

# October 2025 Update to the 2025 Electricity Statement of Opportunities

October 2025

An updated report for the National  
Electricity Market





**We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, seas and waters across Australia. We honour the wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present and embrace future generations.**

**We acknowledge that, wherever we work, we do so on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. We pay respect to the world's oldest continuing culture and First Nations peoples' deep and continuing connection to Country; and hope that our work can benefit both people and Country.**

'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' by Lani Balzan

AEMO Group is proud to have launched its first [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) in May 2024. 'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' was created by Wiradjuri artist Lani Balzan to visually narrate our ongoing journey towards reconciliation - a collaborative endeavour that honours First Nations cultures, fosters mutual understanding, and paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

## Important notice

### Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to provide technical and market data that informs the decision-making processes of market participants, new investors, and jurisdictional bodies as they assess opportunities in the national electricity market over a 10-year outlook period. This publication incorporates reliability assessments against the reliability standard and interim reliability measure, including AEMO's reliability forecasts.

AEMO publishes the *October 2025 Update to the 2025 Electricity Statement of Opportunities* under clause 3.13.3A(b) of the National Electricity Rules. This publication is generally based on information available to AEMO as at 1 October 2025 unless otherwise indicated.

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## Summary

New information has become available since AEMO released the 2025 *Electricity Statement of Opportunities* (ESOO) for the National Electricity Market (NEM) in August 2025:

- On 29 September 2025, CS Energy advised AEMO of the potential closure of the 1,680 megawatt (MW) Gladstone Power Station in Queensland by submitting an updated closure date of 31 March 2029, which is earlier than the expected closure year of 2035 previously provided.
- On 1 October 2025, AGL advised AEMO of an amended closure date for three units of the Torrens Island B Power Station (600 MW) in South Australia of 30 June 2028, which is later than the previously advised date of 30 June 2026.

Consistent with National Electricity Rules (NER) 3.13.3A(b), AEMO issues this *October 2025 Update to the 2025 Electricity Statement of Opportunities* as it considers this new information to be a material change to the supply outlook. No other changes apply to this update relative to the 2025 ESOO published in August 2025.

The 2025 ESOO identified a reliability gap in South Australia between 1 January 2027 and 28 February 2027. The 2025 ESOO advised a requirement for AEMO to request the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to consider making a T-1 Retailer Reliability Obligation (RRO) request at least three months before the T-1 cut-off day for this reliability gap. The T-1 cut-off day for the 2026-27 reliability gap is 1 January 2026, so a request must be made no later than 1 October 2025.

AEMO has prepared updated reliability assessments for the two development outlooks conducted in the 2025 ESOO, being the *Committed and Anticipated Developments* outlook and the *Government Schemes and Actionable Developments* outlook. The *Committed and Anticipated Developments* reliability assessment applies as the *reliability forecast* and *indicative reliability forecast* for the purposes of the RRO.

**This updated assessment has found that a reliability gap is no longer forecast for South Australia in 2026-27. AEMO will therefore not request the AER to consider making a T-1 instrument for this reliability gap, and will instead issue a notice to the AER advising that this reliability gap is no longer forecast.**

The earlier expected closure date for Gladstone Power Station does not result in a forecast reliability gap within the period by which RRO instruments apply, being 2026-27 for T-1 instruments, and 2028-29 for T-3 instruments.

## Government Schemes and Actionable Developments reliability assessment

Consistent with the assumptions of the 2025 ESOO in August 2025, the *Government Schemes and Actionable Developments* outlook includes the on-time delivery of:

- all developments progressed sufficiently to meet AEMO's commitment criteria,
- all developments associated with the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) as agreed through Renewable Energy Transformation Agreements (RETAs) with the states,
- state-based generation and storage development schemes,
- actionable transmission developments, including Powerlink's Gladstone Project<sup>1</sup>, and
- projected levels of consumer energy resources (CER) coordination.

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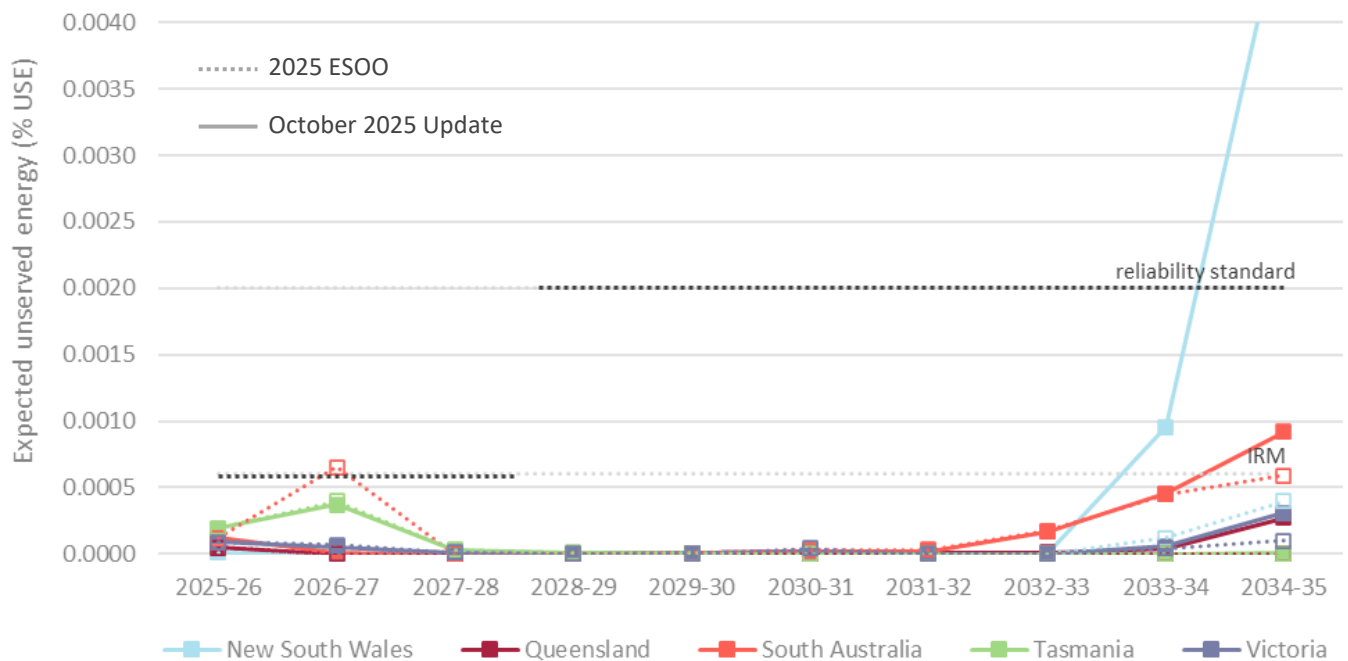
<sup>1</sup> The Gladstone Project was identified as actionable in the 2024 *Integrated System Plan* (ISP) and is being considered by Powerlink in a regulatory investment test. See <https://www.powerlink.com.au/projects/gladstone-project>.

Further stages of the CIS are not included because the location, timing, and technology of the tenders is not yet specified. Further investments in dispatchable capacity and renewable energy generation under these schemes are also expected, but are not sufficiently identifiable to be modelled at this time.

**Figure 1** shows the reliability assessment under the *Government Schemes and Actionable Developments* outlook relative to the 2025 ESOO for all NEM regions, reflecting the impact of the updated closure dates for Gladstone Power Station and three units of Torrens Island B Power Station:

- Reliability risks in South Australia in 2026-27 forecast in the 2025 ESOO are now lower, and forecast within the relevant reliability standard, due to the advised extension of three units of Torrens Island B.
- Reliability risks in Queensland from 2029-30, when Gladstone Power Station is advised to potentially close, are still forecast within the relevant reliability standard due to assumed development of transmission, generation and storage assets that are committed, anticipated and/or supported by federal and state schemes or actionable transmission status. The assumed completion of Powerlink’s Gladstone Project, a program of transmission upgrades designed to ensure the safety and reliability of the electricity network following the retirement of the Gladstone Power Station, is an important contributor to this reliability assessment.
- Reliability risks in New South Wales increase from 2033-34 due to a reduction in inter-regional reliability support from Queensland with the earlier potential closure of Gladstone Power Station.

**Figure 1** *Government Schemes and Actionable Developments* reliability assessment, 2025-26 to 2034-35 (% unserved energy [USE])



IRM: Interim Reliability Measure.

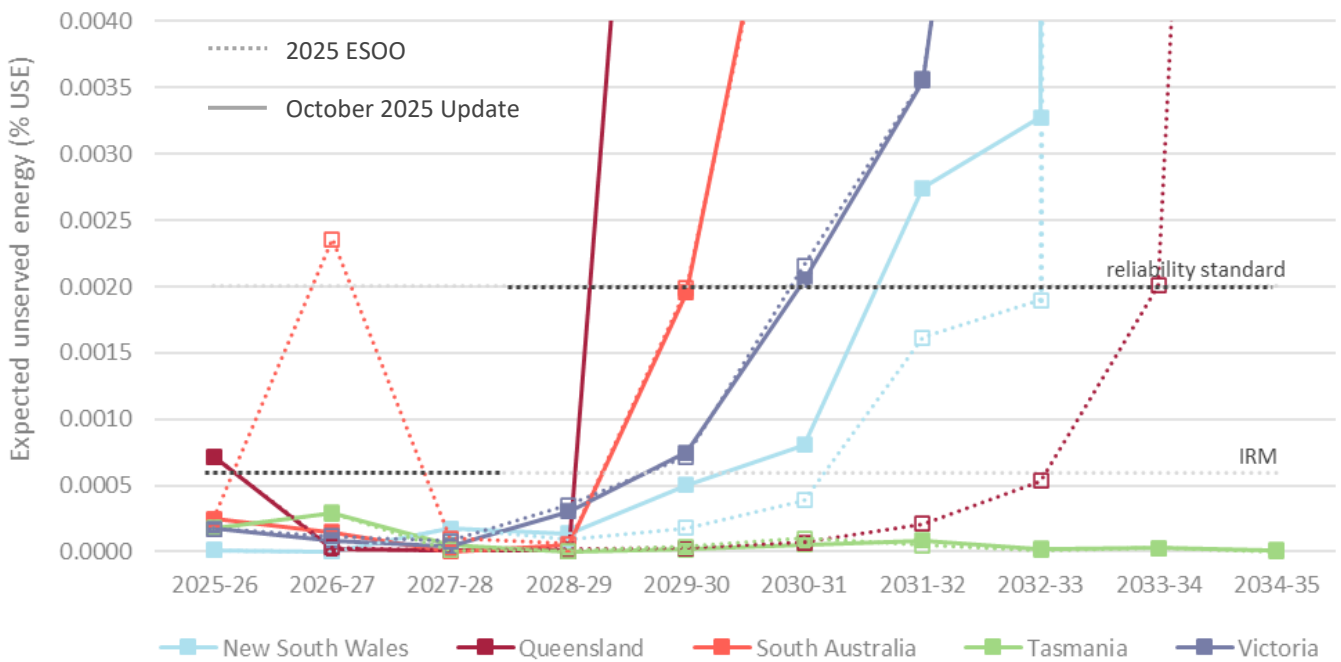
In planning to ensure a secure power system following the earlier potential closure of Gladstone Power Station, Powerlink has also commenced investing in, or contracting with, synchronous condensers in Central Queensland by March 2029<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Powerlink. Addressing System Strength Requirements in Queensland from December 2025, at <https://www.powerlink.com.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/Addressing%20System%20Strength%20Requirements%20from%20Dec%202025%20-%20PACR%20Summary%20-%20June%202025.pdf>.

## Committed and Anticipated Developments reliability assessment

The *Committed and Anticipated Developments* outlook includes only those supply developments that are sufficiently progressed to meet AEMO's commitment criteria, applied with recently observed development delays. Few developments are identified beyond the first four years, because developments in later years are not yet sufficiently progressed to meet AEMO's commitment criteria. This assessment applies as the *reliability forecast* and *indicative reliability forecast* for the purposes of the RRO.

**Figure 2** *Committed and Anticipated Developments reliability assessment, 2025-26 to 2034-35 (% USE)*



**Figure 2** shows the reliability assessment under the *Committed and Anticipated Developments* outlook relative to the 2025 ESOO for all NEM regions, reflecting the impact of the updated closure dates of Gladstone Power Station and three units of Torrens Island B Power Station:

- **The reliability gap in South Australia in 2026-27 identified in the 2025 ESOO is no longer forecast, due to the advised extension of three units of Torrens Island B.**
- Reliability risks in Queensland exceed the reliability standard from 2029-30 when Gladstone Power Station is advised to have potentially closed.
  - Risks in Queensland are predominantly forecast over summer months.
  - Curtailment of generation located to the west and north of Gladstone is noted after the closure of Gladstone Power Station, due to significant transmission limitations in the Gladstone area during system normal conditions. While not considered in this development outlook, Powerlink's Gladstone Project is designed to alleviate these limitations.
- Reliability risks in New South Wales increase from 2029-30 relative to the 2025 ESOO due to a reduction in inter-regional reliability support from Queensland with the earlier potential closure of Gladstone Power Station.

The 2029-30 reliability gap forecast in Queensland covers the period of all hours and all days between 1 December 2029 and 31 March 2030. In this financial year, 6.18 gigawatt hours (GWh) of expected unserved energy (USE) is forecast, of which 6.08 GWh is forecast within the reliability gap period between December and March.

**Table 1** shows the additional capacity that would be required to reduce expected USE below the reliability standard and the Interim Reliability Measure (IRM) for the *Committed and Anticipated Developments* reliability assessment. This assessment considered each region separately, without any allowance for the ability for additional capacity to offset reliability gaps across regions. The values reflect the firm, dispatchable, continuously available, and fully unconstrained capacity required, noting that many generation and storage technologies in different locations can contribute to meeting this requirement with varied efficacy.

**Table 1 Additional firm capacity required to meet the reliability standards, *Committed and Anticipated Developments* (MW)**

| Standard                           | Region          | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 2030-31 | 2031-32 | 2032-33 | 2033-34 | 2034-35 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| IRM of 0.0006% USE                 | New South Wales | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | 200     | 1,035   | 1,160   | 5,775   | 6,325   |
|                                    | Queensland      | 80      | -       | -       | -       | 1,475   | 1,875   | 2,160   | 2,515   | 3,325   | 3,935   |
|                                    | South Australia | -       | -       | -       | -       | 250     | 685     | 920     | 1,330   | 2,475   | 2,845   |
|                                    | Tasmania        | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       |
|                                    | Victoria        | -       | -       | -       | -       | 140     | 735     | 1,110   | 1,880   | 2,880   | 4,125   |
| Reliability standard of 0.002% USE | New South Wales | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | 245     | 385     | 5,460   | 6,050   |
|                                    | Queensland      | -       | -       | -       | -       | 975     | 1,385   | 1,715   | 2,035   | 2,900   | 3,510   |
|                                    | South Australia | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | 315     | 445     | 870     | 2,275   | 2,555   |
|                                    | Tasmania        | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       |
|                                    | Victoria        | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | 20      | 390     | 1,185   | 2,325   | 3,670   |

Note: cells coloured in red are *forecast reliability gaps* in MW for RRO purposes, as they reflect the relevant reliability standard for that year.