

Public



Low Reserve Condition Report

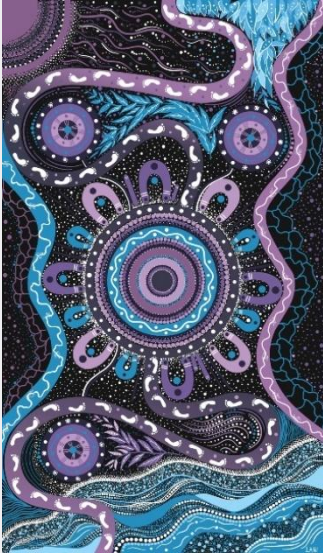
April 2026

WEM Low Reserve Conditions for 6 Month Interval

1st October 2025 to 31st March 2026



Public



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, seas and waters across Australia. We honour the wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present and embrace future generations.

We acknowledge that, wherever we work, we do so on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. We pay respect to the world's oldest continuing culture and First Nations peoples' deep and continuing connection to Country; and hope that our work can benefit both people and Country.

'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' by Lani Balzan

AEMO Group is proud to have launched its first [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) in May 2024. 'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' was created by Wiradjuri artist Lani Balzan to visually narrate our ongoing journey towards reconciliation - a collaborative endeavour that honours First Nations cultures, fosters mutual understanding, and paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Important notice

Purpose

This Low Reserve Conditions Report is produced and published in accordance with clauses 3.17.2 and 3.17.3 of the Electricity System and Market Rules (ESM Rules), using information available as at [31 March 2026], unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer

AEMO has made reasonable efforts to ensure the quality of the information in this report but cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Any views expressed in this report are those of AEMO unless otherwise stated. Accordingly, to the maximum extent permitted by law, AEMO and its officers, employees and consultants involved in the preparation of this document:

- make no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the currency, accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information in this document; and
- are not liable (whether by reason of negligence or otherwise) for any statements or representations in this report, or any omissions from it, or for any use or reliance on the information in it.

Copyright

© 2026 Australian Energy Market Operator Limited. The material in this publication may be used in accordance with the [copyright permissions on AEMO's website](#).

Executive Summary

The March 2026 Low Reserve Condition Report outlines the frequency, causes, and responses to Low Reserve Condition (LRC) events in the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) during the reporting period from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026. Low Reserve Condition Declarations (LRCDs) were notably more frequent during the summer months, primarily due to extreme weather conditions, elevated system demand, and delays in commissioning new generation resources.

Three LRC Lack of Reserve (LOR) 1 conditions were declared during this period. No Demand Side Programme (DSP) was dispatched and no Supplementary Capacity (SC) was activated during this period.



Contents

Executive Summary	3
1 Low Reserve Condition Declarations	5
1.1 Analysis of causes	5
1.2 Actions taken	6
1.3 Summary	7

Figures

Tables

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF LRC DECLARATIONS	5
TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN	6

1 Low Reserve Condition Declarations

This report provides an overview of Low Reserve Condition Declarations (LRCs) during the November 2025 – March 2026 period.

A Low Reserve Condition (LRC) occurs when AEMO considers that, for a particular period, there is a risk of insufficient capacity to meet expected energy demand, that there is a risk of load shedding to maintain Power System Security, or that there is a risk of an Essential System Service shortfall that compromises AEMO’s ability to maintain Power System Security or Power System Reliability.

Terms defined in the *Electricity Industry Act 2004 (WA)*, the Electricity System and Market Regulations and the ESM Rules have the same meanings in this report unless the context requires otherwise.

Table 1 contains a summary of LRCs issued between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Table 1 Summary of LRC Declarations

Date	Market Advisory number
14/12/2025	21284
21/1/2026	211402
1/02/2026	212430

1.1 Analysis of causes

This section highlights the observed trends in LRCs, focusing on the factors influencing their occurrence and timing:

- **Energy transition:** The decommissioning of coal facilities (MUJA_G6) compared to the previous Summer Season (2024-25) reduced the availability of dispatchable, non-intermittent energy sources¹. The increased Energy Storage Resource (ESR) capacity introduced the requirement to monitor State of Charge at a facility level to ensure sufficient capacity was available during LOR periods²
- **Weather and seasonality:** LRCs are often observed during extreme weather events such as heatwaves. Summer months consistently show a higher frequency of LRC events due to elevated temperatures and demand.
- **Commissioning delays:** Inability to maintain required reserve margins due to delays in the commissioning of new generation resources.

¹ WAECF 16 September 2024: https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/working_groups/wa_meetings/waecf/2024/waecf-48-meeting-papers.pdf?la=en

² RIF 10 December 2025: https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/working_groups/wa_meetings/real-time-market-insights-forum/2025-12-10-rtm-industry-insights-forum.pdf?rev=432a6df9eaac4b34a4886aad448e1208&sc_lang=en

1.2 Actions taken

Table 2 displays the LRCs, and the actions taken by AEMO to resolve the LRC.

Operational actions for a LRC day:

- Declare LRC by issuing a Market Advisory.
- Notify ESRs that AEMO intervention may be required where facilities have insufficient State of Charge under LOR1 conditions
- Notify ESRs to advise a target State of Charge percentage and that AEMO intervention may be required where facilities have insufficient State of Charge under LOR2 conditions
- Dispatch all available market generation.
- Activate DSP and SC.
- Declare priority Essential System Service (ESS) providers.

Table 2 Summary of actions taken

Date and time	Declaration (Market Advisory number)	LRC period	Actions taken AEMO has declared LRC
14/12/2025	212284	17:00-21:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Declare LRC LOR 1 by issuing a Market Advisory. - All generators requested to be available over peak. - Notify ESRs AEMO intervention may be required
21/1/2026	211402	17:00-21:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Declare LRC LOR 1 by issuing a Market Advisory - All generators requested to be available over peak. - Notify ESRs AEMO intervention may be required
1/02/2026	212430	17:00-21:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Declare LRC LOR 1 by issuing a Market Advisory - All generators requested to be available over peak. - Notify ESRs AEMO intervention may be required



1.3 Summary

AEMO assesses the probability of a shortfall in available capacity reserves, which may lead to a potential LRC. A LRC occurs when AEMO considers that there is a risk of the circumstances specified in clause 3.17.1 of the ESM Rules which may result in a LRCD. These circumstances include forecast reserve margins falling below the Reliability Standard, significant uncertainty in demand or generation availability, planned or unplanned Outages reducing Available Capacity, forecast insufficient State of Charge from ESR Facilities or other events that may impact Power System Security and Power System Reliability. AEMO will then publish notices to inform the market about LRCs and any potential AEMO Intervention Events.

The period of November 2025 – March 2026 overall showed a reduced number of LRCD declarations compared to the previous summer period, due to multiple factors including increased ESR capacity and slightly milder temperatures. Perth Metro in January 2026 featured 6 days greater than 35 degrees, the hottest day in January 2026 reached 40.7 degrees, compared to the hottest day in January 2025 reaching 43.6 degrees. No DSP was dispatched and no SC was activated during this period.