

Investors welcome 2022 Integrated System Plan – but regulatory reform urgently needed to achieve it

30 June, 2022, Canberra: The Clean Energy Investor Group (CEIG) has today welcomed the release of the final 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP) by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) but has warned it can only be achieved with immediate reform of regulatory processes to approve urgently needed transmission projects.

The ISP highlights five key priority transmission projects for immediate development (HumeLink, VNI West, Marinus Link, Sydney Ring and New England REZ Transmission Link). These projects will unlock a large amount of new clean energy generation and storage when complete but are threatened by lengthy regulatory investment test (RIT-T) processes, administered by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), which will cause delay without reform.

"The new ISP resets Australia's trajectory for a clean energy future, but making it a reality requires leadership from governments and market regulators," CEIG CEO, Simon Corbell, said today.

"Urgent regulatory reform is needed to unlock Australia's energy security – otherwise this scenario will never be realised.

"Investors will be watching market signals closely. The Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) Transmission Investment Review must be a central focus for governments if they want to make the ISP a reality this decade.

"Investors will continue to urge for immediate reform to the RIT-T and other processes to ensure timely assemsent and approvals for transmission projects.

"The ISP reflects a new baseline for the clean energy transition, with the step change scenario consistent with Australia's international climate agreemnt obligations. In reality it is likely this scenario will quickly become outdated as offshore wind and hyrdrogen export projects continue to develop," Mr Corbell said.

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About the Clean Energy Investor Group

The Clean Energy Investor Group represents 19 domestic and global investors with a combined Australian portfolio value of over A\$24 billion and more than 70 clean energy assets under management. It is an investor advocacy body, representing the unique perspective of clean energy investors to regulators, policy makers and the broader energy sector.

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