

Review of the Integrated System Plan framework

We have published a consultation paper seeking your feedback

We have published a consultation paper for a review of the Integrated System Plan (ISP) framework (the Review) in the National Electricity Rules (NER). The Review is a NER requirement and presents an opportunity to assess how the ISP framework best contributes to achieving the national electricity objective (NEO). We are required to complete the Review by 1 July 2027.

Submissions to the consultation paper are due by 19 February 2026.

The Commission published a Terms of Reference for the Review on 9 October 2025. The consultation paper is the first formal stage in our review process, and we are seeking your feedback on how we propose to approach this review, and the key issues that the review should explore to ensure the ISP best contributes to the long-term interests of consumers.

The Review is progressing alongside a rule change request on *Clarifying the treatment of jurisdictional policies and system costs in the ISP*. The Commission considers that progressing these two projects as a package will enable us to consider issues holistically, and identify and explore relationships between issues. It will also enable issues raised through consultation to be progressed through the most appropriate process and give stakeholders a holistic view of our ISP related work.

The Review is an opportunity to examine the ISP's ongoing contribution to the transition

The Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) ISP has played a central role as a long term guide to, and network plan for, the efficient development of the electricity system since 2018. It has evolved over time and the ISP today, and its place within the broader electricity network planning frameworks, reflects a number of reviews and reform processes. These have aimed to ensure the ISP keeps pace with the evolving context of the energy transition.

The ISP is a key planning document for electricity transmission businesses, covering a 20-year plus planning horizon. It triggers regulatory processes for actionable ISP projects including the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T). It is also a central reference point for jurisdictions and a trusted source of advice for the energy sector more broadly.

We acknowledge at the outset of the Review that coordinating the preparation, development and delivery of the ISP is challenging. We also recognise that because the future energy system is shaped by complex, rapidly changing or uncertain factors - including demand growth, technology costs, consumer behaviours, and market trends - the process of modelling potential futures is complex.

However, the ISP's role in a regulatory, policy and investment context means it is critical that the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has available and makes use of the best possible information, that its outputs are accurate within reason, and that stakeholders can engage with and understand its conclusions.

The ISP framework is made up of three rules which we will review

We are required to complete a review of the ISP framework as set out in rules 5.16A, 5.22 and 5.23 which are described below:

Table 1: Rules constituting the ISP framework and subject to review

RULES	HIGH LEVEL DESCRIPTION
5.16A	Application of the RIT-T to actionable ISP projects
5.22	Content, methodology and governance of the ISP: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose of the ISP• Power system needs• Document requirements• Relevant market benefits and costs• ISP timetable• Transparency review
5.23	Dispute resolution

Source: AEMC.

Note: Note: This is a non-exhaustive list of matters covered by the respective rules.

We explore each of those rules that make up the ISP framework, and how they are put into practice, in more detail in the consultation paper, including:

- The origins of the ISP
- Its evolution over time to meet changing needs
- How AEMO brings together information to undertake joint planning and in turn informs other processes
- The multi-step process for developing the ISP
- The interaction between the economic assessment process and the ISP, and
- The importance of consultation, transparency and dispute resolution.

The consultation paper also includes a proposed thematic approach to guide our consideration of matters throughout the Review, and our proposed assessment criteria for feedback.

We encourage you to provide feedback

We value your feedback and input to the Review and there are multiple options and opportunities to provide your feedback throughout the process. Written submissions responding to the consultation paper must be lodged by **19 February 2026**.

To make a submission, go to the Commission's [website](#), find the "lodge a submission" function under the "Contact Us" tab, and select the project reference code **EPR0092**.

For information contact:

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18 December 2025