

Review of the Integrated System Plan framework

We have published a discussion paper seeking your feedback

We have published a discussion paper for the Review of the Integrated System Plan (ISP) framework (the Review).¹ The Commission will 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.

In submissions to the consultation paper, stakeholders expressed differing views on the purpose of the ISP, both now and into the future.² We have developed this discussion paper to seek feedback on which future role for the ISP would add most value to the energy system. Clarifying the purpose will then guide the choices that should be made about its planning scope and process, actionability framework and governance settings. The Commission considers this a necessary foundation that will help determine which aspects of the framework should be retained, refined or reformed.

This paper also seeks evidence on the materiality, impacts and drivers of current issues identified by stakeholders with the ISP's regulatory frameworks that may persist across any future purpose.

Submissions to the discussion paper are due by 3 September 2026.

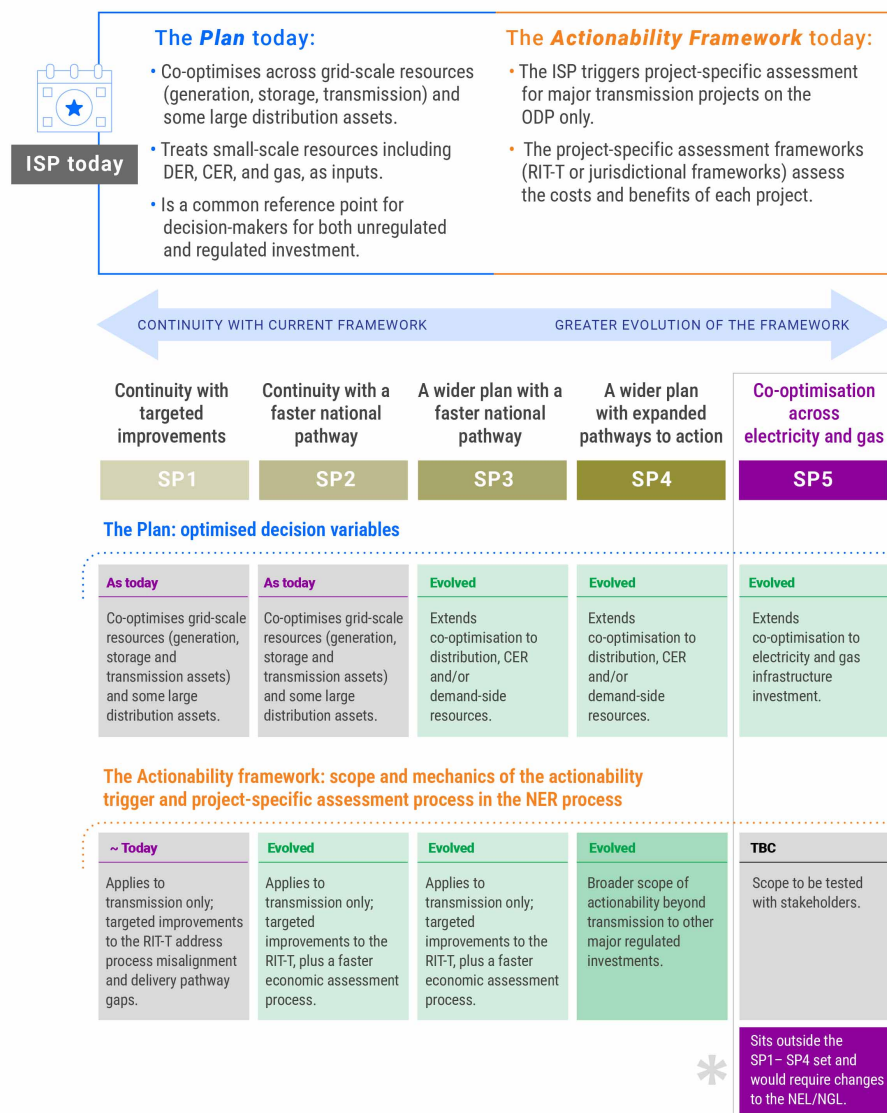
We propose strawpeople to illustrate possible futures for the ISP

This discussion paper seeks evidence on what future purpose for the ISP will best support the NEO by minimising coordination gaps and reducing information asymmetry. We are interested in whether alternative future purposes would deliver additional benefits relative to the current framework, including by improving planning outcomes, the efficient delivery of regulated investment and coordination of both unregulated and regulated investment across the energy system.

To structure stakeholder feedback, we developed five strawpeople that describe possible future purposes for the ISP, and how they could be given effect through choices on the plan and the actionability mechanism. They are not fully specified designs. Within each strawperson, further choices would need to be worked through, including on modelling methodology, sequencing, governance and implementation. We welcome stakeholder views on their preferred future for the ISP, and what would be required to implement any of the strawpeople.

¹ The AEMC is required to complete the Review by 1 July 2027 under clause 11.126.10 of the National Electricity Rules (NER).

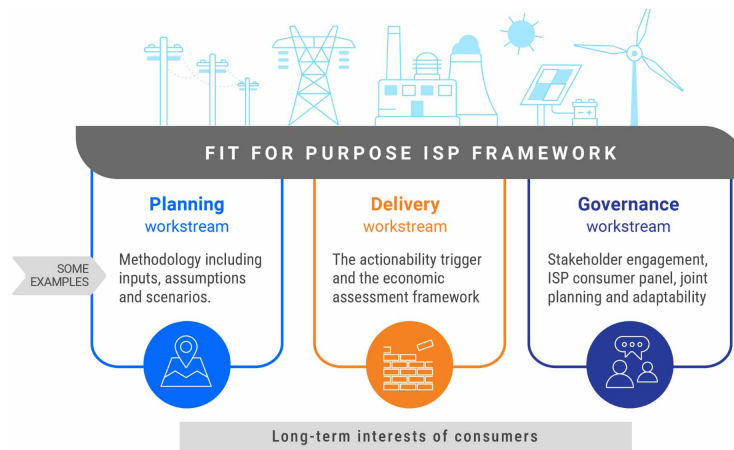
² See our [website](#) for previous submissions.



The discussion paper also progresses our work across three workstreams

Submissions to the consultation paper identified issues with the existing framework that may materially reduce the value of the ISP as a national planning tool to inform decision-making. This includes issues which may lower investor confidence and reduce the timely and efficient delivery of major investment, leading to poorer outcomes for consumers. The Commission is focused on making the national framework as effective as possible. This includes testing reforms that would make the national pathway better across any future role for the ISP, delivering a more efficient and timely route for projects on the ODP, alongside but not in place of jurisdictional pathways.

The diagram below shows that the purpose statement will inform the three workstreams. The issues outlined do not represent an exhaustive list of issues that we may consider. We will also consider any new issues raised by stakeholders in response to this discussion paper.



This review intersects with other reforms

The Commission has multiple rule changes and reviews underway or recently completed, which may have connections to this work, or which have contributed to initial views in this discussion paper. These include:

- The [Clarifying the treatment of jurisdictional policies and system costs in the ISP's](#) final determination to make no rule. We are not revisiting the treatment of jurisdictional policies and system costs through this Review, as these issues were considered through this recently completed project.
- The [Security Framework Enhancements](#) rule change. We are not examining changes to how the ISP identifies, assesses or procures system security services as part of this Review.
- The final determination of the [Enhancing distribution network planning reporting](#) (ENDPR) rule change established a new Distribution Network Development Plan framework to improve the transparency, consistency and coordination of distribution network planning. This Review will not revisit the reforms introduced through the ENDPR rule change process.

We note recent or current work by the Commonwealth and the Energy and Climate Ministerial Council (ECMC) on the AEMO Governance review, Electricity Services Entry Mechanism (ESEM), and the establishment of a Demand-side Statement of Opportunities (DSOO). As these reforms are currently under consideration or further development, we have been unable to factor those into our positions for this discussion paper. However, we anticipate that updates on each of these reforms are likely to be published while we are developing our positions for the draft report, and we will take those into account. We do not view that any of these reforms would negate the important work of determining the appropriate future purpose of the ISP, or alter our foundational position that the ISP will remain a valuable tool into the future.

Submissions are due 3 September 2026

We value your feedback and input on the Review. Written submissions responding to the discussion paper must be lodged by **3 September 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**.

There are other opportunities for you to engage with us, such as one-on-one discussions or roundtables. Please contact us if you are interested in meeting with the project team, noting the project code **EPR0092**: aemc@aemc.gov.au.

For information contact:

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23 July 2026