terms of total nameplate capacity (MW), that completed full commercial operation commissioning on or before the agreed commissioning timeframe.

Roadmap supported projects in this indicator include generation, firming, and long duration storage projects that have been awarded LTESA and/or Access Rights.

Benchmark: The benchmark is the agreed commissioning timeframe defined in two stages: (1) the target date for commercial operation date (COD), and (2) the date specified in sunset clause for COD).

5. Progress towards generation minimum objective

This indicator tracks the intermediate outcome of “New generation capacity is commissioned in time to sufficiently fill in the retired generation capacity and future demand”.

New renewable generation projects (or stages/phases of new generation projects) must be constructed and commissioned before 2030 to be counted towards meeting the 2030 generation minimum objective.

- Projects categorised as *in service* by AEMO in latest Generation Information publication are captured under **constructed** status in this indicator
- Projects categorised as *in commissioning* by AEMO will have the portion of their capacity already commissioned captured under **constructed** status, with the remaining uncommissioned capacity captured under **expected** status. The proportion will depend on ratio of sustained maximum daily generation on site to its nameplate capacity.
- Projects categorised as *committed* by AEMO or projects awarded an LTESA/Access Right/awarded under Australian Government’s Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) are captured under **expected** status to show progress towards meeting the minimum objective. These projects (or stages/phases of these projects) must be constructed and commissioned before 2030 to ultimately contribute to the 2030 generation minimum objective.

Eligible projects include solar, wind or bioenergy projects in New South Wales with generation capacity of at least 30 megawatts (MW), not committed before 14 November 2019 (s43(3), EII Act). They should be categorised by AEMO in the latest Generation

Information publication as either committed, in commissioning or in service. Also included are projects that are awarded a LTESA, Access Rights, and the first 1.1 GW⁴ of NSW generation projects to be commissioned from CIS Tender 1, if those projects have received development consent from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

Benchmark: For energy generation, the benchmark is set out in the EII Act. By 31 December 2029, the construction of generation infrastructure that generates at least the same amount of electricity in a year as:

- 8 gigawatts of generation capacity from the New England renewable energy zone, and
- 3 gigawatts of generation capacity from the Central-West Orana renewable energy zone, and
- 1 additional gigawatt of generation capacity (refer to s44(3), EII Act)

This has been calculated by the Consumer Trustee in accordance with the EII Regulation to be at least 33,600 GWh of available energy generation by 31 December 2029.

6. Progress towards long duration storage minimum objective

This indicator tracks the intermediate outcome of “New long-duration storage capacity is commissioned in time to supplement the reliability of new generation”.

New long duration energy storage projects must be **constructed** and **commissioned** before 2030 to be counted towards meeting the 2030 long duration storage minimum objective. Projects in commissioning, committed or having received an LTESA are captured under **expected** status to show progress towards meeting the minimum objective. These projects must be constructed and commissioned before 2030 to ultimately contribute to the 2030 long duration storage minimum objective. The same requirements apply to the additional 2034 long duration storage minimum objective that was legislated in 2024-25 financial year.

Eligible projects include energy storage projects not committed before 14 November 2019 (refer to s43(3), EII Act), with a registered capacity that can be dispatched for at least 8 hours. They should be categorised by AEMO generation information page as either committed, in commissioning or in service. Projects that are awarded a Long-Term Service Agreement (LTESA) under the AusEnergy Services Limited (ASL) tenders are also included.

Benchmark: The construction of long-duration storage infrastructure with at least:

- storage of 16 gigawatt hours and capacity of 2 gigawatts before 2030 (s44(3b), EII Act), and
- total storage of 28 gigawatt hours before 2034 (s44(3A), EII Act).

7. Progress towards firming capacity sought

This indicator tracks the intermediate outcome of “New firming projects are commissioned to meet peak demand”.

⁴ The Australian Government tendered for up to 7.1 GW of generation capacity in NSW through the CIS Tender 1, including 1.1 GW which will count towards the NSW Roadmap – Renewable Energy Transformation Agreement Market Brief, November 2024, <https://www.dccew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reta-allocations-market-brief.pdf>

The indicator measures the ratio of total generation capacity of new firming infrastructure (both constructed and expected) in New South Wales that were awarded an LTESA during firming infrastructure tender rounds, against the total firming capacity that was sought during tenders.

Eligible projects include projects that are awarded an LTESA under firming tenders conducted by ASL.

Benchmark: This indicator is compared against the sum of all directed LTESA firming tenders' capacity. ASL published its modelled required capacity of firming in the annual IIO Report and LTESA tenders website.

8. Progress of network capacity development

This indicator tracks the intermediate outcome of "Electricity customers are not exposed to excessive costs from overly contracting network infrastructure".

The indicator reports on the progress of development status of network projects in each Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and Priority Transmission Infrastructure Project (PTIP) listed under "Deliver Now" category from the 2023 Network Infrastructure Strategy for NSW (NIS), along with the expected network capacity from each project, baseline delivery timing, and updated in service timing for each project.

Benchmark: The completion of the network infrastructure projects is compared with the expected baseline delivery timing as reported in the current version of the NIS. Two benchmark timing frames are provided (refer to Reporting Format) – Baseline delivery timing (2023 version of NIS) and Updated service timing (most recent release NIS or AEMO's transmission augmentation information publication).

9. Subscription rate of LTESA

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's immediate outcome of "Development pathways are clearly set out to inform investor's planning by IIO".

The indicator reports on the total number of unique projects that made an application for each LTESA round (include both eligible and ineligible bids) and the proportion of total maximum generation capacity from these projects to indicative tender size for each LTESA round. Generation, long duration storage (LDS), and firming infrastructure projects are included.

A healthy level of over-subscription is desired. It signals strong investor's interest and confidence and encourages innovation and quality via competition. However, too much oversubscription might also lead to waste and sunk costs for developers and market fatigue.

Benchmark: The total number of unique projects that made an application for each LTESA round has no absolute benchmark or standard for optimal results yet. It may be possible in the future to compare the value to a peer program or an industry norm if such benchmark is identified. The benchmark for the proportion of total maximum generation capacity to indicative tender size for each LTESA round is considered self-contained.

10. Percent of local supply chain inputs (new)

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's ultimate outcome of "Local industries and supply chains in the clean energy sector are thriving".

The indicator reports on the percent of local supply chain inputs as a share of total project value for all Roadmap projects each financial year.

Benchmark: The Renewable Energy Sector Board (RESB) has set the minimum requirements and stretch goals for percent of local supply chain inputs for individual projects. These benchmarks vary depending on project phase, input material and project type (i.e. wind, solar, hydro, or network, etc). This indicator, however, presents the overall share of local supply chain inputs across all Roadmap projects. As such, it cannot be directly compared to benchmarks set for various stages of individual projects. Therefore, no formal benchmark applies to this high-level indicator. However, the indicator value can be tentatively interpreted alongside the published minimum requirements and stretch goals as reference points, see Table 3.

Table 3 Minimum requirements and stretch goals for percent of local supply chain inputs⁵

Criteria	Minimum requirements				
	Wind	Solar	Pumped hydro	Battery storage	Network projects
Development phase	40%	49%	66%	23%	68%
Operation and maintenance phase	51%	71%	61%	35%	78%
Steel products and components using locally milled steel	10%	95%	30%	95%	Maximise to the extent possible
Criteria	Stretch goals				
	Wind	Solar	Pumped hydro	Battery storage	Network projects
Development phase	72%	81%	86%	78%	93%
Operation and maintenance phase	76%	81%	82%	79%	89%
Steel products and components using locally milled steel	95%				

11. Percent of workforce drawn from local regions (new)

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's ultimate outcome of "New employment is created and there is a skilled workforce in the renewable energy sector".

The indicator reports on the percent of total project workforce that is drawn from the local region for all Roadmap projects each financial year.

Benchmark: The RESB set the stretch goal for share of local jobs at 60% of total project workforce.

12. First Nations participation in Roadmap development (new)

This indicator tracks the ultimate outcome of "There are inter-generational benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and communities through a diverse range of income and employment opportunities".

The indicator measures (1) the percent of total Australian based workforce that are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, and (2) the percent of total contract value

⁵ NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan, September 2022, <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/nsw-renewable-energy-sector-board-plan.pdf>

that are subcontracted to First Nations businesses, for all Roadmap projects each financial year.

Benchmark: The RESB set the minimum requirement and stretch goal for First Nations participation at 1.5% and 10%, respectively.

13. Percent of apprentices as share of all trades positions (new)

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's immediate outcome of "Investment and actions are taken in upskilling, education and training for the renewable energy sector workforce".

The indicator measures the percent of apprentices as a share of all trades positions, from all Roadmap projects each financial year.

Benchmark: The RESB set the minimum requirement and stretch goal for percent of apprentices at 20% and 30% respectively.

14. Percent of workforce made up of learning workers (new)

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's immediate outcome of "Investment and actions are taken in upskilling, education and training for the renewable energy sector workforce".

The indicator measures the percent of total project workforce made up of learning workers, from all Roadmap projects each financial year. Learning workers include trainees, apprentices, and workers who need to update their qualifications to meet the needs of the infrastructure project.

All workers on a project who undertake accredited training count towards the learning worker requirement, not just construction workers. The project workforce includes all people who contribute to the project. This includes people such as managers, engineers, finance team, environmental team, safety team, construction employees consisting of supervisors, those in leadership roles, trades people and operators.

Benchmark: The RESB set the minimum requirement and stretch goal for the percent of learning workers at 20% and 40%, respectively.

15. Percent of workforce made up of people from under-represented groups (new)

This indicator tracks the Roadmap's immediate outcome of "Infrastructure projects create locally filled construction and operational jobs and demands for local supply chains for goods and services".

The indicator measures the percent of total project workforce made up of workers from under-represented groups, from all Roadmap projects each financial year. These can include but are not limited to women in trade related work, young people under 25, people with characteristics defined in the NSW Antidiscrimination Act 1977 and people who are long-term unemployed.

Benchmark: The RESB set the minimum requirement and stretch goal for the percent of under-represented workers at 15% and 25%, respectively.

Indicator reporting

Data for reported indicators is for the period to 30 June 2025 unless otherwise stated.

1. Percent unserved energy

Table 4 Percent of unserved energy in NSW as a proportion of total energy demand

Financial year	Percent of unserved energy in NSW as a proportion of total energy demand	Benchmark reliability standard (Interim Reliability Standard until end June 2028)
2021/22	0%	0.0006%
2022/23	0%	0.0006%
2023/24	0%	0.0006%
2024/25	0% (interim value)	0.0006%

2. Percent renewable energy share

Table 5 Percent renewable energy in total electricity supply

Financial Year	Benchmark	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Per cent of renewable energy generation in NSW	At least 77% by 2029-30	19.0%	24.4%	29.8%	33.4% [#]	35.8%	Not yet available

[#] Indicator value for 2022-23 financial year was revised due to updated value in data source this year.

3. Grid emission intensity

Table 6 Emission intensity of grid electricity used in NSW[#]

Financial Year	Benchmark	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Grid emission intensity in NSW (scope 2 emission factor) tonne CO ₂ -e/MWh	Lower than the value of the preceding year	0.78	0.73	0.68	0.66	0.64	0.61 (interim)

[#] Values from 2019-20 to 2023-24 financial year are taken from published National Greenhouse Accounts Factors report. Interim results are calculated using CDEll values published by AEMO, accounting for impact of interconnector flows.

4. Percent of commissioned Roadmap supported project capacity that met agreed timeframe

Table 7 Percent of commissioned Roadmap supported project capacity that met agreed commissioning timeframe

Infrastructure type	Number of projects fully commissioned	Total project nameplate capacity commissioned (MW)	Per cent of project nameplate capacity that met target commercial operation date	Per cent of project nameplate capacity that met sunset commercial operation date
Generation	1	140	26% [#]	100%
LDS	0	0	N/A [^]	N/A

Firming	3	95	0%	100%
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One generation project with LTESA missed its target commercial operation (COD) date, but is on track to meet its sunset COD date.

^ N/A means that the target commercial operation dates or sunset commercial operation dates are in the future for all projects.

5. Progress towards generation minimum objective

Table 8 Ratio of constructed and expected energy generation (GWh) to the minimum objective#

Status	Technology	REZ					Total
		CWO	NE	HCC	SW	Other	
Expected	Wind	11.6%	2.3%	-	17.4%	2.6%	33.8%
	Solar	1.7%	3.3%	-	-	8.6%	13.5%
Constructed	Wind	-	-	-	-	10.0%	10.0%
	Solar	7.3%	3.6%	-	-	7.6%	18.5%
Total		20.5%	9.1%	-	17.4%	28.7%	75.8%

Eligible projects as of 8 August 2025

6. Progress towards long duration storage minimum objective

Table 9 Ratio of constructed and expected LDS capacity and storage capacity to the minimum objective

Status	Technology	Ratio of 2030 LDS capacity target	Ratio of 2030 storage capacity target	Ratio of 2034 storage capacity target
Expected	Compressed Air Energy Storage	10.0%	10.0%	5.7%
	Battery Storage	30.0%	30.0%	17.1%
	Pumped Hydro	-	-	42.8%
Constructed	Compressed Air Energy Storage	-	-	-
	Battery Storage	-	-	-
	Pumped Hydro	-	-	-
Total		40.0%	40.0%	65.7%

7. Progress towards firming capacity sought

Table 10 Ratio of new firming capacity to the firming capacity sought during tenders

Status	Technology	Total
Expected	Battery Storage	105.4%
	Demand response	-
Constructed	Battery Storage	-
	Demand response	10.2%
Total		115.6%

8. Progress of network capacity development

Table 11 Progress of REZ and PTIP network capacity development

Project Name	Stage	REZ declaration, procurement, authorisation and determination status					Planning approval and construction update			Network capacity ⁶	Baseline delivery timing (2023 NIS)	Updated in service timing ⁷
		REZ declaration	Access scheme declaration	Network Operator procurement	Network infrastructure authorisation	Network infrastructure determination	Planning approvals	Construction	Completion			
CWO REZ	Stage 1									4.5 GW	2027/28	2028
New England REZ	Stage 1									2.4 GW	2029	2032
	Stage 2									3.6 GW	2031	2034
Hunter-Central Coast REZ	Stage 1									0.95 GW	2027	2028
South West REZ⁸	Project Energy Connect			N/A (RIT-T)	N/A (RIT-T)					0.8 GW	2026	2026
	Hume Link			N/A (RIT-T)	N/A (RIT-T)					1 GW	2028	2027
	VNI West			N/A (RIT-T)	N/A (RIT-T)					Up to 0.9 GW	2031	2030
Hunter Transmission Project	Stage 1	PTIP, no REZ or access scheme declaration needed		N/A (RIT-T)	N/A (RIT-T)					5 GW	2027	2029
Waratah Super Battery⁹	N/A	PTIP, no REZ or access scheme declaration needed								0.9 GW	2025	2025

Legend: Completed In progress

⁶ Network capacity for each REZ and PTIP are not strictly additive. For example, Hunter Transmission Project does not add network capacity, rather it unlocks the electricity supply from CWO and New England REZs and allow electricity from the two REZs to be delivered to consumers in the Hunter, Sydney and Illawarra.

⁷ Updated in service timing are taken from AEMO's NEM Transmission Augmentation Information July 2025.

⁸ South West REZ projects are delivered through RIT-T process by Transgrid. As such, network operator procurement and infrastructure authorisation steps are not applicable in the South West REZ.

⁹ The Waratah Super Battery Project refer to the BESS component (0.85GW/1.68GWh), a 700MW SIPS scheme and minor upgrades to Transgrid's existing network.

9. Subscription rate of LTESA

Table 12 Subscription rate during LTESA tender rounds

Tender	Infrastructure type	Total number of bids	Ratio of number of bids to number of projects awarded*	Proportion of total maximum capacity from project applications to indicative tender size
Round 1	Generation	33	8.25	578% [#]
	LDS			416%
Round 2	Firming	18	3	868% [^]
Round 3	Generation	18	3.6	332%
	LDS			296%
Round 4	Generation	7	3.5	137%
Round 5	LDS	5	1.67	206%

[#] Using 950 MW as the indicative tender size, which approximates the 2500 GWh indicative tender size.

[^] This is based on the initial indicative tender size of 380 MW. This was increased to 930 MW, in which case this figure is 354%.

* This ratio is new to the 2025 report for additional reference.

10. Percent of local supply chain inputs (new)

Table 13 Percent of local supply chain inputs as share of total project value

	Benchmark	2023-24	2024-25 [#]
Projects awarded LTESA	See Table 3	13%	Not yet available
Projects awarded Access Right [^]	See Table 3	-	Not yet available
REZ/PTIP network infrastructure*	See Table 3	-	Not yet available
All Roadmap projects	See Table 3	13%	Not yet available

[#] Indicator values for 2024-25 financial year are not yet available due to data reporting cycle occurring after Roadmap Annual Report process

[^] No projects were granted Access Rights during the 2023/24 financial year

* No data was reported for 2023/24 financial year from network infrastructure projects

11. Percent of workforce drawn from local regions (new)

Table 14 Percent of total project workforce that is drawn from local regions for all Roadmap projects

	Benchmark	2023-24	2024-25 [#]
Projects awarded LTESA	60%	36%	Not yet available

Projects awarded Access Right[^]	60%	-	Not yet available
REZ/PTIP network infrastructure[*]	60%	-	Not yet available
All Roadmap projects	60%	36%	Not yet available

Indicator values for 2024-25 financial year are not yet available due to data reporting cycle occurring after Roadmap Annual Report process

[^] No projects were granted Access Rights during the 2023/24 financial year

^{*} No data was reported for 2023/24 financial year from network infrastructure

12. First Nations participation in Roadmap development (new)

Table 15 Percent of First Nations workforce and percent of contract value subcontracted to First Nations businesses

		Benchmark	2023-24	2024-25 [#]
Projects awarded LTESA	Percent of contract value subcontracted to First Nations businesses	1.5% combined	0.46%	Not yet available
	Percent of First Nations people employed		2%	Not yet available
Projects awarded Access Right[^]	Percent of contract value subcontracted to First Nations businesses	1.5% combined	-	Not yet available
	Percent of First Nations people employed		-	Not yet available
REZ/PTIP network infrastructure[*]	Percent of contract value subcontracted to First Nations businesses	1.5% combined	-	Not yet available
	Percent of First Nations people employed		-	Not yet available
All Roadmap projects	Percent of contract value subcontracted to First Nations businesses	1.5% combined	0.46%	Not yet available
	Percent of First Nations people employed		2%	Not yet available

Indicator values for 2024-25 financial year are not yet available due to data reporting cycle occurring after Roadmap Annual Report process

[^] No projects were granted Access Rights during the 2023/24 financial year

^{*} No data was reported for 2023/24 financial year from network infrastructure projects

13. Percent of apprentices as share of all trades positions (new)

Table 16 Percent of apprentices as a share of all trades positions from all Roadmap projects

	Benchmark	2023-24	2024-25 [#]
Projects awarded LTESA	20%	27%	Not yet available
Projects awarded Access Right[^]	20%	-	Not yet available
REZ/PTIP network infrastructure[*]	20%	-	Not yet available
All Roadmap projects	20%	27%	Not yet available

Indicator values for 2024-25 financial year are not yet available due to data reporting cycle occurring after Roadmap Annual Report process

[^] No projects were granted Access Rights during the 2023/24 financial year

^{*} No data was reported for 2023/24 financial year from network infrastructure projects

14. Percent of workforce made up of learning workers (new)

Table 17 Percent of total project workforce made up of learning workers from all Roadmap projects

	Benchmark	2023-24	2024-25 [#]
Projects awarded LTESA	20%	7%	Not yet available
Projects awarded Access Right[^]	20%	-	Not yet available
REZ/PTIP network infrastructure[*]	20%	-	Not yet available
All Roadmap projects	20%	7%	Not yet available

Indicator values for 2024-25 financial year are not yet available due to data reporting cycle occurring after Roadmap Annual Report process

[^] No projects were granted Access Rights during the 2023/24 financial year

^{*} No data was reported for 2023/24 financial year from network infrastructure projects

15. Percent of workforce made up of people from under-represented groups (new)

Table 18 Percent of total project workforce made up of workers from under-represented groups

	Benchmark	2023-24	2024-25 [#]
Projects awarded LTESA	15%	14%	Not yet available
Projects awarded Access Right[^]	15%	-	Not yet available
REZ/PTIP network infrastructure[*]	15%	-	Not yet available
All Roadmap projects	15%	14%	Not yet available

Indicator values for 2024-25 financial year are not yet available due to data reporting cycle occurring after Roadmap Annual Report process

[^] No projects were granted Access Rights during the 2023/24 financial year

^{*} No data was reported for 2023/24 financial year from network infrastructure projects

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