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COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET · RENEWABLES DEVELOPMENT

The Capacity Investment Scheme and renewable targets

How governments are underwriting the build-out — and what the targets actually mean

The key idea: targets pull, tenders pay

Australia's national goal is **82% renewable electricity by 2030**, set partly because demand is growing again, from electrification and from the digital economy's data centres. The main federal tool for getting there is the **Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS)**: competitive tenders in which the government underwrites new projects. Many of the wind, solar and battery proposals arriving in communities now exist because a CIS tender made them financeable.

How the CIS works

Underwriting, in plain English: the government guarantees a successful project a revenue floor (and shares upside above a ceiling). That certainty unlocks private finance. Projects compete in tenders for the support and taxpayers only top up if market revenues fall short. The scheme was launched to support **32 GW** of new capacity by 2030 (23 GW of renewable generation and 9 GW of dispatchable capacity such as batteries) and has since been expanded toward **40 GW**.

What's happening right now

Tender 9 (5 GW of renewable generation) closes **20 July 2026**, with results expected around November 2026. **Tender 10** (16 GWh of dispatchable capacity) closes 18 August 2026 and is flagged as likely the final dispatchable tender. Winning a tender is a financing outcome, not a planning approval; every successful project still faces full state and local assessment. *(Tender details current at July 2026; check DCCEEW's open-tenders page.)*

State targets vary and they change

States layer their own targets over the national goal and they differ widely: Tasmania targets 200% of its needs from renewables, Victoria has legislated targets including offshore wind, while Queensland repealed its renewable-energy targets in 2025 while keeping emissions targets. The lesson for communities: don't anchor on a number you heard last year. Ask which target a project claims to serve and check the current source.

What good practice looks like

- Proponents say plainly whether a project holds CIS or state support and what conditions attach.
- Underwriting disclosed in community materials; it's public policy, not commercial secrecy.
- Tender success never presented to communities as if approval were a formality.
- Claims about targets cite the current, dated source.

Questions to ask

Does this project have CIS or state-scheme support and what did it commit to in winning it? Which target is it claimed to serve and is that target current? What happens to the project if it misses a tender?

Want to know more? DCCEEW publishes CIS design and open tenders (dcceew.gov.au); the Clean Energy Regulator tracks national renewable progress. *Last checked: July 2026.* This sheet is general information, not legal or planning advice; a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.