



INFORMATION

A Whole of System Plan for the South West

Planning for a bright energy future

The energy landscape is changing rapidly.

More households and small businesses than ever are installing solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to take control of their electricity supply.

At the same time, large-scale renewable generators are supplying more and more of our electricity needs from the fringes of the network where the best renewable resources are found.

This situation creates real challenges for how we plan and manage our power system, as well as exciting opportunities.

Background

Currently, there is no single entity responsible for planning the power system that delivers electricity to households and businesses in the south west of the State. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) forecasts our generation needs, while Western Power is responsible for planning its network.

This system has served us well-enough in the past. However, managing our power system through this transition to renewable and distributed electricity sources requires stronger coordination, to provide clear information for investors and planners, and guide the development of the power system of the future.

Our response: A Whole of System Plan for the South West

In response to these challenges, the Government is developing a Whole of System Plan, bringing together the important aspects of power system planning under a single umbrella. The Whole of System Plan for the south west will:

- identify the best options for investment in our power system, to maintain security and reliability at the lowest sustainable cost;
- assist in the transition to a lower-emissions power system by guiding the efficient integration of renewable generation and identifying opportunities for energy storage, which will play an increasing role in meeting our essential electricity needs; and
- provide guidance to regulators, policy-makers, and industry regarding efficient power system investment.

Next Steps

Led by the Public Utilities Office, the initial Whole of System Plan will leverage recent modelling of the generation mix in the south west of the State. The plan will be developed in close collaboration with Western Power and AEMO, in consultation with stakeholders.

The initial Whole of System Plan will be delivered to Government by mid-2020.

