

Schedule of reliability settings – 2026-27 financial year

27 February 2026

Purpose of this schedule

The National Electricity Rules (NER) require the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) to calculate the market price cap (MPC) and the cumulative price threshold (CPT) to apply on and from 1 July each year. The AEMC is to complete the calculation by 28 February each year and to publish its calculations on its website as part of a schedule of reliability settings. This schedule is published in accordance with these requirements.

MPC and CPT for the 2026-27 financial year

On 7 December 2023, the AEMC published a final rule for the *Amendment of the Market Price Cap, Cumulative Price Threshold and Administered Price Cap rule change*.¹ Under the new rule, the base value of the:

- MPC progressively increases from \$18,600/MWh on 1 July 2025 to \$22,800/MWh on 1 July 2027
- CPT progressively increases from \$1,674,000/MWh (or 7.5 hours at the MPC) on 1 July 2025 to \$2,325,600/MWh (or 8.5 hours at the MPC) on 1 July 2027.

The MPC and CPT are still indexation adjusted with the increased base values, using the calculations set out in clauses 3.9.4(d) and (e) and 3.14.1(e) and (f) of the NER. The new base year for indexing is 2022.

Applying the requirements under the NER, the AEMC has calculated the MPC and CPT values to apply for the 2025-26 financial year. The current values for 2025-26, the increased base values from the December 2023 final rule (in \$2022), and the adjusted values for 2025-26 are as follows:

	From 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	New Base Value (2022)	From 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027
MPC	\$20,300/MWh	\$20,700/MWh	\$23,200/MWh
CPT	\$1,823,600/MWh	\$1,987,200/MWh	\$2,225,900/MWh

Details of the calculations are set out in this schedule.

Requirements under the National Electricity Rules

The requirements for the AEMC to undertake the calculations of the MPC and CPT are set out in clauses 3.9.4(c) and 3.14.1(d) of the NER, respectively. Clauses 3.9.4(d) and (e), and 3.14.1(e) and (f) also set out the specific formulae that must be used by the AEMC.

Calculation of the MPC

Clauses 3.9.4 (d) and (e) of the NER set out the method and formula with which the MPC is to be indexed. The AEMC's calculation, in accordance with these provisions, is outlined below.

¹ Further information on the rule change can be found [here](#).

In accordance with information published by the ABS, the Reliability Settings Index values are:²

	year c (2025)	year b (2022)
Q₁	97.70	86.05
Q₂	98.43	87.59
Q₃	99.73	89.20
Q₄	100.32	90.85
sum	396.18	353.69

The following formula is used to calculate the MPC:

$$MPC^x = BV^{MPC} \times \frac{(Q_1^c + Q_2^c + Q_3^c + Q_4^c)}{(Q_1^b + Q_2^b + Q_3^b + Q_4^b)}$$

Where:

MPC is the market price cap in dollars per MWh

x is the financial year for which the MPC is being calculated, which in this case is the 2026-27 financial year

BV^{MPC} is \$20,700/MWh

Q₁ to *Q₄* are the values of the Reliability Settings Index³ for each of the four quarters of years *c* and *b* (as the case may be) as at five months before the start of year *x*

c is the calendar year commencing 18 months before the start of year *x*, which in this case is calendar year 2025

b is calendar year 2022

Clause 3.9.4(e)(1) of the NER also requires the calculated MPC value to be rounded to the nearest \$100/MWh.

Applying these values and requirements, the MPC for 2026-27 is:⁴

$$\begin{aligned} MPC^{2026-27} &= \$20,700/\text{MWh} \times \frac{396.18}{353.69} \\ &= \$23,186.76/\text{MWh} \text{ (rounded to two decimal points)} \\ &= \$23,200/\text{MWh} \text{ (rounded to the nearest \$100/MWh)} \end{aligned}$$

Calculation of the CPT

Clauses 3.14.1 (e) and (f) of the NER set out the method and formula for indexing the CPT. The AEMC's calculation in accordance with these provisions is outlined below.

² Full details of the ABS data are set out in Attachment 1.

³ In accordance with clause 3.9.4(d) of the NER, the Reliability Settings Index is the All groups, Australia Consumer Price Index (CPI) found at Index Numbers, All groups, Australia, in Tables 1 and 2 of the CPI, Australia, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the relevant quarter, except where that index ceases to be published or is substantially changed, in which case the Reliability Settings Index will be such other index as is determined by the AEMC as suitable.

⁴ Clause 3.9.4(e)(2) of the NER requires that if the MPC calculated under this clause for year *x* is less than the MPC for the preceding year (year *x* - 1), then the MPC for year *x* will be the value of the MPC for year *x* - 1. In this case, as the calculated value of \$23,200/MWh is greater than MPC²⁰²⁵⁻²⁶ (i.e. \$20,300/MWh), MPC²⁰²⁶⁻²⁷ is \$23,200/MWh.

In accordance with information published by the ABS, the Reliability Settings Index values are:⁵

	year c (2025)	year b (2022)
Q₁	97.70	86.05
Q₂	98.43	87.59
Q₃	99.73	89.20
Q₄	100.32	90.85
sum	396.18	353.69

The following formula is used to calculate the CPT:

$$CPT^x = BV^{CPT} \times \frac{(Q_1^c + Q_2^c + Q_3^c + Q_4^c)}{(Q_1^b + Q_2^b + Q_3^b + Q_4^b)}$$

Where:

CPT is the cumulative price threshold in dollars

x is the financial year for which the CPT is being calculated, which in this case is the 2026-27 financial year

BV^{CPT} is \$1,987,200/MWh

Q₁ to *Q₄* are the values of the Reliability Settings Index⁶ for each of the four quarters of years *c* and *b* (as the case may be) five months before the start of year *x*, which are the same as those for the MPC calculation above

c is the calendar year commencing 18 months before the start of year *x*, which in this case is the calendar year 2025

b is calendar year 2022

Clause 3.14.1(f)(1) of the NER also requires the calculated CPT value to be rounded to the nearest \$100.

Applying these values and requirements, the CPT for 2026-27 is:⁷

$$\begin{aligned} CPT^{2026-27} &= \$1,987,200/\text{MWh} \times \frac{396.18}{353.69} \\ &= \$2,225,929.19/\text{MWh} \text{ (rounded to two decimal points)} \\ &= \$2,225,900/\text{MWh} \text{ (rounded to the nearest \$100)} \end{aligned}$$

⁵ Full details of the ABS data are set out in Attachment 1.

⁶ In accordance with clause 3.14.1(e) of the NER, the Reliability Settings Index is the All groups, Australia CPI found at Index Numbers, All groups, Australia, in Tables 1 and 2 of the CPI, Australia, published by the ABS for the relevant quarter, except where that index ceases to be published or is substantially changed, in which case the Reliability Settings Index will be such other index as is determined by the AEMC as suitable.

⁷ Clause 3.14.1(f)(2) of the NER requires that if the CPT calculated under this clause for year *x* is less than the CPT for the preceding year (year *x* - 1), then the CPT for year *x* will be the value of the CPT for year *x* - 1. In this case, as the calculated value of \$2,225,900 is greater than CPT²⁰²⁵⁻²⁶ (i.e. \$1,823,600), CPT²⁰²⁶⁻²⁷ is \$2,225,900.

Attachment 1 – CPI values published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

ALL GROUPS CPI, Index numbers(a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
2022									
March	85.88	86.64	85.41	84.90	85.97	87.43	87.64	87.48	86.05
June	87.30	88.16	87.16	86.72	87.43	88.95	89.45	88.90	87.59
September	89.33	89.99	88.72	88.98	86.99	91.00	91.16	90.56	89.2
December	90.92	91.41	90.01	90.51	90.11	92.33	91.97	91.60	90.85
2025									
March	97.82	98.11	97.37	97.72	96.63	97.62	97.78	98.08	97.7
June	98.47	98.48	98.16	98.52	98.52	98.10	98.57	98.36	98.43
September	99.91	99.66	99.48	99.64	99.72	99.55	99.66	99.86	99.73
December	100.38	100.36	100.38	100.43	99.89	100.65	100.33	100.41	100.32

a. Unless otherwise specified, reference period of each index: September 2025 = 100

Source: TABLE 17

Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Consumer Price Index, Australia*. ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release>