Request for Expressions of Interest for the 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle

15 January 2026

A report for the Wholesale 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 Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has prepared this Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) under clause 4.2.2 of the Electricity System and Market Rules (ESM Rules). The purpose of the REOI is to invite existing and prospective Market Participants to notify AEMO of the amount of new Energy Producing System and Demand Side Programme (DSP) capacity they intend to make available as Peak Capacity and Flexible Capacity in the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) in the Capacity Year to which the REOI relates. This document is based on information available to AEMO as at 15 January 2026 unless otherwise indicated.

Disclaimer

AEMO has made reasonable efforts to ensure the quality of the information in this document but cannot guarantee that information, forecasts, and assumptions are accurate, complete or appropriate for your circumstances.

Modelling work referred to in this document inherently requires assumptions about future behaviours and market interactions, which may result in forecasts that deviate from future conditions. There will usually be differences between estimated and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material.

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Anyone proposing to use the information in this document should independently verify its accuracy, completeness and suitability for purpose, and obtain independent and specific advice from appropriate experts.

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Executive summary

Background

The South West Interconnected System (SWIS) is one of the largest isolated electricity grids in the world. The Reserve Capacity Mechanism (RCM) is a unique feature of the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) and aims to ensure sufficient Energy Producing System and Demand Side Programme (DSP) capacity is available to meet peak and flexible demand in the SWIS two years in the future.

The RCM operates over a four-year cycle, with Reserve Capacity[1] being procured two years before the relevant obligations take effect.

- In Year 1 of the Reserve Capacity Cycle (RC Cycle), the Reserve Capacity Requirement (RCR) is determined, and Capacity Credits are assigned to Facilities based on an assessment of the Facility's capability and network constraints.
- Facilities assigned Capacity Credits must provide capacity during the relevant Capacity Year, which runs across Year 3 and Year 4 of the RC Cycle.

The Request for Expressions of Interest process

The Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) is the first activity AEMO undertakes as part of Year 1 of the 2026 RC Cycle, which will procure capacity for the SWIS for the 2028-29 Capacity Year[2]. It invites Market Participants and prospective Market Participants to provide information to AEMO on the amount of new Energy Producing System or DSP capacity they intend to make available as Peak Capacity and Flexible Capacity in the 2028-29 Capacity Year, and outlines the steps and requirements involved in the process.

Submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) is not mandatory to be eligible to apply for Peak Certified Reserve Capacity (CRC) or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC[3]. However, submitting an EOI offers several advantages that can streamline the process, including an improved NAQ priority under certain circumstances:

- Submitting a valid and timely EOI ensures the applicant receives the appropriate indicative Facility Class (IFC) and indicative Facility Technology Type (IFTT) prior to the CRC application period specified in clause 4.9.1 of the ESM Rules. Both IFC and IFTT assignments are pre-requisites for submitting a CRC application.
- Submitting an EOI enables early engagement between AEMO and the applicant, helping clarify relevant Reserve Capacity Mechanism aspects and providing greater certainty and preparation time for the CRC application.
- The timing and validity of the applicant's EOI submission will influence their Facility's place in the priority order if a tie-break occurs during the NAQ determination process.

[1] Reserve Capacity means either Peak Capacity or both Peak Capacity and Flexible Capacity.

[2] The 2028-29 Capacity Year is for capacity available on Trading Days from 1 October 2028 to 30 September 2029. A Trading Day commences at 8:00 am.

[3] Similar to Reserve Capacity, Certified Reserve Capacity means either Peak Certified Reserve Capacity or both Peak Certified Reserve Capacity and Flexible Certified Reserve Capacity.

Applicants for new capacity (either a new Facility or a Facility Upgrade) that do not submit an EOI must apply separately for an IFC and IFTT assessment prior to applying for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC.

Applicants are encouraged to:

- Commence securing all necessary approvals related to their Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC applications for the 2028-29 Capacity Year (see section 3).
- Engage as early as possible with AEMO for assistance in understanding the various RCM aspects relevant to their projects.
- Attend the AEMO-run information sessions related to the 2026 CRC process held throughout the year.

Key activities that apply to Year 1 of the 2026 RC Cycle are detailed in the 2026 RC Cycle Timetable[4] and presented in Appendix A1 of this report. To submit an EOI for the 2026 RC Cycle, an applicant must complete the 2026 EOI application form on the AEMO website[5]. The information required to be included in an EOI, and the submission format is outlined in the application form. An EOI must address all questions in the EOI submission template, with supporting evidence where appropriate, to be a valid EOI under clause 4.2.6 of the ESM Rules[6].

The applicant must email the completed 2026 EOI application form, including any required supporting documentation, to AEMO at wa.capacity@aemo.com.au by **5:00 pm Australian Western Standard Time (AWST) on Tuesday, 3 March 2026**.

Changes to the RCM in 2026

The commencement of amendments to the Electricity System and Market Rules (ESM Rules) on 1 January 2026 has introduced further refinements to the RCM. These include: a 10-year fixed price option; the implementation of a new Relevant Level Method (RLM); the deferral of the 2026 Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price (BRCP) publication; and updates related to how CRC applications for DSPs are processed. A full list of changes and further information on each is included in sections 2.1 and 4.

Preliminary forecasts

The preliminary Peak RCR for the 2028-29 Capacity Year is 6,330 megawatts (MW), based on the 2025 WEM *Electricity Statement of Opportunities* (ESOO) forecasts[7].

AEMO has identified a surplus of 495 MW against the preliminary Peak RCR for the 2028-29 Capacity Year, which reflects capacity assumptions under the new RLM (note these assumptions are subject to change). While current forecasts suggest the requirement will be met, these values are indicative only and will be refined in the 2026 WEM Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO). Continued investment is essential to manage continuing growth in demand and maintain reliability when state-owned coal fired generation and older assets retire as part of the energy transition.

[4] AEMO may modify or extend a date or time set under section 4.1 of the ESM Rules. Proponents should regularly review the 2026 RC Cycle Timetable at https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/reserve-capacity-timetable.

[5] Available at https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/expressions-of-interest.

[6] The ESM Rules are at https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/wholesale-electricity-market-rules.

[7] Preliminary Peak RCR refers to Peak Reserve Capacity Target in the ESOO. See Table 25, 2025 WEM ESOO, at https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wem-forecasting-and-planning/wem-electricity-statement-of-opportunities-wem-esoo.

Both the Peak RCR and the Flexible RCR will be published in the 2026 WEM ESOO by 10 June 2026. Of the 6,375 MW Peak Capacity available from the existing fleet (Facilities assigned Capacity Credits in the 2025 RC Cycle), it is expected that 4,077 MW would be able to provide Flexible Capacity, as was the case in the 2025 RC Cycle.

Capacity Investment Scheme

The Commonwealth Government-funded WEM Capacity Investment Scheme[8] (CIS) Tender 5 and 6 bid submissions for up to 1.6 GW of renewable generation and 2.4 GWh of clean dispatchable capacity respectively, closed on 7 November 2025. Successful projects will be announced by March/April 2026. Eligible projects must meet relevant criteria for renewable generation or dispatchable capacity, be located in WA, connect or intend to connect to the SWIS, and demonstrate a credible pathway to be in commercial operation by 31 December 2030.

[8] See the WEM Capacity Investment Scheme – Tender 5 and 6 announcement at https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/cis-tenders-5-and-6-in-wem-now-open.

Contents

Executive summary		3
1	Introduction	7
2	Overview of the RCM	8
2.1	The Reserve Capacity Mechanism	8
3	Key RCM processes and requirements	12
3.1	EOI process	12
3.2	The Certified Reserve Capacity process	13
3.3	NAQ and Capacity Credits	20
4	Key information for the 2026 REOI	22
4.1	Submitting an EOI for the 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle	22
A1.	2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle timetable	34
List of tables and figures		37
Abbreviations		38

1 Introduction

The 2026 REOI has been developed in accordance with clause 4.2.2 of the ESM Rules. All clause references in this document refer to a clause of the ESM Rules unless otherwise indicated. Unless the context otherwise indicates, all terms capitalised in this document are defined in Chapter 11 of the ESM Rules.

The release of this REOI is the first activity that AEMO undertakes in Year 1 of the 2026 RC Cycle. It invites Market Participants and prospective Market Participants to provide information to AEMO on the amount of new Energy Producing System or DSP capacity they intend to make available in the SWIS in the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

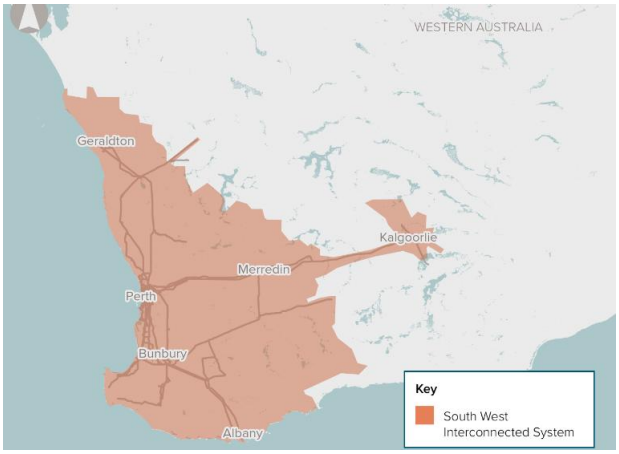
The REOI process precedes the CRC process which involves a formal assessment of CRC applications from Market Participants and new Market Participants for their Facilities for the relevant Capacity Year. All applicants must have been assigned an IFC and indicative Facility Technology Type to be eligible to apply for CRC. AEMO undertakes IFC assessments based on information provided in the EOI or alternatively as part of a formal IFC assessment application, if an EOI is not submitted.

This report outlines the requirements for applicants who intend to submit an EOI for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

2 Overview of the Reserve Capacity Mechanism

The WEM operates in relation to the SWIS. As shown in Figure 1, the SWIS covers the south-west of WA, extending north to Kalbarri, south to Albany, and east to Kalgoorlie.

Figure 1 Map of the SWIS



Source: https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/0184_south_west_interconnected_system_transformation_1.png

2.1 The RCM

Overview

The SWIS is an isolated system with a high summer peak demand relative to the average load. Unlike many other energy markets, including the National Electricity Market (NEM), the WEM features an RCM. The purpose of the RCM is to ensure sufficient Energy Producing System and DSP capacity is available to service peak demand periods two years in the future. It achieves this purpose via payments to eligible Reserve Capacity providers, thus assisting with the recovery of their long-term fixed costs of providing capacity to serve the SWIS.

The RCM operates as a four-year cycle, with Reserve Capacity being procured two years before the relevant obligations take effect. In Year 1 of the RC Cycle, the RCR[9] is determined and Capacity Credits[10] are assigned to Facilities, considering the Facility's capability and network constraints. These Facilities must provide capacity during the relevant Capacity Year which spans across Year 3 and Year 4 of the RC Cycle. Obligations are imposed on Market Participants holding Capacity Credits in return for receiving payments[11]. Facilities must make their assigned capacity available from the Trading Days[12] from

[9] The RCR for a Reserve Capacity Cycle is the Peak Reserve Capacity Requirement or the Flexible Reserve Capacity Requirement or both (as the context requires).

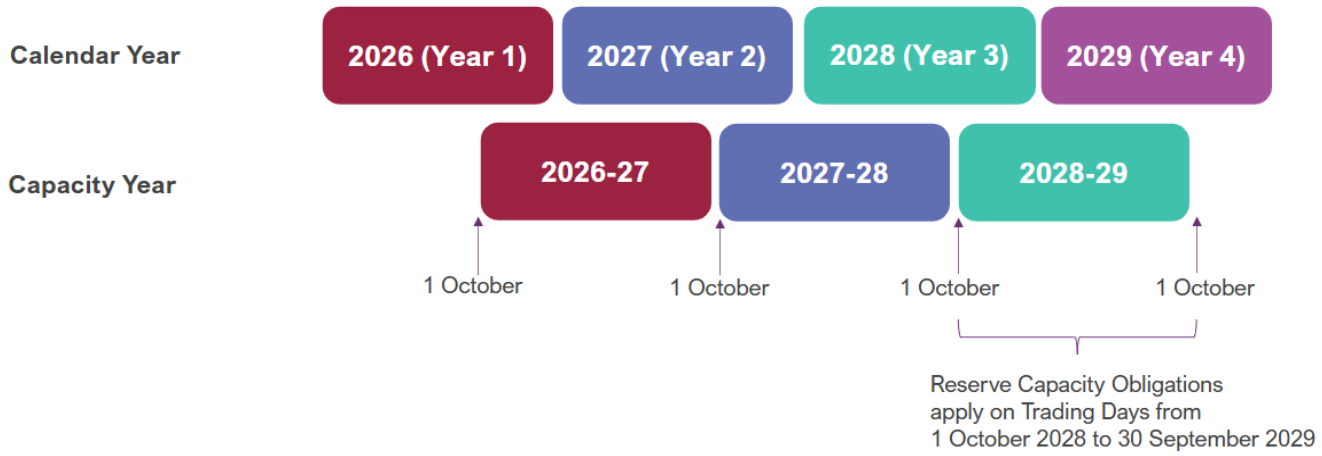
[10] Capacity Credits are notional units of capacity that can be traded via bilateral contracts among Market Participants, or through AEMO.

[11] Reserve Capacity Obligations differ depending on Facility Technology Type and Facility Class. Failure to satisfy Reserve Capacity Obligations may result in Reserve Capacity refund obligations. See sections 4.12 and 4.26 of the ESM Rules.

[12] A period of 24 hours commencing at 8:00 am.

1 October of Year 3 to 30 September of Year 4 of the RC Cycle, except to the extent that the Facility is subject to a Planned Outage approved by AEMO or a Forced Outage. Figure 2 presents the interactions between Capacity Years and Calendar Years relevant to the 2026 RC Cycle.

Figure 2 Interactions between Capacity Years and Calendar Years for 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle



Key RCM changes for the 2026 RC Cycle

In December 2023, the then Minister for Energy made ESM Amending Rules to implement the outcomes of an RCM Review. These ESM Amending Rules introduce new aspects to the RCM, which will be in effect during the upcoming 2026 RC Cycle, summarised as follows:

- **A 10-year fixed Reserve Capacity Price** can be requested by Market Participants with Non-Intermittent Generating Systems (NIGS) or Electric Storage Resources (ESRs) by providing the optional evidence specified in clauses 4.10.1(e)(v) and 4.10.1(fA)(vi) of the ESM Rules, respectively, in their CRC application for the relevant Capacity Year. For more information see section 4.1.10.
- **A new RLM** will be adopted as part of the 2026 CRC Assignment to more accurately reflect the capabilities of Intermittent Generating Systems (IGS). The change reflects a shift towards a probabilistic model that better captures the variables relevant to an increasing fleet of renewable, intermittent generation. For more information see section 4.1.4.
- **The BRCP will not be published as part of the 2026 REOI**. Instead, this publication date has been deferred, and the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) will publish the BRCP directly on their website by 16 March 2026. For further details, refer to section 4.1.11.
- **Updates to the treatment of DSPs in the RCM process,** intended to simplify the CRC process for applicants with aggregated DSPs. This new process will allow new DSPs to certify without an associated Transmission Node Identifier (TNI) with the use of a TNI exemption. For more information see section 4.1.5.
- **Early CRC process better aligned with original policy intent.** Clause 4.11.1(c)(iv) has been amended to clarify that AEMO will not assign CRC to a Facility for an RC Cycle where the Facility has already been assigned Early CRC for that same Cycle. Once the Facility receives indicative Capacity Credits for the year it will enter commercial operation, it is

assessed under the standard CRC process in subsequent RC Cycles. For further details refer to section 4.11 of the ESM Rules.

- **AEMO's source for assessing Peak CRC for a DSP has changed.** When the calculation uses the Individual Reserve Capacity Requirement Contribution of the Associated Load minus the expected Minimum Consumption of the Non-Dispatchable Load, AEMO will take the expected Minimum Consumption of the Non-Dispatchable Load from the Market Participant's CRC application (clause 4.10.1(f)(i)(2)) instead of Standing Data (clause 2.29.5B(c)). The assessment remains the same – only the source of the value has changed – ensuring the most up-to-date information is used.

Reserve Capacity Targets and Reserve Capacity Requirements

AEMO forecasts the Peak and the Flexible Reserve Capacity Targets annually in the WEM ESOO. The Planning Criterion is AEMO's estimate of the total amount of Energy Producing System or DSP capacity required in the SWIS and is calculated in accordance with clause 4.5.10(b). It requires AEMO to ensure there is sufficient available capacity in each Capacity Year to meet each of the Limbs:

- Limb A – meets peak demand forecast of 'one-in-10-year' conditions[13], otherwise stated as the 10POE[14], plus a reserve margin[15] and the ESR Duration Requirement Uplift.
- Limb B – limit expected energy shortfalls to 0.0002% of annual energy consumption.
- Limb C – meet the highest forecast Four-Hour Demand Increase, plus a reserve margin[16].

The Peak RCT is AEMO's estimate of the total amount of Energy Producing System and DSP capacity required in the SWIS to satisfy Limbs A and B of the Planning Criterion. The Flexible RCT is AEMO's estimate of the total amount of capacity required to meet Limb C of the Planning Criterion. The Peak and Flexible RCTs are then reforecast in Year 1 of the RC Cycle to determine Peak and Flexible Reserve Capacity Requirements (RCRs) respectively, which are the total MW quantity of Capacity Credits that AEMO aims to procure as part of the annual CRC Process, noting all capacity that meets regulatory requirements will be assigned CRC regardless of the RCRs.

The 2026 WEM ESOO will determine the Peak and Flexible RCRs for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

Capacity Credits and obligations

Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits are valid for a single Capacity Year and are assigned to Energy Producing Systems and DSP Capacity. Any Energy Producing System or DSP capacity that can meet the timelines and requirements outlined in the ESM Rules may participate in the RCM.

If a Facility fails to meet its Reserve Capacity Obligations, the Facility is required to pay to AEMO a Facility Reserve Capacity Deficit Refund (including any Refund Payable Planned Outage Quantity), which is redistributed to other Market Participants

[13] One-in-10-year demand conditions are a common benchmark in electricity markets when considering reserve margin levels. They are used in the NEM, as well as in major US electricity markets, such as those operated by PJM (regional transmission organisation for all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia), the New York Independent System Operator, and the New England Independent System Operator.

[14] Probability of exceedance means the likelihood that a peak demand forecast will be met or exceeded. A 10POE peak demand forecast is expected to be exceeded, on average, only one year in 10 and assumes more extreme weather than a 50% probability of exceedance forecast.

[15] The reserve margin accounts for both the Forced Outages and the size of the largest contingency relating to loss of supply that could be expected at the time of forecast peak demand, which may relate to outages of either generation or network assets.

[16] The reserve margin accounts for both the highest forecast Four-Hour Demand Increase and the proportion of Flexible Capacity expected to be unavailable at the highest forecast Four-Hour Demand Increase.

with Individual Reserve Capacity Requirements (IRCRs). There is also a risk of the Facility losing its Reserve Capacity Security, which is 25% of the BRCP multiplied by the number of Peak Capacity Credits assigned.

Market Participants are required to purchase enough Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits to meet the level of their Peak IRCR and Flexible IRCR respectively.

Market Participants may purchase Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits through bilateral contracts with capacity providers, or through the WEM at the administered Peak Reserve Capacity Price and Flexible Reserve Capacity Price.

3 Key RCM processes and requirements

3.1 EOI process

Applicants seeking Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC may submit an EOI. The ESM Rules do not require an applicant to submit an EOI to be eligible to apply for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC[17]. However, in considering whether to submit an EOI, applicants may wish to note two matters.

First, for applicants that submit an EOI, AEMO will assess the EOI and assign an IFC and IFTT for Peak CRC and Flexible CRC application purposes prior to the CRC application period specified in clause 4.9.1. Applicants that do not submit an EOI must apply separately for an IFC assessment prior to applying for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC.

Second, the submission of a valid EOI and the submission time will affect the Facility's place in the priority order when assigning a NAQ in instances where there is a tie-break in the NAQ calculation process.

An EOI must address all questions in the EOI submission template, with supporting evidence where appropriate, to be a valid EOI under clause 4.2.6.

An applicant that is unsure of the final configuration of its Facility may submit multiple EOIs specifying different configurations for the Facility. Multiple EOIs submitted for the same Facility are referred to as EOI Facility Variants. An applicant is required to nominate one EOI as the primary variant (EOI Primary Variant). AEMO uses EOI Primary Variants for the purposes of clause 4.2.7(b) to formulate RCM Constraint Equations under section 4.4B of the ESM Rules.

Under clause 4.4B.2, by 5:00pm on the last Business Day falling on or before 8 May of Year 1 of an RC Cycle, AEMO is required to provide each Network Operator[18], in respect of its Network for the RC Cycle, with the following information:

- Details of each Facility specified in an EOI.
- Details of each Facility for which AEMO has received a notice of intention to cease operation permanently by 1 October of Year 3 of the RC Cycle.
- Details of each Facility for which AEMO has received an Early CRC application, and whether the Facility has nominated to be classified as a Network Augmentation Funding Facility (NAFF).
- Details of any Non-Co-optimised Essential System Service Contracts (NCESS Contracts) procured by AEMO which are expected to be in service by 1 October of Year 3 of the RC Cycle and are expected to impact information provided by a Network Operator under clause 4.4B.5.
- Preliminary forecasts of peak demand determined under clause 4.5.10(a)(iv) for the third Capacity Year of the Long Term Projected Assessment of System Adequacy Study Horizon.

This information enables the Network Operator to develop and provide AEMO with an estimate of Thermal Network Limits, which are used to develop RCM Constraint Equations to be applied in the NAQ Model.

[17] Similar to Reserve Capacity, Certified Reserve Capacity means either Peak Certified Reserve Capacity or both Peak Certified Reserve Capacity and Flexible Certified Reserve Capacity.

[18] Western Power is currently the only Network Operator in the SWIS.

The EOI submission template collects detailed locational and network connection information. This information enables the Network Operator to include information about new connections of Facilities provided in EOIs when developing an estimate of Thermal Network Limits under clause 4.4B.3 of the ESM Rules. In addition, an applicant that intends to nominate a new Facility or a Facility Upgrade as a NAFF in its CRC application must include this nomination in the EOI. This enables the Network Operator to provide an estimate of the relevant Thermal Network Limits to AEMO to develop the RCM Constraint Equations.

3.2 The Certified Reserve Capacity process

The CRC process is an annual assessment undertaken by AEMO. For RC Cycles up to and including the 2024 RC Cycle, AEMO assigned Peak CRC to eligible Facilities. With effect from the 2025 RC Cycle, AEMO is now required to assess and determine the level of both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC (for which a CRC application has been received) to eligible Facilities.

Sections 4.9 to 4.11 of the ESM Rules describe the process for applying for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC, and the process for determining the quantity of Peak CRC and Flexible CRC to be assigned to Facilities or components of Facilities. Information that must be provided during the CRC application process[19] is specified in clause 4.10.1 and the WEM Procedure: Certification of Reserve Capacity[20]. Applicants can also refer to the 2025 RC Cycle information session presentation[21], which provides an overview of the CRC process and supporting documentation required for a valid CRC application. Note that AEMO will run information sessions relevant to the 2026 CRC process to support existing and potential capacity providers intending to participate in the 2026 RC Cycle.

An existing or prospective Market Participant may apply to AEMO for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC for an existing Facility, a Facility Upgrade, or a new Facility, for the 2028-29 Capacity Year in accordance with the 2026 RC Cycle timetable. To be eligible for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC:

- A Facility must be capable of meeting Reserve Capacity Obligations by 1 October 2028, for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.
- A new Facility or Facility Upgrade must be assigned an IFC and indicative Facility Technology Type. Note that a prerequisite of the IFC assessment is registration as a Market Participant[22] and lodgement of a Facility creation form[23] in the Wholesale Electricity Market System (WEMS).
- An EOI submission is not a prerequisite for eligibility to submit a CRC application but can affect the prioritisation order for Peak Capacity Credits assigned via the NAQ process (see section 2.1).
- The applicant must submit a complete CRC application which contains all the information required under clause 4.10 in the format specified in the WEM Procedure referred to in clause 4.9.10.
- New Facilities or Facility Upgrades are initially assigned a Proposed status in the WEMS Market Participant Interface (MPI) portal. A Market Participant may apply for Committed status for their Proposed Facilities at any point in time, but

[19] See the Certification of Reserve Capacity webpage. Available at https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/certification-of-reserve-capacity.

[20] Available at https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/procedures-policies-and-guides/procedures.

[21] Information on the 2025 certification information session is at https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/certification-of-reserve-capacity. AEMO intends to present a similar information session for the 2026 RC Cycle.

[22] At https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/participate-in-the-market/registration/register-as-a-rule-participant-in-the-wem.

[23] At https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/participate-in-the-market/registration/register-a-facility-in-the-wem.

no later than during the Bilateral Trade Declaration process if they intend to be included as a Committed Facility in the NAQ process. A Committed status application is distinct from a CRC application, but should be submitted promptly so AEMO can assess it before the Market Participant makes Bilateral Trade declarations in WEMS. Facilities that are in Committed status get a higher priority in the NAQ framework (see section 3.3). Further guidance around Proposed and Committed status Facilities, as well as instructions on how to submit a Committed status request can be found in Appendix B of the Declaration of Bilateral Trades WEM Procedure[24].

- Securing CRC doesn't automatically entitle a Market Participant to Capacity Credits. Market Participants assigned CRC are subject to the application of the NAQ framework, which accounts for network congestion and makes sure each facility that has been assigned CRC in the WEM only gets Capacity Credits for the amount of capacity the network can actually deliver to customers during peak periods.

3.2.1 Indicative Facility Class and indicative Facility Technology Type

When AEMO receives an EOI in relation to a new Facility or Facility Upgrade in accordance with clause 4.2.6, AEMO must assign an IFC and an IFTT to the new Facility or a Facility Upgrade and notify the applicant of the outcome with clause 4.8A.1 by the opening date for lodgement of CRC applications specified in clause 4.1.7. AEMO may request additional information from the applicant in making this assessment (clause 4.8A.2).

Where an EOI has not been submitted to AEMO, the applicant for the new Facility or Facility Upgrade must apply directly for an IFC assessment and one or more IFTTs prior to submitting a CRC application (see clause 4.8A.3). Applications under clause 4.8A.3 must be submitted at least 25 Business Days prior to 24 June of Year 1 of a RC Cycle (the date from which AEMO must cease to accept lodgement of CRC applications). AEMO may request additional information from the applicant in making this assessment (clause 4.8A.5(c)).

Classifications

AEMO will continue to engage with applicants to ensure an appropriate determination of IFC and IFTT for each new Facility, Component or Upgrade. To help streamline the EOI process, Tables 1 and 2 provide applicants with relevant information to support their understanding of the IFC and IFTT aspects. Specifically, Table 1 breaks down the different Facility Classes, and Table 2 describes each of the Facility Technology Types.

Table 1 Facility Class Descriptions

Facility Class	Description	Example/s
Scheduled Facility (SF)	A Facility that can respond to a Dispatch Target from AEMO such that it can maintain its Injection or Withdrawal within its Tolerance Range for a specified period and is registered in accordance with clauses 2.29.4G and 2.29.4I	• Coal Generators • Gas Generators • Diesel Generators • Stand-alone batteries
Semi-Scheduled Facility (SSF)	A Facility that can reduce the value of its injection or increase the value of its Withdrawal to comply with a Dispatch Cap issued by AEMO and is registered in accordance with clauses 2.29.4G and 2.29.4I	• Wind Farms • Solar Farms • Hybrid Facilities (e.g. a solar farm and an ESR behind the same connection)

[24] Available at https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/wa_wem_consultation_documents/2025/aepc_2025_22/wem-procedure-declaration-of-bilateral-trades_v80_final_clean.pdf?rev=504fd5d8530c4e2b83835befce715f29&sc_lang=en&hash=502002C6714B1B1BE74B1B1289DEE019.

Facility Class	Description	Example/s
Non-Scheduled Facility (NSF)	A Facility with a System Size less than 10 MW that can be self-scheduled by its operator (with the exception that AEMO can direct it to decrease its output subject to its physical capabilities), and which is registered in accordance with clause 2.29.4G	• Generators with a nameplate capacity less than 10 MW • Small aggregation of community batteries
Demand Side Programme (DSP)	A Facility that may or may not contain an Energy Producing System and is associated with one or more Non-Dispatchable Loads, which can reduce their Withdrawal or increase their Injection	• Aggregate DER • Loads • Small diesel generator with associated loads

From the 2025 RC Cycle, a DSP is permitted to inject into the grid. In some cases applicants may find it hard to distinguish between an NSF and a DSP when submitting their request, and should refer to the key differences between NSFs and DSPs document on the AEMO website for further clarification[25].

Table 2 Technology Type Descriptions

Technology Type	Description	Assessment Methodology
Non-Intermittent Generating System (NIGS)	A generating system which is not an Intermittent Generating System, including thermal generators fuelled by coal, natural gas, or distillate	Capability at an air temperature of 41 degrees Celsius
Intermittent Generating System (IGS)	Any generating system whose output is not reasonably controlled by AEMO, and whose output is dependent on a fuel resource that cannot be directly stored or stockpiled and whose availability is difficult to predict	Relevant Level Methodology (RLM) (Appendix 9 of ESM Rules) Note: A new RLM will be implemented in the 2026 RC Cycle
Electric Storage Resource (ESR)	A system or resource capable of receiving and storing energy for later production of electric energy	Linearly Derating Capacity analysing the Electric storage systems capacity, or pumped hydroelectric capacity, over its operating life[26]
Load	A DSP with one or more Non-Dispatchable Loads, which can reduce their Withdrawal or increase their Injection	Curtailment capability of Associated Loads - based on previous year's IRCR (for single Associated Loads) or - requested amount of CRC (for aggregated Loads)

IFC and IFTT Assignment Process

All applicants seeking IFC assessment must:

- Complete the registration process in WEMS:
  - Register as a Market Participant in WEMS – the timeframe for the registration of a new Market Participant is 20 Business Days (clause 2.31.10(b)).
  - Lodge a Facility creation form – the timeframe for processing a Facility creation form is 10 Business Days.
  - Market Participant registration and Facility creation cannot be processed concurrently. Applicants must allow sufficient time for registration as a Market Participant to be finalised before a Facility creation form can be processed.
- Provide AEMO with the information requested in the EOI (or as required under clause 4.8A.4(a)).

[25] Available at https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/wem/reserve_capacity_mechanism/indicative-facility/key-differences-between-nsf-and-dsp.pdf?rev=ee2bdaa8000843339b9ccbaa9c33cc4f&sc_lang=en.

[26] An NSF comprising only an ESR that has been operating for over 5 years will be assessed using RLM as opposed to Linearly Derating Capacity.

- The EOI submission template includes the information required under paragraph 3.2 of the WEM Procedure: Indicative Facility Class[27].
- For an applicant that submits an EOI, AEMO will proceed with IFC assessment according to the information submitted in the EOI (unless AEMO requests additional information from the applicant under clause 4.8A.2).
- If an applicant submits an EOI and applies for an IFC assessment but does not complete the registration process in WEMS by the deadline (see Table 3 dates), then the EOI application will be considered as a direct IFC application and the Facility will not be considered to have an associated EOI for the purpose of assigning a priority order in the NAQ process. In cases where registration deadlines are missed, AEMO will confirm with the applicant if they still wish to proceed with an IFC assessment and follow up their registration status.
- Applicants that do not submit an EOI but wish to apply for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC are required to provide AEMO with the information requested in the EOI. Any EOI information provided after the closing date for EOI submissions will not be considered as an EOI and will instead only be used for IFC assessment purposes.

Deadlines for Market Participant registration, Facility creation form, and IFC assessments are dependent on whether an EOI was submitted. Table 3 outlines the processing timeframes for both scenarios. The timetable for key milestones in the 2026 RC Cycle is presented in Appendix A1.

Applicants are encouraged to provide complete and accurate information for registration purposes to avoid delays in completion of this process. To ensure registration and Facility creation form requirements have been met, applicants are encouraged to contact AEMO's WA Registration, Monitoring and Procurement team at wa.rmp@aemo.com.au prior to submitting their applications.

Table 3 Timelines for Market Participant registration, Facility creation, and IFC Assessment

Processes	Responsible party	Scenario 1 - Participating through EOI process			Scenario 2 - Sending IFC request without EOI	
		Deadlines	Notes / References		Deadlines	Notes / References
Deadline for Market Registration submissions	Market Participant	18 Feb 2026	36 Business Days prior to the opening of the CRC window.		24 Apr 2026	41 Business Days before the CRC window closes.
Deadline for EOI submissions	Market Participant	03 Mar 2026	EOI Window closes. IFC applications submitted after this date will not be treated as an EOI. Refer to Scenario 2 in the table for details.		N/A.	N/A.
Approval of Market Registration application	AEMO / Market Participant	19 Mar 2026	20 Business Days required for processing Market Participant registration. To ensure AEMO can approve Market Participant registration on time and that the applicant can apply for Facility creation on the next business day, the applicant must address all follow-up requests, including submitting any missing information or additional comments on the Registration application, before this date.		25 May 2026	20 Business Days required for processing Market Participant registration. To ensure AEMO can approve Market Participant registration on time and that the applicant can apply for Facility creation on the next business day, the applicant must address all follow-up requests, including submitting any missing information or additional comments on the Registration application, before this date.

[27] At https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/procedures-policies-and-guides/procedures.

Processes	Responsible party	Scenario 1 - Participating through EOI process			Scenario 2 - Sending IFC request without EOI	
		Deadlines	Notes / References		Deadlines	Notes / References
Deadline for IFC submissions	Market Participant	N/A.	N/A.		19 May 2026	25 Business Days before the CRC window closes (clause 4.8A.4).
Deadline for Facility creation submissions	Market Participant	20 Mar 2026	15 Business Days prior to the opening of the CRC window.		26 May 2026	20 Business Days before the CRC window closes.
Approval of Facility creation	AEMO/ Market Participant	14 Apr 2026	15 Business Days required for processing Facility creation. To ensure AEMO can approve Facility creation on time and that the Market Participant can apply for CRC with IFC and Indicative Technology Type assigned on the next business day, the Market Participant must address all follow-up requests, including submitting any missing information or additional comments on the Facility creation application, before this date.		17 Jun 2026	15 Business Days required for processing Facility creation. To ensure AEMO can approve Facility creation on time and that the Market Participant can apply for IFC assessment and CRC on time, the Market Participant must address all follow-up requests, including submitting any missing information or additional comments on the Facility creation application, before this date.
Notification of IFC and ITT	AEMO/ Market Participant	14 Apr 2026	Required for AEMO to assign IFC before the CRC window opens (clause 4.8A.1).		17 Jun 2026	Required for AEMO to assign IFC at the latest five Business Days before CRC window closes and to allow time for the Market Participant to submit a CRC application.

3.2.2 Capability Classes

Following the assignment of an IFC and IFTT, each Facility or component of a Facility will automatically be placed into the relevant Capability Class. AEMO defines three Capability Classes under clause 4.11.4 of the ESM Rules, which are described in Table 4.

Table 4 Capability Class 1, 2 and 3 descriptions

Capability Class	Description	Examples
1	A Facility that is expected to be available to be dispatched for the MW quantity of its Peak CRC for all Trading Intervals in a Capacity Year. This would constitute an 'SF' IFC and 'NIGS' IFTT. [clause 4.11.4(a) of the ESM Rules]	• Gas Generators • Coal Generators • Diesel Generators
2	A Facility that is associated with a DSP or an ESR. [clause 4.11.4(b) of the ESM Rules]	• BESS Facilities with an 'SF' IFC • Hybrid Facilities with a BESS Component • DSPs
3	Any Facility that does not fit into Capability Class 1 or 2. This includes NSF, as well as IGS Facilities without an ESR component. For example, a Facility with an 'SSF' IFC and 'IGS' IFTT would fall under Capability Class 3. [clause 4.11.4(c) of the ESM Rules]	• Wind Farms • Solar Farms • BESS Facilities with an 'NSF' IFC

3.2.3 Submitting a CRC application for the 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle

Applications for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC for the 2026 RC Cycle may be submitted through WEMS from **9:00 am AWST, Tuesday, 14 April 2026**. Applicants must provide the information specified in clause 4.10.1 prior to the CRC window closure at **5:00 pm AWST, Wednesday 24 June 2026** (clause 4.1.11).

An application for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC for a Facility or component of a Facility that is to be assessed using the RLM,[28] which has not operated for the full period specified in Step 1(a) of Appendix 9 of the ESM Rules (the five year period ending at 8:00am on 1 April of Capacity Year 1 of the relevant RC Cycle [or that otherwise meets the criteria specified in clause 4.10.3]), must include an Independent Expert Report (IER). This includes applications for components of Semi-Scheduled Facilities and Scheduled Facilities that are Intermittent Generating Systems, and Non-Scheduled Facilities[29].

3.2.4 Network Augmentation Funding Facility

Applicants who fund the cost of network augmentation to support access for a new Facility or a Facility Upgrade (known as a NAFF) will be assigned a higher NAQ priority over Facilities that are not funding network augmentation. In accordance with clause 4.10A.2, an applicant may only nominate a Facility or Facility Upgrade to be classified as a NAFF in respect of a RC Cycle if:

- The Facility or Facility Upgrade is an Energy Producing System.
- The applicant for the Facility has committed to funding Network Augmentation Works.
- The Network Augmentation Works are expected to be in service (including completion of all required Commissioning Tests) by 1 October of Year 3 of the RC Cycle.
- The EOI for the Facility specifies that the Facility is expected to be nominated to be classified as a NAFF.

A Market Participant must provide information as part of the application for Peak CRC or both Peak CRC and Flexible CRC to support its nomination that a Facility or Facility Upgrade be classified as a NAFF. Section 4.10A of the ESM Rules details the processes that AEMO must follow to verify the information with the Network Operator and, if verified, to classify a Facility or Facility Upgrade as a NAFF.

3.2.5 Network access

A CRC applicant is required to provide evidence of network access for each Facility covered by the CRC application. Clause 4.10.1(bA) requires a CRC application to include (except for applications for Conditional Peak CRC or where the Facility is a DSP):

- Evidence of an Arrangement for Access or evidence that the applicant has accepted an Access Proposal from the Network Operator made in respect of the Facility or other evidence from the Network Operator that the Facility will have an Arrangement for Access which will cover the relevant Capacity Year.
- Evidence that the Facility will be entitled to have network access from a specified date occurring prior to the date when the Facility will have completed all Commissioning Tests and be capable of meeting its Reserve Capacity Obligations in full[30]. Evidence typically consists of a signed electricity transfer access contract and, for a new Facility, a connection contract or a letter of status provided by the network operator, covering the entire relevant Capacity Year.

[28] See Relevant Level Method, at https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/certification-of-reserve-capacity.

[29] Non-Scheduled Facilities comprising only an Electric Storage Resource, which have not operated for the full period specified in Step 1(a) of Appendix 9, must be assessed using AEMO's reasonable expectation of the Linearly Derated Capacity that the Electric Storage Resource can sustain over the Peak Electric Storage Resource Obligation Duration in accordance with clause 4.11.1(bD)(ii).

[30] Refer to section 4.12 of the ESM Rules regarding setting Reserve Capacity Obligations.

- The Declared Sent Out Capacity for the Facility at the relevant connection point[31].

The timeframe to obtain network access for a new Facility varies with the type of generation, location, and existing queue of applicants. In many cases, access to the Network may take longer than the two-year time horizon of the RCM. For this reason, AEMO encourages applicants who intend to apply for CRC for a new Facility or a Facility Upgrade to contact the Network Operator as early as possible to ensure their project can progress through the RCM process in a timely manner.

3.2.6 Environmental approvals

Clause 4.10.1(c)(ii) requires a CRC application to include evidence with respect to any necessary Environmental Approvals (except for applications for Conditional Peak CRC). Applicants may be required to obtain approval from federal, state, and local government authorities. Applicants are encouraged to allow enough time to obtain any necessary environmental approvals.

3.2.7 Application for Flexible Capacity

Eligible applicants may apply for Peak CRC and Flexible CRC. For Flexible Capacity minimum eligibility requirements, please refer to the Flexible Certified Reserve Capacity Minimum Eligibility Requirements Final Report[32].

Flexible CRC applications may be submitted as part of a single application for Peak CRC and Flexible CRC through WEMS (it is not possible to apply for Flexible CRC only). Clause 4.10.1(fE) requires a Flexible CRC application to include, where applicable:

- The amount of Flexible Capacity the applicant expects to make available from the Facility or each component of the Facility.
- The maximum ramp up rate and ramp down rate of the Facility or each component of the Facility, expressed in MW per minute.
- The minimum ramp up rate and ramp down rate of the Facility or each component of the Facility, expressed in MW per minute.
- The minimum required running time of the Facility or each component of the Facility, expressed in minutes.
- The minimum stable loading level of the Facility.
- If the Facility is a DSP, the minimum time (in minutes) required for the Facility or each component of the Facility, between receiving a Dispatch Instruction and changing consumption level, otherwise for the Facility or each component of the Facility, the minimum time required between receiving a Dispatch Instruction in a cold state and operating at the minimum stable loading level for the Facility or each component of the Facility.
- The minimum time (in minutes) required for the Facility or each component of the Facility, after receiving a Dispatch Instruction to ramp down from the minimum stable loading level to zero output.
- The minimum time (in minutes) before each component in the Facility, excluding Loads, can be restarted after it is shut down.

[31] See network access requirements, at https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/certification-of-reserve-capacity.

[32] At https://aemo.com.au/consultations/current-and-closed-consultations/fcmer_2025.

- The minimum time (in seconds) required for each Electric Storage Resource in the Facility to switching from discharging to charging and from charging to discharging.
- Which, if any, Frequency Co-optimised Essential System Services (FCESS) the Facility expects to be capable for providing in the relevant Capacity Year.

The above information should be supported by documented evidence in the Flexible CRC application, if applicable, except to the extent that it is already accurately provided in Standing Data.

3.3 NAQ and Capacity Credits

The NAQ framework[33] has been in effect since the 2022 RC Cycle and serves two purposes:

- It establishes a process for determining network capacity at peak demand periods. The NAQ (calculated in MW) represents AEMO's forecast of a Facility's network access level at peak demand periods.
- It provides investment certainty for prospective capacity providers who contribute to the reliability of the power system, by establishing a priority order for the assignment of a NAQ to Facilities. In any given year, existing Facilities will be assessed and assigned a NAQ ahead of new Facilities, with new Facilities receiving a NAQ up to the residual capacity of the Network.

Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits are assigned in accordance with clause 4.20.5A.

The quantity of Peak Capacity Credits assigned to a Facility is equal to the NAQ for that Facility, as determined in accordance with clause 4.20.5B.

In accordance with clause 4.20.5BA, the quantity of Flexible Capacity Credits assigned to a Facility is equal to the lesser of:

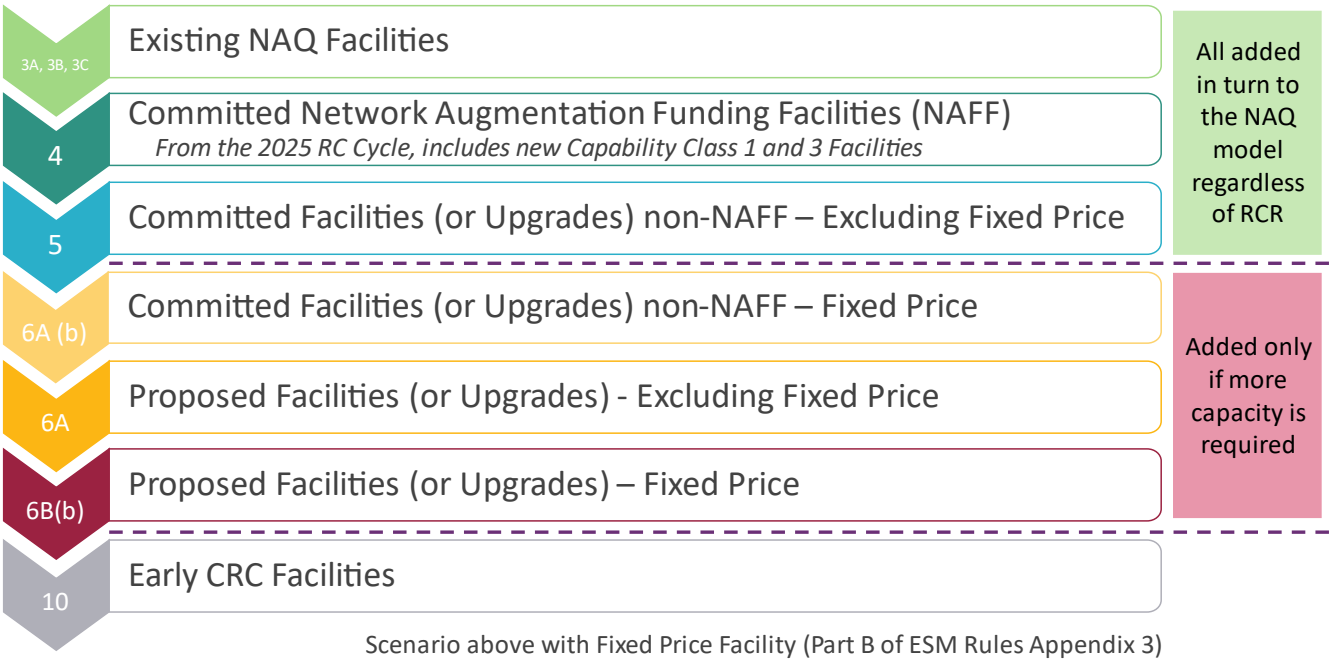
- The NAQ determined by AEMO in accordance with section 4.15 of the ESM Rules for the Facility.
- The Flexible CRC quantity notified by AEMO under clause 4.14.9.

The priority of a Facility for access to the Network with respect to other Facilities is outlined in Appendix 3 of the ESM Rules and determines which Facilities are included (and to what level) in each Prioritisation Step. The Final NAQ for a Facility is the outcome of the final Prioritisation Step[34]. A summary of the priorities (Prioritisation Steps) is provided in Figure 3 below.

[33] See https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/reserve-capacity-mechanism-changes-support-the-implementation-of-constrained-access-and-facilitate-storage-participation.

[34] This section assumes no Early CRC Facilities. If Early CRC applications exist, the NAQ determination for those Facilities would effectively be the final Prioritisation Step (refer to further information at clauses 4.28C.7A-4.28C.7AA).

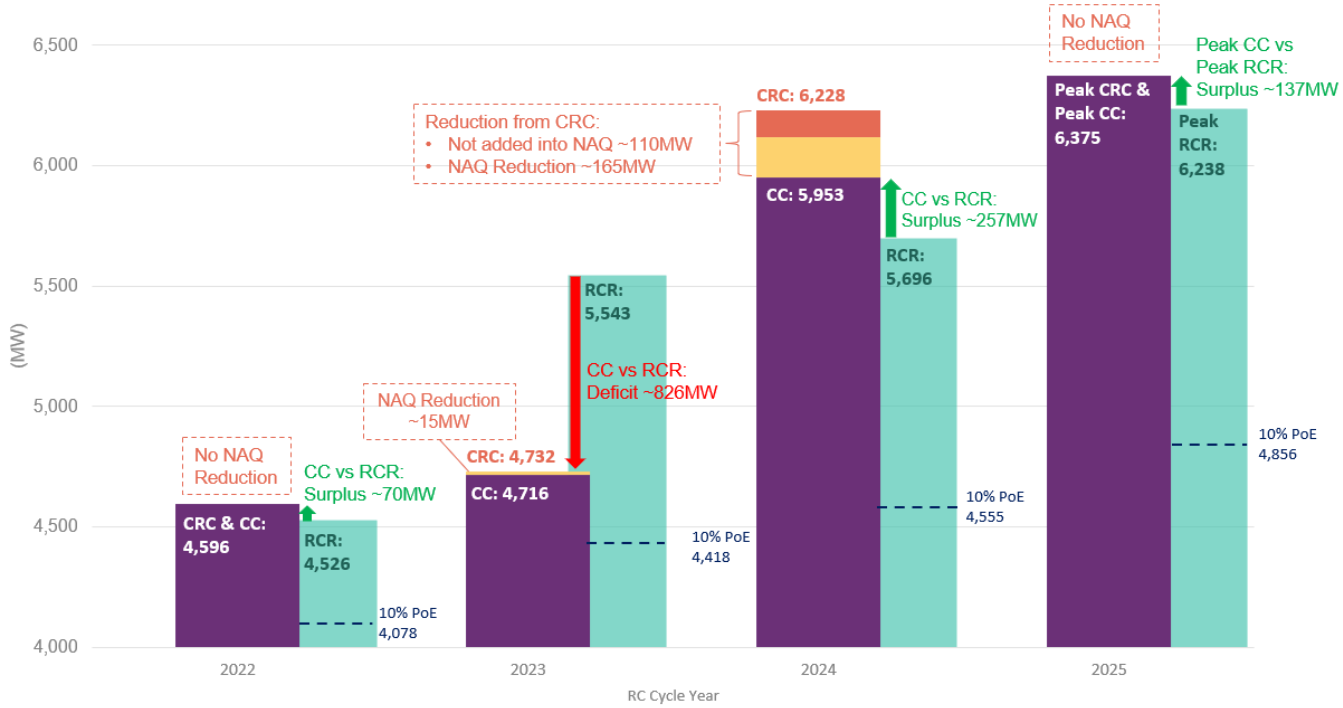
Figure 3 Priority Order for accessing NAQ



Note: Relevant steps (in relation to Appendix 3 of the ESM Rules) are listed on the left side

The NAQ process results from each RC Cycle from 2022 to 2025 is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4 NAQ Process Historical Outcomes



Note: For each RC Cycle, the left bar represents the Certified Reserve Capacity and the Capacity Credits assigned, showing the eventual Network Access Quantities (NAQ) reductions. The right bar represents the Reserve Capacity Requirement and shows the 10% PoE Peak Demand. The comparison between the two bars shows the Surplus or Deficit.

4 Key information for the 2026 REOI

4.1 Submitting an EOI for the 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle

AEMO is requesting a response in the form of an EOI from applicants who are seeking CRC for new Facilities or Facility Upgrades for the 2026 RC Cycle in relation to the 2028-29 Capacity Year. Interested applicants should submit their response by the relevant time outlined in clause 4.1.5 of the ESM Rules (and as outlined below). Applicants seeking CRC are not obliged to submit an EOI. However, the submission of a valid EOI and the respective submission time of that EOI will affect the priority order assigned by AEMO to Facilities when assigning the NAQ in instances where there is a tie-break in the NAQ calculation process.

To submit an EOI for the 2026 RC Cycle, an applicant is required to complete the 2026 EOI application form which is available on the WEM Website[35]. The information required to be included in an EOI, and the format in which it should be submitted, is outlined in the application form.

The applicant must email the completed 2026 EOI application form, including any required supporting documentation, to AEMO at wa.capacity@aemo.com.au by the closing time and date, that is, **5:00 pm AWST on Tuesday, 3 March 2026**.

Any queries in relation to this REOI should be addressed to WA Capacity Investment and Assessment at wa.capacity@aemo.com.au.

4.1.1 Preliminary Peak Reserve Capacity Requirements

Based on the 2025 WEM ESOO forecasts, for the 2028-29 Capacity Year, the preliminary Peak RCR[36] is 6,330 MW. The final Peak RCR[37] for the 2028-29 Capacity Year will be published in the 2026 WEM ESOO on or before 10 June 2026. With current uncertainty surrounding peak demand forecasts and timing of coal-fired generation retirements, the preliminary Peak RCR is considered to be a lower bound on the likely capacity requirement for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

4.1.2 Key information on timetables for the Reserve Capacity Cycle

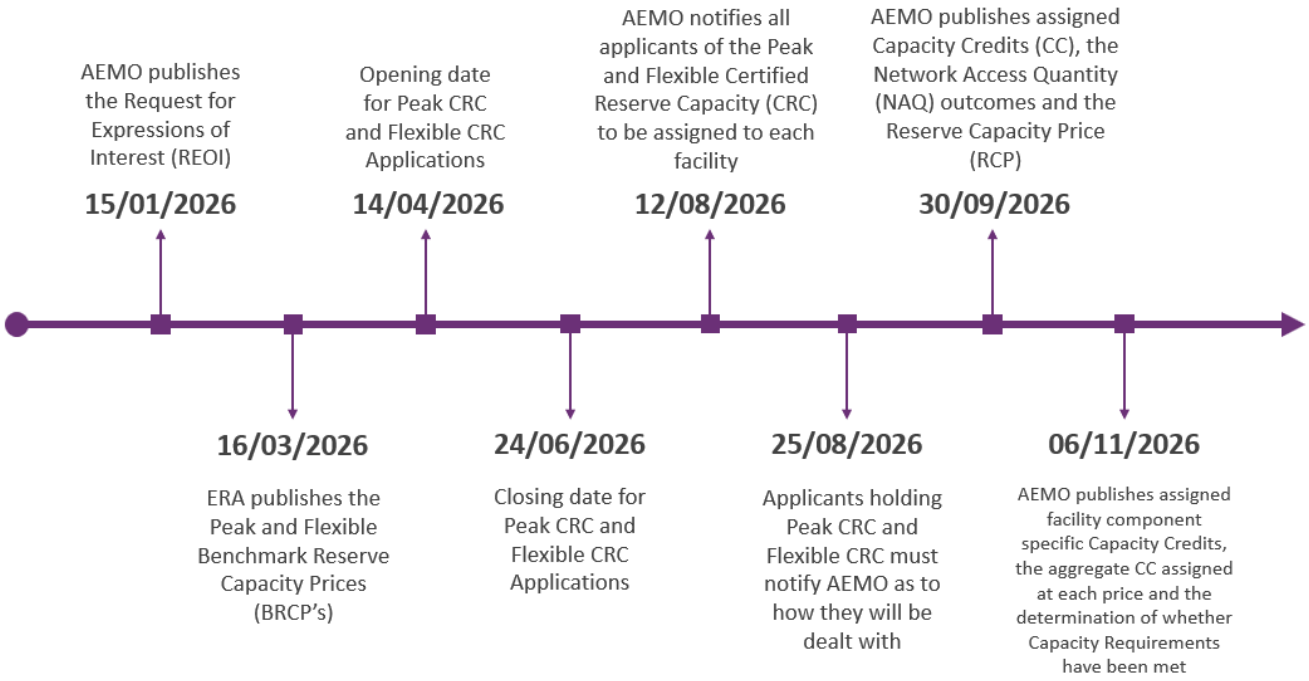
The 2026 RC timetable presents key dates relevant to the 2026 RC Cycle, but applicants should particularly note the key dates in Figure 5 below:

[35] 2026 EOI Application Form, at https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/expressions-of-interest.

[36] The preliminary Peak RCR for an RC Cycle is the estimated amount of Peak Capacity required as reported in the previous RC Cycle's WEM ESOO.

[37] The Peak RCT is set by the greater of Limb A and Limb B and Limb C capacity requirements described in clause 4.5.9. To date, the Peak RCR has been set by Limb A of the Planning Criterion. This setting could shift to Limb B as a result of increase in demand and earlier-than-forecast retirement of coal fired generation capacity.

Figure 5 2026 Reserve Capacity Timeline key dates



4.1.3 Key figures for the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Reserve Capacity Cycles

Table 5 outlines the various price types available to Market Participants in the RCM including: Floating Daily Peak and Flexible RC Prices; Transitional Peak and Flexible RC Prices[38]; Fixed Daily Peak and Flexible RC Prices; and the corresponding quantities of Capacity Credits, where available.

Table 5 Reserve Capacity Price determination for the 2025 RC Cycle

Price Type	Price determination description	$ per MW per year (2027-28 CY)	Capacity Credits Assigned (MW)
Floating Daily Peak RC Price	Daily price per Peak Capacity Credit for a RC Cycle, calculated under clauses 4.29.1 and 4.29.1AA of the ESM Rules.	$360,700	2,059.182
Floating Daily Flexible RC Price	The daily price per Flexible Capacity Credit for a RC Cycle, calculated under clause 4.29.1F. Determined as the greater of $0 or the difference between Flexible daily RC Price and Floating Peak daily RC Price. As Flexible Daily Price was lower than the Peak Daily Price, no additional payments will be issued to Market Participants.	$0	1,688.256
Transitional Daily Peak RC Price	Price per Peak Capacity Credit for Transitional Facilities or components (clause 4.29.1B of the ESM Rules). Determined as follows: Transitional Peak RC Price = min(max(PRCP, Trans_Floor), Trans_Ceiling) **PRCP** = Peak Reserve Capacity Price for the cycle (clause 4.29.1(b)(i)). **Trans_Floor** = Minimum allowed price (starts at $114,000 for the 2019 RCC and for each subsequent Transitional RCC, the value escalates per clause 4.29.1C(b)).	$177,636.12	4,048.744

[38] A Transitional Reserve Capacity Cycle is either the 2019 RC Cycle or any of the subsequent RC Cycles up to and including the 2028 RC Cycle. The Peak Reserve Capacity Price for these RC Cycles is known as the transitional Peak Reserve Capacity Price.

Price Type	Price determination description	$ per MW per year (2027-28 CY)	Capacity Credits Assigned (MW)
	Trans_Ceiling = Maximum allowed price (starts at $140,000 for the 2019 RCC and for each subsequent Transitional RCC, the value escalates per clause 4.29.1C(a)). **Trading Days** = Number of days in the Capacity Year.		
Transitional Daily Flexible RC Price	Price per Flexible Capacity Credit for Transitional Facilities or components (clause 4.29.1G of the ESM Rules). AEMO did not determine the Transitional Daily Flex RC Price based on the transitional provision under clause 1.63.10(e)(viii) of the ESM Rules. Accordingly, no payments will be issued to Market Participants under the Transitional Daily Flexible RC Price.	N/A	N/A
Fixed Daily Peak RC Price nominated in 2025 RC Cycle[39]	Price per Peak Capacity Credit for Fixed Price Facilities or Fixed Price Components, calculated under clause 4.29.1D each RC Cycle.	$360,700	267.215
Fixed Daily Flexible RC Price	Daily price per Flexible Capacity Credit for Fixed Price Facilities or Components, calculated under clause 4.29.1H of the ESM Rules each RC Cycle. AEMO did not determine the Transitional Daily Flex RC Price based on Transitional clause under clause 1.63.10(e)(viii) of the ESM Rules. Accordingly, no payments will be issued to Market Participants under the Fixed Daily Flexible RC Price.	N/A	N/A

Table 6 outlines the Peak BRCP, the Peak RCR, the Transitional Peak Reserve Capacity Price, and the corresponding quantities of Capacity Credits, where available. No Fixed Price Facilities were assigned Capacity Credits in the 2024-25 to 2026-27 Capacity Years.

Table 6 Key figures for the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 RC Cycles

Capacity Year	Peak BRCP	Peak RCR	Peak Capacity Credits assigned	Non-Transitional Facilities and DSP Facilities			Transitional Facilities[B]		
				Peak RCP	Facility Monthly Peak RCP	Peak Capacity Credits assigned	Peak RCP	Transitional Peak Monthly RCP[40]	Peak Capacity Credits Assigned
Unit	$/MW/year	MW	MW	$/MW/year	$/MW/month	MW	$/MW/year	$/MW/month	MW
2024-25	$165,700	4,526	4,596	$194,784	$16,232	260	$150,746	$12,562	4,337
2025-26	$193,400	5,543	4,717	$251,420	$20,952	447	$155,419	$12,952	4,270
2026-27	$230,000	5,696	5,953	$216,092	$18,008	1,642	$160,392	$13,366	4,310
2027-28	$360,700	6,238	6,375	$360,700	$30,058	2,326[41]	$177,636	$14,803	4,049
2028-29	TBD	6,330[A]	TBD						

Notes:

- Figures have been rounded to the nearest integer. Capacity Credits values are assigned up to three decimal places. Historical Capacity Credit assignments are available on the Market Data site, at https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/data-wem/market-data-wa.
- In accordance with clause 4.3.1(c)(viii), the aggregate quantity of MW of Capacity Credits assigned to Facilities at each of the prices referred to in clauses 4.3.1(c)(vi) and 4.3.1(c)(vii) is reported in Table 5.

A: This figure is the preliminary Peak RCR for the 2026 RC Cycle, as specified by the 2028-29 Peak RCT in the 2025 WEM ESOO. Revisions to demand and supply forecasts as part of the 2026 WEM ESOO process may alter this figure.
B: Transitional Facility means a Facility (other than a DSP) that was assigned Peak Capacity Credits for the 2018 RC Cycle.

[39] Rules have been amended regarding the eligibility requirements for the ten-year fixed Reserve Capacity Price; see section 4.1.10 for further detail.

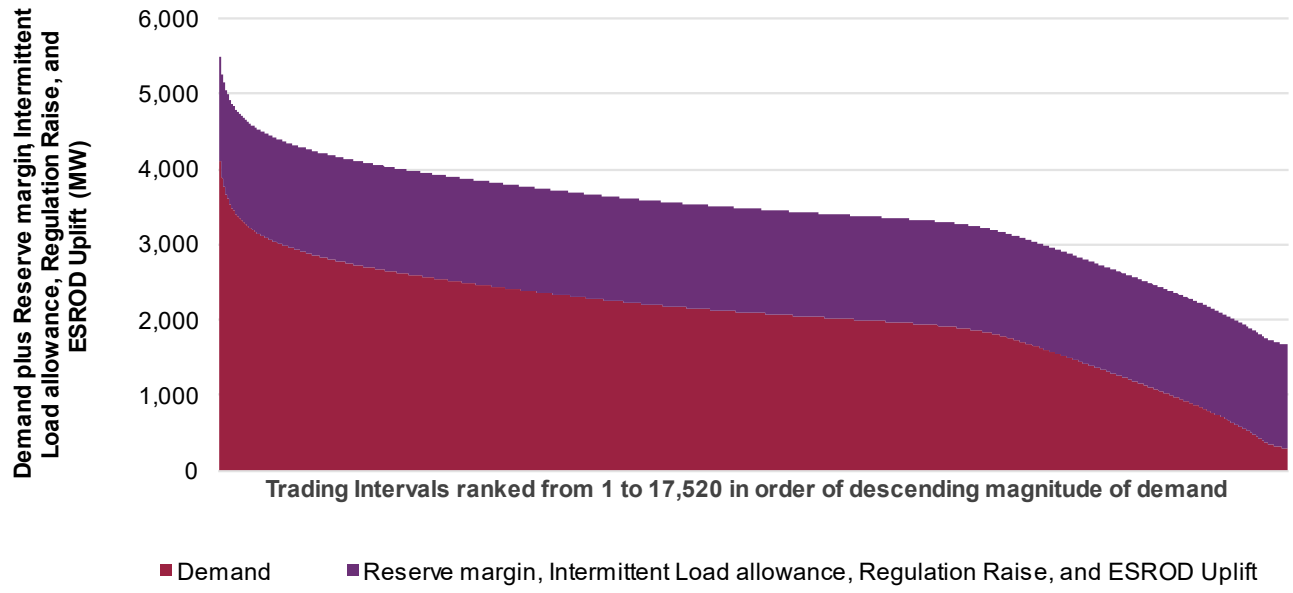
[40] For Transitional Reserve Capacity Cycles, a Facility Monthly Reserve Capacity Price is calculated for Transitional Facilities. This is referred to in this document as a Transitional Peak Monthly RC Price.

[41] This amount includes the 267.215 MW of Fixed Peak Capacity Credits assigned in 2025 RC Cycle.

Availability Curves

Figures 6-8 detail the Availability Curves for the 2025-26 to 2027-28 Capacity Years. Availability Curves are two-dimensional duration curves of the forecast minimum Peak Capacity requirement for each Trading Interval over a Capacity Year, as described in clause 4.5.10(e). The lower end of demand remains constant at a minimum of 500 MW in the 2027-28 Capacity Year because of the implementation of a minimum demand threshold in reliability modelling[42]. The Availability Curve for 2028-29 Capacity Year will be published in the 2026 WEM ESOO in accordance with clause 4.5.13(f).

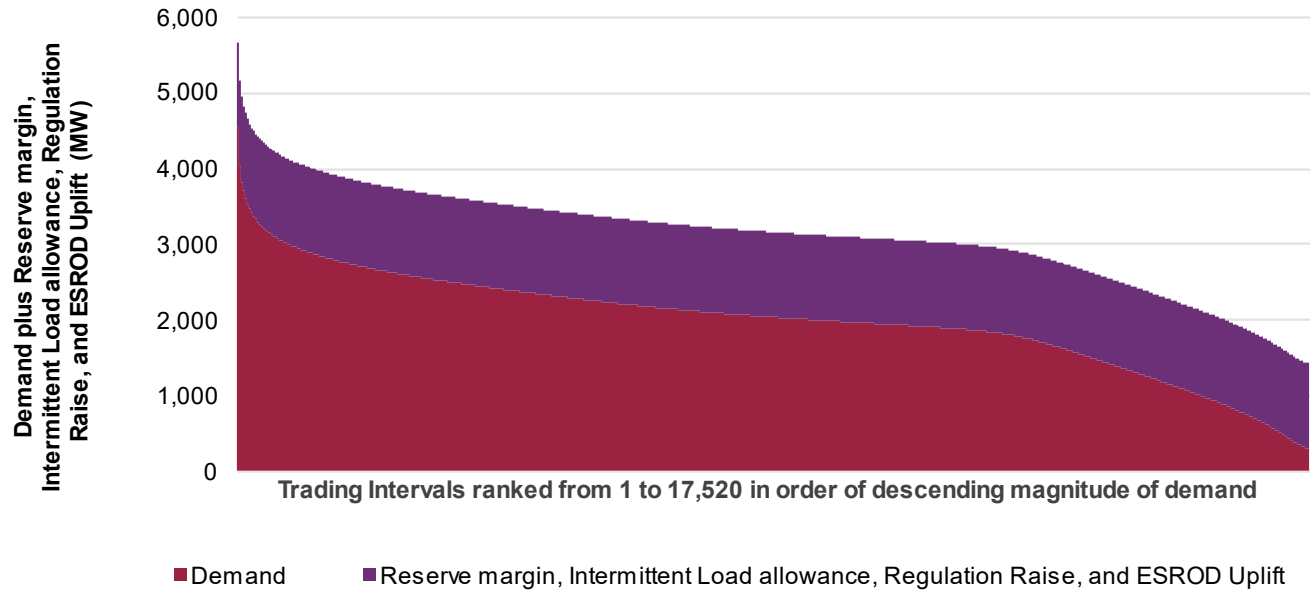
Figure 6 2027-28 Availability Curve



Source: AEMO and EY

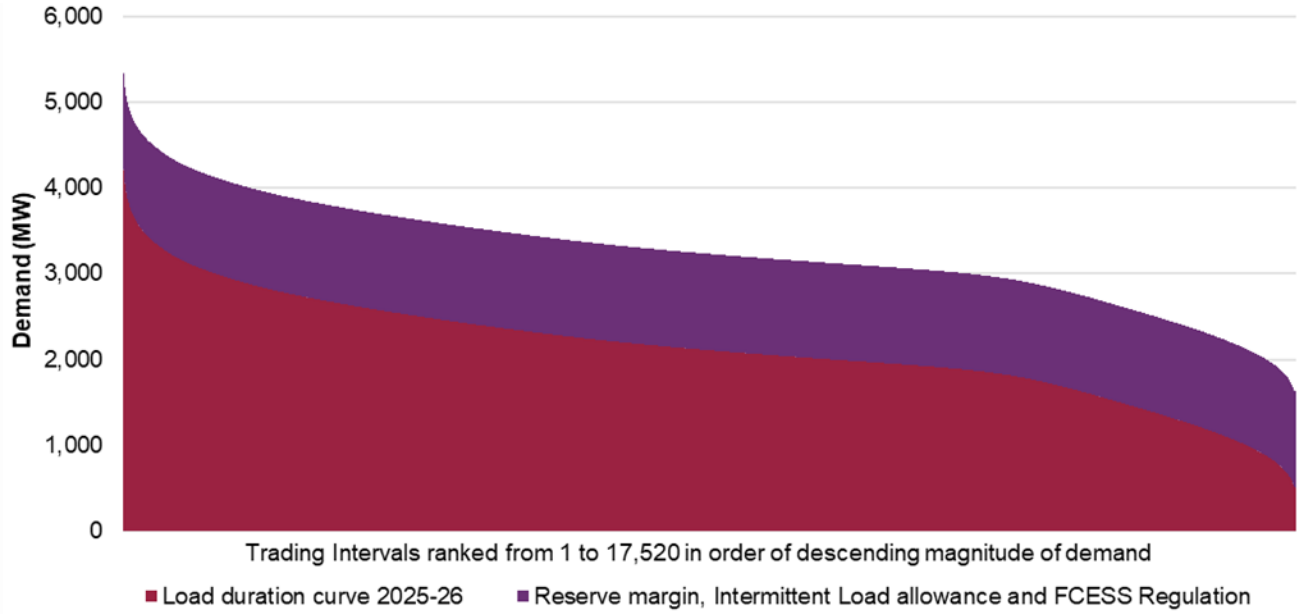
[42] See page 87 of the 2024 WEM ESOO. Available at https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/wem/planning_and_forecasting/esoo/2024/2024-wem-electricity-statement-of-opportunities.pdf?la=en.

Figure 7 2026-27 Availability Curve



Source: AEMO and EY

Figure 8 2025-26 Availability Curve



Source: RBP
Note: LFAS is an abbreviation of Load Following Ancillary Service. A type of FCESS known as Regulation replaced LFAS in the WEM on 1 October 2023.

4.1.4 New Relevant Level Methodology

As outlined in Table 2, the RLM is used in determining the assigned CRC for intermittent generators. As of the 2026 RC Cycle, a new RLM will be used to assess IGS in the CRC process.

The current RLM was designed for a system where intermittent generation made up a small proportion of the fleet. As the share of wind and solar has grown, Market Participants raised concerns about the method's accuracy and fairness. For example, the current RLM doesn't always reflect the true reliability value of intermittent generators.

The current RLM is also relatively simple, using static parameters that may not reflect changing conditions, technology types, or correlations between output and demand. This is a significant limitation given the variability of wind and solar generation, and can cause over or under-certifying generators, which can distort investment incentives and potentially compromise system reliability.

In response to these concerns, Energy Policy WA (EPWA) made a series of changes to the ESM Rules to replace the current RLM. The fundamental change is a transition toward Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC), a probabilistic measure of reliability contribution, as opposed to historical averages. The new RLM introduces numerical models that simulate system conditions and better evaluate the contribution of different forms of generation and storage under system stress scenarios[43], and is expected to increase the amount of Capacity Credits assigned to Capability Class 3 (generally comprising of renewables and hybrids) Facilities. The new RLM is intended to provide a fairer assessment of available capacity, and a more economically efficient assignment of CRCs.

While the RLM is changing, the IER process will remain unchanged, and current or intending Market Participants with new or Facility Upgrades should consult the Information guide for IER in the RCM for further information.

4.1.5 Updated Demand Side Programme Processes

During its recent RCM Review, EPWA identified several barriers to entry for DSPs in the RCM, which have contributed to a general absence of DSPs in the RCM since 2018. In response to this, the ESM Rules were amended with the aim of simplifying the process for Facilities participating as an aggregated DSP within the RCM, while increasing the obligations for participation to ensure reliability standards are met[44].

DSP Submissions

As has been the case in the 2024 and 2025 RC Cycles, the modified CRC process, in certain instances, exempts applicants from providing a TNI in their CRC application for a DSP Facility. This exemption applies for applicants in the 2026 RC Cycle, provided that each associated load is not expected to have a Peak Capacity over 5 MW as per clause 4.10.1B of the ESM Rules.

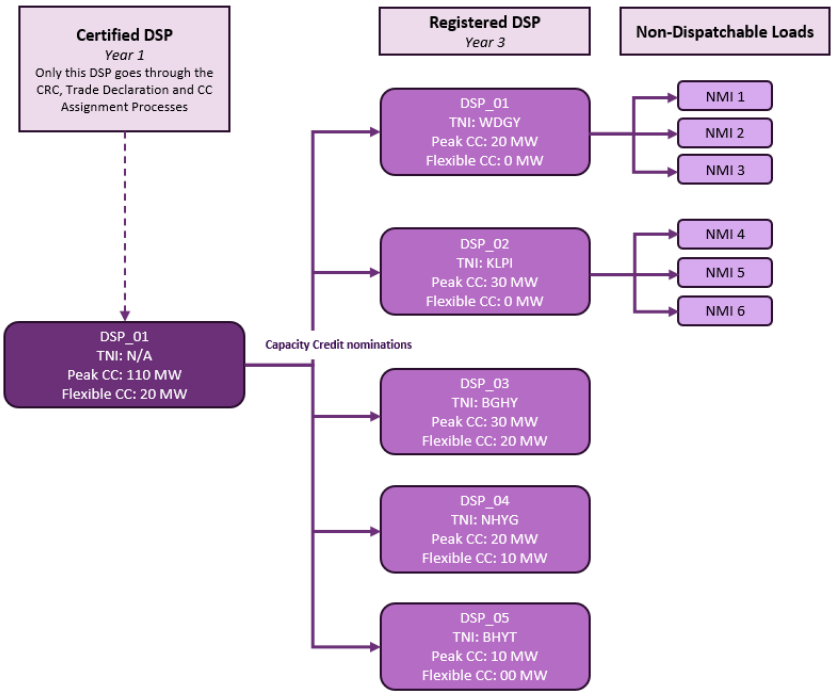
In such cases, the applicant must provide TNIs by 1 July of the relevant Capacity Year (i.e. prior to the start of the obligation period on 1 October) through the Facility registration process, by distributing those Capacity Credits assigned to their certified DSP between one or more registered DSPs. This exemption will allow for the participation of DSP aggregators who do not necessarily know the location of their associated loads during the CRC process.

Under this exemption, a Market Participant can apply to certify a single DSP as a Facility (with no TNI) during the CRC process. Following the assignment of Capacity Credits, and before the relevant Capacity Year, the Market Participant must nominate how they intend to split these Capacity Credits between their registered DSPs (for which each will have a TNI). Each of these DSPs can then have multiple Non-Dispatchable Loads (NDLs) associated with them, each one having its own National Metering Identifier (NMI). Figure 9Figure 9 presents an example of this process.

[43] See the Relevant Level Methodology (RLM) Implementation Assessment, at https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/initiatives/wem-reform-program/implementation-assessment/p03427-relevant-level-method-final-ia.pdf?rev=8b9ee63890f9453886394364d02d41c2&sc_lang=en&hash=C1879F5E5F6DF1C8F0BC8BB63CA041B0.

[44] See the draft Demand Side Programme (DSP) Participation Implementation Assessment, at https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/initiatives/wem-reform-program/implementation-assessment/dsp-participation---draft-ia---reissued_clean.pdf?rev=19af4110814d4aa3b35862754b76750a&sc_lang=en&hash=4310F3859E7B65959E872C57B22F518A.

Figure 9 Updated DSP Process (example)



TNI Exclusion List

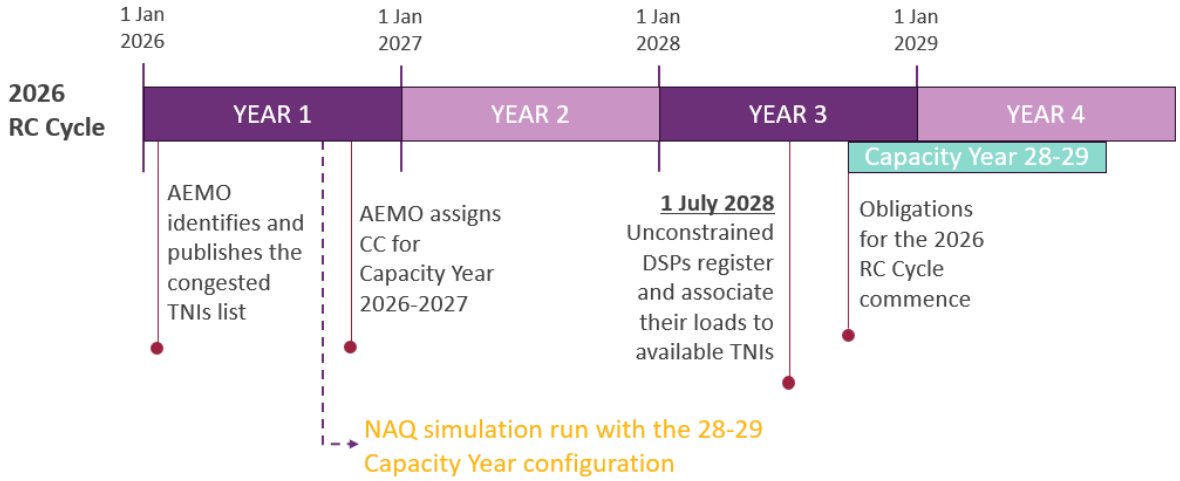
The WA power grid is constrained in certain areas. The ESM Rules now require AEMO to determine at the beginning of each RC Cycle, a list of all locations identified as constrained. As such, AEMO will publish a list of TNIs, where DSPs will be restricted from associating loads for a specific Capacity Year, to minimise the risk of overloading the transmission network in a given geographical location. The TNI exclusion list will be determined and published annually by AEMO in accordance with the NAQ WEM Procedure, considering the Limit Advice from the previous RC Cycle.

The 2026 TNI exclusion list can be found on the AEMO NAQ webpage[45]. Note the TNI exclusion list will not apply to all DSPs, rather only those which have been exempt from providing a TNI alongside their CRC application under clause 4.10.1B of the ESM Rules.

A timeline of the process applying to DSPs exempt from providing a TNI during CRC application is presented in Figure 10.

[45] Available at https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wa-reserve-capacity-mechanism/network-access-quantities.

Figure 10 2026 RC Cycle TNI Exemption Timeline for eligible DSPs



Relevant Demand Method Selection

During the recent RCM Review, EPWA acknowledged that aggregations of smaller commercial and industrial loads, or residential loads, do not have the same predictable load patterns, making the existing static Relevant Demand method not appropriate for measuring dynamic load profiles, export capability, or reflective of actual DSP performance.

As a result of this, from the 2026 RC Cycle, DSPs will be able to choose between two methodologies for the calculation of their Relevant Demand:

- Adjusted Baseline method, or
- Unadjusted Baseline method (the existing method and default selection if a nomination is not received from the Market Participant).

The Adjusted Baseline method is a new dynamic methodology of calculating a DSP's Relevant Demand, which measures the DSP's performance against more recent data within the past 50 days, rather than the existing calculation (Unadjusted Baseline) that uses data from the previous Capacity Year. This new method aims to mitigate seasonal effects associated with fluctuating DSP performance.

4.1.6 Electric Storage Resource Obligation Intervals

The 2025 WEM ESOO outlined that the 2027-28 ESR Duration Requirement will increase to 6 hours (12 consecutive Trading Intervals) from the previous 4 hours (8 consecutive Trading Intervals) for any new or Facility Upgrades participating in the 2025 RC Cycle (2027-28 Capacity Year). While the actual requirement figures for the 2028-29 Capacity Year will be published in the 2026 WEM ESOO, it can be assumed at this stage that the ESR Duration Requirement will be at least 6 hours (i.e. the requirement will not decrease).

Given the constantly changing energy environment, the Mid Peak ESR Obligation Intervals and Peak ESR Obligation Durations are subject to change (even after they are published in the 2026 WEM ESOO), and attention should be paid to

published announcements regarding changes, to inform planning. This is especially true in the case of Flexible ESROIs. Updates will be published on the WEM ESOO page on the AEMO website[46], as well as on the WEM Market Data site[47].

4.1.7 Peak Capacity required from new Facilities and Facility Upgrades

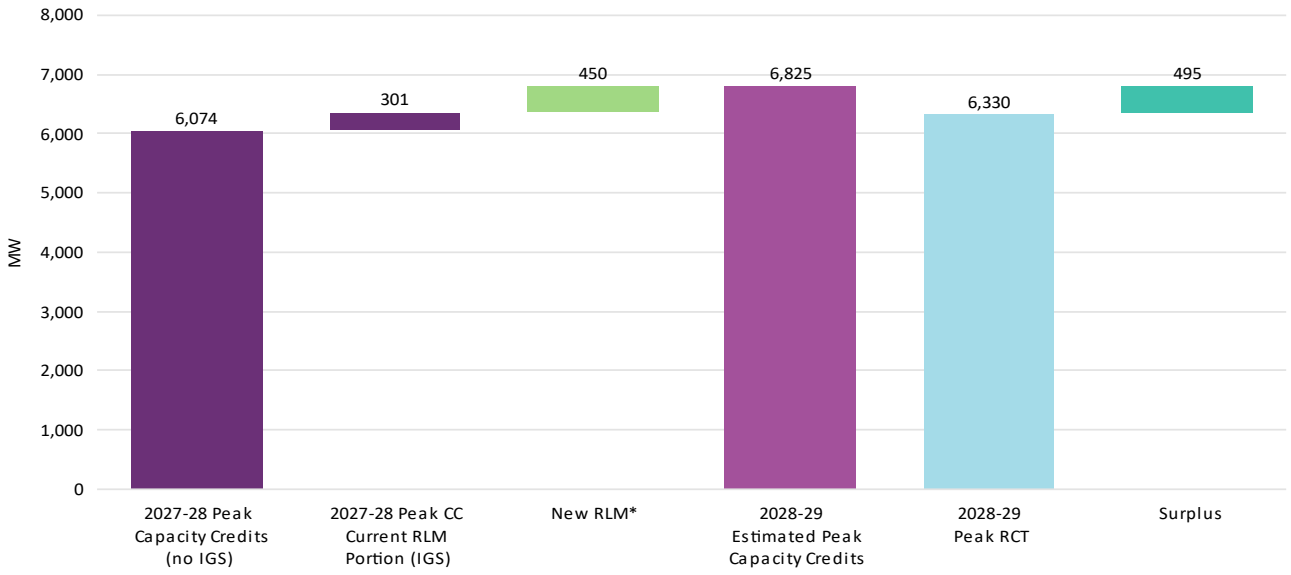
The capacity investment position (deficit or surplus) is the difference between the preliminary Peak RCR calculated in accordance with clause 4.6.3 and the expected aggregate available capacity for the SWIS, based on the latest information available to AEMO, in a Capacity Year. The capacity investment position informs the amount of capacity expected to be required from new Facilities and Facility Upgrades to meet peak demand (that is, Peak RCR).

In this REOI, the assessment of the preliminary Peak RCR and bilateral trade declarations reflects the implementation of the new RLM ahead of the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

Capacity investment position – Including expected impact of the new RLM

AEMO has modelled the estimated capacity investment position by considering the Peak Capacity Credits assigned for the 2025 RC Cycle in addition to the additional Capacity Credits expected to be made available as a result of the new RLM. A total of 6,825 MW of Peak Capacity Credits is expected to be available, which indicates a potential capacity investment surplus of 495 MW in the 2028-29 Capacity Year (when compared with the 2028-29 Peak RCR of 6,330 MW).

Figure 11 2028-29 Peak Capacity Credit Outlook (Scenario with Implementation of new RLM)



*The presented figure of 450 MW representing the impact of the new RLM is a preliminary estimate only and was determined using several assumptions and considerations, which include but are not limited to:

- Any potential impacts of the new RLM on the CIS T5 and T6 tender outcomes have not been considered, given the results will only be announced in March 2026
- Any potential impacts of the NAQ process results on the new RLM outcome have not been considered
- This figure is based on a single preliminary simulation run of the new RLM, and is therefore strictly an estimate, the actual figure may be different to 450 MW
- The figure is included as the latest information available to AEMO as per clause 4.3.1(e) of the ESM Rules. However, this is subject to change

[46] See https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wem-forecasting-and-planning/wem-electricity-statement-of-opportunities-wem-esoo.

[47] See https://www.aemo.com.au/energysystems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/data-wem/market-data-wa.

Sensitivity outcomes

The above analysis indicates a potential capacity surplus of 495 MW for the 2028-29 Capacity Year. AEMO acknowledges the record-breaking increasing demand experienced during recent Hot Seasons, the impact of which continues to be analysed and modelled by AEMO. If demand forecast uncertainty were incorporated within the sensitivity analysis, the estimated surplus would likely be lower.

The potential surplus outlined in this report is preliminary and subject to change, reflecting the uncertainty inherent in demand forecasts and supply assumptions. AEMO also notes that demand forecasts, which will consider different weather traces, will be updated as part of the reliability modelling for the 2026 WEM ESOO. This uncertainty, coupled with the planned retirement of the state-owned coal fired power stations by 2030, means continued capacity investment remains essential to maintain a reliable and secure power system.

Other factors that will impact the investment scenarios above include, but are not limited to:

- Potential NAQ reductions which may work to decrease the expected investment surplus presented in Figure 11. While no NAQ reductions were processed in the 2025 RC Cycle, this is not always the case and is based on the type and amount of capacity from the CRC process, as well as network congestion modelling. The CIA team will hold training sessions that include an overview of the NAQ process. The schedule for these sessions is published on the AEMO website[48].
- The actual impact (in terms of additional Capacity Credits assigned to the fleet of Capability Class 3 Facilities) of the new RLM, as the provided figure (450 MW) is a preliminary estimate.
- The Commonwealth Government-funded WEM CIS, which has recently completed its fifth and sixth tender process[49,50]. The successful bids for both tenders will be announced in March/April 2026.
- The Availability Duration Gap (ADG), determined annually, the outcome of which is a contributing factor in the determination of the Peak RCT published in the 2026 WEM ESOO. The ADG for the 2026 RC Cycle will be published in the 2026 WEM ESOO on or before 10 June 2026. Any ADG increase will decrease the quantity of Peak CRC assigned to Facilities with an Electricity Storage Resource component (clause 4.11.3).
- If a capacity shortfall is identified in Capability Classes 1 and 3 in the 2026 WEM ESOO (clause 4.5.12) for the 2026 RC Cycle, the NAQ model will prioritise new Capability Classes 1 and 3 (peaking and renewable generation) capacity over Capability Class 2 (standalone batteries and DSPs). This prioritised capacity would be eligible to access the ten-year fixed price regardless of whether they are in Proposed or Committed status.

4.1.8 Flexible Capacity expected to be available from the existing fleet

The Flexible RCR will be published in the 2026 WEM ESOO publication. Of the 6,375 MW of Peak Capacity available from the Facilities assigned Capacity Credits in the 2025 RC Cycle, it is expected that 4,077 MW would be able to provide Flexible Capacity in the 2026 RC Cycle, which represents a surplus of 1,440 MW over the forecast 2028-29 Flexible RCT of 2,637 MW presented in the 2025 WEM ESOO.

[48] See https://www.aemo.com.au/learn/industry-courses/wem-reserve-capacity-mechanism.

[49] The WEM Capacity Investment Scheme – Tender 6 – WEM Dispatchable documentation is at https://asl.org.au/tenders/cis-tender-6-wem-dispatchable.

[50] The WEM Capacity Investment Scheme – Tender 5 - WEM Dispatchable documentation is at https://asl.org.au/tenders/cis-tender-5-wem-generation.

4.1.9 Bilateral Trade Declarations

Market Participants assigned Peak CRC and Flexible CRC are required to submit a bilateral trade declaration detailing the quantity of Peak CRC and Flexible CRC they intend to trade bilaterally, in accordance with clause 4.14.1.

For the 2027-28 Capacity Year, AEMO assigned 6,375 MW of Peak Capacity Credits. Based on the 2027-28 Capacity Credits assignments, and noting the expected 450 MW of additional Capacity Credits to be made available from Intermittent Generating Systems because of the new RLM (see section 4.1.7), AEMO anticipates 6,825 MW of Peak Capacity Credits to be traded bilaterally in accordance with clause 4.14.1(c) for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

4.1.10 Price guarantees

Market Participants are now eligible to get a five-year or a ten-year fixed price guarantee. The former option is only possible if the RCR has not been exceeded by 3%. The latter option extends to Market Participants for new firm generation or storage Facilities that are fuelled or charged by Eligible Renewable Energy Sources and meet the requirements under clause 4.14.1CB. Facilities that qualify for the ten-year fixed Reserve Capacity Price are treated the same as Facilities receiving the five-year fixed Reserve Capacity Price for the purpose of assigning NAQs under Appendix 3 of the ESM Rules. Note that capacity that is nominated for a Fixed Price Facility or a Fixed Price Component will be lower in the NAQ priority order compared to capacity that has not been nominated for a fixed price Reserve Capacity Price. For more information regarding the NAQ prioritisation framework refer to Figure 3 in section 3.3. This initiative aims to improve investment certainty for renewable generation and new firming capacity.

Clause 4.10.1 requires NIGS and ESR to provide evidence of renewable supply with their application for CRC. Eligible sources include hydro, wave, tide, wind and solar, and other compliant sources defined in the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*. Clause 4.9.10(c)(iii) outlines how AEMO will assess whether a Facility is fuelled by Eligible Renewable Energy Sources. Further details around evidence requirements are outlined below. The evidence requirements for renewable sources are set out in the WEM Procedure: Certification of Reserve Capacity.

4.1.11 2028-29 Benchmark Reserve Capacity Prices

The BRCP is a key input used to set the RC Price for Capacity Credits in the WEM, and reflects the lowest cost of new capacity. Under the Peak RC Price curve, when capacity levels are within plus or minus 5% of the Reserve Capacity Target, Market Participants receive the BRCP. This mechanism provides greater certainty and predictability in pricing outcomes.

The ERA is responsible for determining and publishing the BRCPs. Under the ESM Rules, the ERA is required to publish its BRCP determination by the date the REOI is published. However, under the transitional arrangements applying to the 2026 RC Cycle, this requirement has been deferred. The ERA must now publish the BRCPs prior to 16 March 2026[51]. Accordingly, the REOI for the 2028-29 Capacity Year does not include the 2026 BRCP.

In October 2025, the Coordinator of Energy determined that both the Flexible and Peak Benchmark Technologies for the 2026 RC Cyle will increase from a 200 MW injection and 800 MWh storage capacity to a 200 MW/1,200 MWh lithium BESS connected at a 330 kV transmission line on the Clean Energy Link – North. AEMO notes the increase in storage capacity and associated land requirements may result in a higher BRCP for the 2026 RC Cycle.

[51] The ERA's determination for Peak and Flexible Benchmark Reserve Capacity Prices will be made available at https://www.erawa.com.au/markets/wholesale-electricity-market/price-setting/benchmark-reserve-capacity-prices.

4.1.12 Early Certified Reserve Capacity

The Early CRC process, outlined in clause 4.28C, allows new Energy Producing Systems to apply for Early Peak CRC and Flexible CRC up to two years prior to 1 January of Year 1 of the RC Cycle. Early CRC applies to a single future RC Cycle and is intended to facilitate entry of new Facilities that cannot meet standard CRC process timelines.

Where Early CRC is assigned, AEMO determines Early CRC quantities and an Indicative NAQ, which are carried forward and used to determine the Final NAQ and assign Capacity Credits for the Facility's first year of commercial operation.

Clause 4.11.1(c)(iv) has been amended to clarify that a Facility cannot be assigned CRC for a RC Cycle where it has already been assigned Early CRC for that Cycle. Once Capacity Credits are assigned for the first year of commercial operation, Early CRC ceases to apply and the Facility is assessed as an existing Facility under the standard CRC process in subsequent RC Cycles.

Table 7 An example of an IGS entering the RCM via an Early CRC application for 2027 RC Cycle in 2026.

RC Cycle	CRC outcomes
2026	A Market Participant submits an Early CRC application in the 2026 RC Cycle for an IGS Facility for the 2029-30 Capacity Year (2027 RC Cycle). The Facility is assessed under the rules effective in the 2026 RC Cycle. AEMO assigns Early CRC and determines an Indicative NAQ.
2027	Regardless of any changes to the ESM Rules or WEM Procedure applicable to the 2027 RC Cycle, AEMO determines Final NAQ and assigns Capacity Credits for the Facility's first year of commercial operation based on the Early CRC and indicative NAQ determined in the 2026 RC Cycle.
2028	The Facility is now considered an existing Facility and will be assessed under the ESM Rules and WEM Procedure that are applicable at the time, through the standard CRC process (i.e. using the RLM that is effective at the time).
2029	The Facility that was assessed in 2026, for the 2027 RC Cycle and received Capacity Credits and Final NAQ for the 2029-30 Capacity Year is required to meet its Reserve Capacity Obligations.

4.1.13 Expected Facility closures

There are no confirmed closures of non-renewable (coal or gas) Facilities that are expected to impact the 2028-29 Capacity Year at this stage. For up-to date information on future assumed facility closures (beyond the 2028-29 Capacity Year), refer to the 2025 WA Gas Statement of Opportunities (GSOO)[52]. These assumptions may be further refined as part of the 2026 WEM ESOO development.

[52] Available at https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/gas/national_planning_and_forecasting/wa_gsoo/2025/2025-wa-gas-statement-of-opportunities.pdf?rev=68cd9f6280d245158eb3aaef6b91286c&sc_lang=en.

A1. 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle timetable

For Reserve Capacity to be provided for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.

Date	Time	ESM Rule[53]	Action
Thursday 15 January 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.4** **4.3.1(n)**	AEMO publishes the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI). - The REOI publication includes the list of Transmission Nodes where Demand Side Programmes (DSP) seeking certification of Reserve Capacity in Year 1 cannot locate Associated Loads during the 2028-29 Capacity Year.
Tuesday 3 March 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.5**	Expression of Interest (EOI) submissions close.
Monday 16 March 2026	5:00pm	**1.68.1**	Economic Regulation Authority publishes its determination of the Peak Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price and Flexible Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price[54].
Wednesday 1 April 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.6**	AEMO publishes a summary of responses to the REOI.
Tuesday 14 April 2026	9:00am	**4.1.7**	Opening date for Peak Certified Reserve Capacity (CRC) and Flexible CRC applications.
	9:00am	**4.8A.1**	For proponents who submitted an EOI for a new Facility or Facility Upgrade, AEMO must: - Assign an indicative Facility Class and one or more indicative Facility Technology Types. - Notify the proponent of the assigned indicative Facility Class and indicative Facility Technology Types.
Friday 8 May 2026	5:00pm	**4.4B.2**	AEMO provides information to Western Power regarding: a. EOIs. b. Facility retirements. c. Early CRC applications, and whether any Facility has nominated to be classified as a Network Augmentation Funding Facility. d. Non-Co-optimised Essential System Services (NCESS) Contracts. e. Preliminary peak demand forecasts for the 2028-29 Capacity Year.
Tuesday 19 May 2026	5:00pm	**4.8A.4(b)**	Closing date for indicative Facility Class and indicative Facility Technology Type(s) assessment submissions from proponents of new Facilities and Facility Upgrades seeking CRC or Early CRC, who did not submit an EOI.
Wednesday 10 June 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.8**	AEMO publishes the 2026 Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO) which includes: • Mid Peak Electric Storage Resource (ESR) Obligation Interval, ESR Duration Requirement, ESR Obligation Duration, and (Peak and Flexible) ESR Obligation Intervals. • Peak Demand Side Programme (DSP) Dispatch Requirement. • Peak Reserve Capacity Requirement and Flexible Reserve Capacity Requirement.
	5:00pm	**4.1.10**	AEMO publishes the Reserve Capacity Information Pack[55].
Friday 12 June 2026	5:00pm	**4.4B.5**	Western Power must provide the following information to AEMO: a. Estimated proportion of peak demand at each Electrical Location on its Network. b. Preliminary estimate of Thermal Network Limits.

[53] The Electricity System and Market (ESM) Rules are available at: https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/wholesale-electricity-market-rules.

[54] The Economic Regulation Authority's determination for Peak and Flexible Benchmark Reserve Capacity Prices are available at https://www.erawa.com.au/markets/wholesale-electricity-market/price-setting/benchmark-reserve-capacity-prices.

[55] The Reserve Capacity Information Pack for 2026 will be available at: https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/wem-forecasting-and-planning/wem-electricity-statement-of-opportunities-wem-esoo.

Date	Time	ESM Rule[53]	Action
			c. Electrical Location and identity of new loads or increase of existing loads equal to or greater than 10 MW. d. RCM Limit Advice. e. An explanation of any changes from previous RCM Limit Advice.
Friday 19 June 2026	5:00pm	**4.4B.6**	AEMO publishes the information provided by Western Power under ESM Rule 4.4B.5.
Wednesday 24 June 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.11**	Closing date for Peak CRC and Flexible CRC applications, including Early CRC applicants for assessment in the 2026 RC Cycle.
Wednesday 1 July 2026	5:00pm	**4.4B.7**	AEMO provides information to Western Power regarding: a. CRC applications. b. Facility retirements. c. Early CRC applications, and whether the Facility has nominated to be classified as a Network Augmentation Funding Facility. d. NCESS Contracts. e. Peak demand forecasts for the 2028-29 Capacity Year (sourced from the 2026 WEM ESOO).
Wednesday 29 July 2026	5:00pm	**4.4B.9**	Western Power provides information to AEMO regarding: a. Estimated proportion of peak demand at each Electrical Location on its Network. b. Estimate of Thermal Network Limits. c. Electrical Location and identity of new loads or increase of existing loads equal to or greater than 10 MW. d. RCM Limit Advice. e. An explanation of any changes from previous RCM Limit Advice. f. The List of substation names and all associated Transmission Node Identifiers, that are expected to be in service on 1 October of Year 3 of the Reserve Capacity Cycle.
Wednesday 12 August 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.12** **4.28C.7**	AEMO notifies each applicant of the Peak CRC and Flexible CRC to be assigned to each Facility, including Early CRC applicant.
Tuesday 25 August 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.13**	If required, Market Participants must provide Reserve Capacity Security (RCS) or DSP RCS for Peak CRC.
	5:00pm	**4.1.14** **4.14.1**	Market Participants holding Peak CRC and Flexible CRC must notify AEMO as to how their Peak CRC and Flexible CRC will be dealt with. Market Participants must specify the amount of Peak CRC and Flexible CRC which they will trade bilaterally, and the amount not to be made available to the market.
	5:00pm	**4.14.1B**	Market Participants may nominate that a Facility be classified as a Fixed Price Facility, or a Facility Technology Type within that Facility be classified as a Fixed Price Component, for a duration of either five or ten years.
Wednesday 26 August 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.15**	AEMO confirms the quantity of Peak CRC and Flexible CRC that can be traded bilaterally from each Facility.
Thursday 27 August 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.15A**	AEMO publishes the level of Peak CRC and Flexible CRC assigned to each Facility.
Wednesday 23 September 2026	5:00pm	**4.28C.8**	If required, Market Participants must provide RCS for Peak Early CRC and Flexible Early CRC.
Wednesday 30 September 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.16A**	AEMO: a. Assigns Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits in accordance with clause 4.20.5A(a). b. Publish the required information pursuant to clause 4.20.5A(b) including: i. For each Facility: • The quantity of Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits assigned. • The Facility Class.

Date	Time	ESM Rule[53]	Action
			ii. The Peak Reserve Capacity Price and Flexible Reserve Capacity Price. iii. If it is a Transitional Reserve Capacity Cycle: • The Transitional Daily Peak Reserve Capacity Price, as determined under clause 4.29.1B, multiplied by the number of Trading Days in 2028-29 Capacity Year. • The Transitional Daily Flexible Reserve Capacity Price, as determined under clause 4.29.1G, multiplied by the number of Trading Days in 2028-29 Capacity Year. iv. If it is a Fixed Price Reserve Capacity Cycle: • The Fixed Daily Peak Reserve Capacity Price, as determined under clause 4.29.1D, multiplied by the number of Trading Days in 2028-29 Capacity Year. • The Fixed Daily Flexible Reserve Capacity Price as determined under clause 4.29.1H, multiplied by the number of Trading Days in 2028-29 Capacity Year. c. Notifies each Market Participant of the Network Access Quantity (NAQ) determined for each of its Facilities. d. Publishes the NAQ Model Inputs, the NAQ or Indicative NAQ determined for each Facility assessed in the NAQ Model and the Highest NAQ for each Facility.
Thursday 1 October 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.21**	Market Participants may apply for a recalculation of the amount of RCS or DSP RCS required to be held for a Facility (applications may only be made after this date/time).
Friday 30 October 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.21A**	Market Participants must notify AEMO of the number of Capacity Credits that are to be associated with each component of a Facility, where applicable, in accordance with clause 4.20.16 (applicable to Facilities who have been assigned less Capacity Credits than their CRC).
Friday 6 November 2026	5:00pm	**4.1.22**	AEMO sets and publishes the number of Peak Capacity Credits and Flexible Capacity Credits associated with each component of a Facility.
	5:00pm	**4.20.5AA**	AEMO publishes the Reserve Capacity Prices, and the aggregate quantity of MW of Capacity Credits assigned at each price: a. The Peak Reserve Capacity Price and Flexible Reserve Capacity Price. b. The Reserve Capacity Price for each Transitional Facility or Transitional Component. c. The Reserve Capacity Price for each Fixed Price Facility or Fixed Price Component.
	5:00pm	**4.20.17B** **4.1.26(e)(ii)**	AEMO publishes its determination on whether the Peak Reserve Capacity Requirement and Flexible Reserve Capacity Requirement have been met or exceeded. - If AEMO determines the Reserve Capacity Requirement is not met by Facilities required to lodge a RCS, eligible Facilities or Facility Upgrades may commence Reserve Capacity Obligations prior to the Trading Day of 1 October 2028.

List of tables and figures

Tables

Table 1	Facility Class Descriptions	14
Table 2	Technology Type Descriptions	15
Table 3	Timelines for Market Participant registration, Facility creation, and IFC Assessment	16
Table 4	Capability Class 1, 2 and 3 descriptions	17
Table 5	Reserve Capacity Price determination for the 2025 RC Cycle	23
Table 6	Key figures for the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 RC Cycles	24
Table 7	An example of an IGS entering the RCM via an Early CRC application for 2027 RC Cycle in 2026.	33

Figures

Figure 1	Map of the SWIS	8
Figure 2	Interactions between Capacity Years and Calendar Years for 2026 Reserve Capacity Cycle	9
Figure 3	Priority Order for accessing NAQ	21
Figure 4	NAQ Process Historical Outcomes	21
Figure 5	2026 Reserve Capacity Timeline key dates	23
Figure 6	2027-28 Availability Curve	25
Figure 7	2026-27 Availability Curve	26
Figure 8	2025-26 Availability Curve	26
Figure 9	Updated DSP Process (example)	28
Figure 10	2026 RC Cycle TNI Exemption Timeline for eligible DSPs	29
Figure 11	2028-29 Peak Capacity Credit Outlook (Scenario with Implementation of new RLM)	30

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ADG	Availability Duration Gap
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AWST	Australian Western Standard Time
CRC	Certification of Reserve Capacity
DER	Distributed Energy Resources
DSP	Demand Side Programme
EOI	Expression of Interest
EPWA	Energy Policy WA
ERA	Economic Regulation Authority
ESM Rules	Electricity System and Market Rules
ESOO	Electricity Statement of Opportunities
ESR	Electrical Storage Resource
FCESS	Frequency Co-optimised Essential System Services
Flexible BRCP	Flexible Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price
Flexible CRC	Flexible Certified Reserve Capacity
Flexible IRCR	Flexible Individual Reserve Capacity Requirement
Flexible RCP	Flexible Reserve Capacity Price
Flexible RCR	Flexible Reserve Capacity Requirement
Flexible RCT	Flexible Reserve Capacity Target
GSOO	Gas Statement of Opportunities
IER	Independent Expert Report
IFC	Indicative Facility Class
Long Term PASA	Long Term Projected Assessment of System Adequacy
MW	Megawatts
NAFF	Network Augmentation Funding Facility
NAQ	Network Access Quantity
NCESS Contracts	Non-Co-optimised Essential System Service Contracts
NEM	National Electricity Market
Peak BRCP	Peak Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price
Peak CRC	Peak Certified Reserve Capacity
Peak IRCR	Peak Individual Reserve Capacity Requirement
Peak RCP	Peak Reserve Capacity Price
Peak RCR	Peak Reserve Capacity Requirement
Peak RCT	Peak Reserve Capacity Target
RC Cycle	Reserve Capacity Cycle
RCM	Reserve Capacity Mechanism
RCR	Reserve Capacity Requirement

Abbreviation	Definition
RCS	Reserve Capacity Security
RCT	Reserve Capacity Target
REOI	Request for Expressions of Interest
SWIS	South West Interconnected System
Transitional Peak RCP	Transitional Peak Reserve Capacity Price
WA	Western Australia
WEM	Wholesale Electricity Market
WEMS	Wholesale Electricity Market System
10POE	10% probability of exceedance