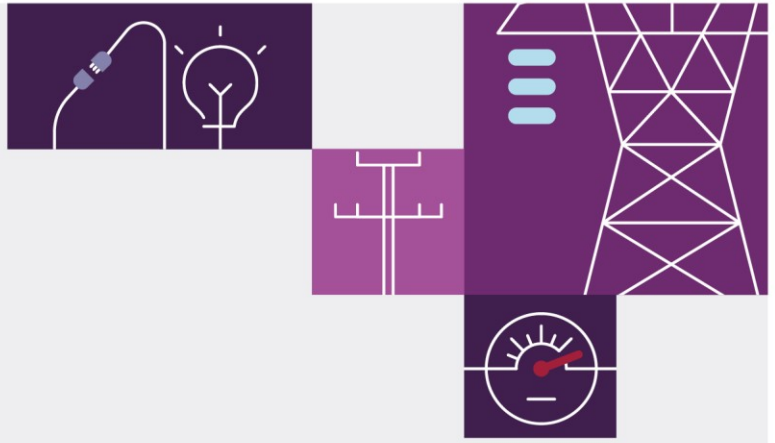


2024 Integrated System Plan Timetable

April 2024

A report for the National Electricity Market





Important notice

Purpose

AEMO publishes the 2024 Integrated System Plan Timetable under clause 5.22.4 of the National Electricity Rules.

This publication has been prepared by AEMO using information available at 12 April 2024. Information made available after this date may have been included in this publication where practical.

Disclaimer

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Version control

Version	Release date	Changes
1.0	30/9/2022	Initial release
1.1	12/4/2024	Final 2024 ISP publication date changed from 28 June 2024 to 26 June 2024.



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1. Introduction

The Integrated System Plan (ISP) is a whole-of-system plan that provides an integrated roadmap for the efficient development of the National Electricity Market (NEM) for at least the next 20 years.

Leveraging expertise from across the industry will be pivotal in developing a robust plan that supports the long-term interests of energy consumers. AEMO is committed to facilitating a stakeholder engagement process that ensures a collaborative approach to developing the 2024 ISP. The 2024 ISP Timetable provides a high-level overview of the key milestones related to the 2024 ISP. This allows stakeholders to understand and engage in the ISP consultation process.

The ISP Timetable sets out the timing for:

- **The establishment of the ISP Consumer Panel** – AEMO has established the ISP Consumer Panel. The Panel will bring a consumer-focused perspective to the ISP development process. In particular, having regard to the long-term interests of consumers, the Panel is required to provide an assessment of the evidence and reasons supporting AEMO’s conclusions in the Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report (IASR) and Draft ISP.
- **The establishment of the AEMO Community Advisory Council (CAC)** – AEMO intends to establish a CAC by 30 November 2022. The CAC will provide strategic insights and advice on social license risks that may impact the development of new energy infrastructure identified in the last ISP.
- **Draft IASR** – AEMO will publish a Draft IASR on 16 December 2022. The Draft IASR outlines, and seeks feedback on, the key inputs, assumptions and scenarios that will underpin the 2024 ISP modelling. AEMO has already begun early stakeholder engagement on scenarios through a series of public workshops to inform any adjustments to the draft scenario narratives.
- **Further updates and stakeholder opportunities for inputs** – due to input dependencies and the preference to use the latest information available not all inputs and assumptions for use in the 2024 ISP will be updated in the Draft IASR in December 2022. AEMO will consult on these as required.
- **IASR** – on 28 July 2023, the IASR will be released to incorporate stakeholder feedback on the Draft IASR, and to outline the final inputs and assumptions that will be used in the 2024 ISP. Due to the complexity and depth of modelling required, the draft ISP consultation will focus on modelling outcomes using IASR inputs and consequent decisions rather than the reasonableness of specific inputs and assumptions.
- **ISP Methodology** – by 31 March 2023, AEMO will seek feedback on proposed revision(s) to the ISP Methodology. On 30 June 2023 AEMO will publish the revised ISP Methodology for use in the 2024 ISP.
- **Draft ISP** – On 15 December 2023, the Draft ISP will set out, and seek feedback on, an optimal development path for the NEM. This draft will include preliminary information on actionable projects and will request submissions for non-network solutions to any new actionable projects.



- **ISP** – the final ISP report will be published on 26 June 2024. It will incorporate feedback from the Draft ISP and finalise an optimal development path for the NEM.

For the 2024 ISP, AEMO will follow the consultation process described by the National Electricity Rules (NER) and the Australian Energy Regulator’s (AER’s) Forecasting Best Practice Guidelines (FBPG) and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) Guidelines¹.

Consultation and dialogue with all NEM stakeholders is critical to AEMO’s role as the National Transmission Planner for the NEM, helping to improve and refine scenario development, forecasting, decision-making and assessment processes. The overall consultation process will provide a series of opportunities for stakeholder engagement. Throughout the development of the 2024 ISP, AEMO will monitor material change across the energy sector, and will consider whether there is a need to accelerate the ISP timeline. If there are any changes to the timing of key milestones, AEMO will update this ISP Timetable.

For more information on AEMO’s ISP consultation process, or to be informed of upcoming ISP workshops, please contact ISP@aemo.com.au.

¹ AER. Guidelines to make the integrated system plan actionable, at <https://www.aer.gov.au/networks-pipelines/guidelines-schemes-models-reviews/guidelines-to-make-the-integrated-system-plan-actionable/final-decision>.

2. 2024 ISP Timetable

The ISP Timetable provides information to stakeholders about the publication dates and timing of key milestones in the 2024 ISP development process. This Timetable outlines a series of consultative stages over a two-year period before the 2024 ISP is published on 26 June 2024.

AEMO is responsible for the development of the ISP. The purpose of the ISP is to:

“establish a whole of system plan for the efficient development of the power system that achieves power system needs for a planning horizon of at least 20 years for the long-term interests of the consumers of electricity.”²

AEMO publishes an ISP at least every two years. The current 2022 ISP was published on 30 June 2022 and is available on AEMO’s website³.

Timetable overview

The following diagram outlines the key milestones for the 2024 ISP. The dates for these milestones are presented in Table 1. All milestones captured are NER requirements except for:

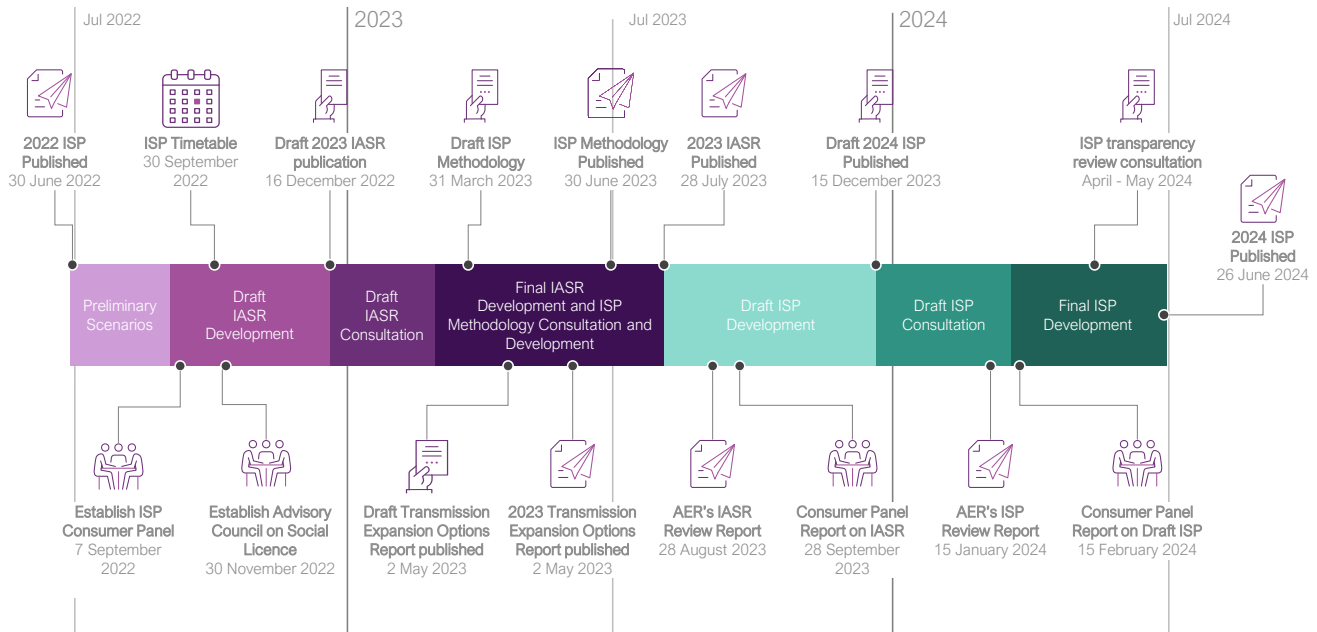
- The establishment of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) is an AEMO initiative to improve consideration of community sentiment and social licence – see section 4.
- The ISP Methodology will be updated earlier than required (in 2023 rather than 2025) – see section 6.

Throughout the development of the 2024 ISP, AEMO will monitor material change across the energy sector, and will consider whether there is a need to accelerate the ISP timeline. In April 2024, AEMO decided to change the final ISP publication date from 28 June 2024 to 26 June 2024.

² NER clause 5.22.2

³ At <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2022-integrated-system-plan-isp>.

Figure 1 Timetable milestones



* The establishment of the ACSL is an initiative undertaken by AEMO for the 2024 ISP, this is not an NER requirement.

This report will be updated if the timing of milestones required by the NER changes. Further information about the purpose of these milestones and their role in the wider ISP process is presented in the following sections of this report.

Table 1 Timetable milestones

Publication	Timing	Responsibility
ISP Timetable	30 September 2022	AEMO
Establish ISP Consumer Panel	7 September 2022	AEMO
Establish AEMO Community Advisory Council ^A	By 30 November 2022	AEMO
Draft IASR (Consultation)	16 December 2022	AEMO
Draft ISP Methodology (Consultation)	31 March 2023	AEMO
ISP Methodology ^B	30 June 2023	AEMO
Preparatory Activity Reports	By 30 June 2023 ^C	AEMO (Victorian Planner), ElectraNet, Powerlink and Transgrid
IASR	28 July 2023	AEMO
AER's IASR Review Report	By 28 August 2023 ^D	AER
Consumer Panel Report on IASR	By 28 September 2023 ^E	ISP consumer panel
Draft 2024 ISP	15 December 2023	AEMO
AER's ISP Review Report	By 15 January 2024 ^F	AER
Consumer Panel Report on Draft ISP	By 15 February 2024 ^E	ISP consumer panel
2024 ISP	26 June 2024	AEMO

A. The establishment of the CAC is an initiative undertaken by AEMO to improve consideration of community sentiment and social licence for the 2024 ISP, this is not a rule requirement – see Section 4.

B. AEMO is required to review its ISP Methodology at least every four years. If AEMO considers a material change in circumstances justifies an earlier review, AEMO is required to run a single stage consultation process. AEMO consider that an earlier review is warranted to further enhance the ISP Methodology – see Section 6.

- C. AEMO (Victorian Planning), ElectraNet, Powerlink and Transgrid are required to produce preparatory activity reports on Future ISP Projects by 30 June 2023. AEMO intends to release these reports once they are available. See Section 7 for more information.
- D. The AER must publish the IASR Review Report within one month of AEMO publishing the IASR. This report will assess whether AEMO has adequately explained the derivation of key inputs and assumptions, how they changed since the previous ISP, and whether they were derived from verifiable sources or adequate consultation.
- E. The ISP Consumer Panel must give a consumer panel report to AEMO within two months of AEMO publishing the IASR and the Draft ISP. AEMO will publish these reports on its website.
- F. The AER must publish the ISP Review Report within one month of AEMO publishing the Draft ISP. This report will assess whether AEMO has adequately explained the derivation of key input and assumptions and how they contribute to the outcomes in the Draft ISP.

Milestone dependencies

The ISP milestones are inter-related, and some later milestones are dependent on the successful completion of early milestones. Figure 2 shows how the milestones relate to each other, as well as the activities and engagements surrounding them⁴. Notably, the following are pre-conditions for AEMO to finalise the IASR:

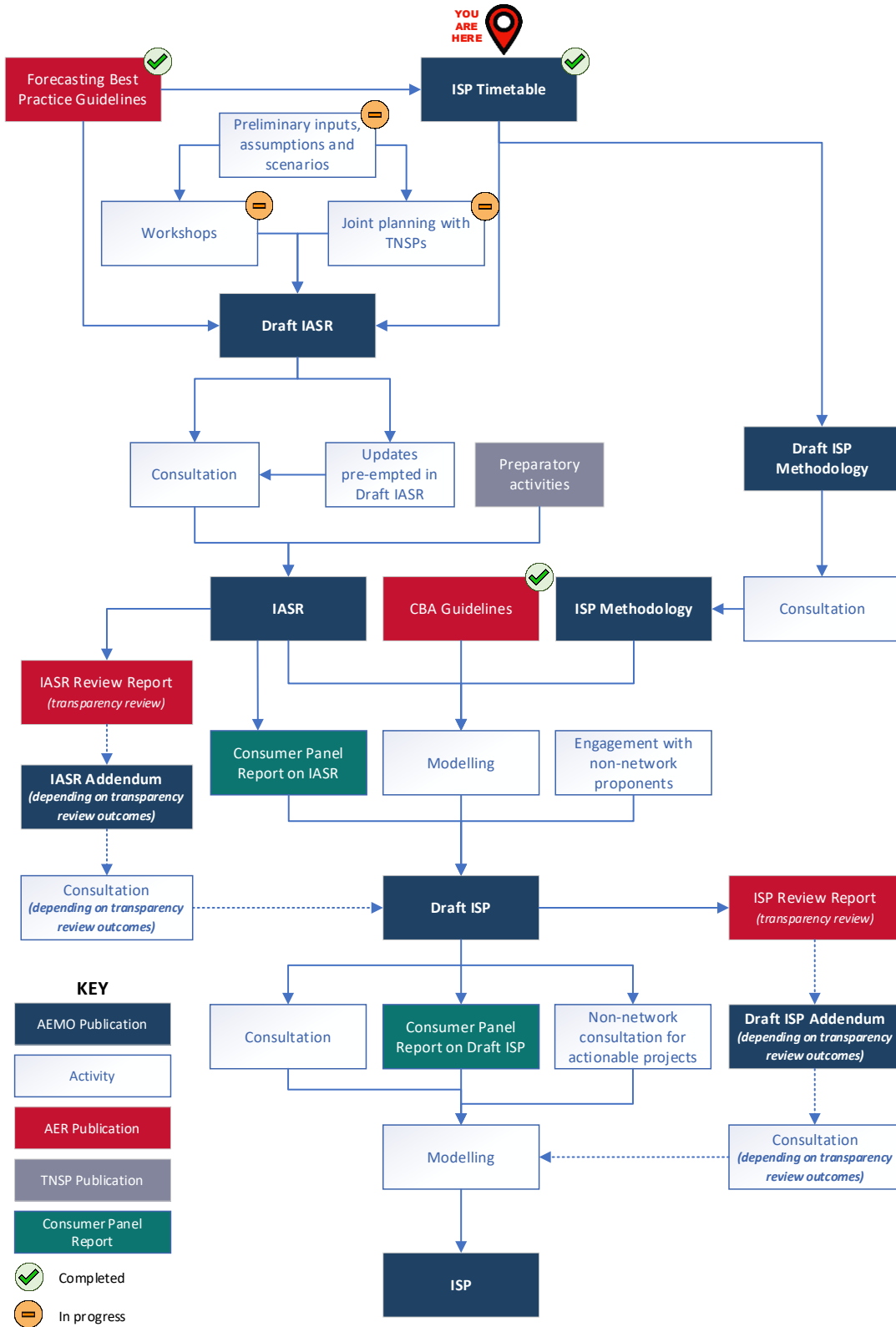
- The Draft IASR has been published.
- Stakeholder feedback to the Draft IASR has been received and incorporated⁵.
- The preparatory activities reports have been completed (due 30 June 2023 – see Section 7).

Similarly, the Draft ISP requires successful completion of an ISP Methodology and IASR. Although AEMO is not required to update the ISP Methodology until 2025, AEMO will conduct a review in 2023 to ensure that it remains fit for purpose – see Section 6.

⁴ AEMO will be consulting with the AER and the Consumer Panel throughout the ISP processes.

⁵ In some instances, Draft IASR inputs must be finalised before determining other variables for the IASR. In these instances, AEMO will engage appropriately on new information once it is available. For example, the scenarios and economic drivers resulting from the Draft IASR will influence demand projections in the Final IASR. Draft demand forecasts will be consulted on via the Forecasting Reference Group.

Figure 2 Milestone dependencies



3. Stakeholder engagement overview

AEMO welcomes the very high stakeholder participation that has been experienced in the ISP process, and is committed to engaging effectively and meaningfully at all stages of the ISP development process.

For the 2024 ISP, AEMO intends to build on its consultation process from previous ISPs, using the principles from the AER's FBPG and CBA Guidelines⁶. In particular, AEMO recognises that effective engagement occurs when the scope of each element is clearly defined, and participants are given the information and opportunity they need to participate.

To maximise the effectiveness of stakeholder participation in the ISP process, AEMO is developing a 2024 ISP External Engagement Strategy. The 2024 ISP External Engagement Strategy will be published in draft form, with feedback invited before its finalisation – including from the ISP Consumer Panel.

AEMO recognises that stakeholder engagement is a critical part of the ISP development process. Drawing on constructive and critical input from all parties, and aligning the ISP development approach with the Actionable ISP Rules and the AER's FBPG and CBA Guidelines, allows AEMO to deliver an ISP that supports the future energy needs of the NEM.

When to get involved

The ISP Timetable provides stakeholders with key milestone dates for the development of the 2024 ISP. The main stages of consultation for this ISP include:

- **IASR** – this will include the key inputs, assumptions and scenarios that will underpin the 2024 ISP. This process started in July 2022, continues until July 2023 and includes publication for consultation of a Draft IASR in December 2022. Stakeholders who are interested in helping shape the inputs, assumptions and scenarios are invited to participate in the IASR consultation – see Section 5.
- **ISP Methodology** – this document will describe the engineering and analytical processes through which inputs, assumptions and scenarios are applied to determine development paths. This process will occur from March 2023 until late June 2023. Stakeholders with an interest in the methodology and analysis are invited to participate in the ISP Methodology consultation – see Section 6.
- **Draft ISP** – once the inputs, assumptions, scenarios and methodology are determined, AEMO will produce and consult on a Draft ISP. Feedback from the Draft ISP will be used to finalise the 2024 ISP. Stakeholders with an interest in the outcomes of the ISP are encouraged to participate in the Draft ISP consultation starting in December 2023 – see Section 8.

How to get involved

AEMO will facilitate broad stakeholder consultation through avenues such as written submissions, in-person discussions, workshops, webinars, and briefings. This diversity of approaches takes account of the time and resource constraints consumer groups and stakeholders face. This means considering alternative communication methods including additional forums and allowing extra review time of material, where practicable, prior to

⁶ AER. Guidelines to make the integrated system plan actionable, at <https://www.aer.gov.au/networks-pipelines/guidelines-schemes-models-reviews/guidelines-to-make-the-integrated-system-plan-actionable/final-decision>.

workshops. AEMO will use the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum⁷ to frame the purpose and scope of each stage of consultation.

AEMO will provide stakeholders with up-to-date information on opportunities to contribute to the ISP's development through AEMO's website and email notifications. Specifically:

- The 2024 ISP Opportunities for Engagement page⁸ on AEMO's website. This is where AEMO will publish details and registration links of all public events, as well as recordings and other materials of completed engagements.
- Stakeholders can join the ISP mailing list⁹. Announcements of all public events and major publications will be sent to this list.

The establishment of the ISP Consumer Panel and Community Advisory Council (see Section 4) also provides AEMO with the ability to further understand consumer expectations and perspectives, and incorporate these more effectively throughout the ISP development process.

⁷ International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). *Public Participation Spectrum*, at <https://www.iap2.org.au/resources/spectrum/>. The spectrum consists of five parts: inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower.

⁸ See <https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2024-integrated-system-plan-isp/opportunities-for-engagement>.

⁹ Join the mailing list at <https://aemo.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=eae433173c2b1acb87c5b07d1&id=37df37c168>.

4. ISP Consumer Panel and AEMO Community Advisory Council

ISP Consumer Panel

AEMO has established an ISP Consumer Panel, consistent with the NER¹⁰, to inform the development of the 2024 ISP. The ISP Consumer Panel consists of four members who have qualifications and experience in fields AEMO considers relevant to the assessment of the ISP and experience representing consumer interests.

As stated in the Terms of Reference (ToR), the role of the ISP Consumer Panel is to bring a consumer-focused perspective to the ISP development process. AEMO will engage with the ISP Consumer Panel on a continuous and ongoing basis, seeking advice and input on matters of both substance and process. As part of its work, the ISP Consumer Panel will provide two reports to AEMO, as required by the NER. These reports will provide an assessment of the evidence and reasons supporting AEMO's conclusions in the IASR and Draft ISP, having regard to the long-term interests of consumers.

Feedback from the ISP Consumer Panel will be taken into account in the development of the IASR and the ISP. To promote the effective production of the consumer panel reports, AEMO intends to engage with the Panel throughout the ISP development process. Such engagement supports the Panel's timely consideration and communication, and allows for AEMO's approach to be adjusted where appropriate. AEMO considers this process to be particularly important because the ISP Consumer Panel is not required to produce its first report until two months after the IASR is finalised, with the second report coming two months after the Draft ISP is published.

AEMO published a call for expressions of interest (EOI), including ToR, on 15 August 2022¹¹. Fifteen EOIs were received. The ISP Consumer Panel was appointed on 7 September 2022.

AEMO Community Advisory Council (CAC)

Execution of the significant infrastructure development program foreshadowed in the ISP will require coordination and consideration of a range of issues/risks and opportunities by many stakeholders, including all levels of government, industry, consumers, First Nations, landholders and communities.

AEMO considers it crucial to better understand broader community sentiment, execution issues/risks and possible opportunities and pathways forward, with a view to factoring these insights into the development of the ISP. In particular, an inability to secure community acceptance or 'social licence' for new infrastructure can create significant project delays, increase cost, and threaten the delivery of infrastructure vital for Australia's transition to net zero by 2050. A better understanding of the potential for these delays, and their magnitude, will allow a valuable additional factor to be considered in the ISP.

AEMO is therefore establishing the CAC to help gain this understanding, for both the ISP development process and the execution of its role more generally. The CAC will work closely with the ISP Consumer Panel, among

¹⁰ NER Clause 5.22.7

¹¹ AEMO, ISP Consumer Panel – Terms of Reference and Call for Expressions of Interest, at <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2024-integrated-system-plan-isp>.



others. AEMO published a call for EOIs¹² to join the CAC on 6 September 2022, including ToR. AEMO will establish the CAC by 30 November 2022.

¹² AEMO, ISP Community Advisory Council – Terms of Reference and Call for Expression of Interest, at <https://aemo.com.au/consultations/industry-forums-and-working-groups/list-of-industry-forums-and-working-groups/community-advisory-council>.

5. Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report (IASR)

AEMO develops, consults and publishes an IASR to be used for the ISP. AEMO is committed to consulting with all interested stakeholders on inputs, assumptions and scenarios to ensure a plausible range of internally consistent futures are considered when planning the power system needs of the future NEM. By following the consultation requirements in the NER and in the FBPG¹³, the ISP will be transparent, follow well-understood methodologies, and provide opportunities for quality engagement.

The engagement process for the 2024 ISP will consider inputs and assumptions including, but not limited to:

- Policy, technical and economic settings affecting energy supplies and demand.
- Components that influence energy consumption (and peak demands), including the influence of:
 - Demand side participation (DSP).
 - Uptake of distributed energy resources (DER).
- Existing generation technical and economic assumptions, including:
 - Fuel costs.
 - New generation and storage technology costs and improvements over time.
- Transmission development options and non-network alternatives, including:
 - Renewable energy zone (REZ) augmentation options.
 - Flow path augmentation options.
 - Network losses and marginal loss factors.
- Other sectoral influences, such as hydrogen developments and gas modelling assumptions

AEMO will also consult with transmission network service providers (TNSPs) and distribution network service providers (DNSPs) on relevant inputs and assumptions as part of its joint planning processes.

Following the release of the IASR by 28 July 2023, AEMO will use the scenarios and other inputs and assumptions to assess potential development paths for the ISP. AEMO will also incorporate the feedback from the ISP Consumer Panel report on the IASR and the AER transparency review on the IASR into the Draft ISP.

Consultation on AEMO's IASR will proceed from December 2022 to early February 2023. Following subsequent stakeholder engagement, development of forecast components, and the availability of Preparatory Activity Reports (see Section 7), the IASR will be published by 28 July 2023.

Table 2 IASR timetable

Milestones	Timing
Draft IASR	16 December 2022

¹³ AER, Forecasting Best Practice Guidelines (section 2.2), at <https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/AER%20-%20Forecasting%20best%20practice%20guidelines%20-%202025%20August%202220.pdf>.



Milestones	Timing
IASR	28 July 2023

6. ISP Methodology

One of the key documents for the ISP is the ISP Methodology, which must contain the cost benefit analysis and modelling methodologies used in developing the ISP¹⁴.

In 2021, AEMO prepared the ISP Methodology according to the requirements of the AER's FBPG and CBA Guidelines¹⁵. This included providing a transparent process, supporting and working with stakeholders in their understanding of AEMO's analysis, methodologies and data, and providing additional information to complement the formal documentation.

AEMO is required to review its ISP methodology at least every four years. If AEMO considers a material change in circumstances justifies an earlier review, AEMO is required to run a single stage consultation process. AEMO consider that an earlier review is warranted to further enhance the ISP Methodology to consider:

- The impacts of network losses on future REZ developments where applicable.
- The impact of retiring dispatchable generation on REZ network limits.
- An approach to refine assumptions for variable renewable energy (VRE) capability and limits based on consideration of land use and resource quality.
- Transmission project lead time uncertainty and how it influences the actionability of projects.

AEMO will be consulting on an update to the ISP Methodology. The stakeholder engagement of the Draft ISP Methodology will run from March 2023 to May 2023. AEMO may use a range of engagements – such as briefings, webinars, workshops and one-on-one meetings – to allow a broad range of stakeholders to take part in this process.

The updated ISP Methodology will be published on 30 June 2023.

Table 3 ISP Methodology timetable

Milestone	Date
Draft ISP Methodology	31 March 2023
ISP Methodology	30 June 2023

¹⁵ AER. Guidelines to make the integrated system plan actionable, at <https://www.aer.gov.au/networks-pipelines/guidelines-schemes-models-reviews/guidelines-to-make-the-integrated-system-plan-actionable/final-decision>.

7. Preparatory activities

In the 2022 ISP, AEMO identified six future ISP projects that require preparatory activities to be carried out. These projects were not listed as “actionable”, but it is expected they might become actionable in the future and they were included as part of the 2022 ISP optimal development path.

TNSPs are responsible for conducting preparatory activities to develop the design and to improve the cost estimate of the project. This improves the quality of cost benefit analysis of these future ISP projects with preparatory activities and the overall optimal development path¹⁶.

Preparatory activities triggered for the 2024 ISP include the following scope:

- Preliminary engineering design.
- Desktop easement assessment.
- Cost estimates based on preliminary engineering design and route selection.
- Preliminary assessment of environmental and planning approvals.
- Appropriate stakeholder engagement.

In the 2022 ISP, AEMO recommended preparatory activities for six projects which are listed below.

Table 4 Preparatory activities triggered in the 2022 ISP

Project	Responsible TNSP(s)	Preparatory activities required
South East SA REZ expansion (Stage 1)	ElectraNet	AEMO requires that the responsible TNSPs undertake the following preparatory activities by 30 June 2023 for each project listed in this table, including publishing a report on the outcome of these activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary engineering design. • Desktop easement assessment. • Cost estimates based on preliminary engineering design and route selection. • Preliminary assessment of environmental and planning approvals. • Appropriate stakeholder engagement.
Darling Downs REZ Expansion (Stage 1)	Powerlink	
Mid-North SA REZ Expansion	ElectraNet	
QNI Connect (500 kilovolt [kV] option)	Powerlink and Transgrid	
QNI Connect (330 kV option – NSW scope)	Transgrid†	
South West Victoria REZ Expansion	AEMO Victorian Planning	
Central to Southern Queensland	Powerlink	
Gladstone Grid Reinforcement	Powerlink	
QNI Connect (330 kV option – Queensland scope)	Powerlink	
		No action required – AEMO will escalate costs from previous Preparatory Activities.

The 2022 ISP requires Powerlink, Transgrid, AEMO Victorian Planning and ElectraNet to produce preparatory activity reports for these projects by 30 June 2023¹⁷. AEMO will release these reports on its website once they are available.

¹⁶ NER clause 5.10.2

¹⁷ 2022 ISP, p94, at <https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/major-publications/isp/2022/2022-documents/2022-integrated-system-plan-isp.pdf?la=en>.

8. Draft and Final ISP

Draft 2024 ISP

The Draft 2024 ISP will set out a preliminary optimal development path for Australia’s energy future. During the development of the ISP, the Draft ISP is published to enable consultation on key outputs and ensure that the data and information in the final ISP is of high quality. As part of the Draft ISP development process, AEMO will engage with non-network proponents¹⁸ on non-network options for potential actionable projects.

AEMO will undertake extensive engagement on the Draft ISP through stakeholder events such as workshops, webinars and briefings. The AER’s FBPG provide AEMO with key principles for its consultation processes and engagement. Feedback from the Draft 2022 ISP made the 2022 ISP more robust and fit for purpose.

AEMO will issue a consultation on non-network options for any new potentially actionable projects at the same time it issues the Draft ISP consultation. This process aims to encourage submissions from proponents about how a non-network option might address the identified need of the Draft ISP’s actionable projects. The proponents will have 12 weeks to submit non-network proposals following the publication of the Draft ISP.

At the conclusion of the non-network consultation, AEMO will conduct a preliminary review of the proposals together with the relevant TNSP(s), where appropriate, as part of the joint planning process. If the relevant project identified in the Draft ISP remains an actionable ISP project in the final ISP, AEMO will make an assessment as part of the final ISP on whether any non-network proposals meet, or are reasonably likely to meet, the identified need. Proposals that meet, or are reasonably likely to meet, the identified need must be assessed by the relevant TNSP in its Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR).

AEMO plans to release the Draft ISP on 15 December 2023 and will invite written submissions by 16 February 2024. Submissions for non-network proposals will be requested by 8 March 2024.

Final 2024 ISP

The 2024 ISP will identify the optimal development path for the NEM, consisting of ISP projects and development opportunities. If the 2024 ISP identifies an additional actionable project not included in the Draft ISP, AEMO will publish a notice requesting submissions for non-network options on the project alongside the ISP. The results of the consultation process will then be reviewed by AEMO and the relevant TNSP and incorporated into a PADR where appropriate.

Stakeholder engagement is pivotal in developing a robust ISP that will be an effective resource for industry on the future development of the NEM. After the consultation process is completed, the 2024 ISP will be published on 26 June 2024. Throughout the development of the 2024 ISP, AEMO will monitor material change across the energy sector, and will consider whether there is a need to accelerate the ISP timeline.

Table 5 Draft and Final ISP timetable

Milestone	Date
Draft ISP	15 December 2023

¹⁸ AEMO will also undertake early engagement with non-network proponents as part of the IASR to gather information in relation to non-network options.



Milestone	Date
Final ISP	26 June 2024