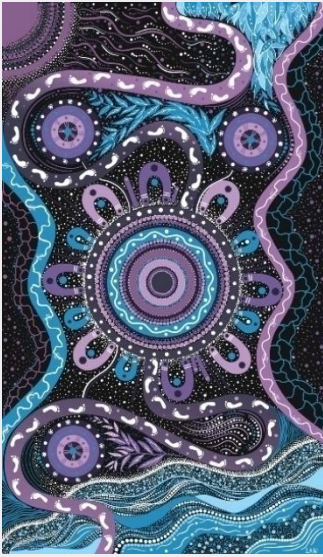


ESOO and Reliability Forecast Methodology Document

August 2025





We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, seas and waters across Australia. We honour the wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present and embrace future generations.

We acknowledge that, wherever we work, we do so on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. We pay respect to the world's oldest continuing culture and First Nations peoples' deep and continuing connection to Country; and hope that our work can benefit both people and Country.

'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' by Lani Balzan

AEMO Group is proud to have launched its first [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) in May 2024. 'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' was created by Wiradjuri artist Lani Balzan to visually narrate our ongoing journey towards reconciliation - a collaborative endeavour that honours First Nations cultures, fosters mutual understanding, and paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Important notice

Purpose

This document has been prepared by AEMO in accordance with rule 3.13.3A and, rule 4A of the National Electricity Rules (Rules), and the AER's Forecasting Best Practice Guidelines, and has effect only for the purposes set out in the Rules and those Guidelines. The Rules and the National Electricity Law (Law) prevail over this document to the extent of any inconsistency.

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Modelling work performed as part of preparing this publication inherently requires assumptions about future behaviours and market interactions, which may result in forecasts that deviate from future conditions. There will usually be differences between estimated and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material.

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Version control

| Version | Release date | Changes |
|---------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 16/10/2017 | Initial publication covering 2017 ESOO methodology |
| 2 | 17/4/2019 | Draft update reflected methodology to be applied in the 2019 ESOO |
| 3 | 22/8/2019 | Methodology applied in 2019 ESOO |
| 4 | 19/12/2019 | Added reliability forecast methodology section |
| 5 | 25/8/2020 | Updated to include improvements relevant to the 2020 ESOO |
| 6 | 26/2/2021 | Updated Sections 1,2, 4.4 and 6.1.3 following consultation on Reliability Forecast Guidelines |
| 7 | 25/8/2021 | Updated to include improvements and clarifications relevant to the 2021 ESOO: as consulted on through the forecast improvement program; the <i>Inputs Assumptions and Scenarios Report</i> ; and the <i>ISP Methodology</i> |
| 8 | 31/8/2022 | Updated to include improvements and clarifications relevant to the 2022 ESOO: as consulted on consistent with the Reliability Forecast Guidelines |
| 9 | | Draft update including changes under consultation as part of the Reliability Forecasting Guideline and Methodology consultation, as well as changes from 3 June 2024 under the National Electricity Amendment (Integrating energy storage systems into the NEM) Rule 2021. |
| 10 | 24/04/2023 | Final report including changes as part of the Reliability Forecasting Guideline and methodology consultation. |
| 11 | 31/08/2023 | Updated to reflect deratings of short-term storage following the April 2023 Forecasting Reference Group consultation |
| 12 | 21/08/2025 | Updated to incorporate changes from the 2024 Forecast Improvement Plan and ESOO methodology improvements as consulted at the April 2025 Forecasting Reference Group consultation. |



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1 Introduction

1.1 Electricity Statement of Opportunities and Reliability Forecasts

AEMO is required to publish an *Electricity Statement of Opportunities* (ESOO) for the National Electricity Market (NEM) annually under clause 3.13.3A of the National Electricity Rules (NER). The ESOO provides information that can help stakeholders plan their operations, investments and divestment over a 10-year outlook period, including information about the future supply-demand balance.

The ESOO also indicates when production unit or demand side participation (DSP) capacity or augmentation of the power system is required to meet the reliability standard.

The reliability standard is defined in clause 3.9.3C(a) of the NER as “a maximum expected unserved energy (USE) in a region of 0.002% of the total energy demanded in that region for a given financial year”.

The Interim Reliability Measure (IRM) is defined in clause 3.9.3C(a1) as a maximum expected USE in a region of 0.0006% of the total energy demanded in that region for a given financial year.

As prescribed in the Retailer Reliability Obligation (RRO) framework under Chapter 4A of the NER, AEMO’s annual ESOO must include a reliability forecast that identifies any reliability gaps in the first five years and an indicative projection of any reliability gaps in the subsequent five years of the forecast for each NEM region. Current NER provisions specify that the IRM applies for the purposes of the RRO until 30 June 2028. Beyond that date, the reliability standard will apply.

The method adopted for calculating the expected USE for the reliability forecast is outlined at a high level in the *Reliability Standard Implementation Guidelines* (RSIG)². Expected USE is determined through probabilistic, time-sequential modelling at the interval level³ using Monte-Carlo simulations of security-constrained optimal dispatch. AEMO compares the probability-weighted USE assessment against the reliability standard and identifies the potential for the reliability standard to be exceeded.

The methodology described in this document applies to the ESOO reliability forecast developed for RRO purposes. The ESOO may assess different sensitivities that vary with respect to the pace of change in the NEM. Differences in underlying demand growth, consumer energy resources (CER) uptake, and timing of coal-fired generation closures and changes to new generator and storage units apply across the sensitivities. The approach above is repeated for each of those, to present USE for each of the assessments separately.

If the relevant reliability standard⁴ is projected to be exceeded in any region, various parameters need to be calculated for that region as part of the reliability forecast, including a forecast reliability gap, forecast reliability gap period, and gap trading intervals, defined in rule 4A of the NER and the National Electricity Law.

² At <https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Planning-and-forecasting/Reliability-Standard-Implementation-Guidelines>.

³ AEMO currently models at the hourly level, but may change to half-hourly modelling in the future.

⁴ For the purposes of the reliability forecast, the reliability standard is the Interim Reliability Measure until 30 June 2028.

1.2 Structure

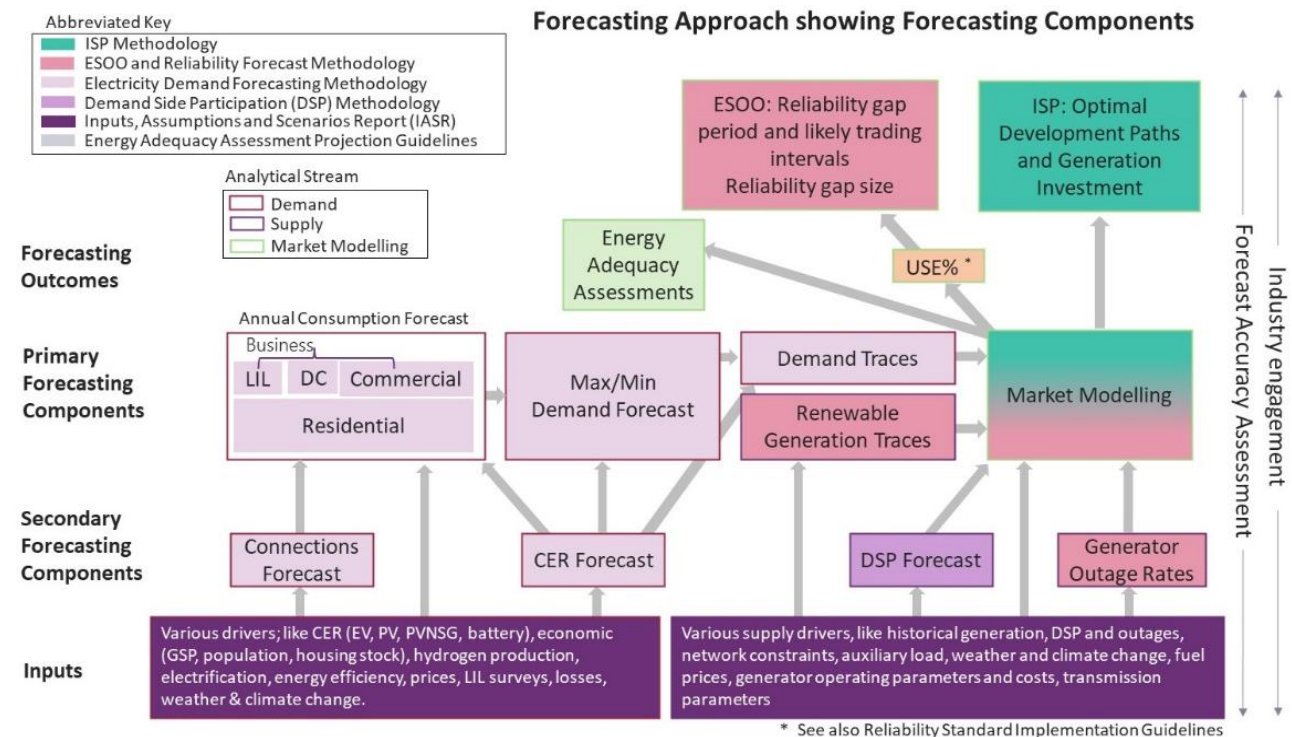
The intent of this *ESOO and Reliability Forecast Methodology* document (**ESOO Methodology**) is to explain the key supply inputs and methodologies involved in determining the expected USE outcomes, for both the ES00 and the reliability forecast. It also explains how the forecast reliability gap and forecast reliability gap period are determined.

The process for producing a reliability forecast can be split into three overall components:

1. Demand forecasts – the forecast load to be met for the NEM.
2. Supply forecasts – the operational parameters applied for production units, DSP, large-scale storage, and transmission network elements.
3. Reliability forecast – the assessment of the ability of available supply to meet demand.

Each of these comprises various components and needs different inputs. Figure 1 provides an overview of the end-to-end process.

Figure 1 End to end high-level overview of AEMO’s Forecasting Approach



The figure also highlights the different methodology documents that explain the different processes and their inputs in more detail. Collectively, AEMO’s detailed forecasting methodologies are known as the Forecasting Approach. The latest versions of the methodology documents are available on AEMO’s Forecasting Approach web page⁵.

This document focuses on the areas highlighted in orange in the figure and is structured into the following sections:

- Generation and storage (Section 2).

⁵ At <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/nem-forecasting-and-planning/forecasting-approach>.

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- Network (Section 3).
- Traces (Section 4).
- Unserved energy calculation (Section 5).
- Reliability forecast (Section 6).

2 Production units

When assessing the supply-demand balance, AEMO uses the ‘Operational – sent out’ demand definition, reflecting the demand for generation supplied by scheduled, semi-scheduled, and significant non-scheduled production units in the NEM⁶. For that reason, on the supply side all ‘Operational’ units are modelled.

AEMO models the capabilities of dispatchable generation capacity by applying inputs sourced from market participants. The maximum capacity of each production unit is provided by market participants through the Generation Information survey process, in which each participant provides expected extreme heat summer, typical summer, and winter available capacity over the 10-year modelling horizon. For the extreme heat summer, and winter, these capacities represent the expected capability of the units during temperatures consistent with a 10% probability of exceedance (POE)⁷ demand outcome in each region, while the typical summer capacity reflects a slightly more modest summer temperature as specified on the Generation Information page.

Participants also provide information on closure timing for existing production units through the Generator Information process, and these retirements are included in the modelling. Precise closure dates are required under the three-year notice of closure rule, but precise closure dates have not been provided to AEMO beyond the three-year period. For the purpose of the ESOO, closure dates beyond the three-year period are assumed to be on 31 December of the stipulated expected closure year.

Hydro generation is modelled with consideration to water limitations related to inflows and storage level management. Water allocation is optimised so that, to the extent possible, water will be available for use by hydro generation at times of high demand and/or tight supply-demand balance. Water usage is optimised for each individual forecast year and cannot be stored from one year to consume in subsequent years.

For details on production unit capabilities and retirements, refer to AEMO’s *Generation Information Page*⁸.

2.1 Production unit rated capacity

Maximum output for production units at any time is subject to many factors including maintenance and condition of the plant, and the environmental conditions (particularly temperature) in which it needs to operate. AEMO collects information on expected production unit performance from each operator, balancing the need for fidelity in representing performance and costs incurred by participants in providing information.

AEMO collects three capacity values to represent varying performance in response to temperature. This includes expected capacity under the following conditions:

- The rating representative of 10% POE demand conditions (summer peak capacity).

⁶ For a full definition of AEMO’s demand definitions, see https://aemo.com.au/-/media/Files/Electricity/NEM/Security_and_Reliability/Dispatch/Policy_and_Process/Demand-terms-in-EMMS-Data-Model.pdf.

⁷ POE is the likelihood a maximum or minimum demand forecast will be met or exceeded. A 10% POE maximum demand forecast, for example, is expected to be exceeded, on average, one year in 10, while a 90% POE maximum demand forecast is expected to be exceeded nine years in 10.

⁸ At <https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Planning-and-forecasting/Generation-information>.

- The rating under typical summer conditions (typical summer capacity).
- The rating under winter conditions (winter capacity).

The typical summer capacity is used to represent the capacity that would be available under regular summer conditions whereas the summer peak capacity represents capacity available at times of very high temperature where annual maximum demand is more likely to occur. In the ESOO modelling, the typical summer capacity is applied throughout summer except for a subset of days where the summer peak capacity is applied.

The typical summer temperature is calculated as the 85th percentile of observed maximum daily temperatures for the 2010-11 to 2018-19 reference years for periods between December and March (inclusive).

The summer 10% POE demand and winter temperatures are associated with the types of conditions conducive to 10% POE demand events. However, there is not a single temperature threshold or weather pattern that drives 10% POE demand events. The response of generator capacities to temperature is also complex, with potential dependencies on other variables such as humidity, temperatures in the hours preceding a period, or even weather conditions the day before. The winter and summer 10% POE demand reference temperatures are therefore considered a reasonable approximation of conditions associated with 10% POE demand events.

Table 1 lists the reference temperatures AEMO applies for each region when requesting production unit ratings.

Table 1 Common reference temperature and summer typical temperature (°C)

| Region | Summer peak reference temperature | Winter reference temperature | Summer typical temperature |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Queensland | 37 | 15 | 32 |
| New South Wales | 42 | 9 | 32 |
| Victoria | 41 | 8 | 32 |
| South Australia | 43 | 11 | 35 |
| Tasmania | 7.7 | 1.2 | n/a* |

* Tasmania summer ratings are based on peak demand periods driven by cold weather. AEMO only uses the 10% POE demand reference temperature for Tasmanian summer ratings.

AEMO applies the ratings to the ESOO model as per the following schedule:

- Summer peak capacity:
 - Applies to both 50% and 10% POE demand simulations for all mainland regions.
 - Applies to the top five days of daily maximum temperature within each reference year as mapped to forecast year.
 - To capture years with many days of extreme temperature, the rating also applies to any additional days with daily maximum temperatures that are within two degrees Celsius of the summer 10% POE demand reference temperature.
- Typical summer capacity:
 - Applies to all remaining summer periods for all regions, where summer is defined as November to March inclusive for mainland regions and December to February inclusive for Tasmania.
- Winter capacity:
 - Applies to all remaining periods.

2.2 Dispatchable production unit outage rates

Scheduled production units are assumed to be available at their peak summer, typical summer, or winter capacity unless they experience an unplanned outage.

Planned outages are not modelled in the ESOO's reliability forecast, however, they may be modelled in certain sensitivities to explore the impact of planned outages on generator availability, energy production and power system reliability.

AEMO collects information from all production units on the timing, duration, and severity of actual unplanned outages, and projections of future unplanned outage rates via an annual survey process. This data is used to calculate and forecast the probability of long duration unplanned outages, full, and partial unplanned outages, which are then applied randomly to each unit in ESOO modelling. To protect the confidentiality of this data, AEMO may publish calculated outage parameters for a number of technology aggregations.

2.2.1 Calculating random outage parameters

Outage parameters for unplanned outages, including outage rates, de-ratings, and mean times to repair, vary between facilities and over time for a variety of reasons. Some reasons include production unit behaviour, equipment age, and maintenance regimes. These variables are modelled as three categories of outage for input into the ESOO model:

- Long duration unplanned outages, defined as a full unplanned outage greater than five months,
- Full unplanned outages, being less than or equal to five months, and
- Partial unplanned outages, where a unit has an unplanned reduction in capacity.

AEMO differentiates long duration outages from regular unplanned outage rates. Long duration outages that extend greater than five months are less likely to reoccur on the same unit but occur from time to time within the fleet.

AEMO uses the following approach for determining the unplanned outage rates used for each power station:

- Conduct the generator survey to collect availability data for the past year, supplementing historical data collected in prior years. The data collected are:
 - Full and partial unplanned outage data for the most recent year, (capacity available and outage duration) incorporating the following outage categories:
 - Non-discretionary full unplanned outages (in both committed and non-committed states).
 - Non-discretionary partial unplanned outages (in both committed and non-committed states).
 - Non-discretionary full planned outage extensions.
 - Non-discretionary partial planned outage extensions.
 - Failed starts.
 - Participants' projections on unplanned outage data for some or all generators over the next 10 years, or until retirement.
- Calculate the outage parameters of each category for each unit across all regions.

- Remove any full outages that are more than five months (long duration unplanned outages) from the historical base data.
- Calculate the Full Unplanned Outage Rate (UOR), Partial Unplanned Outage Rate (PUOR), average Partial Outage Derating Factor and respective Mean Time to Repair (MTTR).

$$\text{Full Unplanned Outage Rate (UOR)} = \frac{\text{Total hours in (full unplanned outage, committed state + failed start state)}}{\text{Total hours in (committed state + full unplanned outage, committed state + failed start state)} + \frac{\text{Total hours in (full unplanned outage, available but not committed state + full planned outage extension state)}}{\text{Total hours in year}}}$$

$$\text{Partial Unplanned Outage Rate (PUOR)} = \frac{\text{Total hours in (partial unplanned outage, committed state)}}{\text{Total hours in (committed state + full unplanned outage, committed state + failed start state)} + \frac{\text{Total hours in (partial unplanned outage, available but not committed state + partial planned outage extension state)}}{\text{Total hours in year}}}$$

$$\text{MTTR (UOR)} = \frac{\sum \text{Full outage hours}}{\sum \text{Transitions from unavailable to available}}$$

$$\text{MTTR (PUOR)} = \frac{\sum \text{Full outage hours}}{\sum \text{Transitions from partially available to available}}$$

$$\text{Partial Derating Factor (PUOR)} = \frac{\sum \text{Lost Energy during partial outages}}{\sum \text{Energy that would otherwise have been available without partial outage}}$$

The long duration unplanned outage rates are modelled by AEMO, taking into consideration the historical data of at least the past 10 years.

$$\text{UOR (long duration)} = \frac{\sum \text{Long duration outage hours}}{\sum \text{Total hours in year}}$$

$$\text{MTTR (long duration)} = \frac{\sum \text{Long duration outage hours}}{\sum \text{Long duration events}}$$

- AEMO may commission consultants to provide forecasts of projected outage values for some or all generators⁹.
- After calculating production unit unplanned outage statistics, AEMO will compare participant-provided and relevant consultant-derived projected unplanned outage rates for use in ESOO modelling. AEMO will generally rely on the information provided by participants, supplementing with consultant forecasts only where participant information does not provide a sufficiently detailed or suitable projection. For example, a projection may not be considered suitable if it uses an inconsistent definition of an unplanned outage or if it is inconsistent with the supporting evidence on which it is based.
- After calculating production unit outage statistics, provide station owners the opportunity to propose evidence-based revisions to the parameters that are to be used in the ESOO modelling, including consideration of any consultant forecast. AEMO takes any proposed revisions under consideration and may adjust the assumptions used in modelling.
- For production units without projections, apply an average rate derived from the last four yearly outage statistics to all forecast periods¹⁰. This approximates well the longer-term outage rates seen by most technologies.

⁹ For example, in 2020, AEMO commissioned AEP Elicat to review generator reliability. Its report 'Assessment of Ageing Coal-Fired Generation Reliability' is at <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/nem-forecasting-and-planning/forecasting-and-reliability/nem-electricity-statement-of-opportunities-esoo/2023-nem-electricity-statement-of-opportunities-esoo>.

¹⁰ For emerging technologies like storage, outage statistics spanning less than four years may be used to calculate an average outage rate.

- For production units with projections, apply the projections to all forecast periods.
- For long duration outages, apply an average rate derived from at least 10-yearly outage statistics to all forecast periods.

Note:

- For units without participant provided projections, AEMO may apply technology-level UORs based on the average performance of the relevant technology category. This approach streamlines data collection and modelling while maintaining transparency.
- AEMO calculates outage parameters for a number of technology aggregations for the published model to avoid exposing confidential information.

2.3 Production unit operational parameters

AEMO may use relevant static Generator Energy Limitation Framework (GELF) and *Integrated System Plan* (ISP) parameters in ESOO modelling. These would only be added where their inclusion would improve the accuracy of the reliability forecast outcomes, with minimal compute or time cost. Relevant variables may include:

- GELF – storage parameters, start count and limits on continuous operation.
- IASR – minimum stable level, minimum on/off times, ramp rates.

When these parameters are used in reliability modelling, they will be documented in the corresponding report.

2.4 Production unit auxiliary usage

AEMO's demand forecasts are developed on a 'sent-out' basis representing electricity to be supplied to customers from the grid. However, AEMO's modelling of production unit capacity is on an 'as-generated' basis and includes electricity consumed within the power plants themselves. Rather than assume an annual auxiliary consumption and auxiliary demand at the time of peak, AEMO's models dynamically account for auxiliary load based on production unit dispatch in each modelling interval. AEMO currently sources per-unit auxiliary rate assumptions from participants through the latest Generator Information surveys¹¹ which are published in aggregate form.

2.5 Variable renewable energy availability

Variable renewable energy (VRE) is modelled by considering at least eight historical reference years, which reflect the weather conditions that drove demand and wind and solar production over that period. This approach preserves any correlation between VRE and demand, and between VRE in different locations. Half-hourly trace development for VRE is discussed further in Section 4.3.

¹¹ At <https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Planning-and-forecasting/Generation-information>.

2.6 Grid-scale storage and virtual power plants

Grid-scale battery storage, pumped hydro generation, hydrogen elements, and the proportion of small-scale battery storage that is assumed to be aggregated (operating as a virtual power plant [VPP] or vehicle-to-grid [V2G]) is fully optimised in the supply dispatch modelling. Each storage or generator is modelled with regards to its maximum generation/discharge capacity, maximum load/charge capacity, storage capacity, and efficiency. Each hydrogen element is modelled with regards to its maximum load, minimum load and energy target. Within the modelling, each asset optimises its generation (or discharging), load (pumping or charging) in a way that will reduce the level of USE given its operational constraints. The modelling assumes perfect foresight in optimising this behaviour.

While perfect foresight applies to the dispatch of all storages in the model, this has the potential to be most problematic for very short duration storages, whereby intra-day energy allocation is likely to be modelled with more precision than may be achievable in practice. To address this shortcoming, and to ensure that the model does not over-estimate the perfect allocation of very scarce energy resources to power system reliability needs, derating factors are applied to the storage capacity (megawatt hours) of all units with a duration less than 7.5 hours of storage:

- For devices with less than 1.5 hours of storage and coordinated CER (VPP), storage capacity is reduced by 50%.
- For devices with 1.5 to (less than) 3.5 hours of storage, storage capacity is reduced by 25%.
- For devices with 3.5 to (less than) 7.5 hours of storage, storage capacity is reduced by 10%.

No derating is applied to the power (MW) capacity of storages, reflecting the capability of storages to dispatch fully subject to the availability of scarce energy. The deratings specified above incorporate the auxiliary power use and storage efficiency losses that are already included in AEMO's models.

The water reservoirs for hydro generation are modelled by using parameters such as maximum volume, initial storage volume, and the monthly reservoir inflow rates (reflecting historical inflows). Small reservoirs that do not allow large variations in storage and the generators using them are often called 'run of river'. These generators do not require long-term optimisation and will generally use all the available water.

Larger reservoirs, however, require optimisation across a longer timeframe to save water for periods with higher electricity demand and wholesale prices.

In the ESOO model, water use is optimised in the simulation, resource allocation is optimised for each financial year. The model also limits the storage volume by the end of each yearly step to be equal to the volume at the beginning of the step.

These optimised hydro generation trajectories are further allocated to represent optimal daily and half-hourly behaviour. This is achieved through the use of soft targets, allowing a simulated dispatch of higher than allocated output where advantageous, while ensuring long term volumes match dam inflows.

This method also assumes "perfect foresight" in all modelling of hydro schemes. That means that the water use is optimised with absolute certainty what will be the future natural inflow, a situation no hydro generator operator experiences in practice. This is not a material risk to supply scarcity, as both operators (in practice) and the model ensure availability at time of maximum demand.

For hydro schemes that include pumped hydro units, the release and pumping decisions are not directly bound to the soft targets determined by the 10 one-year steps. Pumped hydro operation is fully optimised in the supply dispatch simulation.

2.7 New production unit commitment

The ESOO Reliability Forecast includes only existing and new production unit projects that meet AEMO's commitment criteria. These criteria are used to consistently assess whether a project has made a formal commitment to construct.

The ESOO Reliability Forecast includes all production units that were existing, committed or anticipated in the most recent generation information page¹² published in accordance with clause 3.7F of the NER, as per the following implementation:

- 'In Commissioning' projects have met the commissioning requirements of their first hold point. In Commissioning projects are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast at the Full Commercial Use Date (FCUD) submitted by the developer.
- 'Committed' projects are projects that have fully met all commitment criteria, but have not yet met the commissioning requirements of their first hold point. Committed projects are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast but a delay is applied the FCUD submitted by the developer¹³ consistent with delays observed for recently commissioned projects.
- 'Committed*' projects are those that are highly likely to proceed, satisfying land, finance and construction criteria plus either planning or components criteria. Progress towards meeting the final criteria is also evidenced and construction or installation has also commenced. Committed* projects are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast but a delay is applied to the FCUD submitted by the developer¹³ consistent with delays observed for recently commissioned projects.
- 'Anticipated' projects are those projects that are likely to proceed and demonstrate progress towards meeting at least three of the commitment criteria, and have updated their submission in the previous six months. Anticipated projects are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast¹² is at the furthest date of either:
 - the first day after the T-1 year for RRO purposes, or
 - one year after the FCUD submitted by the developer.

For example, in the 2025 ESOO, Anticipated projects commence operation no earlier than 1 July 2027.

- 'Proposed' projects are not considered in the ESOO Reliability Forecast.

2.8 CER commitment

The ESOO Reliability Forecast includes the most likely forecast of all demand side components, including CER. For example, the demand forecasts used in the ESOO Reliability Forecast incorporate ongoing uptake of distributed photovoltaics (PV), behind the meter batteries, and Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The ESOO Reliability Forecast however only includes the aggregation of CER, for example where batteries are aggregated as a VPP or V2G, where that aggregation can be identified as being existing, or having 'committed'. In cases where the aggregation of CER cannot be identified as having 'committed', the CER is modelled without aggregation.

¹² Criteria for Committed, Committed*, and Anticipated is specified on the Generation Information page, under the Background information tab.

¹³ AEMO may apply discretion to project timing in circumstances where AEMO has sufficient evidence to suggest a delay is extremely unlikely.



2.9 Application of DSP

AEMO incorporates a DSP forecast in the ESOO Reliability Forecast, where DSP is modelled in the ESOO for each region in various quantities of firm capacity at different price bands. Only those DSP developments that can be identified as having ‘committed’ are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast.

The DSP forecast that is used in the ESOO highlights the risk of shortfalls to determine the need for Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT) capacity and other market interventions and developments, hence the analysis excludes RERT. DSP modelled as a last resource before a USE event occurs in the simulation.

Further information is available in AEMO’s Demand Side Participation Forecast Methodology¹⁴.

¹⁴ See https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/nem-consultations/2023/dsp-forecasting-methodology-and-dsp-information-guidelines-consultation/final-stage/2023-dsp-forecast-methodology.pdf.

3 Network

3.1 Interconnectors

Existing transmission limits and interconnector capacities are generally applied assuming the interconnector limits currently in effect continue to apply. The limits on each line are modelled by applying dynamic power system constraints. AEMO reviews current conditions, constraints, and planned augmentations and includes these changes when appropriate.

3.2 Network constraints

The ESOO model applies a comprehensive set of network constraint equations that represent the thermal and stability limits that currently constrain dispatch in the NEM¹⁵. These constraint equations act at times to limit generation, but also frequently limit interconnector transfer capacity.

In general, the following constraint equations are included:

- Thermal – for managing the power flow on a transmission element so it does not exceed a rating (either continuous or short-term) under normal conditions or following a credible contingency.
- Voltage stability – for managing transmission voltages so they remain at acceptable levels after a credible contingency.
- Transient stability – for managing continued synchronism of all generators on the power system following a credible contingency.
- Oscillatory stability – for managing damping of power system oscillations following a credible contingency.
- Rate of change of frequency (RoCoF) constraints – for managing the rate of change of frequency following a credible contingency.

The effect of committed projects on the network is implemented as modifications to the network constraint equations that control flow. The methodology for formulating these constraints is in AEMO's *Constraint Formulation Guidelines*¹⁶.

A set of network constraints is produced and applied for every scenario modelled. This set may reflect:

- Extracted constraints from the AEMO Market Management Systems (MMS).
- Network augmentations appropriate for the scenario.
- Adjustments to reflect the impact of new generation capacities.
- Other adjustments to reflect assumptions of system operating conditions.

Operationally, AEMO also uses other types of constraint equations that are invoked as required depending on system conditions. These may include:

¹⁵ Further information is available at AEMO's Congestion Information Resource at <https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Security-and-reliability/Congestion-information>.

¹⁶ At https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/nem-consultations/2022/cfg-and-scvpf/final/constraint-formulation-guidelines-v12---final_.pdf?la=en.

- Outage constraint equations.
- Frequency control ancillary service (FCAS) constraint equations.
- Condition-specific constraint equations such as RoCoF and network support agreements.

These constraint equation types are commonly excluded from the market simulations, although key outage constraints are included (See Section 3.4).

3.3 Losses

Intra-regional losses are included in AEMO's operational demand forecasts. As such, generator and load marginal loss factors (MLFs) are not a relevant input to the ESOO modelling, because all intra-regional losses are already accounted for in the demand.

Losses on interconnectors are modelled explicitly using the MLF equations defined in the *List of Regional Boundaries and Marginal Loss Factors* report¹⁷. For most interconnectors, these are defined as a function of regional load and flow.

AEMO uses proportioning factors to assign losses on interconnectors to regions. Operationally, this is used to determine settlement surplus. In ESOO modelling, proportioning factors are used to allocate losses to demand in each region. Proportioning factors are given in the annual *List of Regional Boundaries and Marginal Loss Factors* report.

The losses allocated to each region effectively add to the total load that needs to be supplied in that region. As a result, interconnector losses are removed from the demand inputs used in the model as these losses are then added back in each period depending on the allocation of losses associated with the interconnector flow outcomes.

3.4 Transmission outages

AEMO includes the impact of unplanned outages on key transmission lines that materially contribute to inter-regional transfer capability. Annually, in preparation for the ESOO publication, AEMO assesses the materiality of outages observed on each line to determine which lines should be considered using the following process:

1. Identify all transmission elements that form an inter-regional flow path from Regional Reference Node (RRN) to RRN.
2. From the transmission elements identified in step 1, exclude all transmission elements that connect each RRN with significant remote intra-regional generation output.
3. With the reduced subset of transmission elements remaining following step 2, exclude any other elements in the interregional flow path, that if unavailable, would not materially increase reliability risk.

In calculating the unplanned outage rate, AEMO considers both single credible contingency events and reclassification events.

To calculate the forecast rate of unplanned outages driven by single credible contingencies, AEMO:

¹⁷ AEMO. *Loss Factors and Regional Boundaries*, at <http://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Security-and-reliability/Loss-factor-and-regional-boundaries>.

- Requests historical data on the occurrence of single credible contingencies from Network Service Providers (NSPs) over at least 10 years where possible.
- In the absence of NSP data provision, AEMO will use best endeavours to create a 10-year dataset based on publicly available information.
- Requests 10-year projected outage rates or expected performance insights from NSPs.
- Calculates forecast unplanned outage rates for the forecast horizon by applying the historical observed rate, unless NSP insight suggests an alternate projection.

To calculate the forecast rate of unplanned outages driven by reclassification events, AEMO:

- Collates historical data as derived from AEMO's reclassification database¹⁸.
- Uses reasonable judgement to exclude reclassification events that occurred in response to a multiple or non-credible contingency event.
- Calculates a historical rate then applies the historical rate over the 10-year forecast horizon.

Long duration outages observed in the history receive no special treatment, and are included in the calculated outage rate unless the NSP provides insight that suggests they are more or less likely in future periods. The unplanned outage mean time to repair is derived from observed events.

AEMO will implement weather variable outage rates where either single credible contingencies, or reclassifications are observed to be predominantly driven by, and are correlated with measurable weather. Such an implementation will match the annual rate, but better allocate the risk to the relevant time interval by the use of reference year traces. The transmission unplanned outage rates may be further adjusted with consideration for climate change trends where a weather driven failure mode is observed. In the absence of a causal relationship with weather, static annual unplanned outage rates will be implemented.

The impact of the outage is simulated through the use of power system constraints. AEMO:

- Uses a constraint set that applies during relevant outage categories (that is, single credible contingency, reclassification) event on the transmission segment most representative of the flow path's interconnector.
 - Multiple constraint sets representing the various outage categories will be applied to a single flow path where the impact on that flow path's transfer limit is materially different between categories.
 - For example, the constraint set that would apply during a single credible contingency event on Dumaresq – Bulli Creek would be used to simulate the impact of all single credible contingency outages on the Queensland – New South Wales Interconnector (QNI) flow path.
- Uses the constraints to reduce inter-regional transfer limits during simulated unplanned outages to:
 - 0 MW, for single circuit lines.
 - A non-zero value consistent with operational constraints, for all other lines.
- Where possible, updates constraint sets to reflect committed transmission investments.

¹⁸ At <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/nem-events-and-reports/power-system-reclassification-events>.

These outages will be treated similarly to dispatchable generation forced outages in the modelling, through Monte Carlo simulations as explained in Section 2.2.1.

3.5 New transmission developments

The ESOO Reliability Forecast includes only existing and new transmission projects that meet AEMO's commitment criteria. The commitment criteria for determining the transmission project status can be found at the Transmission Augmentation Information page¹⁹.

AEMO includes Committed and Anticipated transmission developments in the ESOO Reliability Forecast

- 'Committed' transmission projects are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast with a delay applied to commissioning dates provided by the developer consistent with delays observed for recently commissioned projects²⁰.
- 'Anticipated' transmission projects are included in the ESOO Reliability Forecast one year after the commissioning dates provided by the developer.

¹⁹ Criteria for Committed and Anticipated are specified on the Transmission Augmentation Information page, at <https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/nem-forecasting-and-planning/forecasting-and-planning-data/transmission-augmentation-information>, under the Information tab.

²⁰ AEMO may not apply this delay to smaller projects or in circumstances where AEMO has sufficient evidence to suggest a delay is extremely unlikely.

4 Traces

4.1 Traces

The operational demand, VRE availability, and transmission line ratings are inputs into the model on an interval level. Trace development relies on historical reference years to provide guidance on the typical daily and weekly demand shapes, variations from interval to interval, and correlations with other regions.

4.2 Reference years

Demand, VRE, and line rating traces are developed based on multiple historical reference years according to the RSIG. This is to capture year-on-year variations in demand correlations across regions and VRE contributions during high demand periods. This approach preserves any correlation between VRE and demand, and VRE in different locations. The choice of reference years and the number of those modelled may change as more reference years with good data become available.

Demand traces are explained in the *Electricity Demand Forecasting Methodology*²¹.

4.3 Creating reference years trace for VRE

Where appropriate, AEMO uses at least eight years of actual generation performance from a generation site to create VRE traces for Monte Carlo simulations, assuming similar weather conditions are repeated in future. Where this data is unavailable or unsuitable, AEMO uses historical meteorological data for the site, and a resource to power model based on the generator technology, to develop a generation forecast.

For wind generators, AEMO has developed a resource to power model using an empirical machine learning approach. This model is fitted per site to capture the specific power curve for each wind farm incorporating both high wind and high temperature effects. Participant information on generator capabilities during summer peak demand temperatures are overlaid on top of these resource to power models.

For large-scale solar generators, AEMO uses the System Advisor Model (SAM) from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory²² considering site-based technology parameters where relevant. In the case of large-scale solar traces, for which little actual generation is historically available, AEMO uses historical meteorological data and an energy conversion model for all trace time-periods.

Where committed renewable generation will be located at new sites, the ESOO modelling incorporates generation traces entirely derived from meteorological data using a resource to power model representative of expected technological performance, or renewable energy zone (REZ) forecasts from AEMO's ISP, which are also derived from meteorological data.

²¹ At https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/nem-consultations/2024/2024-electricity-demand-forecasting-methodology-consultation/final-determination/electricity-demand-forecasting-methodology_.pdf?la=en.

²² See <https://sam.nrel.gov/>.

4.4 Transmission line rating traces

Where available, AEMO will apply transmission line ratings traces to better account for the transfer capability on transmission lines, particularly during high demand periods. These transmission line rating traces are developed based on historical line rating traces and take into account inputs such as ambient temperature, wind speed and solar heating in conjunction with probable flow on the line conductor. Where available, the input data utilises locally measured weather observations in modelling the line rating trace. The model also analyses the limitation of various plants in the terminal station that would impact the transmission line ratings. Subsequently, modelling results using actual weather observations are benchmarked against actual line ratings to ensure accuracy.

The actual weather observations from the reference years will then be processed through this model to develop forward-looking line traces for each reference year, which is then further adjusted to reflect the impact of increasing temperatures over the forecast horizon on line ratings. The climate change factor implemented aligns with the scenario specified where relevant. The line ratings are used as an input into the right-hand-side of the constraint equations calculated and described in Section 3.2. Lines with static line ratings utilise constraints that are not influenced by time-varying traces.

4.5 Photovoltaic (PV) traces

Rooftop PV and PV non-scheduled generation (PVNSG) reduce the electricity consumption and demand that needs to be met by the NEM. The extent of this contribution depends on the generation profile of these systems.

Capacity factors are a measure of power output relative to nameplate capacity at any given time. For fixed solar PV installations, capacity factors generally follow a parabolic arch, peaking at midday, when solar irradiance is highest. Figure 2 shows an example of historical average capacity factor curves by state, for the NEM, for February.

Capacity factor curves are influenced by a number of factors including:

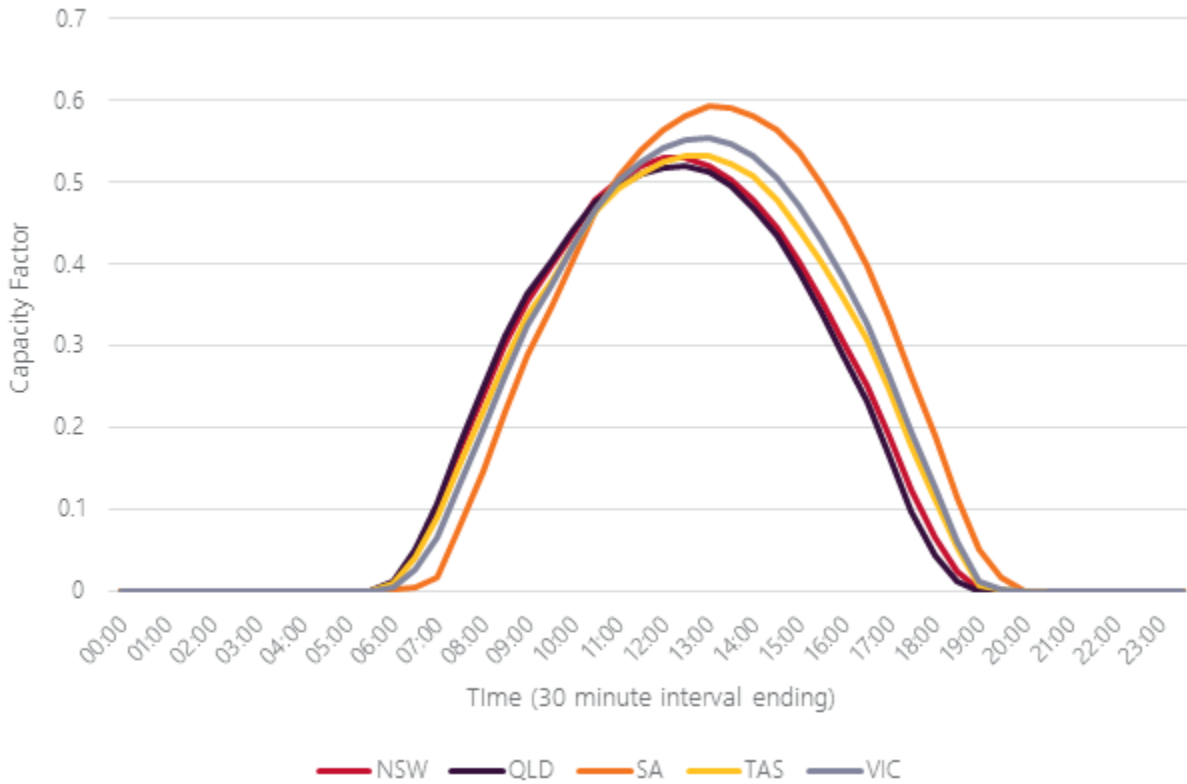
- The latitude of the panels.
- Localised weather conditions (such as temperature and cloud cover).
- Panel inclination and azimuth²³.

Capacity factors are derived for each NEM region at all reference year periods (half-hourly resolution). The capacity factors are derived from external provider Solcast, whereby satellite-derived solar irradiance is coupled to models that account for the spatial distribution of installed capacity. The capacity factors used to estimate the forecast contribution of rooftop PV and PVNSG to consumption and demand were calculated based on these historical values.

²³ Inclination refers to the angle of the panel relative to horizontal and azimuth refers to the direction that the panel faces, with North facing panels generally having higher overall capacity factors. Western facing panels have higher capacity factors in the afternoon, and Eastern facing panels have higher capacity factors in the morning.



Figure 2 Estimated average historical rooftop PV capacity factors for February



4.6 Time-slice trace

As described in Section 2.1, AEMO determine the periods for three different ratings based on the historical temperature data for each reference year and region. The ‘10% POE summer’, ‘typical summer’, and ‘winter’ capacity periods are formatted as time-slice traces for each reference year.

5 Unserved energy calculation

5.1 Simulation approach

AEMO's reliability assessments are based on a full time-sequential model that simulates each interval of the modelling horizon. This model replicates the NEM dispatch engine to the extent possible by minimising cost of dispatch per interval subject to a number of physical constraints. AEMO currently uses the PLEXOS modelling tool for this.

The key assumptions that drive this model include:

- Interval level demand.
- Interval level wind and solar availability for each VRE generator.
- The seasonal capacity of each scheduled generating unit.
- Unplanned outage parameters used to account for unplanned generator outages.
- Transmission limitations, represented by transmission line ratings, interconnector limits and a detailed set of transmission constraint equations.
- The level of DSP in each region.

AEMO assesses reliability in the medium to long term by determining a statistical expectation of USE. This modelling takes into account uncertainty by using the following methods:

- Uncertainty in maximum demand – the modelling accounts for this uncertainty by modelling multiple maximum demand cases, defined by the POE of the maximum demand value. The outcomes of these different scenarios are then weighted as described in Section 5.2.2.
- Uncertainty in demand and VRE patterns – reliability outcomes are influenced by the pattern of demand and the available generation from VRE at the time of high demand. AEMO uses multiple historical reference years of demand, wind generation, solar generation, and transmission line ratings. This approach captures the diversity in demand and VRE patterns while maintaining correlation between these variables and across different geographical locations. It also ensures that effects of heatwaves, and other weather events observed in history, are captured in the simulations.
- Uncertainty in unplanned generation outages – AEMO uses a Monte Carlo simulation approach to capture the range of availability provided by scheduled generation. Within each simulation, the timing and duration of full and partial outages of each generating unit are independently determined, based on the unplanned outage parameters applied in the model. Each simulation therefore has a unique set of generator outage patterns. Simulating many outage patterns ensures the modelling captures a range of availability outcomes due to unplanned outages.

The Monte Carlo simulation approach is applied to each maximum demand and reference year, creating statistically robust results which capture the impact of uncertainties around key parameters.

The ESOO may assess different sensitivities that vary with respect to the pace of change in the NEM. Differences in underlying demand growth, consumer energy resources (CER) uptake, timing of coal-fired generation closures, and changes to new generator and storage across the sensitivities. The approach above is repeated for each of those, to present USE for each of the scenarios separately.

5.2 USE outcomes

5.2.1 Definition (what does USE mean in modelling terms)

The key outcome of AEMO's reliability assessment is the expected level of USE in each region. USE refers to energy that cannot be supplied to consumers, resulting in involuntary load shedding (loss of customer supply), as a result of insufficient levels of generation capacity, demand response, or network capability, to meet demand.

In AEMO's reliability forecasting models, USE occurs in a region when there is no additional supply option available that is able to meet demand in that region. When USE is occurring in the model, it means the following set of conditions must be true:

- All DSP available in that region is fully utilised.
- All interconnectors are flowing into that region at their export/import (based on NEM convention) limits, except if the neighbouring region is also experiencing USE or has no surplus supply (including DSP).
- Any generator in the region that is not generating at its available capacity (after accounting for unplanned outages) is due to the impact of transmission constraint equations, whereby any additional generation from these generators would result in a reduction in generation or interconnector flow elsewhere in a way that would increase or have no impact on total USE.
- All dispatchable energy storage units (including VPPs) are running at their available capacity unless restricted by transmission constraint equations (as above) or having fully exhausted their energy storage capacity in other periods where there was USE or would otherwise have been USE if not for the batteries' discharge.

Within each Monte Carlo simulation that has been performed, the model will produce the level of USE in each region in each interval. The level of USE can then be summed across the year to determine the total volume of USE in each region in each financial year.

5.2.2 Determining the USE weightings

AEMO has historically calculated expected annual USE by using different levels of maximum demand outcomes, reflecting different underlying weather conditions that can drive extreme peak consumption. Assessments of USE consider the availability of supply to meet an uncertain demand, with many simulations conducted to account for potential generator outages.

Simulations, accounting for randomised generator outages, are generally limited to 10% POE and 50% POE maximum demand forecasts only, and the average of these simulations is weighted to account for the statistical spread of the spectrum of peak demands. As the risk of USE under 90% POE peak demand conditions is generally very low, simulations are avoided, and it is assumed that the USE under these conditions is zero. Therefore, 10% POE and 50% POE outcomes are weighted at 30.4% and 39.2% respectively, with the remaining 30.4% weighting assigned to 90% POE outcomes with zero USE assumed.

The weightings have been derived using a mathematical approach. Expected USE was approximated using a Taylor series expansion. From three points – such as 10% POE, 50% POE, and 90% POE – the weighting for these can be derived perfectly when:

- Maximum demand POE outcomes are normally distributed.
- USE outcomes as a function of maximum demand can be approximated by a second order (or lower) polynomial.

Statistical tests show that maximum demand outcomes are not normally distributed although are considered sufficiently close. As part of the 2018 ESOO²⁴, AEMO further validated the weightings against a much more detailed approximation of USE in a particular year using a wider variety of sampled POEs. It was found that the mathematical approximation derived from the Taylor series expansion worked well across analysis of different regions and different years.

Using this mathematical approach, the three points – 10% POE, 50% POE, and 90% POE – have weightings of 30.4%, 39.2%, and 30.4% respectively.

The approach is therefore to:

- Determine the average USE in each region and financial year for each demand POE level, equally weighting all reference years and all simulations of unplanned outages.
- Assume the USE is zero in the 90% POE case.
- Weight the average USE across the three POE cases to determine the expected USE value.

²⁴ See Appendix A3 of the 2018 ESOO at https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/Files/Electricity/NEM/Planning_and_Forecasting/NEM_ESOO/2018/2018-Electricity-Statement-of-Opportunities.pdf.

6 Reliability forecast

6.1 Reliability forecast and indicative reliability forecast

The reliability forecast covers the first five years of the ESOO time horizon while the indicative reliability forecast covers the remaining five years of the 10-year ESOO outlook.

6.1.1 Existence of a forecast reliability gap and triggering reliability instrument requests

AEMO's methodology for calculating expected USE is explained in detail in the previous section.

As per NER 4A.A.2, a forecast reliability gap exists for a region if the expected USE exceeds the reliability standard.

The reliability standard is a measure of expected USE in each region, and is defined at a level of no more than 0.002% of energy demanded in any financial year. For the purposes of the RRO, it applies at this level unless the IRM applies. The IRM is a measure of expected USE in any region of no more than 0.0006% of energy demanded in any financial year. Current NER provisions specify that the IRM applies for the purposes of the RRO until 30 June 2028.

While AEMO may assess the reliability gap under a range of sensitivities, the forecast reliability gap that triggers a reliability instrument request will be based on the scenario AEMO considers most likely to eventuate, that is, a neutral or central scenario.

6.1.2 Reliability gap period and likely trading intervals

In the event that a forecast reliability gap is identified for either T-1 or T-3²⁵, AEMO determines the forecast reliability gap period and likely gap trading intervals based on the interval USE outcomes observed in the market simulations.

AEMO uses thresholds on the probability of lost load to determine the forecast reliability gap period and set of likely gap trading intervals where a forecast reliability gap has been identified. This methodology and the thresholds have been adopted to eliminate the impact of outlier events influencing simulation results, and to instead focus on likely periods which would cover the majority of load shedding events in simulations, when annual USE is forecast to exceed the reliability standard.

To provide greater decision-making support, AEMO will provide additional information that illustrates the distribution of USE events observed in the simulations with respect to month, day-of-the-week, and time-of-day, to help inform Registered Participants of the characteristics of the resources that could close the forecast reliability gap.

The following approach is applied where AEMO has identified a reliability gap in relation to a region in a financial year, in determining the forecast reliability gap period and the likely gap trading intervals for the purposes of clause 4A.B.2:

²⁵ T-3 and T-1 refer to reliability assessments three years out and one year out respectively. For example, for a reliability assessment conducted in August 2025, the T-1 period refers to the 2026-27 financial year.

1. AEMO considers standard contract periods on a suitably liquid and transparent futures market, for example contracts available on the ASX Electricity Futures Market. This may include contract periods that exclude non-working weekdays and/or periods that fall outside available standard contract periods where feasible.
2. Monthly – a forecast reliability gap is declared to exist in a month if the probability of lost load in that month exceeds 10%[†]. The months identified are then used to determine the start and end date of the forecast reliability gap period.
 - 2.1. AEMO applies a ‘sense test’ that could widen the months included, only in circumstances where the limited sampling of reference years leads to a potentially biased outcome. For example, when USE is concentrated in just a few of the reference years and is unduly narrowing the reliability gap period. In such a case, AEMO will consider the forecast timing of maximum demand to include other months in which supply scarcity risks are also likely to occur.
 - 2.2. AEMO applies a second ‘sense test’ that could tighten the start and end dates of the forecast reliability gap period within the month, if all the risk is forecast to occur in, say, the first or last week of the month.
3. Day-of-the-week – within the months that are identified in Step 2, day categories consistent with the standard contract periods are assessed and are declared as being within the forecast reliability gap period if the probability of lost load exceeds 10%[†]. The day-of-the-week classification is used to describe the likely trading intervals of a shortfall.
4. Time-of-day – a consistent time-of-day is applied across all month/day-of-the-week periods within a forecast reliability gap period. The range of trading intervals is identified by determining the earliest and latest time-of-day where the probability of lost load exceeds 10%[†]. All periods between these trading intervals are included.

[†] 10% or a lower percentage, decreased in 2% increments as required such that the likely trading intervals of the reliability gap period contain at least 80% of the USE forecast over the financial year.

Where multiple options exist for AEMO to identify which combination of Reliability gap periods and Likely trading intervals to select, AEMO will have regard for:

- What it considers to be the true timing of reliability risks in the forecast year.
- The standard contract periods available to retailers, and the additional costs that may be incurred from a potentially wider gap period.

The forecast reliability gap period may contain months which do not meet the lost load thresholds described above. AEMO applies the following treatment in issuing reliability instrument requests:

- Where there is no consecutive two-month period that does not meet the threshold (for example, November, January, and March are above the lost load threshold but December and February are not), a single reliability instrument request is made which includes the month/s which did not meet the threshold. However, these month/s are explicitly excluded from the likely gap trading intervals.
- Where there is a consecutive period of two or more months that does not meet the threshold, two reliability instrument requests are submitted with different forecast reliability gap period specifications. For the purpose of calculating the megawatt size of the forecast reliability gap, the two or more forecast reliability gap periods are considered together, due to the need to assess the additional megawatts required to meet the annual reliability standard.



As indicated above, if there is a single month or another period (for example, the weeks over the holiday period) where the risks of load shedding are observed to be low in the simulations, this period is explicitly excluded from the likely gap trading intervals. This removes the possible need for contracting cover during periods where the risk of load shedding is low while maintaining the administrative simplicity of a single reliability instrument request in most cases.

This aims to balance the cost of contracting for longer forecast reliability gap periods against the risk of confusion and administrative burden if multiple reliability instrument requests are requested in the same financial year.

Where discretion is used to adjust the RRO gap period from the deterministic method (through the use of ‘sense tests’ listed under Section 2 of the approach described for identifying a reliability gap period), analysis will be published to support the decision.

Example

The following example demonstrates how AEMO would implement the methodology for identifying the likely trading intervals of the reliability gap period.

Step 1

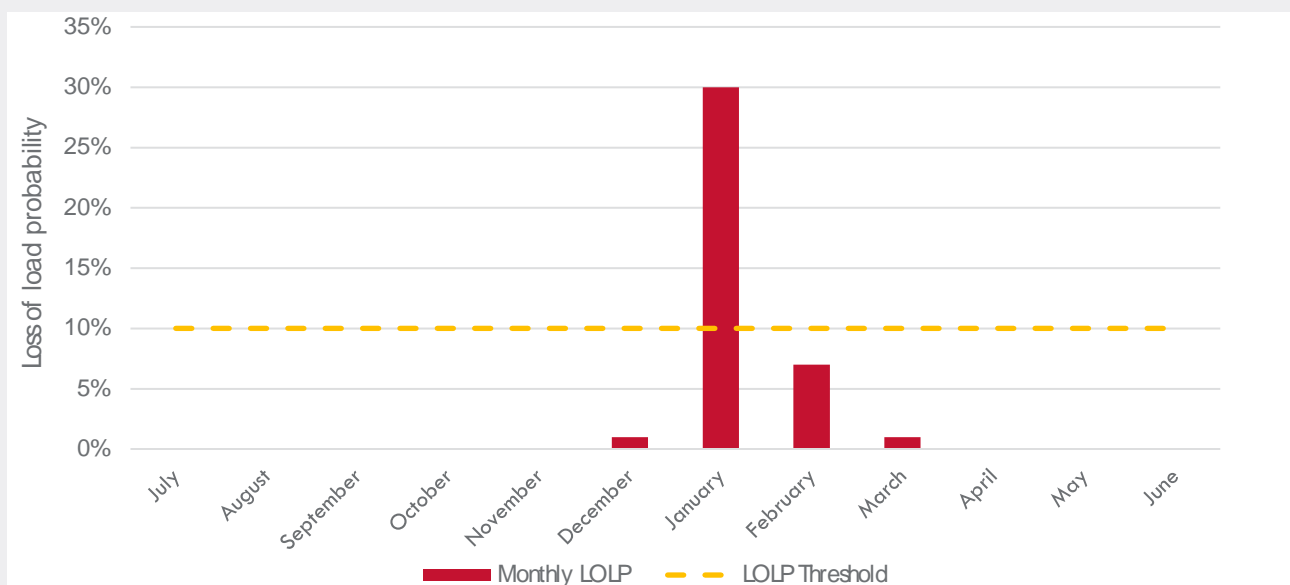
AEMO identifies standard contract periods for peak and baseload on the ASX Electricity Future Market.

It notes that contracts cover monthly and quarterly periods where the peak load period covers the intervals 7.00 am to 10.00 pm on working weekdays.

Step 2

AEMO assesses monthly LOLP as shown in Figure 3, identifying that on first pass, January is the only month that exceeds the 10% LOLP threshold.

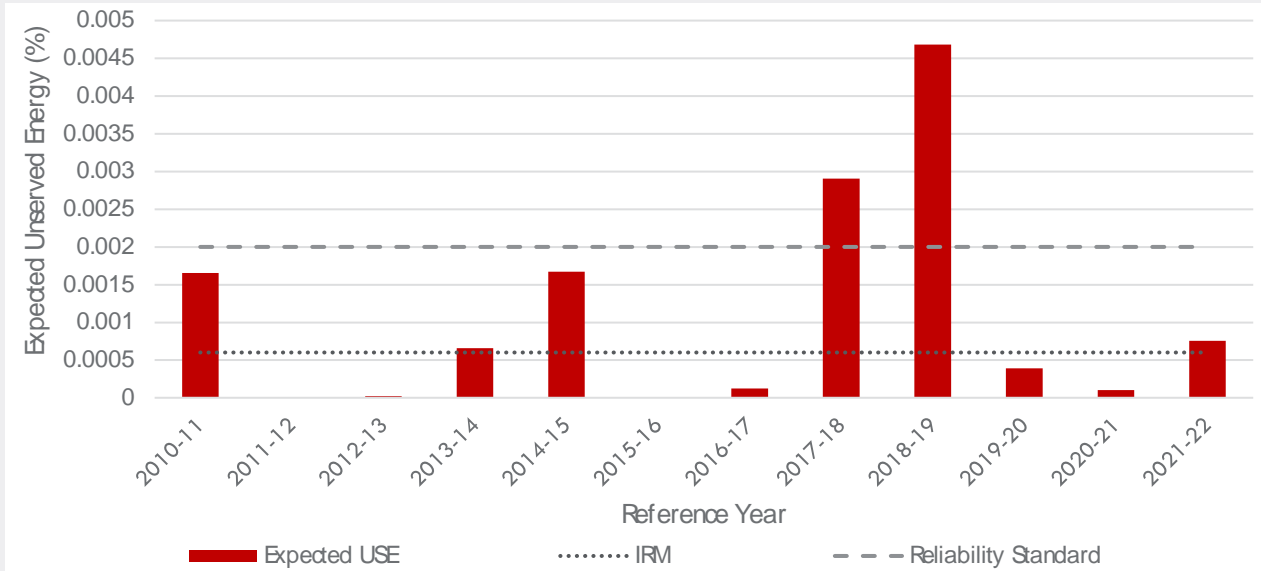
Figure 3 Monthly probability of lost load assessment



Step 2a

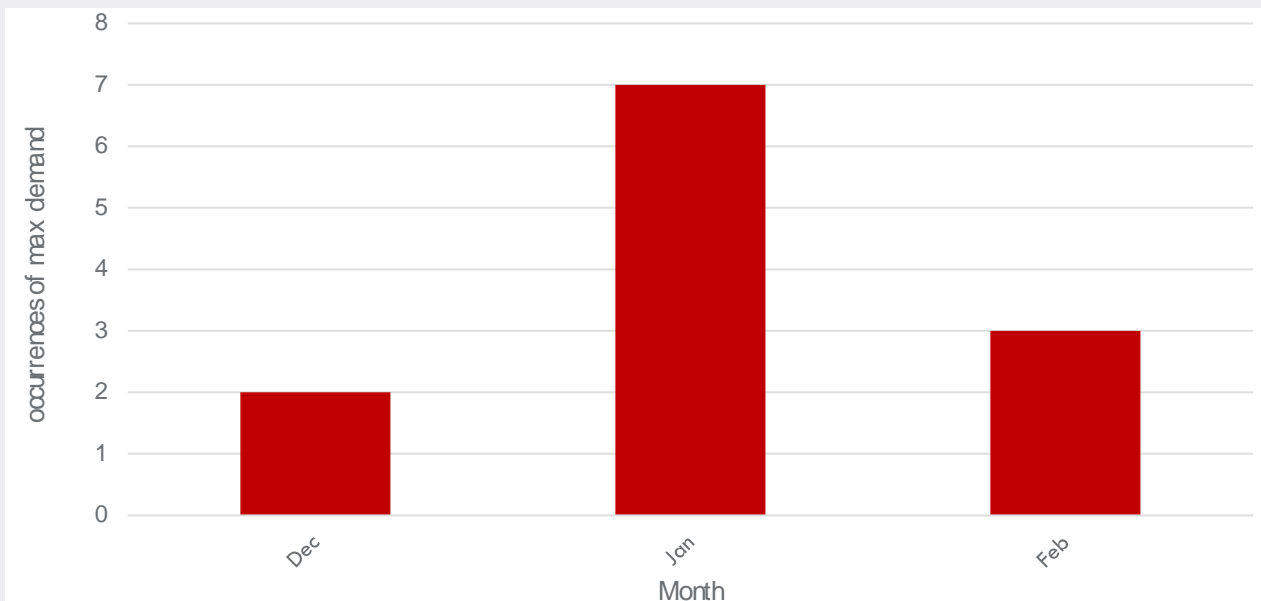
AEMO then assesses the distribution of USE per reference year, shown in Figure 4, to identify the potential for bias in simulation. Given that USE is observed to be concentrated in only a few reference years, the potential for bias exists.

Figure 4 Unserved energy by Reference Year



AEMO then assesses the distribution of annual maximum demand events per reference year, shown in Figure 5. While the timing of maximum demand confirms the previously identified January timing, December and February timing is also noted.

Figure 5 Occurrences of maximum demand per month



Step 2b

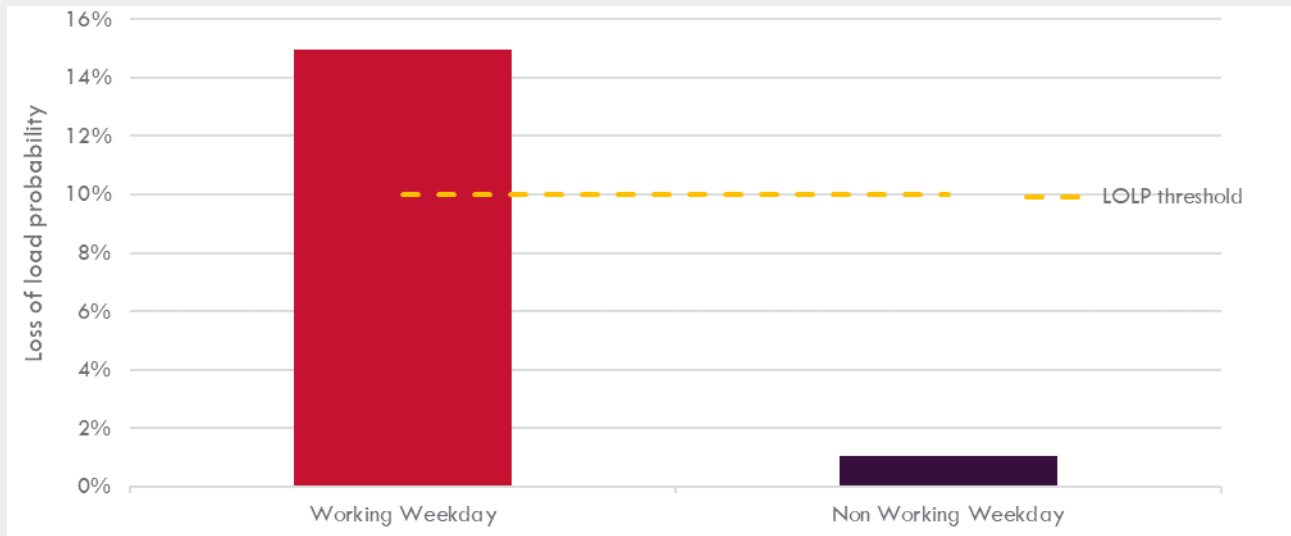


AEMO considers whether there are periods within the months identified that could be excluded from the period. Early periods in November, or late in March could be good candidates to exclude, should these months be identified.

Step 3

AEMO assesses the daily LOLP as shown in Figure 6, using day of week classifications from the standard contract periods. On the first pass, only working weekdays exceed the 10% LOLP threshold.

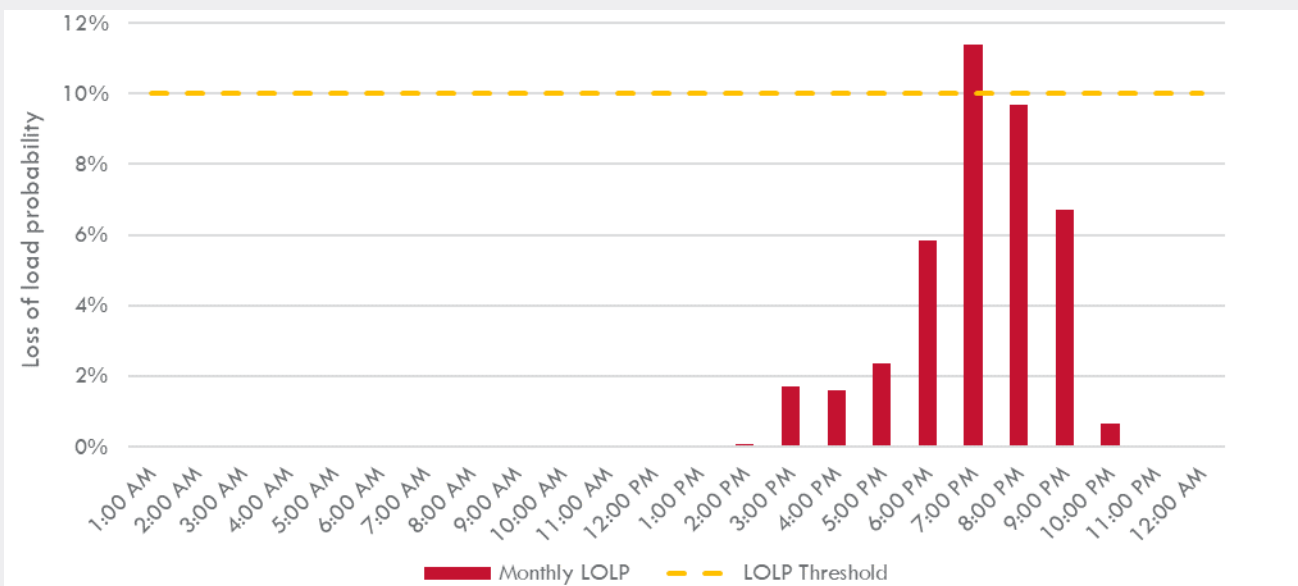
Figure 6 Day of week assessment of lost load assessment



Step 4

AEMO assess the time of day LOLP as shown in Figure 7. On the first pass, only the hour ending at 7pm NEM time exceeds the 10% LOLP threshold.

Figure 7 Time of day probability of lost load assessment (all identified months)



ITERATION

AEMO then assesses the % of total USE forecast that falls within the first pass intervals within the months identified. Additional months are considered iteratively if bias has been observed, and LOLP Thresholds are reduced in 2% increments until the amount of USE that falls within the selected intervals of the selected months is greater than 80% of total forecast USE.

Table 2 shows the likely trading intervals of the reliability gap periods that would arise under different LOLP iterations. Should AEMO consider that no bias was observed under Step 2a above, AEMO would select the outcomes under the 4% LOLP iteration as the reliability gap period and likely trading intervals, as it is the highest LOLP iteration for which the identified periods capture greater than 80% of forecast USE.

Table 2 Reliability gap period under differing LOLP iterations

| LOLP Threshold | 10% | 8% | 6% | 4% | 2% | 0% |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Reliability gap periods | 1 Jan - 31 Jan | 1 Jan – 31 Jan | 1 Jan – 31 Jan | 1 Jan – 31 Jan | 1 Jan – 28 Feb | 1 Jul – 30 Jun |
| Likely trading intervals | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm working weekdays | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm working weekdays | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm working weekdays | 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm working weekdays | 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm working weekdays | All day |
| Expected USE for the gap period (GWh) | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.10 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.14 |
| Percentage of USE within the gap period (%) | 36% | 54% | 72% | 80% | 87% | 100% |

Alternatively, where AEMO considers that a bias was observed under Step 2a above, AEMO may consider alternative outcomes from a calculation that includes the additional months identified, as shown in Table 3. For an equivalent USE % captured within the identified periods, the reliability gap period is wider, but the likely trading intervals are narrowed.

Table 3 Reliability gap period under differing LOLP iterations with additional months selected

| LOLP Threshold | 10% | 8% | 6% | 4% | 2% | 0% |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Reliability gap periods | 1 December - 28 February | 1 December - 28 February | 1 December - 28 February | 1 December - 28 February | 1 December - 28 February | 1 Jul – 30 Jun |
| Likely trading intervals | none | none | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm working weekdays | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm working weekdays | 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm working weekdays | All day |
| Expected USE for the gap period (GWh) | 0 | 0 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| Percentage of USE within the gap period (%) | 0% | 0% | 79% | 86% | 93% | 100% |

In deciding which combination of Reliability gap periods and Likely trading intervals to select, AEMO will have regard for:

- The nature of the bias observed in Step 2a, and what it considers to be the true timing of reliability risks in the forecast year.
- The standard contract periods available to retailers, and the additional costs that may be incurred from a potentially wider gap period.

In this example, AEMO would consider that the nature of the bias observed in Step 2a to be material due to the limited sampling of reference years and would conclude that reliability risks were truly likely in December, January and February. AEMO would then consider the additional cost to retailers of extending the trading interval start from 6pm to 5pm. Given that this time extension is within the period already covered by a standard contract period, AEMO would conclude that the additional cost to retailers would be minimal.

AEMO would select the following likely trading intervals and reliability gap period:

- Start date: 1 December
- End date: 28 February
- Working Weekdays only
- Trading intervals: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

For T-1 reliability instrument requests, the forecast reliability gap period and trading intervals are determined using the same approach, but are equal to, or further confined to, a subset of the T-3 reliability instrument request forecast reliability gap period and trading intervals, in accordance with NER 4A.C.

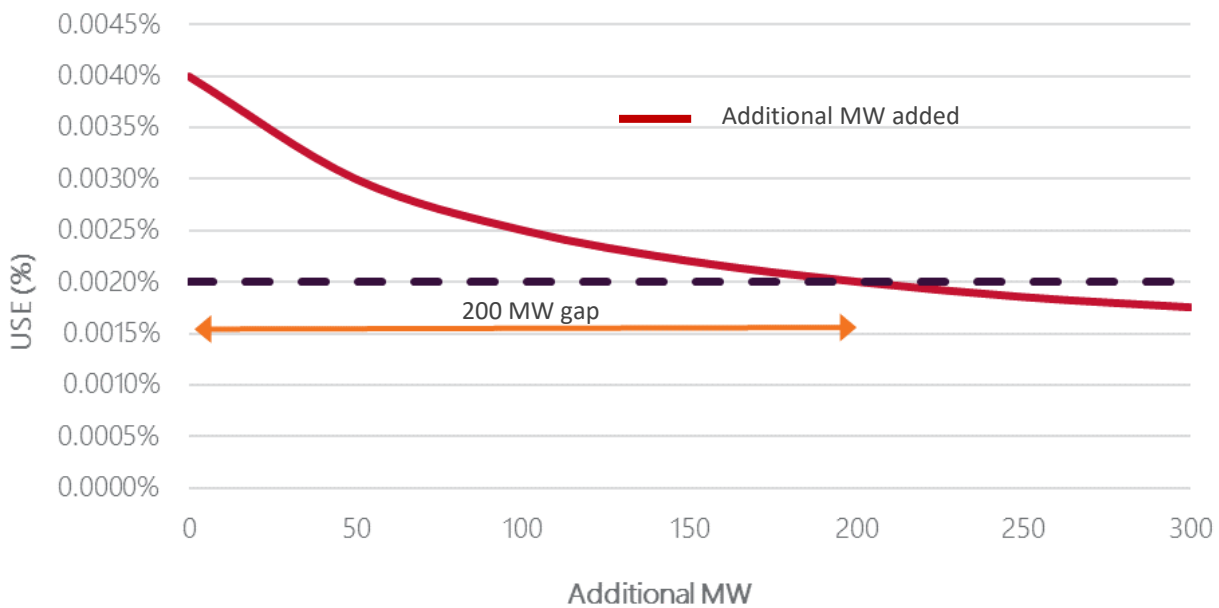
6.1.3 Size of the gap

The size of the forecast reliability gap, expressed in megawatts, is determined by analysing the interval level USE across all simulations in each region where the USE exceeds the reliability standard. The size of the gap is calculated as the additional megawatts of capacity, assumed to be 100% available in all periods of the year, that is required to reduce the annual expected USE to the reliability standard.

The additional megawatts are assumed to be perfectly reliable and have no constraints such as a maximum hours of operation. Only a single megawatt value will be assessed per region for the entire forecast reliability gap period.

Figure 8 follows from the example above, and shows the impact on annual USE from the application of the 200 MW of additional capacity. Here the forecast reliability gap is calculated as 200 MW, the level of additional capacity required to bring USE to within the reliability standard when applied to USE in the relevant trading intervals within the forecast reliability gap period.

Figure 8 Conceptual example of the forecast reliability gap



6.1.4 Sharing additional reserves

As the forecast reliability gap is determined independently in each region where the level of USE exceeds the reliability standard, the methodology does not consider the impact additional resources in one region may have on the size or existence of a gap in another.

For example, tight supply-demand conditions in Victoria and South Australia are often highly correlated. As such, it is frequently observed that additional capacity in Victoria would reduce the level of USE in Victoria but also in South Australia, and vice versa.

By determining the size of the gap in each region independently, the combined gap in megawatts may be bigger than the level that would be required to have both regions meet the reliability standard when allowing for reserve sharing.

AEMO considers this is not an issue for the purpose of the forecast reliability gap calculation, because the relative size of the gap is used only for the allocation of any Procurer of Last Resort (POLR) cost to non-compliant parties between the two (or more) regions. The exclusion of reserve sharing in the assessment of the forecast reliability gap was contemplated in developing the formula for determining POLR cost. The calculation of the quantity of any RERT contracts procured (and therefore the total cost of RERT) will consider the effect of inter-regional reserve sharing.

Glossary

This document uses many terms that have meanings defined in the National Electricity Rules (NER). The NER meanings are adopted unless otherwise specified.

| Term | Definition |
|---------------------------------|---|
| committed projects | <p>Generation that is considered to be proceeding under AEMO's commitment criteria (see Generation Information on AEMO's website, at https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Planning-and-forecasting/Generation-information). AEMO categorises projects as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed – satisfies all five of AEMO's criteria related to site acquisition, contracts for major plant components, planning and approvals, project financing, and scheduled operation commencement. Committed* - projects that are classified as Advanced and have commenced construction or installation. Advanced projects meet AEMO's site, finance and date criteria but are required to meet only one of the components or planning criteria. <p>Other projects may be listed as proposed, which includes advanced, maturing, emerging, or publicly announced project proposals.</p> |
| DSP | Demand side participation |
| electrical energy | Average electrical power over a time period, multiplied by the length of the time period. |
| ESOO | <i>Electricity Statement of Opportunities</i> |
| forecast reliability gap | <p>A forecast reliability gap represents the additional quantity of dispatchable capacity or equivalent, expressed in megawatts (MW), that AEMO projects will be needed to maintain reliability at levels that meet the reliability standard.</p> <p>The dispatchability of an energy resource can be considered as the extent to which its output can be relied on to 'follow a target', and incorporates how controllable the resources are, how much they can be relied upon, and how flexible they are. For more, see AEMO's Power System Technical Requirements, March 2018, at http://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Security-and-reliability.</p> |
| generating capacity | Amount of capacity (in megawatts (MW)) available for generation. |
| generating unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power stations may be broken down into separate components known as generating units, and may be considered separately in terms (for example) of dispatch, withdrawal, and maintenance. |
| installed capacity | <p>The generating capacity (in megawatts (MW)) of the following (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A single generating unit. A number of generating units of a particular type or in a particular area. All of the generating units in a region. <p>Rooftop photovoltaic (PV) installed capacity is the total amount of cumulative rooftop PV capacity installed at any given time.</p> |
| reliability standard | The reliability standard for generation and inter-regional transmission elements in the national electricity market is defined in NER 3.9.3C as a maximum expected unserved energy (USE) in a region of 0.002% of the total energy demanded in that region for a given financial year. |
| RSIG | Reliability Standard Implementation Guidelines. AEMO publishes the RSIG to set out how it will implement the reliability standard, including its approach and assumptions related to demand, generation reliability, VRE, energy constraints, network constraints, and treatment of extreme weather events. |
| USE | Unserved energy is the amount of energy that cannot be supplied to consumers, resulting in involuntary load shedding (loss of consumer supply). USE is calculated consistent with NER 3.9.3C. |