



# Megawatt

The week in renewables

2 June, 2025

## Energy storage becomes a critical piece in the clean energy transition

Our Chief Executive Kane Thornton speaks on how battery technology is transforming the energy system

[Watch now](#)



Next week's edition of Megawatt will be released on Tuesday 10 June due to a public holiday falling on Monday 9 June in some states.

## In the news

### Clean Energy Council Chief Policy and Impact Officer, Arron Wood on clean energy investment and the 2025 Clean Energy Australia Report | FiveAA Adelaide

Clean Energy Council Chief Policy and Impact Officer, Arron Wood, joined Graeme Goodings to discuss the findings of the Q1 2025 investment report and the 2025 Clean Energy Australia Report, released last week.

[Watch now](#)

## Green investment drought spurs 2030 renewable energy target warning from Clean Energy Council | The Australian

Despite a subdued level of investment in generation during Q1 2025, large-scale battery storage projects saw their second-best quarter on record, following the best year for clean energy investment in Australia's history during 2024.

[Read more](#)

## Energy truth | The Courier Mail

The Queensland government's decision to cancel the \$1 billion Moonlight Range Wind Farm near Rockhampton has sparked renewed debate about the future of energy development in the state. While it is entirely reasonable for communities to have a voice in projects that affect them, it's equally important that these discussions are grounded in facts, especially when it comes to the environmental and land-use impacts of renewable energy, Clean Energy Council State Director – Queensland, Tracey Stinson, writes.

[Read more](#)

## Key updates

---



### Clean Energy Australia 2025 report and Quarterly Investment Report for Q1 2025 out now

The Clean Energy Council's Clean Energy Australia Report and the Quarterly Investment Report for Q1 2025, released last week, provide a comprehensive overview of the state of Australia's clean energy sector, highlighting record investment levels alongside ongoing challenges in meeting renewable energy capacity targets. While 2024 saw a historic \$12.7 billion invested in clean energy, including a surge in large-scale battery storage, new renewable generation capacity slowed slightly in early 2025.

Continued collaboration, clear policy and grid reform remain essential to maintain momentum and deliver Australia's renewable energy goals. Visit the links below to read the reports.

[Clean Energy Australia 2025](#)

[Quarterly Investment Report for Q1 2025](#)



## Handbook for the development of renewable energy released

Last week, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) published its [Handbook for the development of renewable energy in Victoria](#), a critical document that will provide much-needed guidance to project proponents, assessors and decision-makers about how to manage the impacts of renewable energy developments in Victoria.

The Clean Energy Council has consistently advocated to the Victorian Government to resolve the stalemate in impact assessment for brotga and bats since the recommendations on the Willatook Wind Farm were handed down in mid-2023.

Throughout 2024 we worked closely with members and advocated to government on the significant challenges facing project proponents and investors attempting to obtain planning permits and finance for onshore wind development in Victoria.

The updated guidance delivers long-overdue clarity on brotga protections, establishes clear transitional arrangements for projects already in the pipeline and offers greater certainty for developers navigating the planning process.

We are pleased to have reached an outcome, which balances robust environmental assessment with the urgent need to build clean energy infrastructure to power Victoria and the nation. We will continue to work with DEECA on strengthening the guidance on bats.

**[Read more](#)**



## Industry, community and environment, union and science leaders unite in urgent call for EPBC Act reform

Last week, the Clean Energy Council joined a coalition of industry, environmental and community organisations calling for urgent reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. With many clean energy projects waiting over two years for federal approval, current delays are putting Australia's renewable energy targets at risk.

The group has called for environment laws that enable faster, more efficient and predictable project assessments while improving nature protection, increasing community confidence and empowering Indigenous peoples to play an active role in decisions that affect their lands and seas. The Clean Energy Council continues to advocate for reform that unlocks timely project delivery and ensures nature-positive outcomes.

### **[Read our media release](#)**



## Fire safety at battery energy storage sites

We are aware of recent media coverage about the safety of battery energy storage system sites. The Clean Energy Council is actively engaging with the relevant regulatory authorities and will also soon launch a fact sheet to support the sector and to ensure that accurate, evidence-based information is available for communities.

We also understand that the Victorian Country Fire Authority will soon be releasing its Renewable Energy Action Plan, which aims to enhance fire safety at renewable energy sites across Victoria. The CFA plays a pivotal role collaborating with developers and regulatory authorities to ensure that renewable energy facilities are designed and operated with optimal safety measures. Once the plan is released, the Clean Energy Council will invite the CFA to present to members to ensure industry is informed of any key changes – keep an eye out for more information.

Safety is, and will remain, a top priority for our sector, and we are committed to supporting best-practice standards across all BESS operations.



## 2025 NSW Energy Savings Scheme and Peak Demand Reduction Scheme statutory reviews open for consultation

The NSW Government has prepared a draft Energy Savings Scheme and Peak Demand Reduction Scheme statutory reviews, with feedback now invited from stakeholders. These reviews determine whether the objectives of the schemes remain valid and if their designs remain appropriate to achieve those objectives. The NSW Government has also previously used statutory reviews to consider opportunities to reform the schemes.

The Clean Energy Council has previously prepared [a response](#) to the Discussion Paper identifying key issues and opportunities the reforms could address. We continue to engage with the NSW Government on the importance of these schemes in supporting energy efficiency and demand management and will review the draft reports in detail. Members can access previous submissions and the draft report below; feedback closes on Wednesday 11 June.

### **Find out more**



## AEMO releases draft network options report ahead of 2026 ISP

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has released its [Draft 2025 Electricity Network Options Report](#) as part of preparations for the 2026 Integrated System Plan (ISP). The report highlights a 25 to 55 per cent increase in real costs for overhead transmission lines, driven by rising materials prices and workforce shortages. It also outlines how social license considerations and distribution network opportunities will be incorporated more explicitly into future ISP modelling.

Members are invited to contribute by contacting James Eastcott, Senior Policy Officer at [jeastcott@cleanenergycouncil.org.au](mailto:jeastcott@cleanenergycouncil.org.au). Submissions close at COB 23 June.

### **Register to attend the webinar**



## Getting to know Dan Tehan, Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

A former farmhand and career public servant turned senior politician, Dan Tehan brings a wealth of experience to his new role as Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction. Continuing our look at the key Federal Parliamentary stakeholders, we're heading across the aisle to meet the newly appointed Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions.

Our Director of Government Relations, Isaac Jeffries, has prepared a short biography to help members get to know the Shadow Minister and his role in shaping the national energy conversation.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

---



**Josh Kirkman**  
CEO  
Surfers for Climate



**Forum dinner guest speaker**

### Australian Offshore Wind Industry Forum

3 June 2025 | Melbourne



## Australian Offshore Wind Industry Forum kicks off tomorrow in Melbourne

It's not too late - join us in Melbourne tomorrow as experts from across technical, policy and regulatory fields come together to tackle the opportunities and challenges in Australia's offshore wind sector.

Explore the full program [here](#) and be sure to check out our [social functions](#), including the forum dinner.

[Register now](#)





## Future energy market design



**Tim Nelson**

Chair  
NEM Review Panel

Keynote speaker



**Ava Hancock**

Panel Member  
NEM Review Panel

Panellist



**Stephanie Easton**

EGM Energy Markets  
Iberdrola

Panellist



**Laura Caspari**

Chief Renewables Officer  
& Managing Director  
ENGIE

Panellist



**Stuart Hillen**

Head of Development, Australia  
EKU Energy

Panellist

---

## Building the network of the future





**Proudly supported by**



**GE VERNOVA**



## Speaker line-ups revealed for two of the Australian Clean Energy Summit's most anticipated sessions

We're pleased to share the speaker line-ups for two of the most anticipated sessions at the Australian Clean Energy Summit 2025, featuring the leaders at the forefront of Australia's energy transformation.

These high-profile leaders are set to share their insights and engage on topics crucial to the future of clean energy in Australia.

Be sure to book your place at the year's two most anticipated clean energy social events:

- Women in Renewables Lunch, proudly sponsored by KPMG
- Gala Dinner, proudly sponsored by NAB

Date: 29–30 July 2025

Location: International Convention Centre Sydney

**[Register now](#)**





## Submissions for Queensland Clean Energy Summit featuring large-scale solar close this Friday

This is the final week to apply to be part of the speaker line-up at the Queensland Clean Energy Summit featuring large-scale solar and storage, taking place in Brisbane on 15-16 September.

This is your opportunity to share insights, research or project outcomes with a highly engaged audience of clean energy professionals and stakeholders. Whether you want to delve into the challenges and opportunities unique to the Sunshine State's clean energy transition or on Australia's large-scale solar and storage sector, we want to hear from you.

We welcome contributions from across key areas including technology, construction, policy, research, social license and regional development. The program is developed by the industry's peak body to reflect the most timely and relevant issues shaping Australia's clean energy future.

Submissions close on Friday 6 June. Don't miss your chance to be part of this important event.

**Submit your presentation**

# Clean Energy Council Awards 2025



**Nominations  
now open**

## Nominate for the Clean Energy Council Awards

With more than a decade of celebrating excellence, innovation and impact, the Clean Energy Council Awards recognise those driving Australia's clean energy future.

Nominations are now open across categories including Collaboration, Social Value and Impact, First Nations Engagement and Participation, and Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. The Media Award is open to nominations from Australian media, while the Outstanding Contribution to Clean Energy Award will be awarded directly by the Clean Energy Council's Chief Executive.

To be eligible, your project will have commenced implementation and achieved outcomes within the past 12 months but may've been in planning and development for up to five years prior.

Nominations close at end of day on Wednesday 18 June. Winners will be announced at the [Australian Clean Energy Summit Gala Dinner](#) on Tuesday 29 July.

**Nominate now**



03 9929 4100 | ABN 84 127 102 443

Authorised by K. Thornton, Clean Energy Council,  
180 Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

© Clean Energy Council 2025, All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update preferences](#)