

Customer Panel Meeting

16 July 2026



Acknowledgement

Powerlink acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands and waters of Queensland and in particular the lands on which we operate.

We pay our respect to their Ancestors, Elders and knowledge holders and recognise their deep history and ongoing connection to Country.



Membership update

Customer Panel Members

- Claire Finch, Director Energy Frameworks Policy, Queensland Treasury (proxy for Leanne Caelers)
- Claudia Brumme-Smith, CEO, Townsville Enterprise Ltd (*departing*)
- Damien Sewell, Process Engineer, Shell Australia (QGC) (*proxy for Evashnee Chetty*)
- Dr. John Gardner, Research Scientist, CSIRO (*proxy for Stephen Snow*)
- Jimmy Patel, Manager Sub-transmission Planning, Energy Queensland (*proxy for Sisira Weeratunga*)
- Matt Tapsall, Policy Director, QRC (*replacing Jana Dore*)
- Tanya Howard, District Manager – Bundaberg, QLD Canegrowers (*proxy for Chris Gillitt*)

Powerlink Board

- Craig McClintock, Board Director, Powerlink
- Richard Douglas, Board Director, Powerlink
- Wayne Collins, Board Director, Powerlink

Special Guests

- Dr. Seán Mc Goldrick, Chief Executive, Powerlink

Invited Observers

- Ben Fu and Michael Brothers, AER Observers (online)
- Donna Cannon, Manager Indigenous Partnerships, Powerlink
- Rachael Cole-Hawthorne, Indigenous Governance & Policy Team Leader, Powerlink
- Sarah Huang, EGM Delivery and Technical Solutions, Powerlink

Also, Powerlink Subject Matter Experts supporting sessions: Ben McGregor, Brendan Boyd, David Wigginton, Peta Starkey, Jonathan Dennis, and Stewart Bell (EGM Operations and Planning).

Information

Dear reader

We publish information in connection with our customer panel on our website, for information purposes only.

While we make every effort to make sure the information regarding our customer panel is informative, this information may reflect works in progress and may be updated or amended from time to time.

You should not rely on the information as a substitute for obtaining your own detailed independent advice.

The information does not constitute legal, regulatory or business advice, and we do not guarantee its accuracy, suitability, fitness for purpose, reliability or completeness.

Information regarding our customer panel may include the views or recommendations of third parties and does not necessarily reflect the views of Powerlink Queensland or indicate a commitment by us to a particular course of action.

Thank you

Agenda



Meeting is being recorded
for notetaking purposes



Hot water and milk is
available in the cafeteria

Time	Duration	Item	Presenter/s	Level
1:05PM	15	Meet the new Chief Executive	Dr. Seán Mc Goldrick	
1:20PM	5	Overview	Gerard Reilly	
1:25PM	40	Central Queensland Investment Update	Ian Lowry Jacqui Bridge	
2:05PM	10	Central Queensland Transmission Network Forum	Sarah de Valence	
2:15PM	20	Break		
2:35PM	60	Flexible Load Services	Jacqui Bridge Andrew Richards	
3:35PM	25	Update on our Revenue Proposal	Roger Smith	
4:00PM		Close		



Educate



Inform



Consult



Involve



Collaborate

Meet the new Chief Executive

Dr Seán Mc Goldrick

BA (Mathematics), BAI (Engineering), PhD (Molecular Physics)

- Has held senior executive roles in the utility industry and served at managerial and board level for energy organisations worldwide.
- Over 35 years' experience working on Electrical Power Systems globally, acquiring expertise in the research and development, construction, operation, consultancy, planning and asset management of large-scale power systems.
- Consultant on many EU, World Bank and EBRD funded projects globally.
- Chair of the ENA Transmission Committee and Director of Energy Networks Australia and Grid Australia.
- Before joining Powerlink, Seán was the CEO of TasNetworks.
- Seán was also the Chair of The Energy Charter CEO Council in 2024.



Central Queensland Investment Update

Ian Lowry

Executive General
Manager, Major Projects

Jacqui Bridge

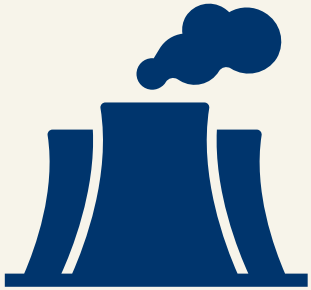
Executive General
Manager, Network
Investment

Customer Panel – July 2026

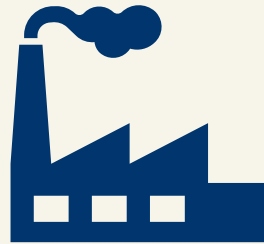


The importance of Gladstone

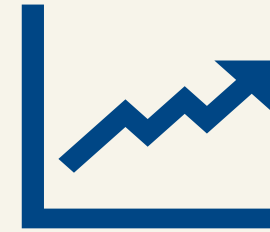
RECAP



25% of state
electricity
supply



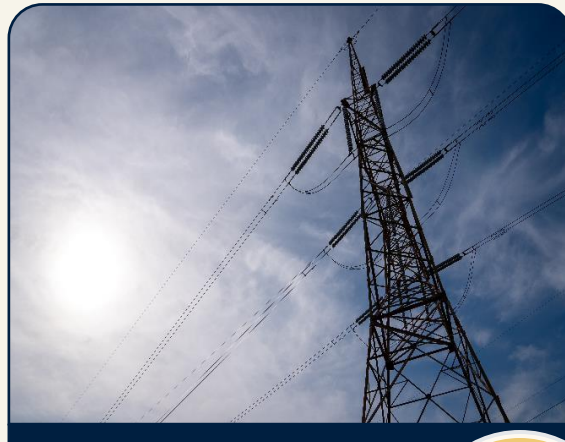
1.1GW –
largest load
outside of SEQ



\$7 billion in
Gross Regional
Product

Central Queensland projects

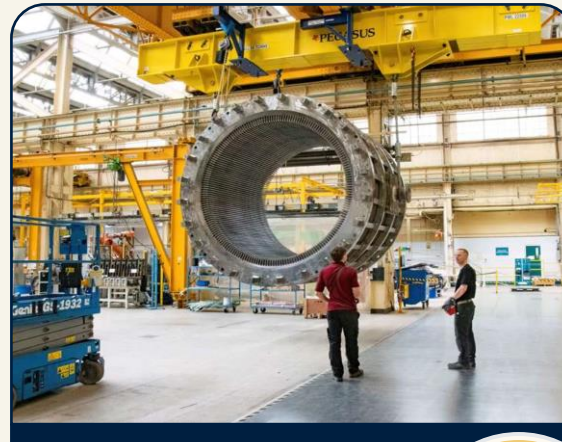
RECAP



Transmission
reinforcement



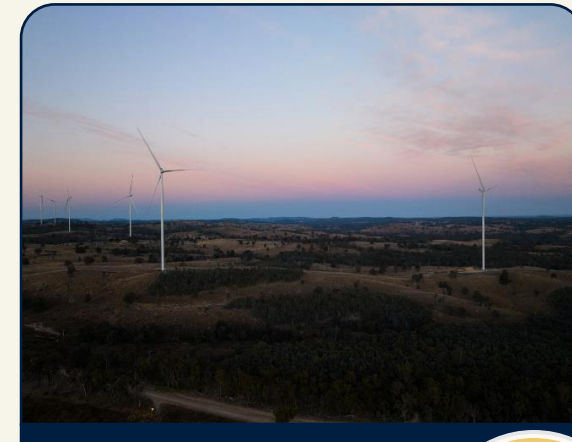
Gladstone Project
Priority Transmission
Investment process



System
strength



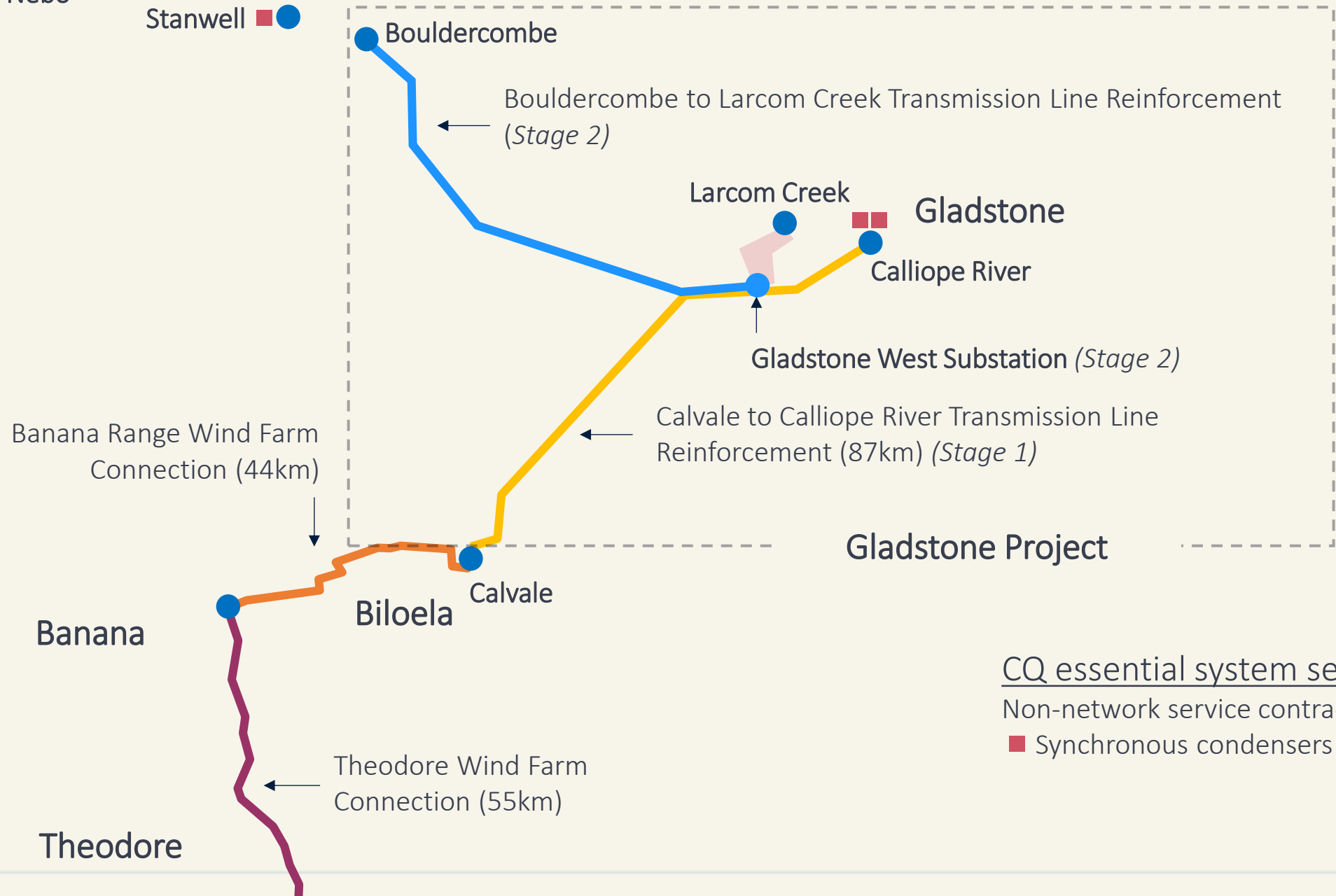
Synchronous condensers
Contingent Project Application
investment process



Developer
connections



Enabling new generation
connections to the
transmission network



CQ essential system services:

Non-network service contract/s

■ Synchronous condensers

Project construction updates since March

Gladstone Project

April 2026

- Conditional Board approval for intermediate works submission, enabling Stage 1 FID and commitment to construction

June - August 2026

- Project transitioning from development into delivery
- Final commercial terms are reflecting increased pricing
- EPBC approval received for Stage 1
- Clearing and Access contract awarded and mobilisation occurring in July
- Main Works (x2) contracts to be awarded through July/Aug
- PTI Direction anticipated end-July from SHM, Powerlink expecting variance in direction amount and total project cost

Synchronous Condensers (x4)

April 2026

- Local government and community engagement begins
- Locations finalised and publicly announced
- Announcement of contract award to Hitachi Energy
- Balance of Plant tender released

May–June 2026

- Design, planning and engagement activities progressing
- Readiness for assurance activities
- Contingent Project Application preparation
- Balance of Plant tender close (early July)



Member for Mirani, Glen Kelly MP, has thanked Powerlink for quality of our community consultation for new synchronous condenser locations

Synchronous condensers provide system strength

The primary role of a synchronous condenser is not to generate electricity but act as 'pacemaker' to maintain stable voltage levels and improve grid stability.

Powerlink will deliver four synchronous condensers in Central Queensland:

- Two at Calliope River (Gladstone)
- One at Nebo
- One at Stanwell



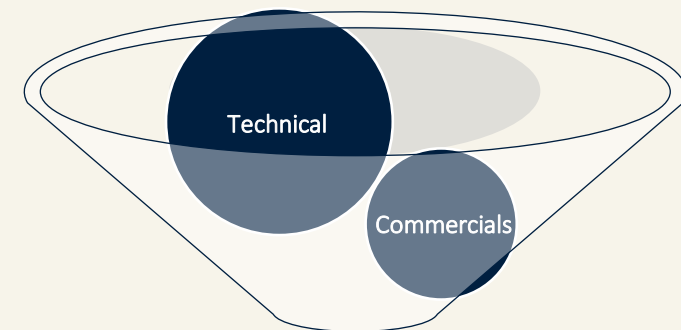
Where are we now



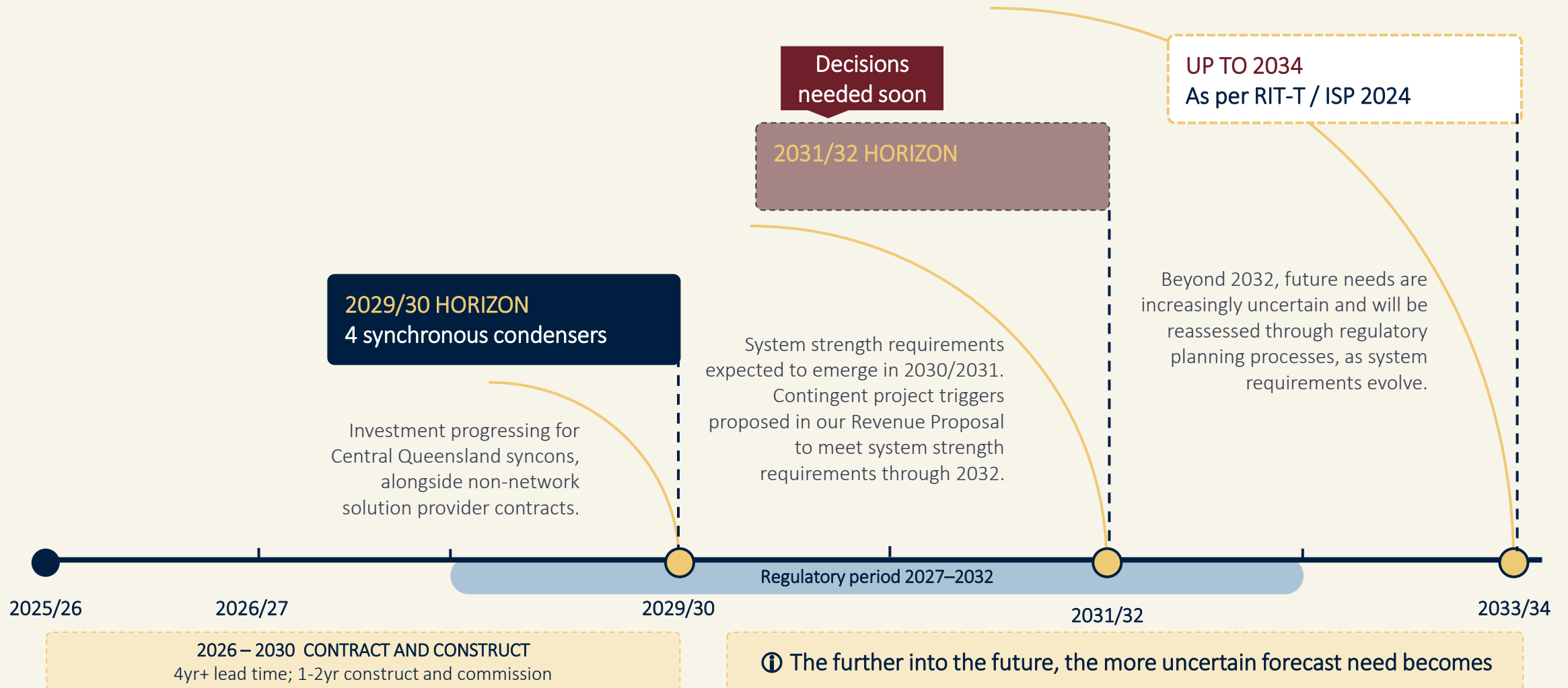
Minimum system strength is the baseline fault current required to keep the grid physically secure and prevent loss of supply.

Efficient system strength is a higher capacity needed to host new inverter-based generation projects without causing voltage instability.

Assessment process



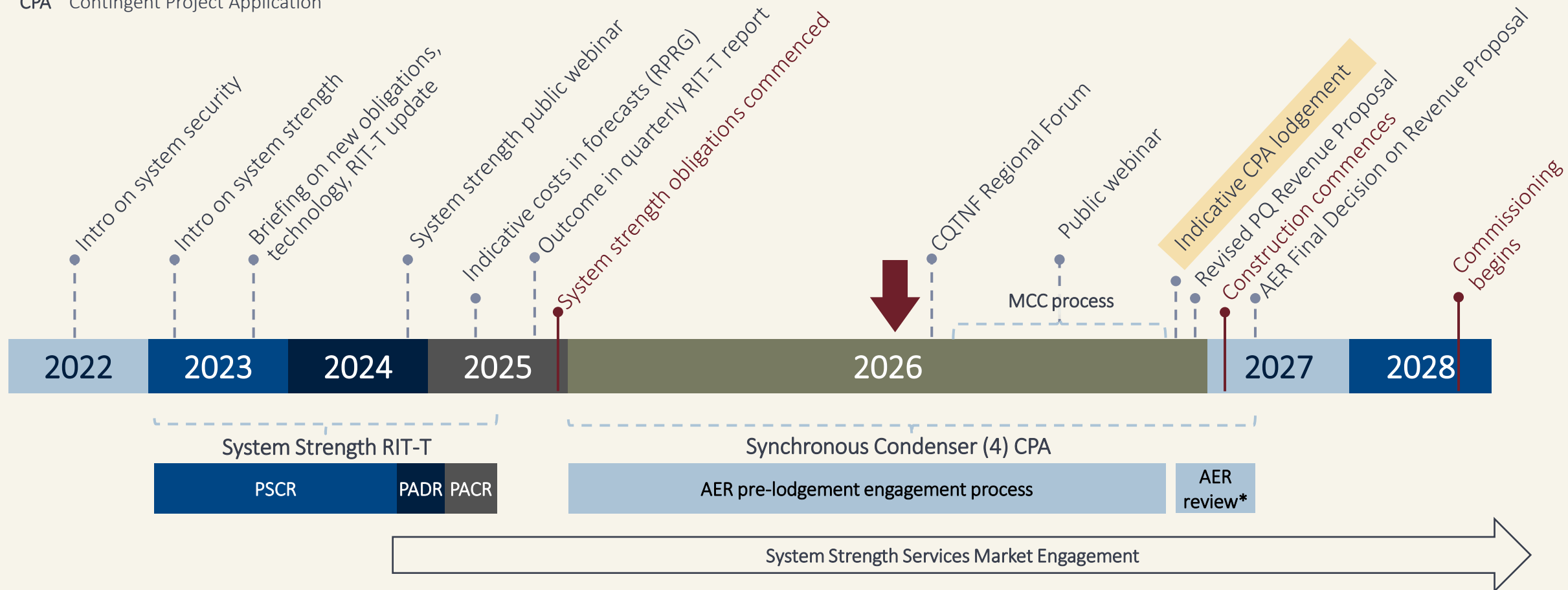
System Strength investment forecast need horizon



Timeline and milestones

Let's step through the key milestones leading to the first contingent project application for system strength.

RIT-T Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission
CPA Contingent Project Application



*Indicative only: AER public consultation from publication, AER decision ~6 months.

Sarah de Valence
Senior Policy and
Government
Relations Advisor

Mantra Gladstone

August 4, 9:30am-2:00pm



Central Queensland Transmission Network Forum

Report Back

- What you said
- How we have responded

Visit the event website:

<https://powerlink.eventsair.com/2026-cq-tnf>

Break

20 minutes





Incentivising flexibility from transmission connected loads

Jacqui Bridge

Executive General
Manager, Network
Investment

Overview

- What is the opportunity?
- Why are existing arrangements not appropriate?
- What flexibility supports the transmission network?
- What issues/tensions does it raise?

FROM AUSTRALIAN ENERGY WEEK 2026

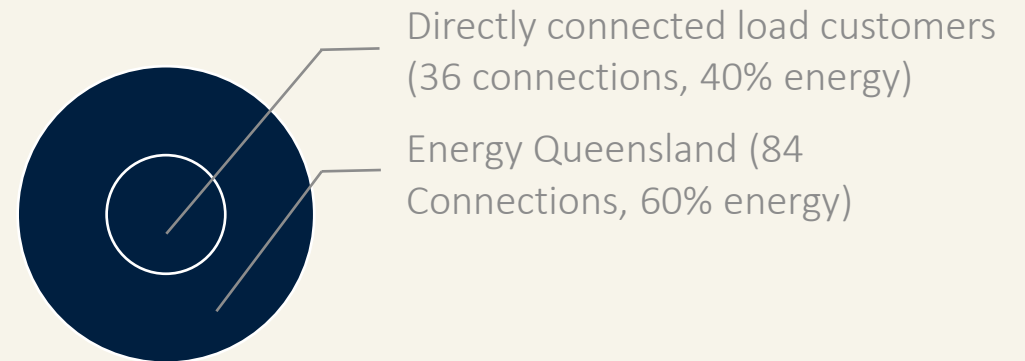
“Flexible energy use by big energy users is no longer just something the system reacts to; it’s a genuine system asset with increasing market benefit.” ”

DANIEL WESTERMAN, CEO, AEMO

AEMO CEO speech, Australian Energy Week, 10 June 2026

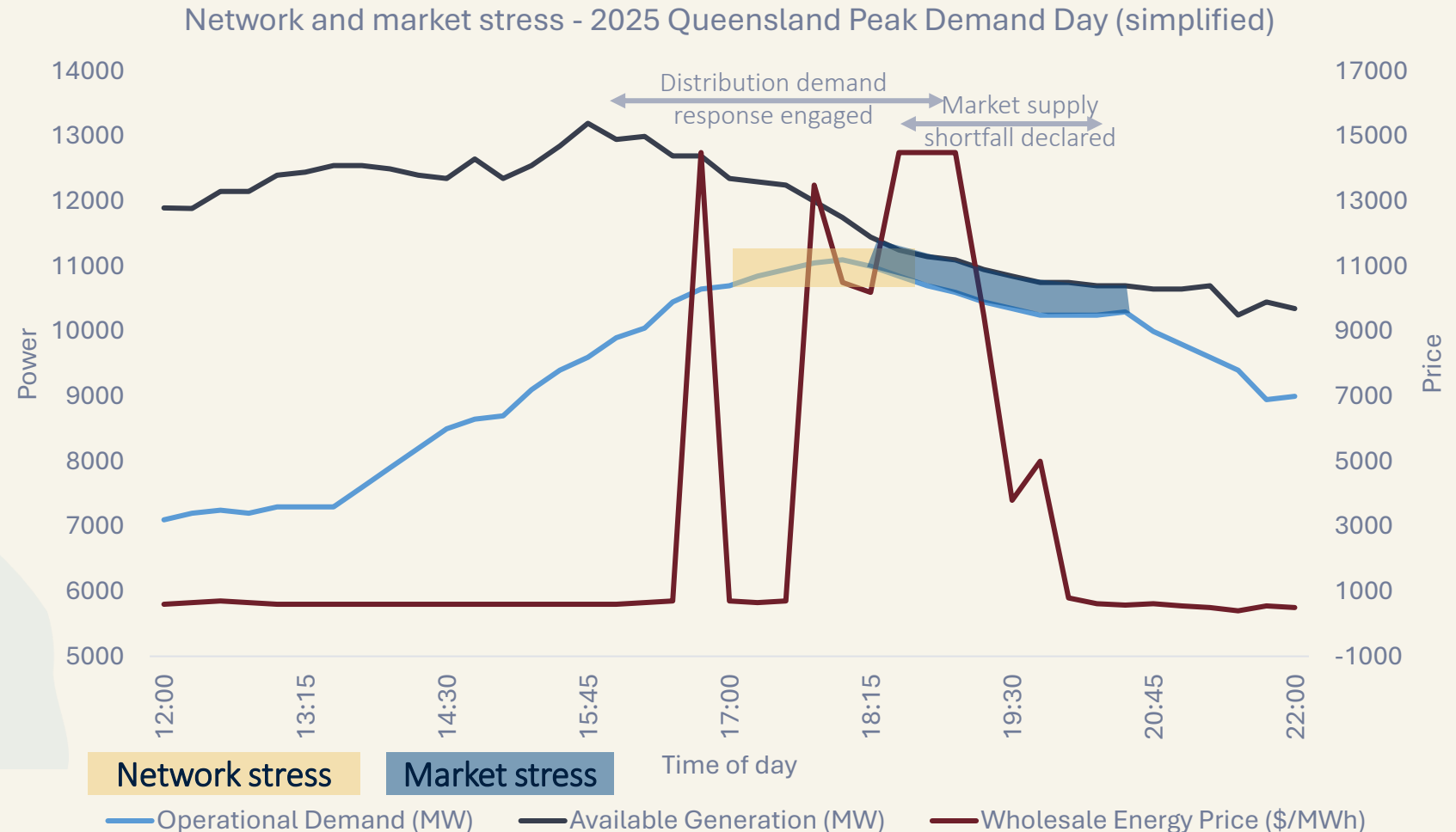
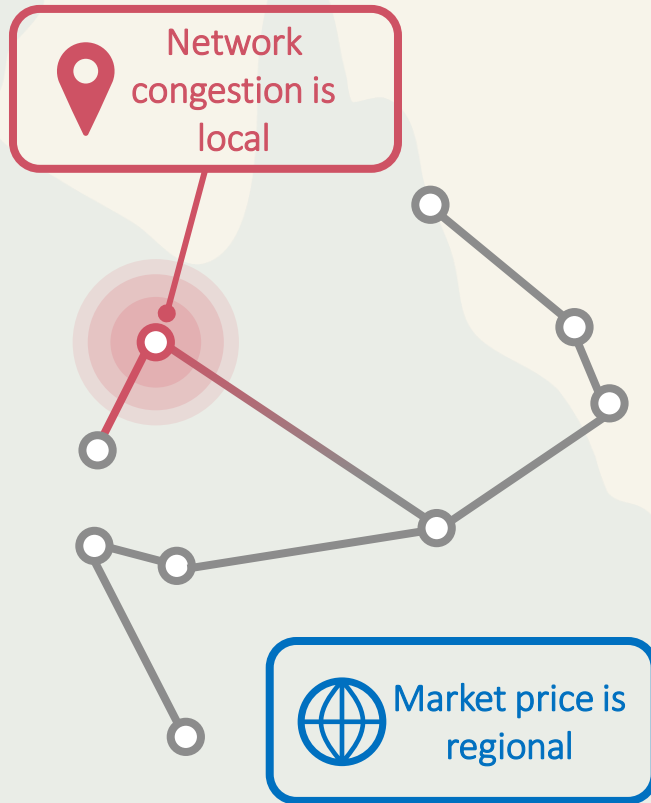
What is the opportunity?

The distinction between load and generation is blurring



Traditional	Emerging
Loads – Consume Power • Inflexible • Unscheduled • Pay prescribed network charges • ‘Firm’ access • Shielded from dynamic market signals (e.g. through tariffs)	 Traditional loads Embedded generation Controllable loads Embedded energy storage Discrete energy storage Traditional generators
Generation – Produce Power • Flexible • Scheduled • No firm access to network • So don’t pay prescribed network charges • Exposed to dynamics market signals	

Challenge of existing arrangements: Responding to market price signals



Challenge of existing arrangements: RIT-T

Flexibility develops over time → Needs are time-bound

Analysis

- 50+ Powerlink RIT-Ts
- Only one demand-side solution delivered - partially deferred network need by 1 year.
- One further example identified outside Queensland

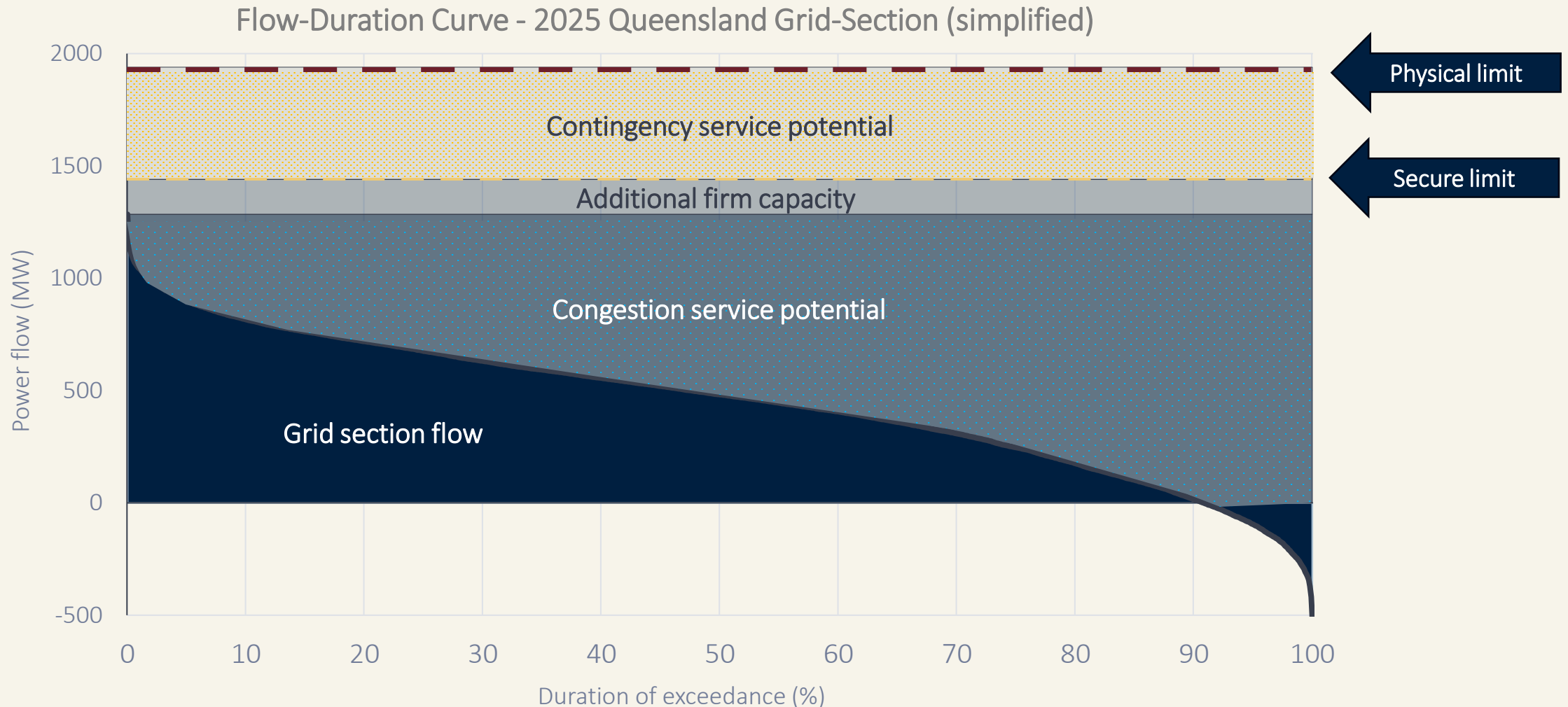
Interpretation

- Demand-side participation not emerging

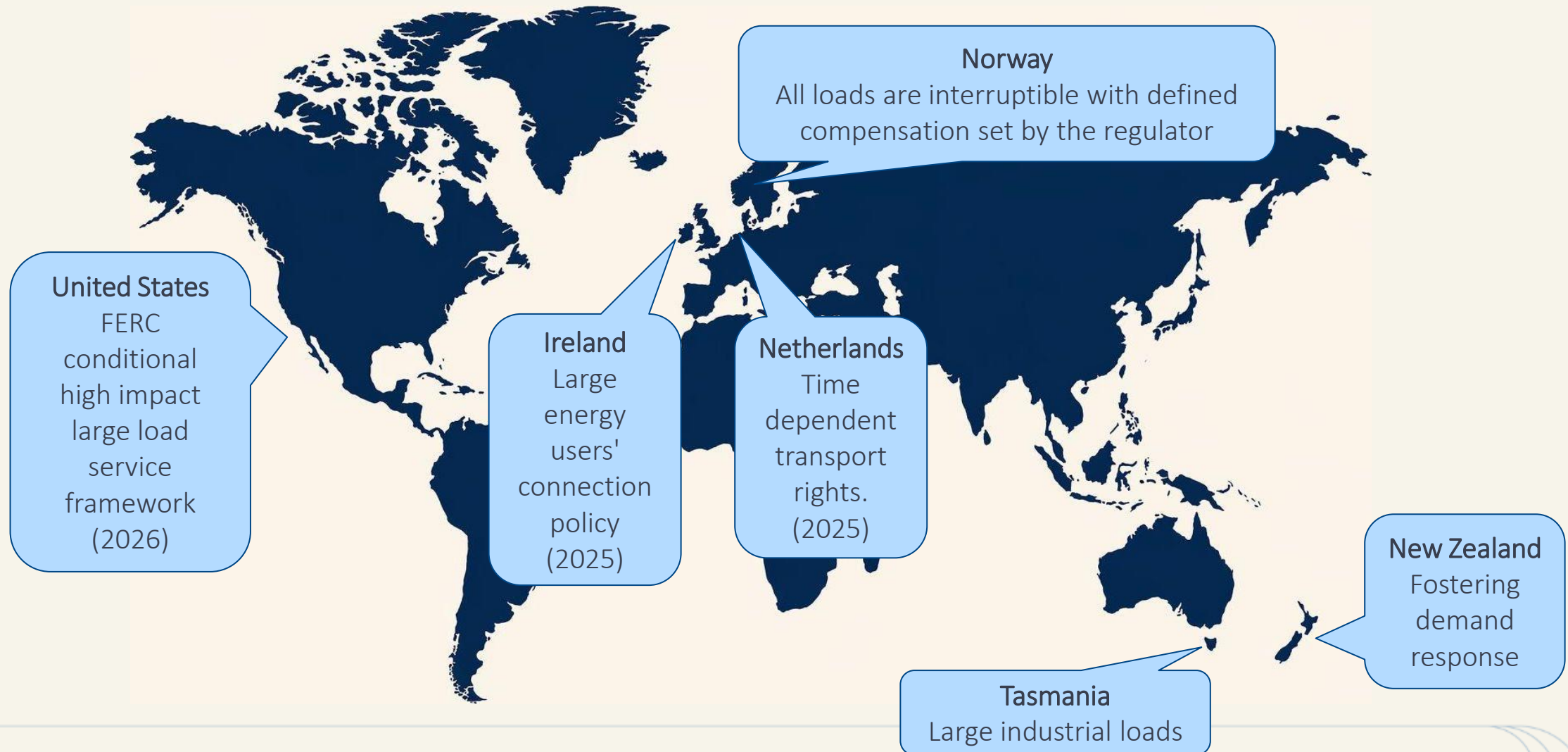
What we've heard

- Capability takes time to develop
- Needs persistent, stable incentive

What forms of flexibility create network value? ... and how much value is possible?

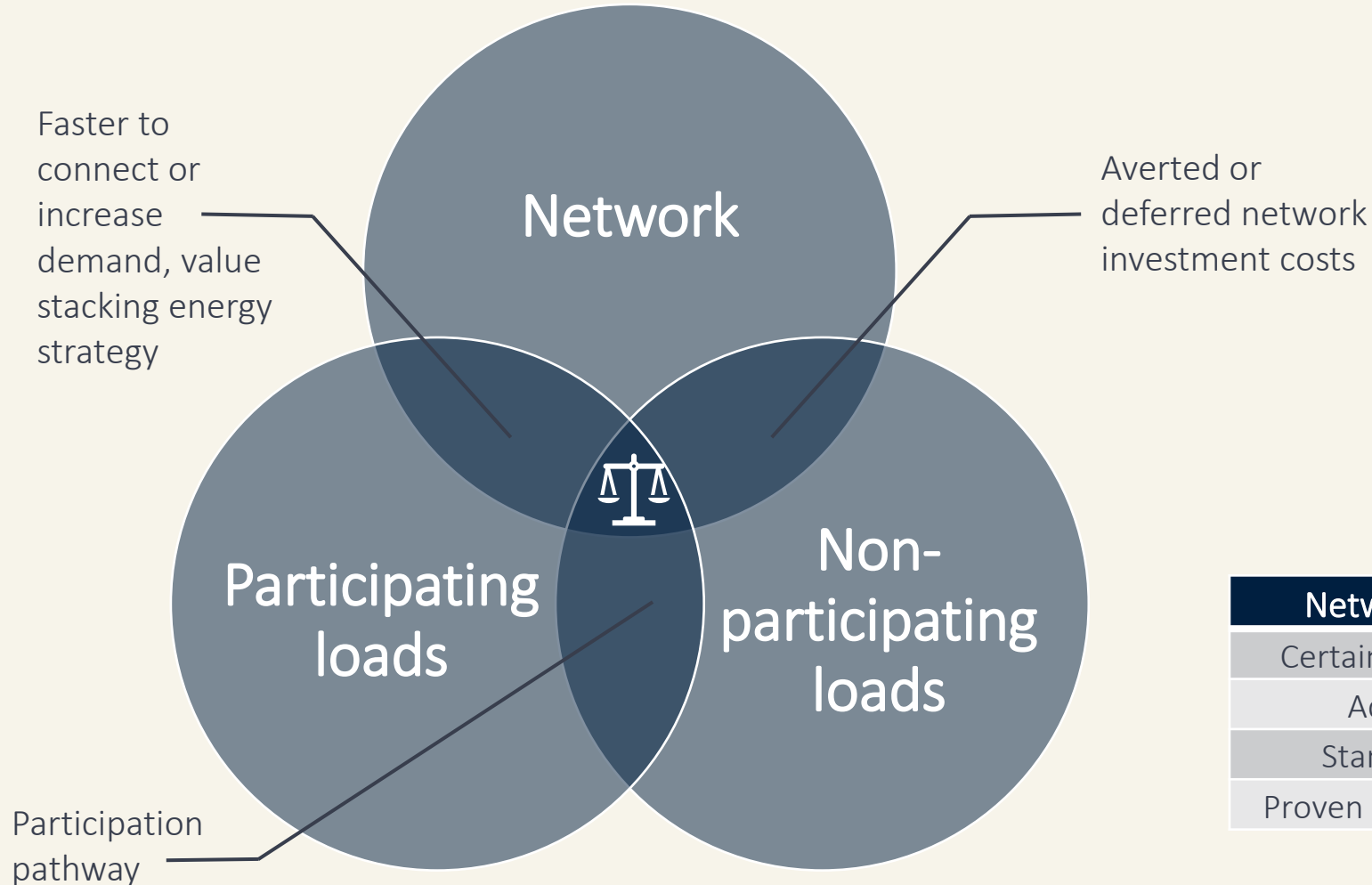


Global experience and customer benefits



Finding the shared value

Shared value only exists where parties' needs overlap — and that requires trade-offs



Shared value

Works for the network and participants, **and is efficient and in consumers' long-term interests.**

Networks value...	Loads value...
Certainty of response	Choice and control
Adaptability	Simplicity and predictability
Standardisation	Customisation
Proven benefits upfront	Enduring incentives

Panel-in-a-Panel session

Facilitated by Andrew Richards, CEO, Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA)

In conversation with:

- Damien Sewell, Process Engineer, Shell Australia (QGC)
- Nardia Yeates, Commercial Infrastructure and Energy Lead, Aurizon

Roger Smith
Director Revenue
Reset

Revenue Proposal Update

Guidance on additional engagement triggers

Additional engagement may be undertaken where:

- topics raised by the AER require targeted engagement
- stakeholder submissions
- material changes from operating environment

2027-32 Revenue Determination Milestones

INDICATIVE

