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Minister for Resources
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TO BUILD GRID TO UNLOCK ENERGY FUTURE

NSW will lead the nation in building state energy infrastructure for the future under a new Transmission Infrastructure Strategy launched today.

Designed to connect a grid of the future powered by alternate technologies – the strategy sets out a plan to build a NSW network that delivers reliable, affordable energy for NSW.

NSW Minister for Energy, Don Harwin, says the Transmission Infrastructure Strategy is about NSW focusing on overcoming the long term barriers to reliability and lower prices.

“The energy market is changing fast and in NSW we are focused on building a network that can connect the flood of new capacity coming online,” said Mr Harwin.

“Whether its pumped hydro, wind, solar, gas or coal – industry simply won’t invest if they can’t connect.

“There are \$27 billion of new energy projects in the NSW pipeline totaling 20,000 megawatts. However, for every 20 projects looking to connect only one can – it’s time to change that”.

The transmission strategy will focus on three key actions:

- Support TransGrid to bring forward important early planning and feasibility work on four priority projects to improve connections between states and unlock more power from the Snowy Scheme
- Increase NSW energy capacity with three key energy zones in the Central-West, South West and New England regions
- Work with other states and regulators to streamline regulation and improve investment conditions

“This strategy will prepare NSW for the next-generation energy system and reduce customer bills,” said Mr Harwin.

The energy zones in regional NSW will become a focus for new energy generation, bringing major investment opportunities into regional economies.

The strategy follows the recent announcement of the \$55 million Emerging Energy Program which supports the commercialisation of large-scale projects that use emerging dispatchable technology including solar, batteries and pumped hydro.

For more information on the NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy, visit <https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/emerging-energy/energy-zones>

To download video content and images explaining the three key energy zones – <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2pucephuswjk06/AABDIGcD8f1sddoJwNvTav6ca?dl=0>

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