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AEMO's strategic mistake

For too long, Australia's energy transition has followed a narrow path — one that mirrors the old model: big generation plants, connected by long transmission lines.

That approach has been heavily shaped by Transmission Network Service Providers — and adopted by AEMO, the Australian Energy Market Operator. But here's the catch: AEMO's own data shows that the future of energy is heading in a very different direction.

The 2024 Integrated System Plan reveals that rooftop solar alone is now capable of meeting over half of the National Electricity Market's energy demand during the middle of a sunny day — 51.3%, to be exact.

In the summer of 2024, rooftop systems contributed 13% of total electricity generation across the NEM. That's more than utility-scale solar, wind, hydro, or even gas.

These rooftop systems are everywhere — already in place, built by everyday Australians. They don't require massive new transmission lines.

What's more, AEMO's own research shows that these distributed resources could be greatly strengthened by adding local solar and batteries in the right places.

And yet, the official plan still leans heavily on building large-scale wind and solar farms in remote areas — far from the people who use the power.

That direction risks more than just higher costs. It puts us on a path toward stranded infrastructure and growing distress in affected communities.

It's time to take a serious look at whether we're backing the right model — and whether the future of energy is already right above our heads.