

NSW GOVERNMENT MAKING 2020 GREAT AGAIN – THE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE ROADMAP

Date: 12 November 2020

By: Luke Westmore, Rachel Lawlor

2020 has been tough. But, this week it feels like something has shifted. Maybe you've noticed it too? People are happier, brighter, and hopeful. The heavy weight of 2020 on our collective shoulders feels lighter.

For those of you with skin in the energy game (which let's face it is anyone who doesn't want to be under water or living in a furnace by 2050), this jubilation comes following the NSW Government's release of its [Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap](#) (the Roadmap) on Monday.

The Roadmap sets out NSW's ambitious plan to deliver the major infrastructure needed to create a modern electricity system, with a projected AU\$32 billion in private investment into the sector, a further 12GW in renewable energy capacity and 2GW of storage capacity by 2030.

The Roadmap reflects a coordinated and sophisticated approach to harnessing the abundant natural energy resources in NSW by driving significant investment into wind, solar, batteries and pumped hydro technologies. It also reflects a clear stance from the NSW government that they want to be a global leader not a laggard when it comes to clean energy.

The Roadmap is throwing out some serious 2020 energy, going as far as to say the NSW Government's plan is for NSW to be an 'energy superpower', and we are absolutely here for it. This sincere commitment to renewable energy is the beacon of hope we all need in 2020.

KEY PILLARS

The Roadmap is based on five key pillars:

1. Driving investment in regional NSW – delivering growth and long term job opportunities where the state needs it most.
2. Delivering energy storage – improving technology and increasing capacity through investment in batteries and pumped hydro projects.
3. Delivering Renewable Energy Zones – the modern day equivalent of traditional power stations which combine generation, transmission, storage and system strength services.
4. Ensuring grid security and reliability – creating the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard which, by running a competitive process to award long term energy services agreements and following an investment objective for long duration storage, will ensure enough firming capacity is in the market to back up renewables and keep the system stable.
5. Harnessing opportunities for the industry – attracting new industries to boom in NSW with access to clean, cheap and reliable energy.

THE BIG WHY?

The benefits of this massive investment into the renewable energy sector are endless:

- low cost energy for households
- low cost energy for businesses
- job creation
- investment in regional communities
- low emissions.

By implementing the Roadmap, NSW will be on the path to becoming one of the lowest cost, lowest carbon regions in the world, and this is something we can be proud of.

The benefits of the Roadmap also go beyond the energy industry. The NSW Government will also work to attract energy intensive industries, such as minerals processing, IT and data centres, agriculture, manufacturing or food processing to be co-located with the new energy infrastructure. Again, this means more jobs, more development and more innovation.

STATES AND TERRITORIES STEAM AHEAD

On the heels of the United States' projected re-entry into the Paris Agreement, there has been much speculation as to whether the Morrison Government would make any changes to its energy policy. However, the Australian Prime Minister has so far stood firm, and has not indicated that there will be any changes to Australia's energy framework, nor committed Australia to a net-zero emissions target.

This leaves Australia alone on the playground while China, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, the European Union and now likely the United States play nice under the banner of their net-zero emissions targets.

Without a clear and robust national energy or emissions policy or national net-zero emissions target, the States and Territories have simply steam rolled ahead with their policies, and each Australian State and Territory has already committed to a 2050 net-zero emissions target. This new Roadmap is a shining example of this, with NSW boldly pushing on and playing full out.

GET IN TOUCH

Our team has worked on some incredible renewables projects in NSW over the last couple years, including the Collector Wind Farm, Gunnedah Solar Farm and the Suntop Solar Farm just to name a few.

With 120 large-scale energy generation projects already in the pipeline for NSW, totalling more than AU\$25 billion in potential investment, we are looking forward to working on some of the many exciting projects that will come out of this Roadmap.