

2026 NSW Consumer Trustee Investment Priorities



In Q2 2026, ASL (acting in its capacity as independent Consumer Trustee) will recommence Generation LTESA tenders, with future tenders to support generation projects in NSW transitioning from the Capacity Investment Scheme back to the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

To help the market prepare for upcoming tenders, ASL has released its 2026 NSW Consumer Trustee Investment Priorities. Generation infrastructure tenders are scheduled to be held biannually until 2028, and annually thereafter. Long-duration storage (LDS) tenders occur annually.

The Long-Term Energy Service Agreement (LTESA) is a revenue support mechanism designed to improve project bankability. ASL calls on all high-value projects to participate in its forthcoming tenders and bid in a way that provides value to consumers and ensures projects are commercially viable and deliverable.

CONSUMER MANDATE



Safeguarding the long-term interests of consumers

ASL is required to act in the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity consumers. All projects supported, and network upgrades authorised by ASL will only be done so where the benefits to consumers outweigh the costs.

FIRMING INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



Firming infrastructure to support near term reliability

Tender 7 is underway seeking batteries (including aggregated portfolios), demand response and other firming technologies to deliver an indicative 500 MW of firm capacity to support reliability in the Sydney-Newcastle-Wollongong subregion by December 2027. Deliverability by this date is a key criterion. Longer duration is generally rewarded in firming tender assessment.



Firming infrastructure (incl. gas) to support long term reliability

ASL is currently conducting analysis on the need for firming infrastructure, including gas powered generation that can support NSW's reliability in the early 2030s.

LONG-DURATION STORAGE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



Increased levels of LDS (8h+ duration) to support the transition

Tenders will continue to seek short and longer lead time LDS projects that can contribute to the development pathway. More LDS is needed above and beyond the minimum objectives for both 2030 and 2034, with longer duration projects offering greater benefits.



GENERATION INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



High value projects that can fast-track development

Projects should bid for an LTESA in a way that enables them to accelerate and de-risk delivery to be operational by 2030.

Projects that have valuable generation profiles, community support, low congestion risk, and are backed by strong proponents have the highest likelihood of success.



Continued support for Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) projects

Development in REZs is a key pillar of the NSW Roadmap's strategy to coordinate and incentivise renewable energy and storage investments, with future REZ development underway.

REZs have abundant wind and solar potential, leading to greater potential for high value projects.



Supporting high-value open access projects

Modelling typically favours wind over solar, driven by wind generation's ability to put downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices, owing to its diverse profiles and complementarity with demand.

Solar-hybrid projects have the potential to increase the value of solar to consumers, offering firm and cost-effective generation, quicker development timelines and the flexibility to locate in the existing network.



Enabling all viable projects to compete

Projects relying on new network infrastructure to unlock network capacity should bid in a way that makes the project viable; factoring in the impact of near-term curtailment to mitigate financial impacts, allowing them to achieve commercial operations before the full new network capacity is available.

NETWORK INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



Enabling projects with generator specific network upgrades to enter the market

Projects that require generator-specific network upgrades or have challenging connection costs should work with their network service providers to incorporate the costs of these into their LTESA bid to ensure the project can be viable.



Unlocking high value network upgrades

ASL is committed to unlocking extra hosting capacity in REZ where viable. Network upgrades that can satisfy the benchmark of \$10,000 / GWh of available generation p.a are eligible to proceed through a streamlined authorisation process.
