

2020 ISP

Appendix 1.

Stakeholder

Engagement

July 2020

Important notice

PURPOSE

This is Appendix 1 to the Final 2020 Integrated System Plan (ISP), available at <https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp>.

AEMO publishes this 2020 ISP pursuant to its functions under section 49(2) of the National Electricity Law (which defines AEMO's functions as National Transmission Planner) and its broader functions under the National Electricity Rules to maintain and improve power system security. In addition, AEMO has had regard to the National Electricity Amendment (Integrated System Planning) Rule 2020 which commenced on 1 July 2020 during the development of the 2020 ISP.

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VERSION CONTROL

| Version | Release date | Changes |
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Summary

This Stakeholder Engagement appendix provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement program and consultations that were undertaken as part of the 2020 ISP.

Key insights

- A comprehensive stakeholder engagement program has been undertaken for the 2020 ISP, including multiple public stakeholder workshops, webinars and two formal written consultations.
- In conjunction with the public engagements, AEMO has consulted with state and federal jurisdictions, TNSPs (as part of the joint planning process), other market bodies, and the Energy Security Board.
- A summary of submissions to the Draft 2020 ISP consultation is included in this appendix; the detailed review of submissions, AEMO's responses and resulting outcomes are included in a separate Consultation Summary Report, published alongside this ISP.
- Stakeholders were generally positive about the engagement process that was undertaken for the 2020 ISP, with many noting improvements on the 2018 ISP consultation process. Consumers expressed a need for further support in providing feedback to future ISPs, noting their current lack of resources.
- The ISP Consumer Panel that AEMO is establishing, in accordance with the actionable ISP rules that came into effect on 1 July, will provide deeper and more facilitated engagements with the consumer sector for the 2022 ISP.

A1.1. Stakeholder engagement program and timelines

A comprehensive stakeholder engagement program has been undertaken for the 2020 ISP, with workshops scheduled at various stages throughout the ISP process, and two formal consultations included.

The timeline of public engagements and consultations is summarised in the figures below.

Figure 1 Stakeholder engagement and consultations in 2019

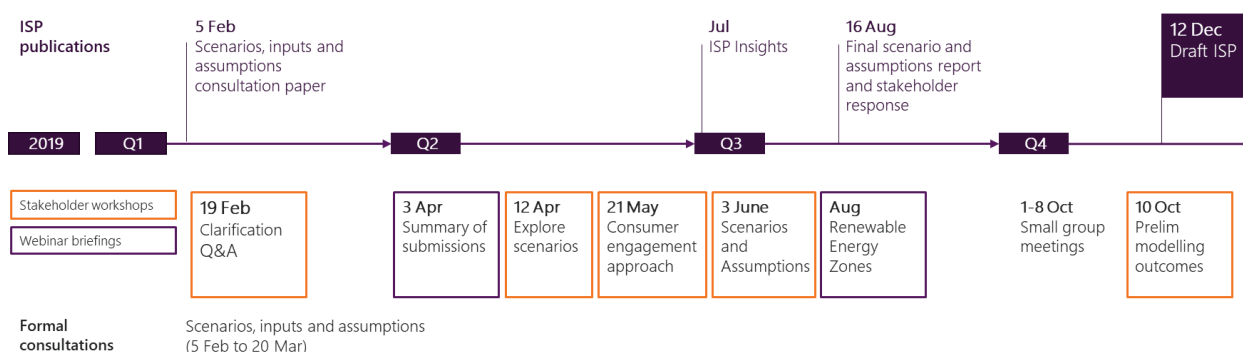
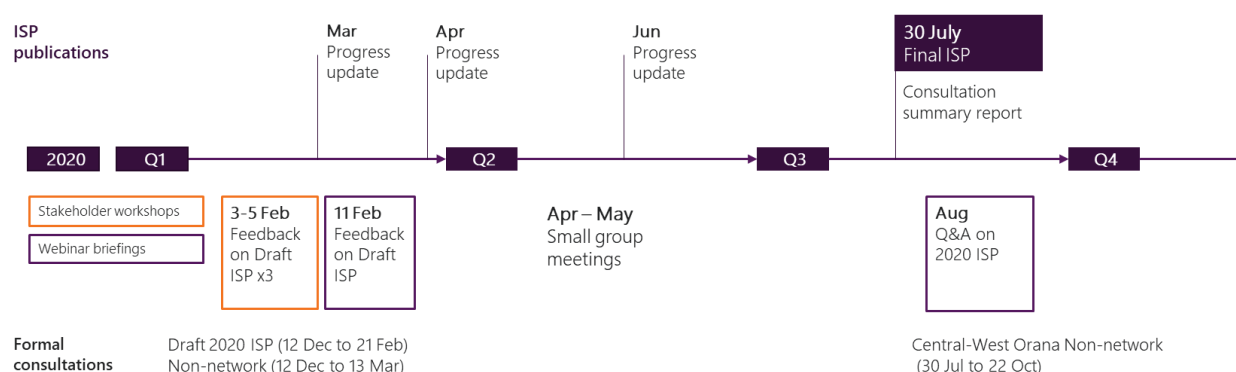


Figure 2 Stakeholder engagement and consultations in 2020



Opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate with the ISP team and provide input to the process have been provided across a range of different platforms including webinars, in-person workshops, and formal written consultations. Additional communications have included Energy Live articles on the AEMO website, direct emails to the ISP distribution list, and progress updates following the Draft 2020 ISP.

A1.1.1 Consultations

The forecasting and planning consultation on the scenarios, inputs, assumptions, and methodologies ran from February to March 2019, with the final report published in August 2019¹ after a series of workshops.

The second consultation on the Draft ISP outcomes ran from December 2019 to March 2020, and included a call for non-network options for QNI Medium and VNI West projects.

A third consultation will be held for 12 weeks from 30 July 2020 on non-network options for the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Link, which has become an actionable ISP project since the Draft 2020 ISP.

A1.1.2 Workshops

Four workshops were held as part of the inputs, assumptions and scenarios consultation process during 2019.

The preliminary outcomes workshop held in October 2019 provided insights into early modelling results for the Draft 2020 ISP, and was scheduled early enough to allow feedback to be incorporated into the remaining modelling ahead of the Draft 2020 ISP publication.

A further three workshops were held in early February 2020, ahead of the submission date for written consultations on the Draft 2020 ISP, to allow stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions of the ISP modelling team face-to-face, clarify understanding of the decision-making process, and provide direct input to shaping and prioritising the remaining modelling tasks for the Final 2020 ISP.

A1.1.3 Webinars

The REZ webinar, held in August 2019, provided an overview of the REZ concept along with early definition of modifications to the REZs used in the 2018 ISP.

A second webinar was held as part of the consultation on the Draft 2020 ISP in February 2020, for those who were unable to access the in-person workshops. This was attended by over 70 people, and provided further opportunity to ask questions directly of the modelling team.

A final webinar will be held in August 2020, following publication of the Final 2020 ISP.

A1.1.4 Other engagements

In addition to the public engagements outlined above, AEMO has held multiple engagements with state and federal jurisdictions, TNSPs (as part of the joint planning process), other market bodies, and the Energy Security Board.

¹ At <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/nem-forecasting-and-planning/scenarios-inputs-assumptions-methodologies-and-guidelines>.

A1.2. Consultation on Draft 2020 ISP

A separate Consultation Summary Report² has been released along with the Final 2020 ISP. The report includes a detailed review of the submissions that were received to the Draft 2020 ISP consultation and non-network consultation, and AEMO's responses to the submissions.

A summary of the feedback on the Draft 2020 ISP is provided below.

A1.2.1 Summary of feedback

The feedback received on the Draft 2020 ISP can be broken into 10 themes, listed in Table 1 in order of frequency of mentions and stakeholder consensus.

Table 1 Summary of key themes from Draft ISP Consultation submissions

| Themes | Frequency | Consensus |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
| Strategic roll-out of transmission and interconnection, to unlock renewable energy generation development, is widely supported | 23 stakeholders | High |
| There is general support for the role of the ISP in the transition underway in the NEM | 22 stakeholders | High |
| REZs are an effective way of coordinating strategic renewables development | 17 stakeholders | High |
| There needs to be a greater acknowledgement of the climate change challenge | 13 stakeholders | High |
| A more agnostic approach to storage technologies is desired | 13 stakeholders | High |
| Costing of the scenarios is complex, and further clarity is required on cost estimates for ISP projects | 6 stakeholders | High |
| The engagement process has improved; however, it can be further strengthened | 18 stakeholders | Medium |
| Technological solutions can support system security through the transition | 15 stakeholders | Medium |
| There are concerns about generation intermittency and the level of dispatchable capacity in the NEM | 13 stakeholders | Medium |
| The future role of DER is widely contested | 14 stakeholders | Low |

² AEMO, 2020 ISP Consultation Summary Report, July 2020, at <https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2020-integrated-system-plan-isp>.

Stakeholders were generally positive about the engagement process that was undertaken for the 2020 ISP, with many noting improvements on the 2018 ISP consultation process.

Given the scale and value of future development that is proposed in the ISP, many stakeholders emphasised the importance of ongoing engagement to ensure that any plan is robust and fit for purpose, and there was in general a desire for even more extended and comprehensive engagements in the development of the future ISP, as well as post ISP on the outcomes.

Consumers as a sector emphasised the need for AEMO to focus on consumer organisations even further, providing more facilitated engagements and supporting them to obtain their feedback, noting their current lack of resources and depth of technical expertise. The ISP Consumer Panel that AEMO is establishing, in accordance with the actionable ISP rules that came into effect on 1 July, will provide a formal means to address these needs.

A1.2.2 Consultation outcomes

Outcomes from the consultation on the Draft 2020 ISP and the non-network options are detailed in full in the Consultation Summary Report³.

³ AEMO, 2020 ISP Consultation Summary Report. July 2020, at <https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2020-integrated-system-plan-isp>.