

QCC Response to: 2025 IASR Scenarios Consultation Report

13 August 2024

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft 2025 IASR Scenarios. The 2025 Scenarios will inform a critical round of Gas and Electricity Statement of Opportunities and the 2026 Integrated System Plan which will help guide Australia through the necessary transition to renewable energy.

To do this, we hope that AEMO will update the scenarios to:

- Align more scenarios with Australia's commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels
- Take more responsibility for building social licence of renewable energy, from coordination of CER to large scale REZ, including by coordinating national strategic land use planning

Since the 2023 IASR publication, what changes (such as environment, social, policy) do you consider most impact scenario development for the 2025 IASR scenarios?

In Queensland, the most impactful changes since the 2023 IASR have been another devastating summer, with climate change fuelled natural disasters impacting the state from the Far North with Tropical Cycle Jasper, to the south east corner with the Tamborine Mountain storms. Queensland is facing a damage bill of at least \$2bn to repair the damage from these events.

Queensland's \$6 billion, 66,000 job tourism industry based around the Great Barrier Reef is also in peril with the fifth mass bleaching event in just eight years.

These begin to show the huge financial costs of climate change, on top of the environmental impacts. A least cost scenarios model for the electricity market must consider these costs and align more scenarios with a 1.5 degree future that provide some chance for the Reef and limits impacts of extreme weather.

A 1.5°C aligned scenario in which our domestic economy is decarbonised by rapid renewables and storage build, high levels of electrification, and improved energy performance economy-wide is necessary to truly "cover the breadth of potential and plausible futures impacting the energy sector".

Since the 2023 IASR, the Dyer Review into Community Engagement has been completed, and the Energy and Climate Minister Cabinet (ECMC) have responded, releasing the [National](#)

[Guidelines for Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing for Electricity Transmission Projects.](#)

The start of the 2025 IASR scenario planning could include more planning of renewable energy zones to improve social licence of the ISP, as outlined below.

Is AEMO's proposal as described above a suitable evolution of each scenario's parameters that will effectively support AEMO's functions in planning the transition?

We support the lowered assumptions on hydrogen export and focus on domestic opportunities. QCC believes that AEMO should use the ISP, Advisory Council and other functions to help build both social licence for the transition and acceptance of coordinated Consumer Energy Resources (CER).

What additional changes should be considered?

The Clean Energy Council's [National Consumer Energy Roadmap](#) sets out initiatives such as a Federal \$100m CER Empowerment Fund and reviewing technical standards to increase transparency and uptake. Instead of viewing consumer acceptance of CER coordination as an externality, the ISP and Social Licence Advisory Council should be looking for ways to provide more information that will help build this acceptance.

The IASR should also consider land use planning for REZ in more detail. There remains an urgent need for national coordination of regional renewable energy and transmission planning. The 2023 IASR proposed new Renewable Energy Zones (REZ), without clear understanding of the community engagement or environment or land use planning that preceded the identification of these areas. While we appreciate that it will ultimately be the state Governments which declare REZ, there is a clear need for better liaison between state Government, community and AEMO to avoid concern and confusion in REZ areas.

If new REZ are to be proposed, or within existing REZ, there should be a strategic land use assessment geospatial mapping exercise to identify the lowest impact corridors for transmission development and new generation.

For more information please contact QCC's Energy Strategist Clare Silcock at clare.silcock@qldconservation.org.au

Kind regards,
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