

# 2026 Integrated System Plan (ISP)

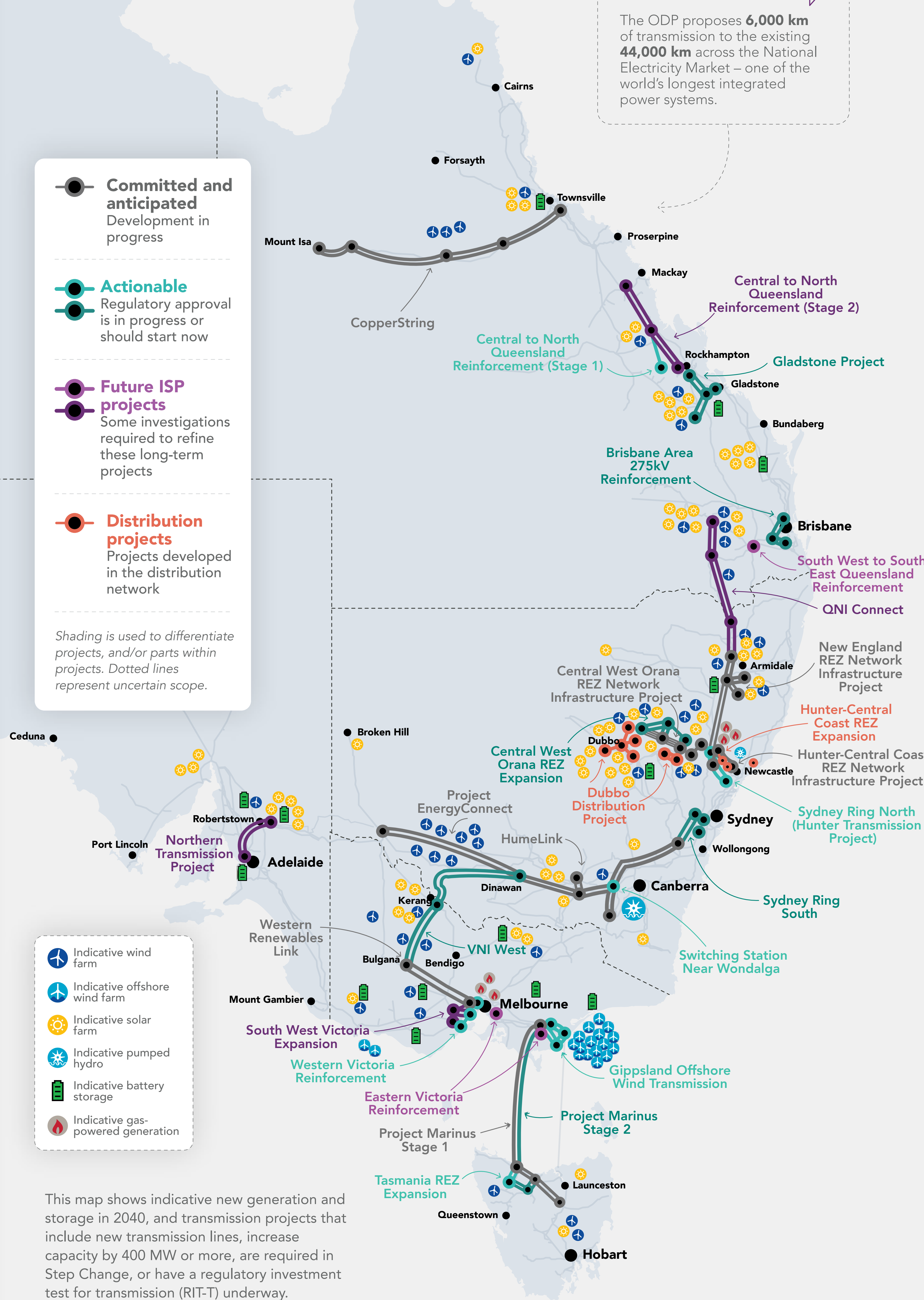
Every two years, AEMO publishes the Integrated System Plan (ISP) under the National Electricity Rules.

It sets out how to meet consumer electricity needs and government energy policies across the National Electricity Market (NEM) through to 2050.

At its core is the optimal development path (ODP) – the least-cost mix of grid-scale generation, storage and transmission to replace retiring coal plants, meet a near doubling of electricity consumption, and deliver emissions and energy targets.

Consistent with previous ISPs, the 2026 ISP reaffirms that renewable energy, connected by transmission and distribution, firmed with storage and backed up by gas, is the least-cost way forward for Australia.

## Transmission projects in the optimal development path (ODP)



## Consultation

In developing the 2026 ISP, a record level of stakeholder consultation was undertaken and formal submissions considered.

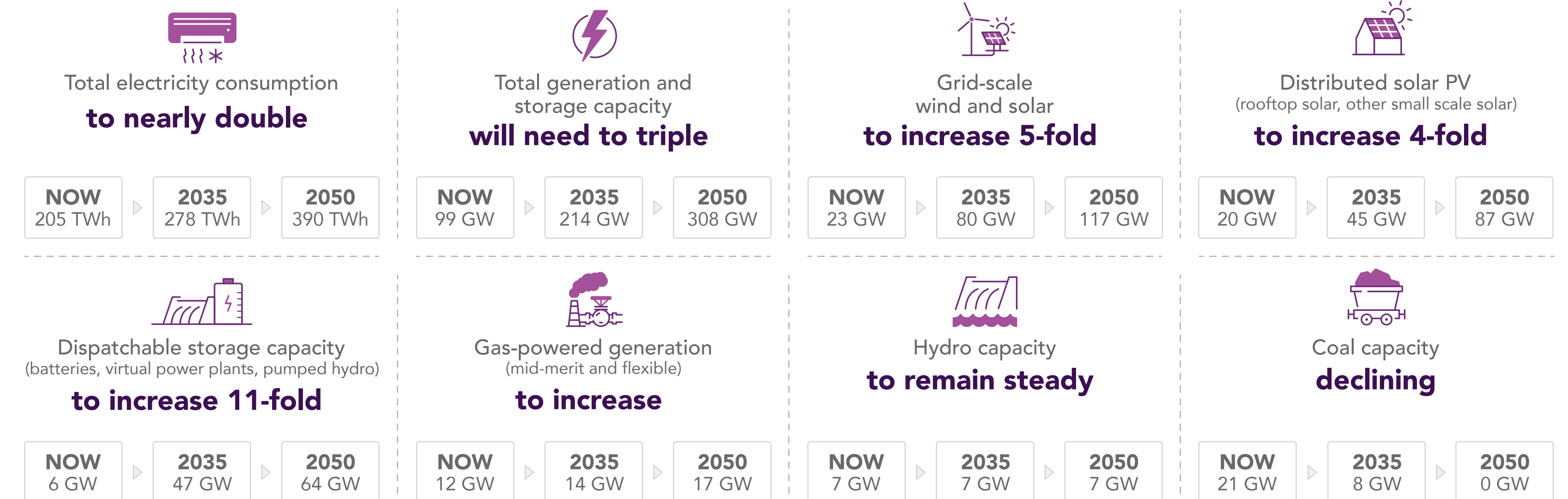
**1,940**  
stakeholders engaged

**19**  
webinars and workshops hosted

**62**  
reports and reference material

**333**  
stakeholder submissions

## Expected energy transition to 2050 ('Step Change' scenario)



## Developing the ODP

AEMO works with stakeholders – including consumer groups, governments, and industry – to gather insights on future energy needs, technology costs and policy settings.

Using this input, AEMO models around a thousand different combinations of generation, storage, transmission and distribution investments across the NEM, shortlisting more than 30 candidate paths.

Each option is then tested against costs, benefits, scenarios and sensitivities to select the path that delivers secure, reliable electricity at the lowest overall cost while meeting energy and emissions targets – the ODP.

## Cost and benefits (Step Change scenario to 2050)

The annualised capital cost of all future utility-scale generation, storage and transmission and distribution infrastructure in the ODP has a present value of \$106 billion.

The transmission projects (actionable and future) in the ODP would deliver significant benefits, saving consumers \$30 billion in avoided capital, operating and fuel costs compared to a pathway without these transmission investments.

Scan to download the 2026 ISP Overview and Report

