



Transformer

A monthly recap of Clean Energy Council and renewables highlights

29 August, 2025



Good afternoon

This month we urged the federal government to enact reforms to boost investor confidence on the back of two consecutive quarters of subdued large-scale investment across Australia.

We shared the results of our [Quarterly Investment Report – Q2, 2025](#) with federal and state politicians ahead of the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council meeting, ensuring they were fully appraised of the urgent need for action to get new generation capacity in the ground before Australia's ageing fleet of coal fired power stations retire.

During the last quarter, just four large-scale generation projects, totaling 615 MW, secured financial commitment, with none in the wind sector. Likewise, only three storage projects closed, representing 334 MW of capacity or 1,168 MWh of output – making this the weakest quarter for storage since Quarter 1, 2023.

While the pipeline of clean energy projects remains strong, many are being held back by delayed transmission projects and extended planning and environment assessments.

Our half-yearly Rooftop Solar and Storage Report is due out next month. This report highlights the trends in rooftop PV generation and battery uptake by consumers.

We have long advocated for a national home battery saver program to slash consumers' energy bills and it is now more affordable than ever-before for households to install a home battery following the release of the Federal Government's Cheaper Home Batteries Program, and Western Australia's launch in July of its Residential Battery Scheme.

According to recent statistics released by the Clean Energy Regulator, thanks to these programs, a record 19,592 solar battery installations were recorded across the country in July alone with that number continuing to soar in August.

A sincere thank you for your readership of Transformer. Our [readership survey](#) will guide changes to this newsletter, including frequency and focus. Please take a moment to complete the short survey to have your say.

And don't forget, for the latest updates, [follow our social media channels](#).

Share your feedback

July highlights



New CEO announced

Following a national executive search, the Board of the Clean Energy Council this month announced former Queensland Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Jackie Trad, as our newly appointed Chief Executive Officer.

During her time in parliament, Jackie helped establish the state's publicly owned clean energy company, CleanCo, and developed the renewable energy emissions and reduction targets as part of the former state Labor government.

With more than 30 years' experience in public policy, government, membership-based organisations and campaigns, Jackie's experience will be incredibly valuable in leading and guiding our work and influence on Australia's transition to a clean energy economy, on behalf of members.

Jackie will commence in the role in October and is looking forward to supporting the Clean Energy Council to continue its pivotal role in Australia's energy transition.

Read our media release



Energy transition – get the facts

While clean energy now generates more than 40 per cent of our electricity, we know that many Australians have legitimate questions and even uncertainty about the energy transition.

Information based on facts that builds understanding, not fear, is essential. We encourage people to rely on reputable sources of information from trusted sources.

Energy Fact Check helps answer common questions that members of the community have about the energy transition and the role of renewable energy and storage. The website addresses concerns about the energy transition that may arise from misinformation and disinformation campaigns, like one of our recent fact checks which dispels myths about outages in Crookwell, NSW.

While our fact sheets are packed with clear, evidence-based insights and valuable information. Our latest fact sheets explore:

- [What happens to wind turbines, solar panels and batteries at the end of their life](#)
- [How public liability insurance relates to landholders and renewable energy projects](#)
- [How renewable energy projects affect property prices and public liability insurance](#)
- [Agriculture and clean energy.](#)

Where misinformation and disinformation happen, we counter it through energy fact check and by producing fact sheets with detailed technical and scientific information.

Read our latest energy fact checks

Read and download renewable energy fact sheets



Meat and Livestock Australia clarifies its position on wind and solar on farm land

Meat and Livestock Australia has updated wording on the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) website, communicating "...it is safe for livestock to graze in a paddock which also contains solar panels, wind turbines or other equipment."

The LPA is the on-farm assurance program that underpins food safety, biosecurity and market access for Australian red meat and is critical to the success of the industry.

Last year, the self-declaration survey was upgraded to include references to solar panels and wind turbines and was worded in such a way that implied clean energy infrastructure posed a contamination risk. This detail was leveraged by opponents of clean energy to spread dis-information.

The LPA website now explicitly states that it 'does not prohibit or restrict the installation of equipment including solar panels, electrical transformers, capacitors, hydraulic equipment, coal seam gas structures or wind turbines on land which is also used for livestock production and grazing.'

The CEC has also produced a [fact sheet](#) and [Energy Fact Check](#) on the topic. Learn more via the linked text.



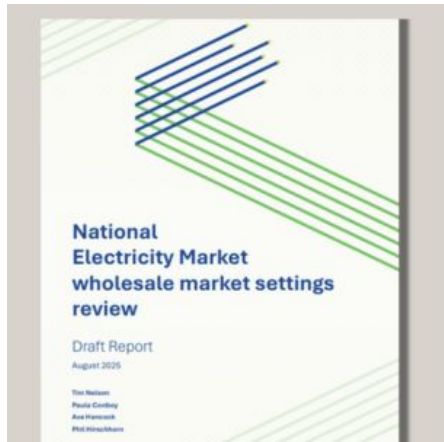
Planning reform and transmission top priorities

Earlier this month, the Clean Energy Council participated in the Energy Roundtable hosted by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to discuss solutions to accelerate Australia's energy transition.

Interim Chief Executive, Brett Wickham, emphasised delays in planning approvals and the grid expansion are stalling investment and project delivery. The Clean Energy Council has called for urgent reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act, regional planning frameworks to fast-track development whilst safeguarding environmental standards and the importance of genuine local engagement and benefit sharing with regional communities. The Clean Energy Council is advocating strongly for six outcomes in the EPBC reforms that will

allow for the energy transition to be coordinated as a national project, with urgency and clarity.

Read his full statement



NEM Wholesale Market Settings Review released

The Clean Energy Council welcomed the release this month of the **draft report** of the NEM Wholesale Market Settings Review, which puts forward a suite of policy reforms aimed at delivering the affordable, reliable and clean energy system Australia needs in the long term.

Key elements of the draft report included recommendations to:

- Retain and continue to harmonise the federated NEM structure
- Retain and complement the existing wholesale spot market
- Increase the visibility of consumer energy resources (CER)
- Keep government intervention at an efficient level.

Clean Energy Council members have been invited to a series of feedback sessions, which will inform our response to the draft report.

Read our media release



Capacity Investment Scheme expanded

In late July, the Federal Government announced a significant expansion of the Capacity Investor Scheme (CIS), by up to 25 percent, from 32 GW to 40 GW. This includes an additional 5 GW of dispatchable capacity (mostly large-scale batteries) and 3 GW of new renewable generation projects such as wind and solar.

The CIS provides minimum revenue guarantees for new clean energy projects. It decreases the risk for investors and ensures more renewable energy projects get built. Under the scheme, developers are required to submit competitive tender bids to participate in the scheme. There has been overwhelming developer interest in the scheme, with recent tenders being oversubscribed.

The expansion of the scheme, along with other recent changes, including streamlined processes, should go some way towards accelerating the energy transition.

It also demonstrates the need to get renewables and batteries online faster, whilst building out Australia's energy grid.

Upcoming tenders include CIS Tender 6 – Wholesale Market Generation (WEM) dispatchable and generation.

[Find out more about open CIS tenders](#)



VicGrid's final transmission plan welcomed

The Victorian Government has released the new 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan as a 15-year roadmap to replace coal-fired power stations with renewable energy zones and upgraded or new grid infrastructure.

The plan maps out six renewable energy zones (REZs), and one shoreline REZ that will guide the roll-out of large-scale wind, solar, battery storage projects, and transmission lines in Victoria.

We are pleased to see the final transmission plan acknowledges the need for flexibility and contingency for greater network hosting capacity in response to the potential for higher electricity demand over the years ahead. The Clean Energy Council continues to advocate for key changes to the [National Electricity \(Victoria\) Amendment \(VicGrid Stage 2 Reform\) Bill 2025](#) including how and where REZ Community Funds can be spent, with a focus on ensuring benefits are delivered in the communities in which projects are built and operate.

[Read the full plan](#)



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Queensland Clean Energy Summit

featuring large-scale solar and storage

15–16 September 2025
Brisbane



Clean Energy Council presents

Perth Member Mixer

The Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson

WA Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation

10 September 2025
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