

2028 Integrated System Plan Timetable

September 2026

A report for the National Electricity Market





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

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

AEMO is proud to have launched its Innovate [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP) in June 2026. Pictured left and featuring on the cover of the Innovate RAP is Wiradjuri artist Lani Balzan's 'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path', a visual representation of our ongoing journey towards reconciliation – a collaborative endeavour that honours First Nations cultures, fosters mutual understanding, and paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Important notice

Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to set out the timing for matters relating to the preparation and publication of the 2028 *Integrated System Plan*.

AEMO publishes this 2028 *Integrated System Plan Timetable* in accordance with clause 5.22.4 of the National Electricity Rules. This publication is generally based on information available to AEMO as at 24 September 2026 unless otherwise indicated.

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Version control

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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. This document, the *2028 Integrated System Plan Timetable* (2028 ISP Timetable), provides a high-level overview of the key milestones related to the 2028 ISP. This enables stakeholders to understand and effectively engage in the ISP development process.

AEMO is committed to continually improving how it engages with stakeholders. Leveraging expertise from across industry and energy consumer representatives will be pivotal in developing a robust 2028 ISP that achieves power system needs, meets government policies and supports the long-term interests of energy consumers. The 2028 ISP engagement approach considers stakeholder feedback, lessons learned from previous ISP consultations, and broader reviews relating to AEMO and the ISP framework. Further information will be published in late-2026.

The 2028 ISP Timetable sets out the timing for:

- **The establishment of the ISP Consumer Panel** – AEMO established the 2028 ISP Consumer Panel on 14 May 2026. The role of the ISP Consumer Panel is to bring a consumer-focused perspective to the ISP development process. In particular, having regard to the long-term interests of consumers, the ISP Consumer 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.
- **Draft IASR** – AEMO will publish a Draft IASR on 8 December 2026. The Draft IASR outlines, and seeks feedback on, the key inputs, assumptions and scenarios that will underpin the 2028 ISP modelling.
- **IASR** – on 29 July 2027, AEMO will release the IASR. As part of the IASR, the *Electricity Network Options Report* and *Gas Infrastructure Options Report* will be published. The IASR will consider stakeholder feedback provided on the Draft IASR (and Draft *Electricity Network Options Report* and Draft *Gas Infrastructure Options Report*) and any subsequent updates, outlining the final scenarios, inputs and assumptions that will be used in the 2028 ISP.
- **Demand-side Statement of Opportunities** – AEMO will publish the inaugural *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* on 8 December 2026, as a draft for stakeholder feedback, prior to being finalised in July 2027. The *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* may provide information that is relevant to AEMO's consideration of demand-side factors in the 2028 ISP.
- **ISP Methodology** – on 18 February 2027, AEMO will release a consultation paper and draft *ISP Methodology*, to initiate a consultation process to review and update the *ISP Methodology*. On 24 June 2027, AEMO will publish the updated *ISP Methodology* for use in the 2028 ISP.
- **Draft ISP** – on 15 December 2027, the Draft ISP will set out, and seek feedback on, a proposed optimal development path for the NEM. The Draft ISP includes substantial information on proposed actionable ISP projects to enable consultation and support submissions for non-network solutions.
- **ISP** – the final ISP report will be published on 29 June 2028. It will incorporate feedback from the Draft ISP and finalise an optimal development path for the NEM.

Consultation and dialogue with a wide range of NEM stakeholders is critical to AEMO's role as the National Transmission Planner for the NEM, helping 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 2028 ISP, AEMO will monitor changes across the energy sector, and will consider whether there is a need to modify the ISP timeline in response. If there are any changes to the timing of key milestones, AEMO will update and republish this ISP Timetable and explain the changes.

2028 ISP Engagement Plan

Alongside the release of the 2028 ISP Timetable, AEMO is developing its approach to stakeholder engagement throughout the 2028 ISP. The approach will support early testing of material assumptions, informed challenge of AEMO's analysis, and clear reporting of how stakeholder input has influenced the process.

The approach will distinguish between early engagement, formal consultation required under the National Electricity Rules (NER) or *Forecasting Best Practice Guidelines* (FBPG), and ongoing technical and stakeholder dialogue. For each major stage, AEMO will identify the matters open to influence, how stakeholders can participate, and how feedback will be considered and reported.

Building on lessons from the 2026 ISP, AEMO is considering opportunities to engage stakeholders earlier on key issues, provide greater clarity about what stakeholders can influence, improve the accessibility of engagement materials and activities, and more clearly explain how feedback has informed decisions. The approach will also consider how engagement can support participation by stakeholders with different interests, expertise and capacity to engage.

AEMO will also use established technical forums, including the Forecasting Reference Group (FRG), to support early dialogue on relevant forecasting inputs and developments. The FRG brings together AEMO and industry forecasting specialists to discuss matters relating to gas and electricity forecasting and market modelling.

AEMO will publish further information about its engagement approach in late 2026. In the meantime, AEMO will continue targeted engagement on matters requiring early input. Consultation on the Draft 2027 IASR will commence on 8 December 2026 as the next major formal engagement opportunity.

This engagement approach aligns with AEMO's broader commitment to improve engagement based on stakeholder feedback, lessons from previous consultations and broader reviews of AEMO and the ISP framework.

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

The ISP Timetable provides information to stakeholders about the publication dates and timing of key milestones in the 2028 ISP development process. This timetable outlines a series of engagement opportunities and consultative stages over a two-year period before the 2028 ISP is published on 29 June 2028.

"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 to contribute to achieving the national electricity objective."¹

Timetable overview

Figure 1 Timetable milestones



² See <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2026-integrated-system-plan-isp>.

³ AEMO publishes the *Gas Infrastructure Options Report* and *Electricity Network Options Report* to improve the accuracy and transparency of information about gas infrastructure and electricity transmission network augmentation options and distribution network opportunities used to develop the ISP. The reports are consulted on in the same way as, and are treated as part of, the IASR published in accordance with NER 5.22.8.

Table 1 Timetable milestones

Milestone	Timing	Responsibility
Establish ISP Consumer Panel	14 May 2026	AEMO
ISP Timetable	24 September 2026	AEMO
Draft <i>ISP Methodology</i> (Consultation)	18 February 2027	AEMO
Draft IASR (Consultation)	8 December 2026	AEMO
Draft <i>Demand-side Statement of Opportunities</i> (Consultation)	8 December 2026	AEMO
Draft <i>Gas Infrastructure Options Report</i> (Consultation)	8 December 2026	AEMO
Draft <i>Electricity Network Options Report</i> (Consultation)	15 April 2027	AEMO
<i>ISP Methodology</i>	24 June 2027	AEMO
Preparatory activity reports ^A	Not required	TNSPs ^A
IASR (including <i>Electricity Network Options Report</i> and <i>Gas Infrastructure Options Report</i>)	29 July 2027	AEMO
<i>Demand-side Statement of Opportunities</i> ^B	July 2027	AEMO
Australian Energy Regulator's (AER's) IASR Review Report	By 30 August 2027 ^C	AER
ISP Consumer Panel Report on IASR	By 30 September 2027 ^D	ISP Consumer Panel
Draft 2028 ISP	15 December 2027	AEMO
AER's ISP Review Report	By 17 January 2028 ^E	AER
ISP Consumer Panel Report on Draft ISP	By 17 February 2028 ^D	ISP Consumer Panel
2028 ISP	29 June 2028	AEMO

A. AEMO did not request any preparatory activities from transmission network service providers (TNSPs) in the 2026 ISP.

B. The inaugural *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* may inform analyses AEMO includes in the 2028 ISP, including the Demand Side Factors Statement. AEMO will publish a *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* Roadmap alongside the draft *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* which will consider appropriate interactions with AEMO's planning publications, including the ISP.

C. The AER must publish the IASR Review Report within one month of AEMO publishing the IASR.

D. The ISP Consumer Panel must give an ISP 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.

E. The AER must publish the ISP Review Report within one month of AEMO publishing the Draft ISP.

Further information about the purpose of these milestones is presented in the following sections of this report.

Milestone dependencies

The ISP milestones are inter-related, and some later milestones are dependent on the successful completion of earlier 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:

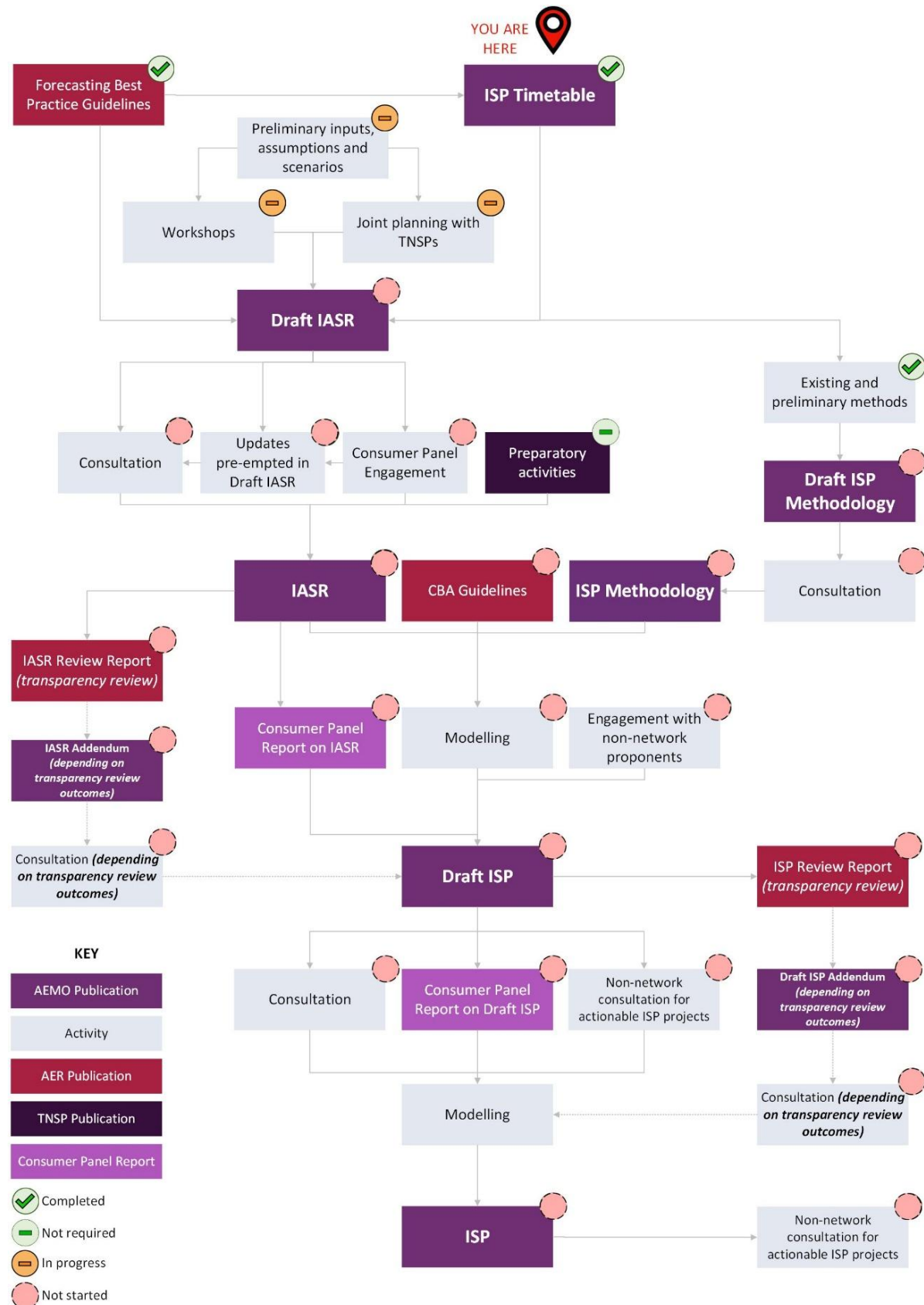
- The Draft IASR has been published.
- Stakeholder feedback to the Draft IASR has been received and considered⁵.
- Any required preparatory activities reports have been completed (see Section 6).

Similarly, the Draft ISP requires the application of a current *ISP Methodology* and the completion of an IASR.

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

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 FRG. The FRG is a monthly forum with AEMO and industry's forecasting specialists which facilitates constructive discussion on matters relating to gas and electricity forecasting and market modelling.

Figure 2 Milestone dependencies



TNSP: transmission network service provider.

3 ISP Consumer Panel and AEMO's Consumer and Community Reference Group

ISP Consumer Panel

The ISP Consumer Panel (the Panel) is an independent advisory body that provides a consumer-focused perspective to the ISP development process. AEMO will regularly engage with the Panel throughout the process, seeking advice and input on matters of both substance and process. As part of its work, the Panel will provide two reports to AEMO on the IASR and Draft ISP, as required by the NER. These reports must have regard to the national electricity objective and will provide the ISP Consumer Panel's assessment of the evidence and reasons supporting the IASR and Draft ISP.

AEMO considers feedback from the ISP Consumer Panel in developing the IASR and the ISP. To promote the effective development of the Panel reports, AEMO intends to regularly engage with the Panel throughout the ISP development process. Such engagement supports the Panel's timely consideration of issues relating to ISP development and allows for AEMO's approach to be adjusted where appropriate. AEMO considers ongoing engagement with the Panel to be particularly important because it produces both of its reports at more advanced stages of ISP development, with its first report to be produced after the IASR is finalised, and its second report produced two months after publication of the Draft ISP.

AEMO published a call for expressions of interest (EOI), including Terms of Reference (ToR), on 27 March 2026 and received 27 EOIs. AEMO announced membership for the 2028 ISP Consumer Panel, comprising four members, on 14 May 2026⁶. As required under the NER, the 2028 Panel consists of at least three members who have qualifications and experience in fields AEMO considers relevant to the assessment of the ISP and experience representing consumer interests.

AEMO's Consumer and Community Reference Group (CCRG)

As part of its commitment to engaging its stakeholders and putting people at the centre of the energy transition, AEMO established the Consumer and Community Reference Group (CCRG) in October 2024. The CCRG currently comprises 10 members with a diverse and broad range of experience, including several members who have served on previous ISP Consumer Panels. The CCRG provides strategic insights and advice to AEMO across a range of energy issues to deepen its knowledge and application of consumer and community perspectives within its day-to-day work and future planning. For the purposes of the ISP, this advice may include areas such as consumer energy resources (CER), First Nations perspectives, social licence, and community sentiment towards the energy transition and new infrastructure. These areas will be considered alongside broader stakeholder feedback in the development of ISP scenarios, assumptions, and strategic considerations. The CCRG's Terms of Reference are available on AEMO's website⁷ and the group will continue to provide consumer and community perspectives that help inform and shape future ISP development and associated engagement and consultation activities, where relevant.

⁶ Details about the 2028 ISP Consumer Panel are available at <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2026-integrated-system-plan-isp/2028-isp-consumer-panel>.

⁷ Details about AEMO's Consumer and Community Reference Group (CCRG) are available at <https://www.aemo.com.au/consultations/industry-forums-and-working-groups/list-of-industry-forums-and-working-groups/consumer-and-community-reference-group>.

4 Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report (IASR)

AEMO develops, consults and publishes an IASR to be used for the ISP (as well as for a range of AEMO's other planning and forecasting publications). 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 AER's FBPG⁸, the ISP will be transparent, follow well-understood methodologies, and provide opportunities for quality engagement.

The engagement process for the IASR that will apply for the 2028 ISP will help inform selection of inputs and assumptions including, but not limited to:

- policy, technical and economic settings affecting energy supply and demand,
- components that influence energy consumption (and peak demand), including the influence of demand side participation (DSP), energy efficiency and uptake of CER,
- existing generation technical and economic assumptions, including fuel costs, and new generation and storage technology costs and forecast changes over time,
- network development options and non-network alternatives, including renewable energy zone⁹ (REZ) augmentation options, flow path¹⁰ augmentation options and network losses and marginal loss factors, through joint planning with transmission network service providers (TNSPs) and distribution network service providers (DNSPs),
- gas infrastructure options and fuel limitations that may influence operation of, or investment in, gas-powered generation, and
- other sectoral influences, which include forecasts of large industrial loads (such as data centres and coal seam gas extraction), electrification of transport and buildings, and hydrogen developments.

Consultation on the Draft 2027 IASR will commence on 8 December 2026. Prior to the release of the Draft 2027 IASR, AEMO may provide informal engagement opportunities via relevant existing stakeholder forums, such as the FRG, to outline preliminary developments affecting its various forecasting processes and outcomes.

AEMO will publish the final IASR following consideration of stakeholder feedback to relevant consultation and engagement. While the publication date is noted as 29 July 2027, AEMO is exploring opportunities for an earlier publication to provide more time for modelling to inform the Draft 2028 ISP and will update the ISP Timetable if this publication date changes.

⁸ AER, FBPG (Section 2.2), at <https://www.aer.gov.au/industry/registers/resources/guidelines/forecasting-best-practice-guidelines>.

⁹ The ISP uses the term 'renewable energy zone' to refer to high-quality resource areas where clusters of large-scale renewable energy projects can be developed using economies of scale.

¹⁰ Flow paths represent cut-sets of the high-voltage transmission networks used to transport significant amounts of electricity between two adjacent sub-regions across the backbone of the network to load centres.

Table 2 IASR timetable

Milestones	Timing
Draft IASR	8 December 2026
IASR	29 July 2027

Electricity Network Options Report

The 2027 *Electricity Network Options Report*¹¹, which forms part of the IASR, informs the network inputs used in the 2028 ISP modelling. It identifies potential augmentation options in electricity networks within the NEM. AEMO consults on the *Electricity Network Options Report* by seeking feedback on potential electricity network augmentation options, non-network options, distribution network opportunities, and associated cost assumptions.

AEMO will publish the final 2027 *Electricity Network Options Report* including transmission, non-network and distribution investment opportunities, and further consideration of social licence for transmission, following consultation feedback. While the publication date is noted as 29 July 2027, AEMO is exploring opportunities for an earlier publication and will update the ISP Timetable if this publication date changes.

Table 3 Electricity Network Options Report timetable

Milestone	Date
Draft <i>Electricity Network Options Report</i>	15 April 2027
Final <i>Electricity Network Options Report</i>	29 July 2027

Gas Infrastructure Options Report

The 2027 *Gas Infrastructure Options Report*, which forms part of the IASR, outlines gas infrastructure options and gas infrastructure cost components that will be used to develop gas development projections for the 2028 ISP and its optimal development path. This ensures that the electricity investments — particularly in gas-powered generation (GPG) — consider and are resilient to the capacity, availability and limitations of gas as a fuel for electricity generation.

Consultation on the Draft 2027 *Gas Infrastructure Options Report* will commence on 8 December 2026. This is earlier in the ISP timetable than the Draft 2025 *Gas Infrastructure Options Report*, which was published on 22 May 2025. Publication of the draft report in December will allow the consultation window to also incorporate feedback and updates received through engagement opportunities during the development of the 2027 *Gas Statement of Opportunities*, which will be published by 31 March 2027.

AEMO will publish the final 2027 *Gas Infrastructure Options Report* following consultation feedback. While the publication date is noted as 29 July 2027, AEMO is exploring opportunities for an earlier publication and will update the ISP Timetable if this publication date changes.

¹¹ The *Electricity Network Options Report* previously had different names. For the 2024 ISP, it was called the *Transmission Expansion Options Report* (https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/major-publications/isp/2023/2023-transmission-expansion-options-report.pdf?rev=e6f6446146d349bfa7a042f6f9eda828&sc_lang=en), and for the 2022 ISP, it was called the *Transmission Cost Report* (https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/major-publications/isp/2021/transmission-cost-report.pdf?rev=6e606c0e224b4f9dbcab19fe112520d1&sc_lang=en).

Table 4 Gas Infrastructure Options Report timetable

Milestone	Date
Draft Gas Infrastructure Options Report	8 December 2026
Final Gas Infrastructure Options Report	29 July 2027

Demand-side Statement of Opportunities

The *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* is intended to provide information to decision-makers on opportunities for demand-side resources to contribute to a lower cost energy system and accelerate emissions reduction. The inaugural publication will be released as a draft for consultation, alongside a roadmap for its potential evolution over time and its influence and integration into energy system planning functions.

Consultation on the Draft 2027 *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* will commence on 8 December 2026, seeking stakeholder feedback on the insights regarding the opportunities for the demand-side. Among other influences, these insights may inform future demand-side factor analysis within the 2028 ISP.

AEMO intends to publish the final 2027 *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities* in July 2027. While not formally part of the IASR or ISP collection of reports, AEMO is including information on this inaugural publication considering its potential influence on the ISP. AEMO will update the ISP Timetable if this publication date changes.

Table 5 Demand-side Statement of Opportunities timetable

Milestone	Date
Draft Demand-side Statement of Opportunities	8 December 2026
Final Demand-side Statement of Opportunities	July 2027

5 ISP Methodology

A key document in preparing the ISP is the *ISP Methodology*, which must contain a cost benefit analysis and modelling methodology to be used for the ISP¹².

AEMO develops the *ISP Methodology* in accordance with the AER’s FBPG and *Cost Benefit Analysis Guidelines*¹³, and most recently undertook a comprehensive review of the methodology in 2025. That review included consultation on AEMO’s modelling approaches and cost benefit assessment methodologies, and focused on transparency and supporting and working with stakeholders in their understanding of AEMO’s analysis, methodologies and data.

The FBPG¹⁴ require AEMO to review its ISP methodology at least every four years through a two-stage consultation process. As the most recent four-year review was undertaken in 2025, the next mandatory review is due by mid-2029. AEMO may run a single-stage consultation more frequently than every four years to conduct a more limited review of discrete sections of the methodology.

For the 2028 ISP, AEMO proposes to undertake a targeted single-stage consultation on updates to the existing cost benefit analysis approach and modelling methodologies covered in the *ISP Methodology*. This consultation may include consideration of:

- insights or relevant methodological impacts from the Draft 2027 *Demand-side Statement of Opportunities*, and
- inclusion of outcomes from the draft report from the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC’s) ongoing review of the ISP framework, if those changes are confirmed in a final report and any associated rule changes and where they are relevant for the 2028 ISP.

Stakeholder engagement on the *ISP Methodology* will begin on 18 February 2027 with the release of a Draft *ISP Methodology* for consultation. Following consideration of stakeholder feedback through the consultation, the final *ISP Methodology* for use in preparing the 2028 ISP will be published on 24 June 2027.

Table 6 *ISP Methodology timetable*

Milestone	Date
Notice of Consultation on <i>ISP Methodology</i> – Draft <i>ISP Methodology</i>	18 February 2027
<i>ISP Methodology</i>	24 June 2027

¹² NER 5.22.8(d).

¹³ AER. *Cost Benefit Analysis Guidelines*, at <https://www.aer.gov.au/industry/registers/resources/guidelines/cost-benefit-analysis-guidelines/current-cba-guidelines>.

¹⁴ FBPG, Appendix A, Forecasting best practice consultation procedures.

6 Preparatory activities

Preparatory activities are defined in the NER as activities to design and investigate the costs and benefits of actionable ISP projects, future ISP projects, and REZ stages (as applicable). In an ISP, AEMO may specify activities, which must be carried out by a TNSP. AEMO did not identify any new preparatory activities in the 2026 ISP, and so no milestones associated with preparatory activities are noted in this Timetable.

7 Draft and final ISP

Draft 2028 ISP

The Draft 2028 ISP will set out a proposed optimal development path for the development of the NEM. Consultation on the Draft ISP improves the quality and robustness of the data, inputs and analysis in the final ISP.

The approach and activities associated with consultation on the Draft 2028 ISP will be informed by the 2028 ISP engagement plan currently under development. The AER's FBPG provide AEMO with best practice principles for its consultation processes and engagement, which AEMO must have regard to when developing the ISP.

If the Draft ISP identifies potentially actionable ISP projects, AEMO will issue a notice calling for non-network options¹⁵ alongside the Draft ISP consultation. This process aims to encourage submissions from proponents about how a non-network option might address some, or all of, the identified need of these 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 options consultation, AEMO will conduct a preliminary review of the proposals together with the relevant TNSPs, where appropriate, during the joint planning process¹⁶. 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 of whether any non-network proposals meet, or are reasonably likely to meet, or will not meet, the identified need. Proposals that are assessed to meet, or are reasonably likely to meet, the identified need must be considered by the relevant TNSP in its Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) as part of the Regulatory Impact Test for Transmission (RIT-T) process.

AEMO plans to release the Draft 2028 ISP on 15 December 2027 and will invite written submissions for non-network options proposals if the Draft ISP identifies new potentially actionable ISP projects. Proposals will need to be submitted by 9 March 2028.

Final 2028 ISP

The 2028 ISP will identify the optimal development path for the NEM, including actionable ISP projects, future ISP projects and development opportunities.

Stakeholder engagement is pivotal in developing a robust ISP that will be an effective resource for industry and policymakers on the future development of the NEM. After the consultation on the Draft 2028 ISP is completed and feedback taken into account, the 2028 ISP will be published on 29 June 2028. If the 2028 ISP identifies any actionable ISP project that was not identified in the Draft ISP, AEMO will publish a notice alongside the ISP requesting submissions for non-network options by 14 September 2028.

Throughout the development of the 2028 ISP, AEMO will monitor where there are changes across the energy sector which make it necessary or otherwise appropriate to revise and republish the ISP timeline.

¹⁵ AEMO will also undertake early engagement with non-network proponents as part of the IASR to gather information in relation to non-network options.

¹⁶ The joint planning process is carried out under NER 5.14.4.

Table 7 Draft and final ISP timetable

Milestone	Date
Draft ISP	15 December 2027
Draft ISP proposals for non-network options due	9 March 2028
Final ISP	29 June 2028
Final ISP proposals for non-network options due	14 September 2028