



Department of
Energy and Economic
Diversification

Shire of Narrogin

Community Energy Forum

Jai Thomas

Coordinator of Energy
Deputy Director General

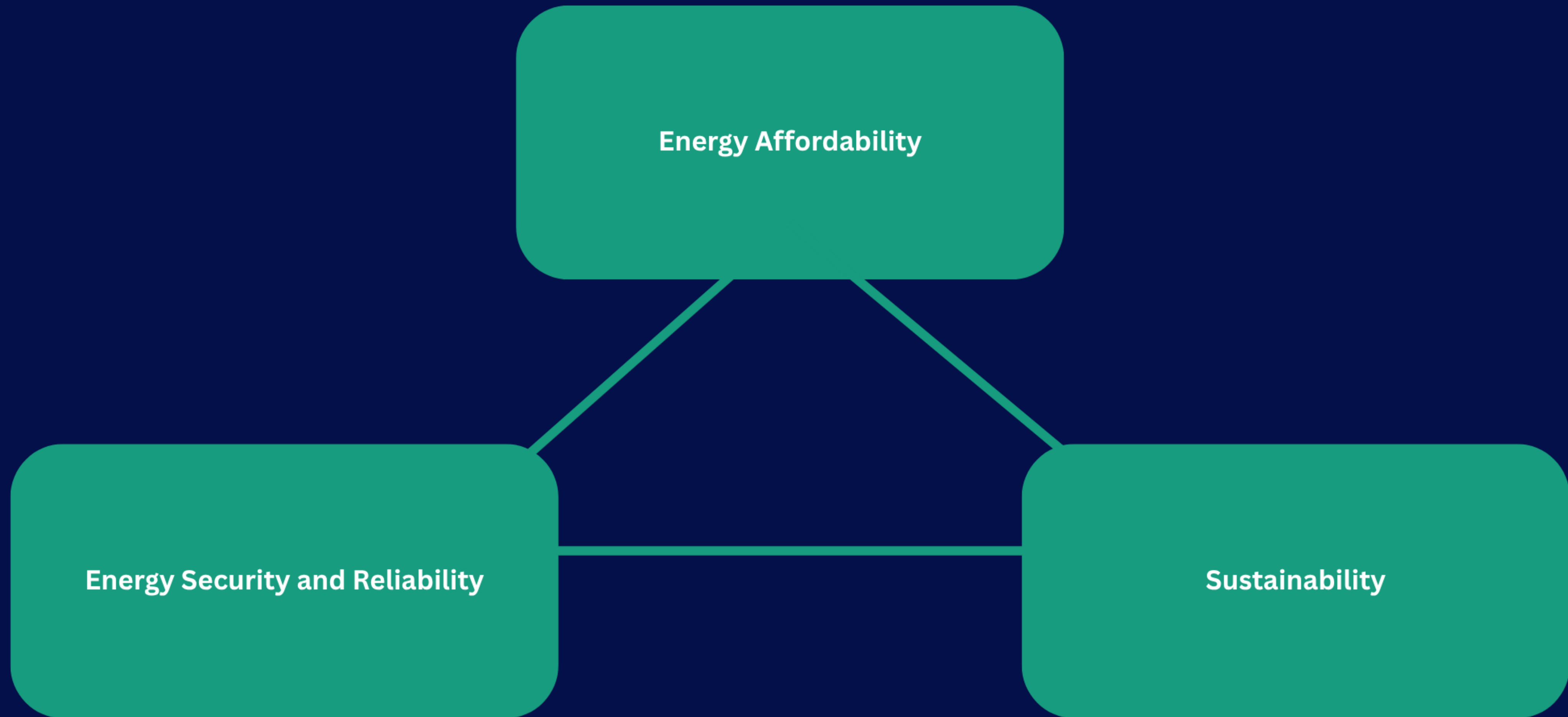


Department of
Energy and Economic
Diversification

Acknowledgement of Country

The State Government of Western Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

The Energy Trilemma



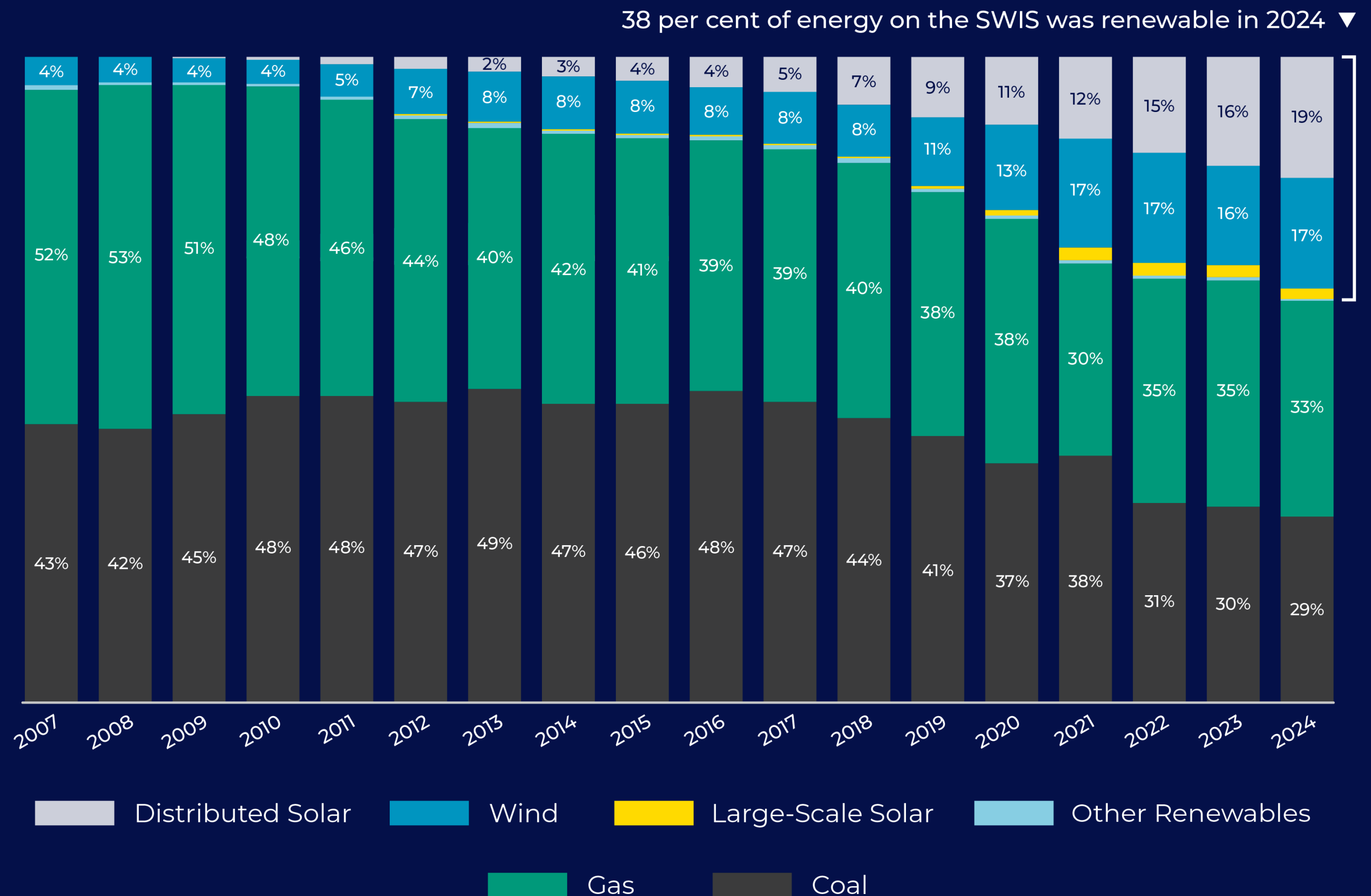
Our energy mix is changing - Renewables in our main grid nearly tripled between 2016 and 2024

38% of energy used on the system was renewable over the course of 2024:

- 19% distributed solar
- 17% grid-scale wind energy
- 2% large-scale solar and other renewables

On 3 November 2025, WA achieved a record 88.97% renewable penetration in our main grid (SWIS).

SWIS generation output (%) by calendar year and fuel

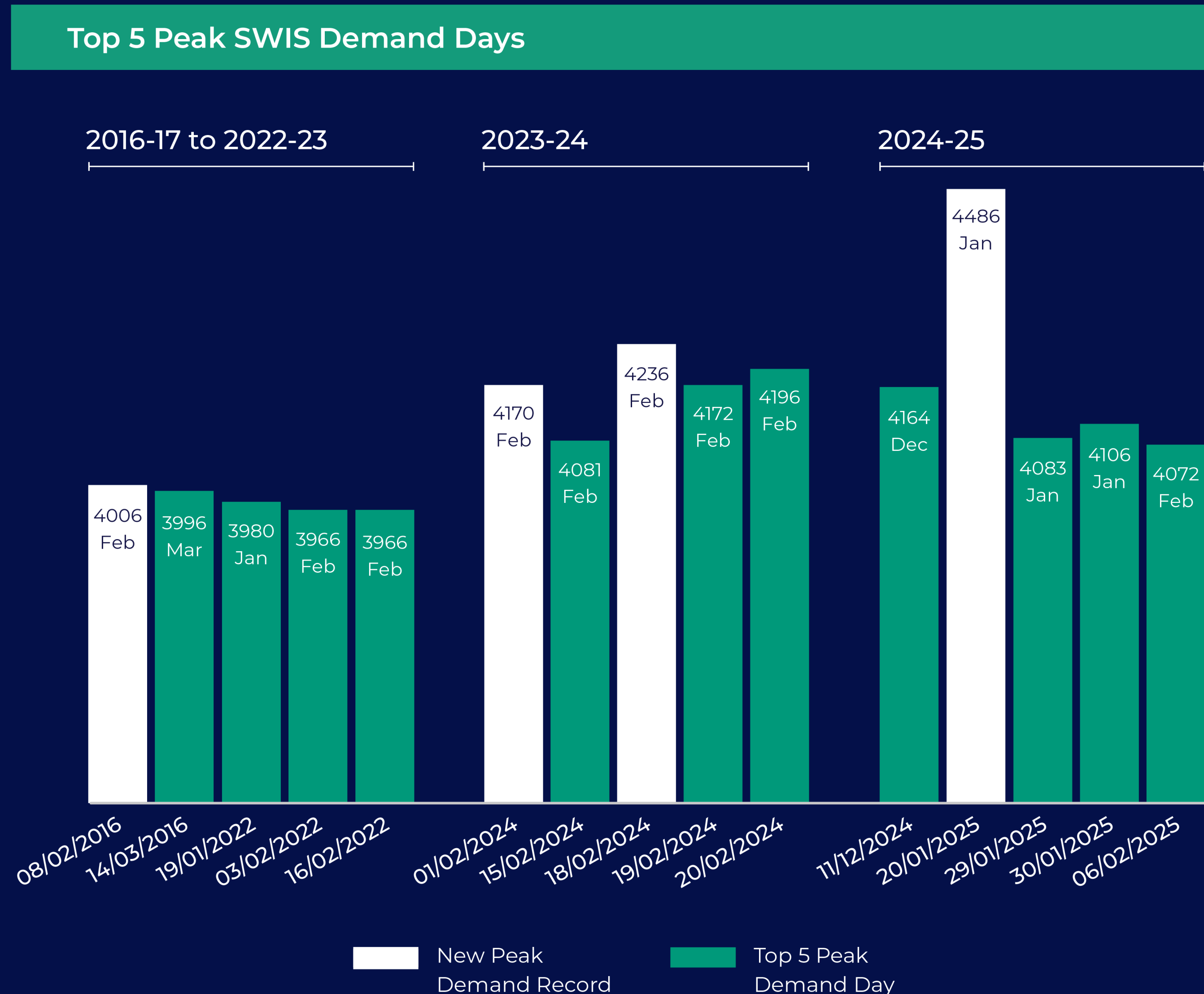


At the same time, demand for energy is rapidly growing

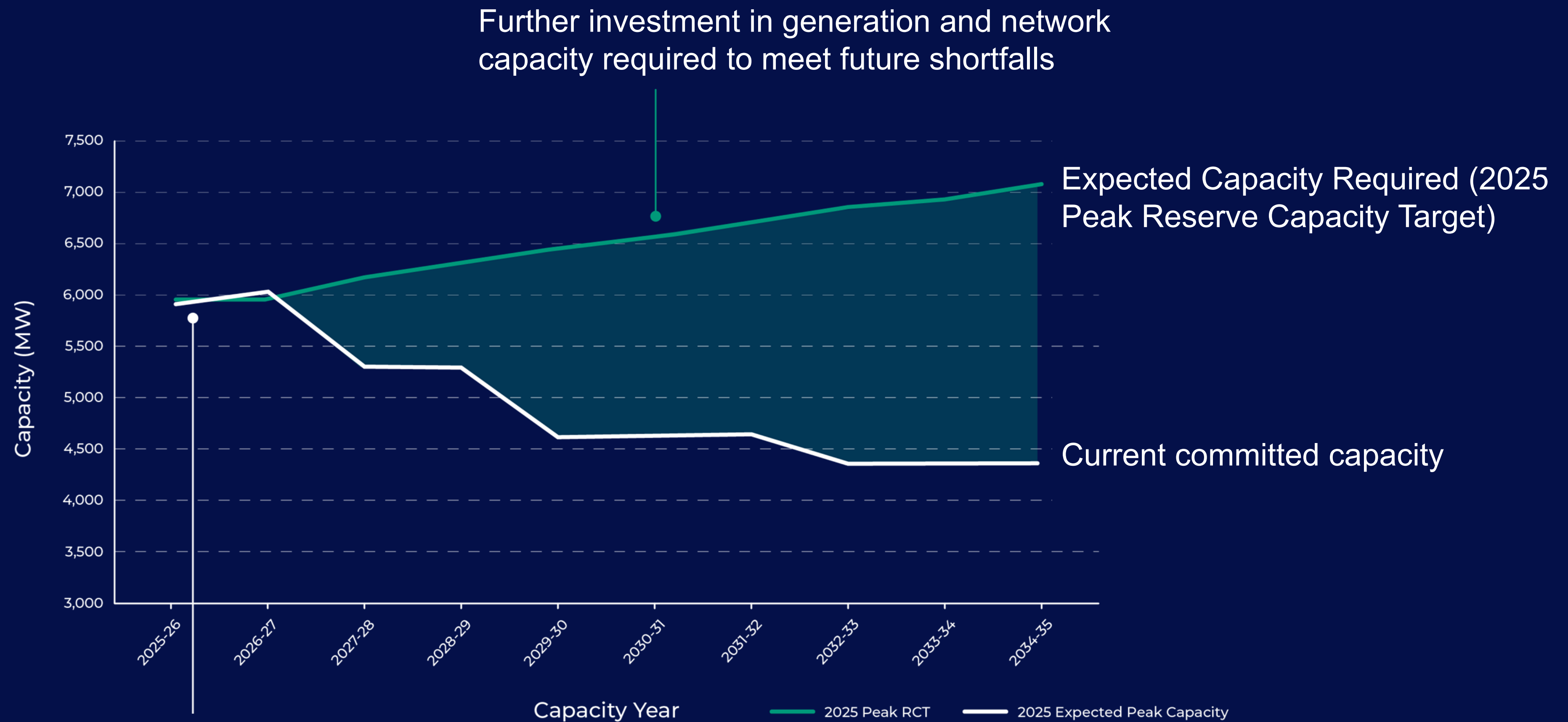
- On 20 January 2025, the SWIS reached a record **operational demand of 4,486 MW**
- The 2024-25 summer saw **four of the top 10** highest demand days on the SWIS on record.

Modelling from both the WA Government and Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) anticipates demand will continue to grow:

- The 2025 Wholesale Electricity Market Electricity Statement of Opportunities forecasting peak demand for the 2025- 26 summer season at **4,734 MW**.
- The WA Government’s SWIS Demand Assessment forecast a **500 per cent increase** in demand by 2042 compared to 2022 levels.



The supply gap demonstrates the need for new projects to maintain energy security and affordability as coal retires.



Steps taken through existing market mechanisms have ensured adequate power supply in the near term

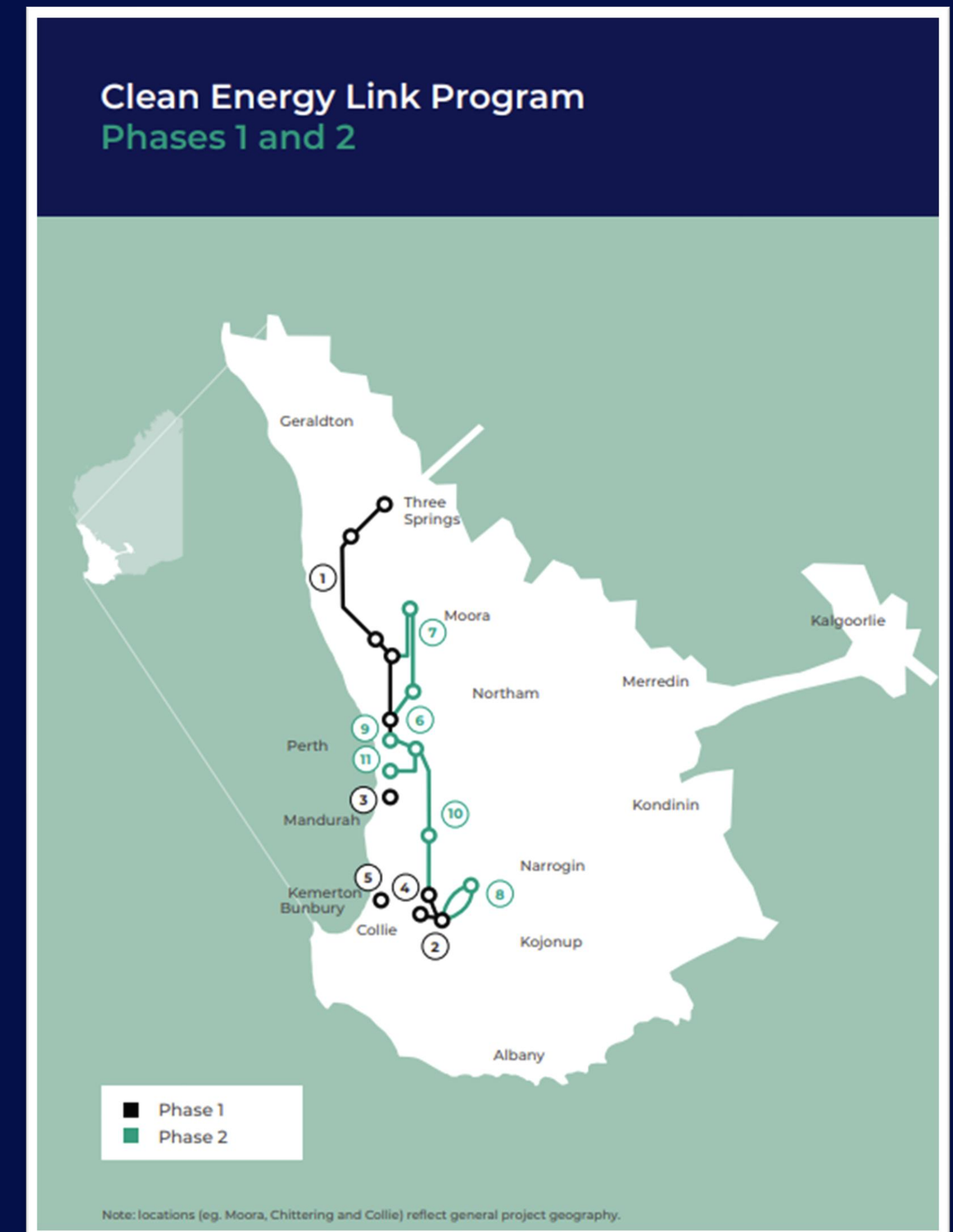
Expanding the Transmission Network across our main grid: The South West Interconnected System Transmission Plan (the Plan)

The Plan was developed by Energy Policy WA, with support from Western Power and other divisions within the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification. It provides a blueprint for the future of the grid, split into three five-year phases of development:

- **Phase One:** 2025 - 2030
- **Phase Two:** 2030 - 2035
- **Phase Three:** 2035 & Beyond

Collectively, these Phases One and Two articulate the infrastructure development required to connect the new energy generation and storage projects necessary to:

- Facilitate the retirement of all State-owned coal generation assets from the SWIS by 2030
- Meet forecast peak demand growth
- Power a more diverse and resilient State economy, with an emphasis on activating priority and Strategic Industrial Areas (SIA) within the SWIS footprint



The SWIS Transmission Plan: Phase Three

Phase Three of the Plan would potentially expand the transmission network in the SWIS to well beyond its current footprint.

It could include connecting new, strategically-positioned load centres to more of the quality renewable energy resources in the Mid West, Great Southern and Wheatbelt regions – potentially including the Narrogin area.

Continued investigation and engagement with industry is necessary to define the scopes for individual Phase Three projects. However, drivers may include:

- Continued peak demand growth;
- Heavy industry electrification; and
- Development of new green industries (e.g. green iron and hydrogen).

Energy Policy WA, Western Power and the Australian Energy Market Operator will continue to monitor developments and incorporate findings into future planning cycles.

New renewable energy projects: Project Lifecycle

While every wind farm project follows its own timeline and consultation process, most landowners can expect development to occur in several broad stages.

1. Site Identification and Landholder Agreement (1 - 2 years)

A potential site is identified, and landowners are contacted to determine their interest in hosting a wind farm project.

2. Site Investigation and Studies (1 - 2 years)

The project developer undertakes relevant feasibility studies and an indicative placement of wind farm infrastructure (turbines, cabling and access roads) is agreed with the landowner.

3. Project Approvals (1 - 2 years)

It is important to note that the requirements within this phase do not occur in a linear order.

- Development application approval
- Environmental approvals
- Heritage approvals
- Transmission connection agreement (for projects connecting to the grid)
- Approval to participate in the energy market/off-take agreement
- General licence issued (for projects over 100MW)

4. Construction (2 - 3 years)

Project construction can only commence once all relevant approvals and agreements are received and the landowner agrees to a Commercial Lease Agreement for the life of the project,

5. Operation and Decommissioning (20 + years)

The wind farm developer becomes responsible for the operation and eventual decommissioning of the project, which will include the need for ongoing engagement with the landowner.

Community Benefits Guideline for Renewable Energy Projects

The energy transition provides a unique opportunity for regional communities hosting renewable generation infrastructure to see meaningful benefits.

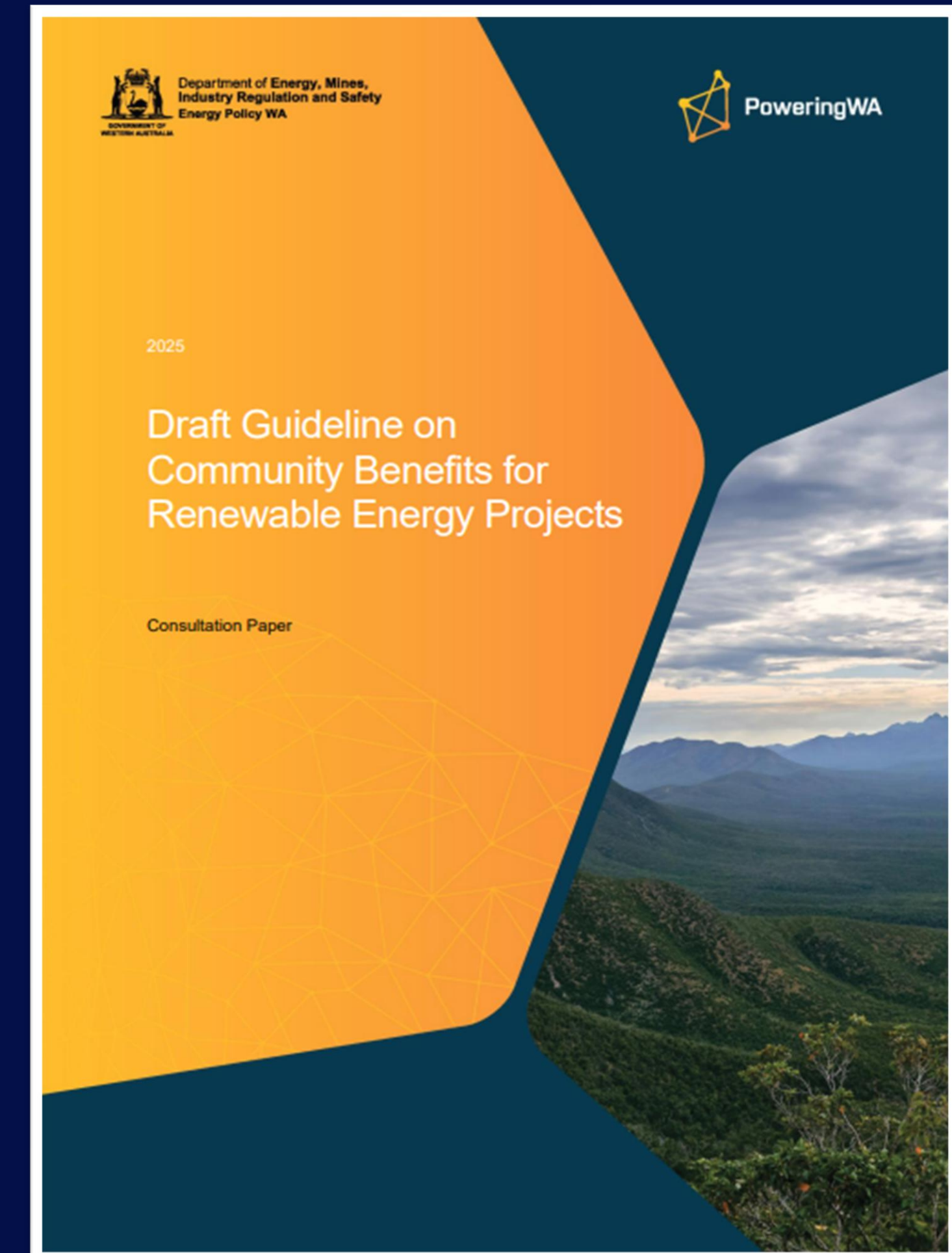
Effective community benefit arrangements:

- Promote equitable outcomes
- Are guided by the needs of the community
- Empower communities (not just landowners hosting infrastructure) to realise benefits
- Improve investor certainty
- Reduce delays in project delivery

In August 2025, the WA Government release it's draft Community Benefits Guideline, which set out it's proposed expectations for large scale generation projects.

The consultation process closed with over 100 submissions received.

PoweringWA is working through the feedback, with the expectation to finalise by the end of the year.



Supporting the energy transition: PoweringWA

PoweringWA was established by the State Government to deliver the infrastructure we need to decarbonise our State's energy systems – including our main electricity network, the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

- Streamlining the delivery of the transmission, generation and storage projects that are building our cleaner energy future.
- Collaborating across Government and with industry to identify barriers to the transition and find effective solutions.
- Engaging with communities to ensure their voices, perspectives and priorities are considered while also providing the information and tools they need to understand and navigate the opportunities and challenges of the energy transition.



PoweringWA

If you have questions, concerns or need more information at anytime throughout the energy transition, please email the PoweringWA Community Support team at: poweringWAsupport@deed.wa.gov.au

PoweringWA is engaging across government to address key challenges associated with energy transition





Department of
Energy and Economic
Diversification

Thank you