



E3 Workplan 2026



Acknowledgements

Jurisdictional representatives from the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Steering Committee have generously contributed their time, knowledge, and expertise to the development of the E3 Strategy. We also acknowledge the leadership and contributions of the lead authors for the Strategy's key components: CLASP for the E3 Strategic Plan, the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (New Zealand Government) for the E3 Implementation Plan, and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian Government) for the E3 Workplan on behalf of the E3 Program. Their insights and guidance have been invaluable in shaping a coordinated and robust Strategy.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

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This publication is available at www.energyrating.gov.au.

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E3 Workplan

Overview and purpose

The Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program is a joint initiative between the Australian Government, Australian state and territory governments, and the New Zealand Government (E3 jurisdictions).

The E3 Workplan forms a key part of the package of strategic documents that were developed by E3 jurisdictions in 2024–25. This package includes the:

- **E3 Strategic Plan** which sets the direction for the E3 Program over the course of 10 years until 2035, including the high-level vision, outcomes, and enablers of the E3 Program.
- **E3 Implementation Plan** which outlines how the E3 Strategic Plan will be achieved, including the areas of focus and actions.
- **E3 Workplan** which contains the discrete projects that the E3 Program will be progressing each year to achieve the ambitions set out in the E3 Strategic Plan and E3 Implementation Plan.

The **E3 Workplan (Table 2)** is a tool to communicate to stakeholders the projects undertaken by the E3 Program each year. These projects will also support jurisdictional initiatives such as incentive schemes and whitelists (government-recommended or approved lists of products) related to regulated appliances and equipment. The E3 Program underpins a range of important energy policies that leverage the outcomes achieved through E3 Program and regulatory initiatives. This document will be reviewed and updated each year, with a new version published after the finalisation of budget decision-making for each financial year.

The E3 Workplan lists priority projects as committed to by the E3 Program's governing committees including the [Energy Efficiency Working Group \(EEWG\)](#) and the Energy and Climate Change Senior Officials Group (ECSOG) and resourced through budget decision-making. Its purpose is to provide expected timeframes for the delivery of projects, including the timeframes for the different stages of each overall project.

Approvals

The 2026 E3 Workplan has been approved by ECSOG, which consists of senior executives from jurisdictional agencies, and supports the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC).

Upon agreement from ECMC, E3 Workplans from 2027 onwards will be approved by EEWG, which is a decision-making group advised by the E3 Steering Committee on E3 Program matters.

For more information on E3 Program governance, see: [Governance | Energy Rating](#).

Table 1 provides information on the various stages involved in both product determination/regulation development projects and in progressing cross-cutting projects. As outlined in Table 1, the product determination/regulation processes in Australia and New Zealand diverge at stage four (4).

Figure 1: E3 Program Strategy framework

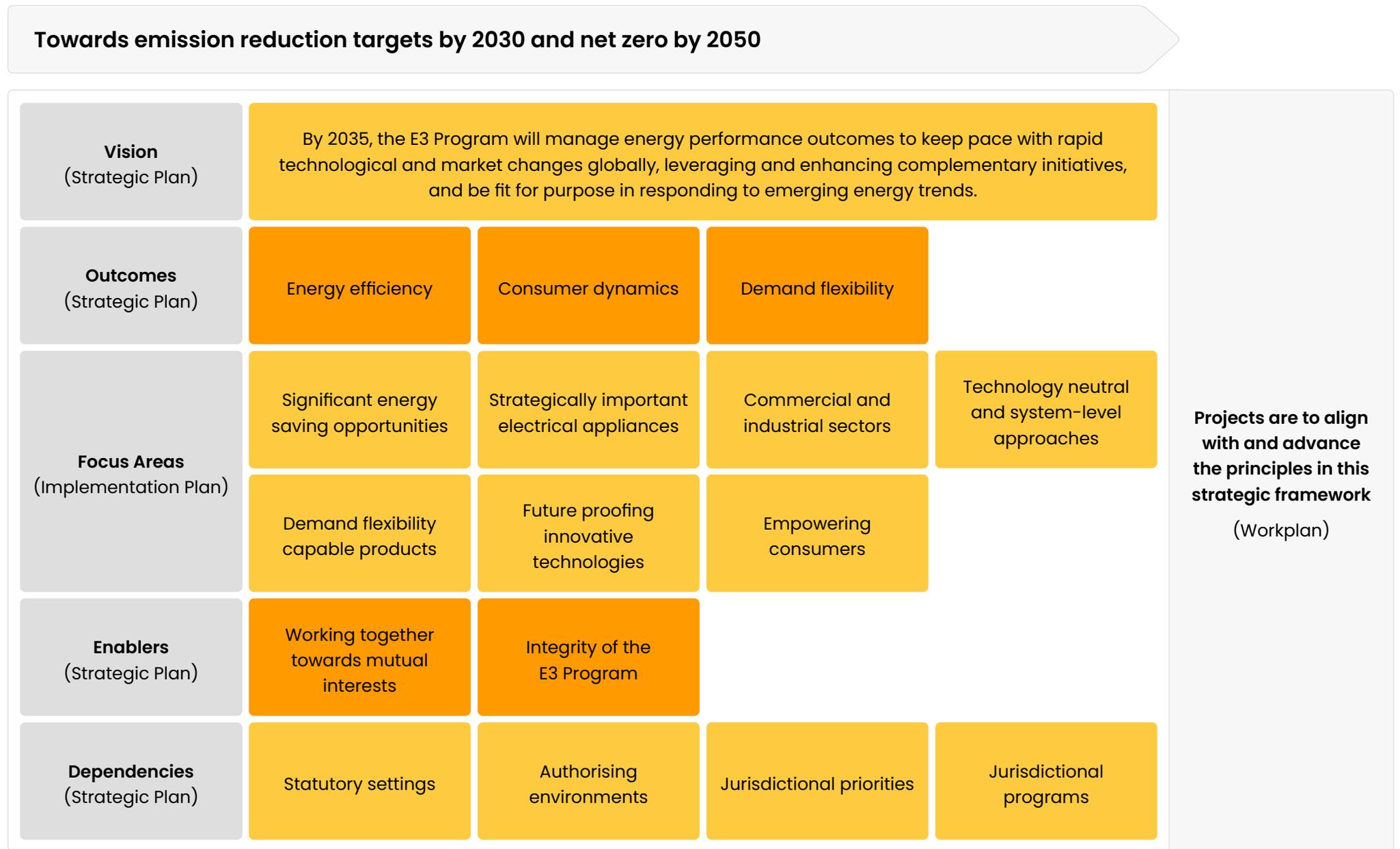


Table 1: Workplan terminology

Project category	Category description	Category stages in Australia	Category stages in New Zealand
PRODUCT	Projects involved in the regulation of a specific product (appliance or equipment) determination and regulation development.	<p>1 Investigation: Industry and market research, international research, technical standards development, and may also include product profiles where appropriate.</p> <p>2 Consultation RIS (CRIS): Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) published for public discussion, comment and submissions. In practice, a CRIS is approved by the E3 Steering Committee and EEWG prior to publication. In New Zealand, Ministerial approval (or in contentious cases, Cabinet approval) is required to facilitate concurrent public consultation in Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>3 Decision RIS (DRIS): Policy parameters may be revised as needed to reflect public input from the CRIS process. The finalised DRIS is then provided to the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC) for a decision, following review and approval by the E3 Steering Committee, EEWG and ECSOG.</p>	<p>4 Regulation: New Zealand Government approval is required to commence drafting the product Regulation based on an ECMC-approved DRIS. Once drafting is completed and the finalised Regulation is approved, the Regulation is published.</p>
CROSS-CUTTING	Projects that are not related to a specific product and impact the delivery of regulations (e.g. overarching reform). These projects will not directly result in a product determination or regulation being developed.	<p>1 Investigation: Preliminary identification and scoping of project area, including necessary research.</p> <p>2 Consultation: Public discussion and submissions to assess the merits and viability of a project. Depending on the project, consultation may be through a CRIS or different appropriate medium.</p> <p>3 Commitment: Decision to commit to pursuing implementation of the project. Depending on the project, this commitment may be made through requiring agreement to a DRIS or a different appropriate medium (depending on whether ministerial approval is required).</p> <p>4 Implementation: Fulfillment of the commitment made to implement a project. There are various means of implementation depending on the project (e.g. a legislative reform project will have a different implementation route to a simpler process-change project). Note that implementation is pending commitment.</p>	

Table 2: 2026 Workplan

Workplan – Product Projects						
Project	Current stage lead	Category	Expected timing of stages (by calendar year)*			
			2025	2026	2027	2028
Clothes washing machines	Commonwealth	Product	Implementation			
Commercial ice-makers	Commonwealth	Product	Determination Implementation	Implementation		
Dishwashers	Commonwealth	Product	Implementation			
Distribution transformers	Commonwealth	Product	Consultation RIS Decision RIS	Determination		Implementation
Domestic cooking appliances	New South Wales	Product		Consultation RIS Decision RIS		
Dryers	Commonwealth	Product	Implementation			
Electric motors	New Zealand	Product	Consultation RIS	Decision RIS	Determination	Implementation
Electronic displays (televisions, computer monitors and digital signage displays)	Commonwealth	Product	Determination		Implementation	
External power supplies	Commonwealth	Product	Decision RIS	Determination	Implementation	
Heat pump hot water heaters	Commonwealth	Product	Consultation RIS Decision RIS Determination	Determination	Implementation	
Hot water heater fuel comparison consumer guides	New Zealand	Cross-cutting	Investigation	Consultation Commitment		
Incandescent lamps	Commonwealth	Product	Implementation			Post-implementation review
LED lamps	Commonwealth	Product	Determination Implementation	Implementation		Post-implementation review
Lighting technology strategic assessment	Commonwealth	Cross-cutting	Investigation	Consultation Commitment		
Liquid chilling packages	Commonwealth	Product	Determination		Implementation	
Refrigerated cabinets	Commonwealth	Product	Implementation			
Swimming pool pumps	Commonwealth	Product	Post-implementation review	Consultation RIS (new determination) Decision RIS	Determination	Implementation

*Expected timings of stages from 'Determination' onwards apply for Australia only. New Zealand has a separate national process for regulation making, and there is no new regulatory update envisaged before 2027. Timings for stages are also indicative and subject to change.

Glossary

Term	Meaning
CER	Consumer Energy Resources (Australia). Consumer energy resources (CER) are consumers' resources that generate or store electricity and includes flexible loads that can alter demand in response to external signals. CER includes rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicle chargers, and controlled loads such as water heaters and air conditioners.
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide.
Commercial and industrial products	Commercial and industrial products tend to be equipment found in non-residential facilities such as shops, restaurants, offices, industrial premises, hotels, schools and hospitals.
COP	Conference of the Parties. It is the United Nations' annual Climate Change Conference, where countries assess progress, make decisions and agree on climate action commitments.
CRIS	Consultation regulation impact statement.
DCCEEW	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australia).
Demand flexibility	Demand flexibility is the capability to vary discretionary consumer demand for electricity in response to market signals, to lower bills and help optimise system infrastructure and renewables through energy load shifting.
Demand-side	Actions taken to reduce or alter energy usage, encompassing techniques such as energy efficiency, energy management, demand response, demand flexibility and demand management.
DER	Distributed energy resources (DER) is sometimes used to describe CER, but also includes larger assets such as community batteries installed in the distribution network.
DRIS	Decision regulation impact statement.
E3 Program	Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program.
E3 Program jurisdictions	(Alphabetical) Australian Capital Territory, Australian Government, New South Wales, New Zealand Government, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Note the Northern Territory is not a party.
E3 Steering Committee	Membership consists of government representatives from the Australian, state and territory, and New Zealand government agencies. The E3 Steering Committee's conduct is in accordance with the GEMS IGA and where changes to energy efficiency requirements are being considered, the E3 Steering Committee prepares Impact Assessments, often called Regulation Impact Statements (RIS), for public comment and submissions. Hierarchy of committees in ascending decision-making order: E3 Steering Committee, EEWG, ECSOG, ECMC.
E3 Strategy	The E3 Strategy is a package that comprises of the E3 Strategic Plan, E3 Workplan and E3 Implementation Plan.

Term	Meaning
ECMC	Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council. ECMC consists of energy and climate change ministers from the Australian Government, Australian state and territory governments, and the New Zealand Government.
ECSOG	The Energy and Climate Change Senior Officials Group (ECSOG) consists of senior executives from jurisdictional agencies and supports the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC).
EECA	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (New Zealand).
EEC Act	<i>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000</i> (New Zealand).
EEWG	The Energy Efficiency Working Group (EEWG) is a decision-making group consisting of government representatives from Australian, state and territory, and New Zealand agencies. It oversees and is advised by the E3 Steering Committee on E3 Program matters.
Energy efficiency	Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task or produce the same result.
Energy performance	Energy performance is the broad management of energy demand, including energy efficiency; demand flexibility (or load shifting); and measures to support an evolving energy system.
ERL	Energy Rating Label.
GEMS	Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Australia).
GEMS Act	<i>Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012</i> (Australia).
IGA	Inter-Governmental Agreement.
Industry	Industry in the context of the E3 Strategy generally means regulated industry, whether that be suppliers (manufacturers or importers) or commercial users of regulated products.
Interoperability	Interoperability describes the ability of two or more networks, systems, devices, applications, or components to share and readily use digital information securely and effectively.
Kt	Kilotons.
MEPL	Mandatory energy performance labelling.
MEPS	Minimum energy performance standards.
Mt	Megatons.
NCC	National Construction Code.
NABERS	National Australian Built Environment Rating System.
NatHERS	Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (Australia).
Peak demand	Peak demand is the maximum power requirement of a system at a given time; or the amount of power required to supply customers at times when need is greatest. During winter there are usually daily morning and evening demand peaks, while during summer this is usually only an afternoon demand peak.
RIS	Regulation impact statement.
Sales platforms	Sales platforms are tools used to facilitate the buying and selling of goods and services, both online and in-store.
TTMRA	Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement (1997).
TTMR Act	<i>Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997</i> .