



**CLIMATE
CAPITAL
FORUM**

Investment for
Australia's Post
Carbon Economy

Renewable Energy Ramp-Up

**Policy & investment settings to secure the clean
energy we need**

October 2026

Executive Summary

Australia has set an ambitious course to become a renewable energy superpower, backed by the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS), the Future Made in Australia (FMIA) Act, and public investment through ARENA, the CEFC, and the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF).

But the build rate is too slow: about 6.3 GW of renewables deployed per year since the CIS began, against the 15.5 GW AEMO says is needed to reach 82% renewables by 2030. Closing that gap needs government leadership to remove bottlenecks and send clear market signals. With 45 GW of solar and 42 GW of wind in the pipeline, unlocking these projects would deliver a \$44 billion investment boost.

Our delegation is focused on four practical proposals:

- **Set firm exit dates for remaining coal plants:** Link build-out targets to each closure, giving investors certainty.
- **Establish a Commonwealth-backed Clean Power Intermediary:** Strike and aggregate PPAs to move approved projects into construction.
- **Obligate data centres to commission more new renewable energy than they require:** Legislate bring-your-own-power rules at 110% of requirements.
- **Reform Your Future, Your Super:** Unlock super capital with a transition infrastructure benchmark.

Together, these measures point every policy lever the same way, so each public dollar draws in as much private capital as possible.

While Australia is acting on a number of fronts to drive clean energy forward, there are additional measures that are needed to unleash renewable investment at a scale required to realise the government's reindustrialisation vision. **Ramping up renewable energy will provide long-term energy security and drive down electricity costs for industry and consumers.**

Australia needs to rapidly ramp up renewables to meet the moment

A rapid rollout of renewable energy is needed in order to deliver on the Australian government's vision and ambition for our nation to be a renewable energy superpower and leader in growing domestic and global green supply chains. That ambition depends on building affordable, reliable renewable energy at speed and scale.

Currently, the build rate is too slow. Over the two years since the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) began, 6.3 GW of grid-scale renewable energy and storage has been installed per year.¹

The latest Integrated System Plan by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) shows that 15.5 GW of grid-scale renewable energy and storage needs to be installed per year between now and 2030 to achieve the 82% renewable energy target:²

Annual renewable energy deployment (NEM)

■ Avg. annual GW installed (FY24–FY26) ■ Step change: avg. annual GW (FY27–FY30)

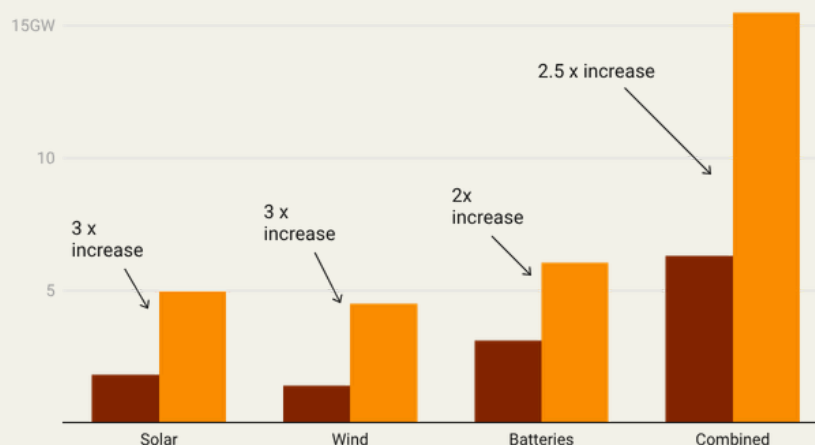


Chart: Springmount Advisory • Source: AEMO Connections Scorecard, ISP 26 Step Change • Created with Datawrapper

There are 45 GW of solar and 42 GW of wind energy projects in the pipeline ready to go that would provide critical investment, jobs and energy security for Australia.³ Unlocking these projects would deliver a \$44 billion investment boost.

¹ Average of 1.5 GW solar, 1.4 GW wind and 3.1 GW storage pa. June 2025 and June 2026 scorecards were used and "Full Output Achieved" - AEMO Scorecard June 2026

² Step Change Scenario - AEMO 2026 Integrated System Plan

³ IEEFA Australian Renewable Energy Scorecard September 2026

State of play for clean energy funding

Climate Capital Forum welcomes the progress made by government to date

- ARENA's introduction of new non-matched grants. CCF strongly supports the new Launchpad program (\$30 million: a \$15m Startup stream and \$15m Ecosystem stream) which will support early-stage clean energy companies.
- Altering foreign investor CGT requirements in the budget to maintain and encourage future foreign investment in our decarbonising infrastructure. CCF thanks the government for taking our advice on board and adjusting the scheme.
- The statements about bring-your-own-power rules for data-centres are promising, but the proof will be in the timeliness and effectiveness of implementation.

Public clean energy funding is moving - but there is more to do

Since December 2024, only \$31 billion of the \$92 billion in state and federal clean technology funding allocated since 2023 has actually flowed to industry.

ARENA has picked up its spending over the last couple of months, as has alongside the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. The National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC) is still lagging behind, with only 4 clean energy or industrial projects funded in the last 16 months and with nothing yet funded from the NRFC's \$5billion Net Zero Fund.

Specifically, since the end of the June quarter, public capital deployment has totalled \$875m in July, \$3.5b in August, and \$850m in September to date.

Sustained attention is required to fix the slow rates of deployment in the NRFC, Future Made in Australia and Rewiring the Nation.

Getting clean energy funding moving is critical to unlocking the industrial and transmission investment Australia needs to attract private capital and build a jobs-rich, domestically clean-powered Future Made in Australia.

Energy security and reducing inflationary pressures

The cheapest way to strengthen Australia's energy security and reduce inflationary pressure from volatile and expensive imported fossil fuels is to accelerate electrification across the economy. Productivity gains and industrial competitiveness will increasingly come from efficient, electrified solutions powered by renewable energy.

Government should ensure its current policy suite pulls investment in that direction, rather than against it. This is what we suggest in our Safeguard Mechanism review submission³, but also the Low Carbon Liquid Fuels Mandate and any reform of Fuel Tax Credits are an opportunity to align incentives and bring forward investment in electrification and decarbonisation, instead of delaying it. Done well, these mechanisms can also create the bankable demand signals Australian innovators and clean-tech companies need to commercialise and scale at home. The industries and capabilities that will underpin tomorrow's economy must be built and retained in Australia.

Clean energy policy clarity to drive investor confidence

The Government needs to lead with a priority for clean energy to deliver on renewable energy targets, on-time coal closure, data centres, and the realisation of the green metals opportunity. Settings that still favour fossil fuels, such as the current design of the Fuel Tax Credits scheme, blur that signal and slow the flow of capital. While Australia pursues the transition at home but places few limits on fossil fuel exports, it splits both policy focus and capital between two competing futures, and the whole-of-economy transition gets less of each.

Australia has the vision. The critical step now is making every lever point the same way. Going all in on the renewable energy superpower ambition means backing it with consistent policy settings as well as public investment through the Capacity Investment Scheme, the CEFC, ARENA and the National Reconstruction Fund. That is how every public dollar brings in as much private capital as possible.

Recommendations to drive renewable energy ramp-up

- 1. Set firm exit dates for remaining coal plants:** Erratic decision making to extend coal plants is undermining investor and developer confidence and holding back renewable energy investment. For example, Origin has pushed Eraring's closure back twice, most recently to April 2029.⁵ Each delay unsettles investors. The renewable project pipeline is strong and ready to go - market certainty will bring renewable projects to FID and provide long term real energy security.
- 2. Establish a Commonwealth-backed Clean Power Intermediary** to strike Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Contracting, not approvals, is the biggest bottleneck to hitting 82% renewables by 2030. A Commonwealth-backed Intermediary would strike Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to move approved projects into construction. It would sign 15-year contracts with new renewable and firming projects (giving proponents bankable revenue), then resell that power on shorter terms to energy consumers. Demand from large industrial, corporate and public sector users could also be aggregated into investable PPAs
- 3. Obligate data centres to commission more new renewable energy than they require.** AEMO's 2026 forecast has NEM data centre demand rising from ~5 TWh today to 34 TWh by 2035-36. Clear “bring your own renewables plus” rules will mitigate the risk of data centres growing at the expense of the rest of the economy, driving up electricity prices and emissions, and driving other firms out of business.⁶
- 4. Reform Your Future Your Super** to unlock superannuation investment into Australia's renewable energy future.

⁵ Origin Energy, January 2026

⁶ AEMO ESOO, 2026

Detailed recommendations

1. Set firm exit dates for remaining coal plants

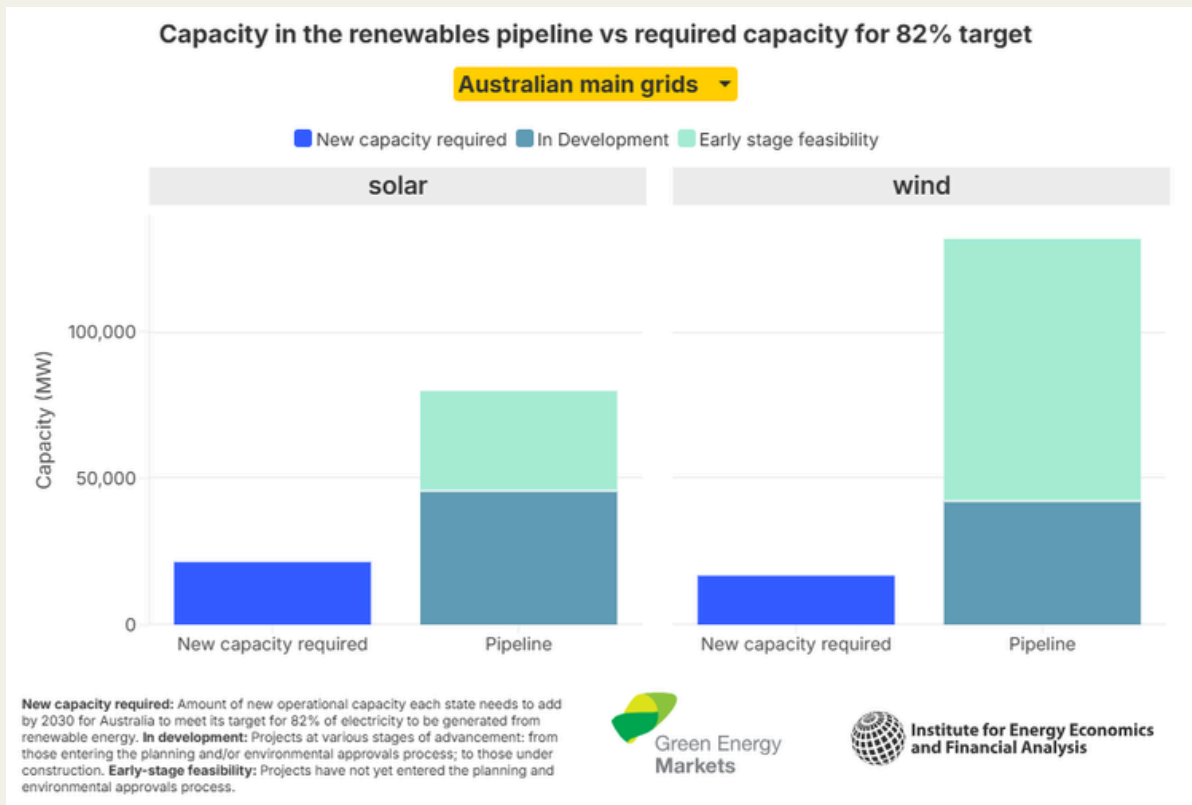
Challenge: Erratic decisions to extend the life of Australia's increasingly old and unreliable coal plants is undermining investor and developer confidence and holding back renewable energy investment. For example, Origin has pushed Eraring's closure back twice, most recently to April 2029.⁷ Each delay unsettles investors and delay renewable energy projects from reaching Final Investment Decision (FID).

Getting more renewable energy into the system and expediting the exit of coal will improve the resilience and reliability of the grid and mitigate the risk of catastrophic coal plant failures which risk workers and the grid.

Solution: Lock in a coal-exit-linked build-out target, The government should set an explicit, published capacity target, MW of firmed renewables and storage that must be under construction or contracted, that is tied to each scheduled coal closure date, not just an aggregate 2030 target. This turns "82% renewables by 2030" into a deliverable project matched to specific retirement dates for polluting and unreliable plants like Eraring, Yallourn, and Loy Yang.

2. Establish a Commonwealth-backed Clean Power Intermediary

Challenge: One of the biggest bottlenecks standing between Australia's renewable pipeline and the capacity needed to hit the 2030 82% renewables target is not approvals; it's contracting. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis's *Australian Renewable Energy Scorecard* (Q2 2026) has identified that the pipeline of renewable energy and battery projects already far exceeds what's required to meet the 82% target, yet the amount currently under construction is significantly lower than needed by 2030.⁸



Solution: Establish a Commonwealth-backed Clean Power Intermediary to strike Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). A Commonwealth-backed Intermediary would strike PPAs to move approved projects into construction.

It would sign 15-year contracts with new renewable and firming projects (giving proponents bankable revenue), then resell that power on shorter terms to energy consumers. Demand from large industrial, corporate and public sector users could also be aggregated into investable PPAs

The government should play a key broker role, similar to that played for the Boyne smelter to other industrial areas, to de-risk capital and unlock private investment into renewables such as the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (round one supporting 88GWh and round two supporting 110 GWh)⁹ and the Boyne Aluminium Smelter (\$2 billion government investment, underwriting \$7.5 billion in renewables and storage).¹⁰

3. Obligate data centres to commission more new renewable energy than they require

Challenge: the greatly increasing energy demands from data centre proposals is creating a structural risk for Australia's economy.

AEMO's 2026 forecast has NEM data centre demand rising from ~5 TWh today to 34 TWh by 2035-36, from 3% to 13% of total demand, with 225 projects in the connection pipeline.¹¹ This is a new, fast-growing load that risks extending the life of coal and gas plants, driving up electricity prices, out bidding existing industry for energy, and making Australia's carbon reduction and reindustrialisation goals harder to achieve.

Solution: Extend and legislate "bring-your-own-power" to 110% energy requirements for all new data centre connections,¹² requiring data centres to contract, co-invest in, or directly build the firmied renewable generation and storage needed to serve their own load, rather than relying on general grid supply.

Clear "bring your own renewables plus" rules will mitigate the risk of data centres growing at the expense of the rest of the economy, driving up electricity prices and emissions, and driving other firms out of business.

Require any data centre BYO-power surplus or curtailed renewable output to be made available to co-located industrial users (via PPA facilitation or common-user infrastructure), so anchored data centre demand can help build out capacity that industry then also draws on, rather than the two competing head-to-head.

¹¹ AEMO ESOO 2026

¹² The Energy, Data Centre Rules 2026

4. Reform Your Future Your Super to unlock superannuation investment into Australia's renewable energy future.

Challenge: Australia's superannuation system holds over **\$4.4 trillion in retirement savings**,¹³ making it one of the largest pools of capital in the world. Yet only an estimated 1% (\$44 billion) of the capital flows to clean energy.¹⁴ The vast majority remains locked in legacy domestic infrastructure such as toll roads, airports, and ports. Whilst estimates suggest investment in decarbonisation requires between \$200-\$500 billion by 2035.¹⁵

The 10-year backward-looking Your Future, Your Super (YFYS) performance test penalises the long-term, differentiated investment strategies required for clean infrastructure. By forcing funds to anchor their portfolios to legacy, high-emitting market indices, the test creates an artificial capital starvation for critical domestic projects.

Solution:

- **Create an "Emerging Asset Class" for transition infrastructure**

Introduce a CPI+margin benchmark for illiquid transition assets, starting at a 5% allocation ceiling (scaling to 10% as the market matures), unlocking \$220-400 billion toward 2035 net zero targets. Eligibility tied to CCA-verified renewable, clean industrial, and grid decarbonisation assets.

- **Modernise performance benchmarks**

Break the commercial index monopoly in YFYS by adding optional climate-aligned benchmarks. Mandate immediate review of listed equities (~\$2tn, ~50% of super assets).

- **Embed climate risk in performance monitoring**

Integrate climate-risk and transition-planning indicators into APRA's monitoring, using mandatory climate disclosures as the data backbone.

A quadruple win: protects member savings from stranded-asset risk, gives funds predictable transition frameworks, lowers the cost of capital for decarbonising firms, and unlocks hundreds of billions in investment for national productivity.

¹³ Quarterly superannuation performance statistics highlights - March 2026 | APRA

¹⁴ % of total savings based on [Super funds urged to seize transition opportunities](#) | Climate Change Authority

¹⁵ [Australia 2035 – Maximising Our Potential](#), Business Council of Australia



About the Climate Capital Forum

The **Climate Capital Forum** (CCF) is a network of investors, climate finance experts, decarbonising companies and philanthropists who came together to provide policy advice on how Australia can lead the world in decarbonising, renewable energy and cleantech innovation.

Established in December 2020, the CCF offers support to all levels of government on how to build a strong future economy and long-term job opportunities that will benefit Australia and uphold our commitments to our region and internationally as the world decarbonises.

Our members manage billions in assets and have firsthand experience navigating the barriers slowing down clean tech investment. We are here to share our lived experience of those barriers and propose practical, specific reforms that will unlock private capital, lift national capacity, and increase Australia's productivity.

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