



Transformer

A monthly recap of Clean Energy Council and renewables highlights

30 May, 2025

Clean Energy
Australia 2025
+
Quarterly
investment report
Q1 2025

Out now



Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Clean energy has faced plenty of existential threats in recent decades, and the Federal Election early this month was the latest.

Thankfully, Australians sent a **powerful signal** on the future of our energy transition, rejecting distractions like nuclear and providing a strong mandate to push ahead with the clean energy transition that already provides more than 40 per cent of Australia's electricity.

There is no better time to for us to publish the 2025 edition of our annual **Clean Energy Australia** report, which looks back at the state of the sector in 2024. Chief among the report's findings is that 2024 was the biggest year ever for investment in Australian clean energy, at \$12.7 billion. That's a significant milestone and gives great cause for optimism for our sector. Other highlights include:

- \$9 billion invested in large-scale generation projects, the highest since 2018

- \$5.9 billion invested in onshore wind projects – the highest since the CEC began reporting data in 2017
- Another stellar year for rooftop solar, surpassing four million installations and leading the transition in terms of capacity added
- Only 2 GW of utility scale generation was commissioned in 2024, down on 2023. The sharp rise in projects reaching financial close indicates this dip may be temporary
- As of the end of 2024, there is over 8.7 GW / 23.3 GWh of large-scale battery capacity under construction in Australia. That is not only more big battery storage than is currently operational in Australia – it's more than a third of Australia's coal-fired power stations combined.

Our [Quarterly Investment Report for Q1 2025](#) also released this week, does show a slowdown in new financial commitments to large-scale generation, but that is consistent with recent trends where the first quarter is typically the slowest of the year.

Given the policy certainty stemming from the Federal Election outcome and the impact of policies such as the Capacity Investment Scheme, there is reason to believe that investment will continue to trend upwards as it did in 2024.

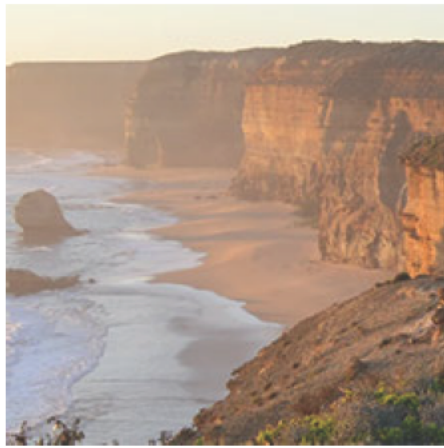
May highlights



Post-election clean energy outlook and fighting misinformation

Clean Energy Council Chief Executive Kane Thornton wrote in The Guardian and this month on the importance of transparency and trust as developers of clean energy projects engage with communities. Now that Australians have rejected distractions like nuclear in the Federal Election, it's time to think about the best ways to approach a renewable-powered future and how to get there in the most equitable way possible. Meanwhile, the Clean Energy Council remains dedicated to calling out misinformation wherever we find it. This month our State Director for Queensland, Tracey Stinson, had a [response published in the Courier Mail](#) following the cancellation of the Moonlight Range wind farm.

[Read more](#)



Access rights granted in Central-West Orana REZ

The New South Wales Government granted access rights in May for 10 clean energy projects to connect to Australia's first officially declared renewable energy zone, the Central-West Orana REZ. The projects will almost double the state's operating large-scale wind and solar generation, providing enough energy to power 2.7 million homes in peak periods by 2031. This is a significant step forward in NSW's transition to clean energy and the Clean Energy Council congratulates those involved in the planning process and the companies that have been granted access rights.

[Read more](#)



Victorian Handbook for renewable energy projects released

In late May, the Handbook for the development of renewable energy in Victoria was published by the Department for Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) – 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 early 2025, the Clean Energy Council facilitated a forum of engagement between DEECA and members to explain the constraints and uncertainties in the detail of the draft guidance material. Through that process we have been able to ensure that the Handbook delivers a balance between robust environmental impact assessment and clarity and certainty of process for proponents. The Handbook will provide a crucial framework for decision-makers to make consistent, informed decisions about what is best for Australia's unique ecosystem and environment, while ensuring that, wherever possible, we avoid the project delays and cancellations that have plagued Victorian projects in recent years.

[Read the Handbook](#)



Victorian Transmission Plan aims to provide certainty to communities

In mid-May, VicGrid released its 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, emphasising the importance of a strong grid and clear regulatory settings that will provide certainty for communities and clean energy investors. There is a lot of detail which needs to be considered, including ensuring renewable energy zones have sufficient capacity to unlock the potential for new generation and storage, and to ensure the plan provides a clear and fair approach to network access.

[Read our media release](#)

Clean Energy Council

Leading Practice: First Nations engagement course

On-demand & self-paced | 3 hours | Free-of-charge

Understand how to engage and partner with First Nations communities on clean energy projects.

Enrol today

Artwork by Kevin Wilson, Nani Creative / nani.com.au

‘Leading practice: First Nations engagement’ course

This week is National Reconciliation Week, a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

It is critical that we develop meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations peoples to ensure the success of clean energy projects and protect cultural stewardship of Country.

Earlier this month, we launched our new ‘Leading practice: First Nations engagement’ course, which guides participants through the principles of genuine engagement and partnership with First Nations communities on clean energy projects. The course takes around 3 hours, is on demand and self-paced and is free-of-charge to members of the Clean Energy Council for a limited time.

The course is part of our **Powering Up: Clean energy on Country** program, developed with the First Nations Clean Energy Network and supported by funding from the Australian Government. Enrol by clicking below.

Enrol now



The sector gathers at sold-out Australian Wind Industry Forum - and offshore wind is next.

We heard from 55 speakers across 11 sessions at this year's sold-out [Australian Wind Industry Forum](#). It was a fantastic event full of crucial discussions, learnings and networking. Proceedings began with an address from the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, Tony Mahar, who threw down a challenge to industry, to ensure communities are engaged in a meaningful, ongoing way. That was a recurring theme of the event, with speakers and panellists across the industry discussing the importance of transparency and trust. We also hosted the latest group of outstanding Career Launcher participants, who joined us at the event sponsored by members Mott MacDonald, Squadron Energy and Potentia Energy. [Click to hear from them.](#)

There is still time to register for next week's Australian Offshore Wind Industry Forum, which will be held on 3 June at Pullman Melbourne on the Park and will feature 30+ industry experts across six sessions. Then join us for networking drinks and dinner, where we are excited to be joined by Josh Kirkman, CEO of Surfers for Climate. Don't miss out!

Register now



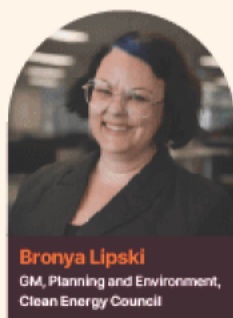
Clean Energy Council presents

Australian Offshore Wind Industry Forum 2025



Under the sea and in the sky

Examining the environment offshore wind will be a part of and ensuring best practice for a robust and enduring industry



Bronya Lipski
GM, Planning and Environment,
Clean Energy Council



Carolyn Wheeler
Senior Marine Scientist,
RPS



Louis Lederwasch
Independent Offshore
Wind Specialist



Maria Gaedeke
Australia Program Manager,
Hidref Aerial Surveying

This session is proudly sponsored by



Making the connection

Getting offshore wind farms connected into Australian grids of the future



Christiaan Zuur
GM, Market Operations and Grid,
Clean Energy Council



Kim Demeyer
Science and Technology
Counsellor, Flanders
Investment & Trade



Pauline Malolepszy
Senior Project Manager,
VicGrid



Lachlan Bateman

Head of Power System
Planning APAC, DNV

Mr Kumar Padiseti

Senior Managing Director,
FTI Consulting

People talk

Engaging with coastal and regional communities to bring them on the offshore wind journey and build the workforce of the future



Kate Foster

Regional Stakeholder Manager,
Corio Generation



Paul Johnson

Senior Manager, Regional
Engagement, Southern Ten



Bodye Darvill

Project Director, Partnerships,
Victorian Department of Energy,
Environment and Climate Action



Toby Dawson

Director, Social Advisory,
RPS

Enabling an industry

Building the necessary infrastructure today to support the future offshore wind industry



Christopher Ong

Senior Renewable Energy
Engineer, Mott MacDonald



Hiedi Sick

Regional Business Line Director,
Environment and Energy,
AECOM Australia



Kimberly Cram

Project Director, Great Eastern
Offshore Windfarm, Corio



Clean Energy Council presents

Australian Clean Energy Summit

29-30 July 2025 | Sydney



Early bird registration ends soon



**CLEAN
ENERGY
COUNCIL**



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