



Transitional guidance for mid-scale solar (PV) systems

The [Renewable Energy \(Electricity\) Regulations 2001 have been amended](#) to expand the [Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme](#) (SRES) for eligible solar PV systems from 100 kW to 1 MW.

Eligible mid-scale solar PV systems installed from 1 October 2026 can apply for small-scale technology certificates (STCs).

The expansion of mid-scale solar is intended to operate as an extension of the existing SRES. Existing SRES concepts, requirements and guidance continue to apply unless otherwise specified in the regulations.

This guidance focuses on areas where stakeholders have sought clarification regarding the expansion. It is intended to assist businesses, project developers, installers, agents and system owners who are planning or progressing mid-scale solar projects that may be eligible for STCs under the expanded SRES.

Existing SRES requirements will still apply including product accreditation, installer accreditation and electrical safety requirements. Mid-scale systems must have its panels, batteries or inverters listed on the [Clean Energy Council \(CEC\) list of approved components](#) and meet Solar Accreditation Australia (SAA) install guidelines.

To meet mid-scale eligibility requirements, you will need to give the CER written information or documents that evidence that all Commonwealth, state, territory or local government planning and approval requirements have been met for the installation. This includes evidence of network connection approvals where applicable.

See responses to common questions to help prepare for the changes.

More information will be published on our [mid-scale solar webpage](#). [Sign up to 'Renewable Energy Target' emails](#) to stay informed.



Commencement and transitional arrangements

When will the expanded SRES commence for mid-scale solar PV systems?

The Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 have been amended to expand eligibility under the SRES to include eligible solar PV systems with a capacity between 100 kW and 1 MW.

This will apply to eligible systems installed on or after 1 October 2026.

Will projects already under construction be eligible for STCs?

Eligibility will depend on the date a system is installed, rather than when construction or procurement activities commenced.

Businesses may continue planning, designing, procuring and constructing projects before 1 October 2026. To be eligible for STCs, you will need to give the CER records showing when the system was installed and became capable of producing and delivering electricity, together with relevant planning and building approvals, structural engineering reports and network connection documentation.

Serial number information is required to be submitted with an application to create STCs. Installers and persons creating STCs are responsible for ensuring adequate records can be used to verify the serial numbers of the installed panels if requested by the CER.

See [Renewable Energy \(Electricity\) Regulations 2001](#) for more eligibility requirements.

What does ‘installed’ mean?

Following the existing SRES concept, a solar PV system is installed when it is first capable of producing and delivering electricity.

This is the testing and commissioning date recorded on the certificate of electrical compliance (or equivalent state or territory certification) and is used to determine the installation date.

A system must also meet all other [eligibility requirements outlined in the regulations](#) to create STCs.

Eligibility for mid-scale systems

What systems are expected to be eligible for mid-scale STCs?

To be eligible, mid-scale solar PV system must:

- have a capacity greater than 100 kW and up to 1 MW
- be installed on or after 1 October 2026
- meet applicable product accreditation, installer accreditation and electrical safety requirements
- comply with all relevant planning approvals and network connection requirements
- satisfy any additional eligibility and evidentiary requirements outlined in the regulations.

Businesses should retain records relating to system design, network approvals, metering arrangements, planning approvals, electrical compliance and commissioning.



How many STCs will an eligible mid-scale system receive?

Eligible mid-scale solar PV systems will receive a fixed 5-year deeming period through to 2030.

See our [mid-scale solar STC calculator](#) to estimate how many STCs your system may be eligible for.

Can off-grid or stand-alone solar systems be eligible?

The mid-scale expansion is an extension of the existing SRES. As with existing small-scale systems, eligible mid-scale solar systems may be grid-connected or stand-alone, provided they meet all applicable eligibility requirements.

Existing systems, extensions and upgrades

Can an existing solar PV system be expanded and become eligible for STCs?

Eligible extensions to existing solar PV systems may qualify for STCs. Where an existing system is expanded, eligibility to create STCs applies only to the additional capacity installed on or after 1 October 2026 and not the original installed capacity. The eligible additional capacity would be able to create STCs using the fixed 5-year deeming arrangement available to eligible mid-scale solar systems.

The additional capacity does not need to exceed 100 kW on its own. An extension will be eligible where:

- the extension forms part of the same solar PV system as the existing system
- the existing and new components are electrically connected
- the combined capacity of the existing system and extension is greater than 100 kW and does not exceed 1 MW
- all other eligibility requirements are met.

For example, an existing 80 kW solar PV system that is expanded by 40 kW after commencement may be eligible as a 120 kW mid-scale solar PV system. In this scenario, 5-year fixed deeming STCs would apply to the additional 40 kW only, not the original 80 kW.

How will the 1 MW limit apply to upgraded, staged or related systems?

Eligibility depends on the characteristics of the system claiming STCs and its relationship to other connected or related generation systems as outlined in the regulations.

Factors that may be relevant include:

- electrical configuration
- metering arrangements
- network connection arrangements
- whether systems are considered related systems
- the combined capacity of related systems.



If you are planning staged developments, system upgrades or projects involving multiple solar installations at the same site, you should carefully consider these arrangements when designing their projects.

You can also refer to the CER's existing guidance on [defining small-scale and large-scale solar systems](#), including scenario examples that may assist in understanding how system boundaries are assessed.

Updated guidance will be published to reflect the new concepts of related solar devices and power stations introduced by the regulations.

How will the 1 MW limit apply where other solar systems already exist at a site?

The eligibility of a new mid-scale solar PV system will depend on the total capacity of solar installations at the site or adjacent sites and how those systems are connected and metered.

Existing accredited Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) power stations will remain in the LRET and will not automatically transition to the SRES. Existing LRET generation may continue to create large-scale generation certificates (LGCs).

You should carefully consider proposals involving new mid-scale systems located on the same site, or adjoining sites, as existing solar installations, including accredited LRET power stations:

- where the total combined capacity of existing LRET solar PV systems and a proposed new solar PV installation on a site or adjoining sites exceeds 1 MW, the proposed installation will not be eligible as a mid-scale solar PV system
- separate metering arrangements will be required where an existing accredited power station intends to continue creating LGCs.

For example, a new 500 kW solar PV installation may be eligible where it is located on a site with an existing 100 kW solar PV system and a separately metered 400 kW accredited power station, because the combined capacity of all systems does not exceed 1 MW.

Conversely, a new 500 kW installation may not be eligible where it is located with an existing 100 kW solar PV system and a 600 kW accredited power station, as the combined capacity exceeds 1 MW.

These examples are illustrative only. Eligibility will depend on the specific circumstances of each installation and the application of the regulations.

If you are proposing developments involving existing accredited power stations, staged developments or multiple related solar installations, you should ensure metering and system design arrangements clearly identify the generating capacity associated with each scheme.

Metering, embedded networks and multi-building sites

How will the CER assess sites with embedded networks, multiple buildings, sub-meters or a shared NMI?

The existence of a single National Metering Identifier (NMI) does not necessarily determine whether multiple solar installations are regarded as a single system.

The CER's assessment will generally focus on the physical and electrical boundaries of the solar system, relevant metering arrangements, and whether installations are considered related systems as outlined in the regulations.



Commercial sub-metering arrangements may be one of several factors considered when assessing whether installations should be treated as separate systems.

You can also refer to the CER's existing guidance on [defining small-scale and large-scale solar systems](#), including scenario examples that may assist in understanding how system boundaries are assessed. Updated guidance will be published to reflect the new concepts of related solar devices and power stations introduced by [the regulations](#).

Interaction with the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET)

What happens if there is already an accredited LRET power station at the site?

Existing accredited power stations will remain in the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) and may continue to create LGCs.

A new mid-scale solar PV installation will still be capable of creating STCs where it satisfies the relevant eligibility requirements and can be appropriately identified and metered.

Consideration may be required where a proposed mid-scale system is located on the same site as, or is related to, an existing accredited power station.

Can a system create both STCs and LGCs?

A solar generating system cannot create both STCs and LGCs for the same generation capacity.

Support for eligible new mid-scale solar installations is provided through the SRES rather than the LRET.

Applications and evidence requirements

When can applications be lodged and what evidence should businesses retain?

Applications to create STCs for eligible mid-scale systems are expected to open in mid to late November 2026, once the necessary CER systems and processes are in place.

Eligible systems installed on or after 1 October 2026 will be assessed against the eligibility requirements applying from that date, regardless of when the STC application is submitted.

Businesses must be able to provide the CER with information or documents evidencing that all applicable Commonwealth, state, territory or local government planning and approval requirements have been met for the installation. Businesses should retain relevant records throughout project development and installation, including:

- system design documentation
- network connection approvals (where applicable) *
- planning and building approvals
- structural engineering reports (where applicable)
- metering information
- electrical compliance certificates
- testing and commissioning records
- photographs and installation evidence.

* Where staged installations are covered by a single network connection approval, the CER's focus will be on whether the evidence demonstrates that the specific device claiming STCs is covered by that approval. The



CER does not currently anticipate requiring separate connection approvals solely because an installation forms part of a broader staged development, provided the relevant approval is applicable to the device being claimed.

What photos do accredited installers need to take for eligible mid-scale solar PV systems?

For **eligible mid-scale solar (PV) systems**, accredited installers must keep photographs showing they attended the site for the final stage of installation and commissioning.

The photographs must:

- be geotagged and time-stamped and clearly show the accredited installer's face
- show the installed system, such as the solar panels, inverter, switchboard, battery system or other relevant equipment
- show the system during testing and commissioning
- include date, time and location information (where available)
- align with the dates recorded on certificates and other compliance documents.

If testing and commissioning occurs over several days, the photographs should be taken on the final day of testing and commissioning.

Accredited installers must take these photographs during the installation and commissioning process. Photographs taken after the work has been completed to recreate evidence may not be accepted.

Applications may be rejected where the evidence does not demonstrate that the accredited installer attended the final stage of installation and commissioning.

These requirements apply only to mid-scale solar (PV) systems. Existing installer on site verification requirements for small-scale solar PV systems and solar batteries have not changed and continue to apply.