

# Capital & Kilowatts

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Investment opportunities in the energy transition

June 2026



# Introduction

We're excited to release the inaugural edition of Capital & Kilowatts, our guide that unpacks the legal and commercial drivers shaping where capital is flowing across Australia's energy transition.

In this edition we cover:

- investing in uncertain times: our three key predictions for the year ahead, being generation & storage, oil & gas and transition adjacencies
- investment spotlight: capital partnering through innovative co-development structures
- the new Electricity Services Entry Mechanism (**ESEM**): the centrepiece and proposed solution to the structural investment gap in the NEM identified in the Government's latest review of the electricity market
- Wired for growth: capitalising on the significant energy demand from the data centre revolution
- Gas spotlight: the linchpin during times of uncertainty and what our gas reservation scheme means for investors.



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# Investing in Uncertain Times

Global unrest. Interest rates. Policy uncertainty. Compound these with planning delays and capex blowouts. None of these make it easy to invest in the energy transition.

But the pace of investment remains strong, as industry players and private capital investors look to capitalise on the opportunities that are present in the energy sector.

The government is also considering changing the superannuation annual performance test administered by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, so super funds are not effectively penalised from investing in long-term, higher risk renewable and infrastructure projects that may impact short-term returns but support the energy transition. The proposed changes from the Treasury consultation paper released on 8 May will introduce new benchmarking for emerging and alternative asset classes which, if implemented, will unlock one of the largest pools of capital in the economy and enable more super capital flow into the energy transition.

In addition, the Federal Budget demonstrates the government's shift to energy security and domestic supply while adopting a pragmatic approach to balancing decarbonisation, affordability and sovereign capability.

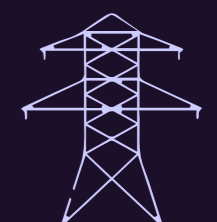
Looking into our crystal ball, we see three key areas of growth for the year ahead.



Generation & storage



Oil & gas



Grid, network, REZ & tech solutions

## Generation & storage

We expect investment across generation and storage to remain strong. While the focus in recent years has been on standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems (**BESS**), we anticipate a shift in focus toward solar hybrid projects and wind generation, with the scales ultimately being tipped by pricing relativity between the two asset classes. Investor preference is expected to concentrate on operational or near-term, ready-to-build assets, where construction and development risks are materially lower.

Valuations are expected to be supported by rising underlying energy demand driven by data centres, along with accelerated adoption of electric vehicles (**EVs**) in response to the recent spike in petrol prices.

## Oil & gas

We expect a resurgence in investment in oil and gas. While coal may be a bridge too far for most investors, some are seeking to capitalise on the potential for gas as a transition fuel across the value chain, including upstream production, midstream, and gas-fired generation sectors.

## Transition adjacencies

Transition adjacent opportunities will continue to be sought after, particularly among private capital investors, including:

- [grid and network infrastructure](#)—arguably the most critical bottleneck in the energy transition
- [metering platforms](#)
- [Renewable Energy Zone \(REZ\) developments](#), and
- [energy software solutions, including AI-driven tools for grid balancing and forecasting](#).

While investors may adopt more conservative assumptions around the pace and trajectory of the energy transition, demand for assets and platforms that alleviate system constraints, enable renewable integration, and reduce cost or execution risk is expected to remain strong.

Investments may take longer to execute as investors look to understand and manage the national and international uncertainty, but they will continue to look to the energy transition sector as a fertile source of opportunities.

# Investment Spotlight

## Innovative Capital Partnering Structures: Unlocking Australia's Energy Transition

In today's market, capital is chasing certainty – and developers are chasing capital. Co-development arrangements have emerged as the meeting point.

Capital partnering through these structures is becoming a defining feature of Australia's energy transition, with benefits for both parties:

**Developers** - unlock the funding needed to progress and deliver growing pipelines

**Investors** - gain a disciplined pathway into the market – securing exposure to prospective assets through partners with the platform, capability and delivery track record to originate and execute, without taking full upfront project risk.

Working across a broad range of capital partnering transactions over the last 12-18 months –renewables, BESS, gas and pumped hydro – we are seeing three key themes emerge in transaction structuring.



THREE TRANSACTION STRUCTURES TO WATCH

Structure	Early-stage option to purchase / participate	Pre-financial close committed funding	Competitive partnering at financial close
Snapshot	<p>Investors fund development at an early stage under joint development arrangements, often in return for an option to acquire project interests once the project is 'shovel-ready'.</p> <p><b>Benefit:</b> Provides necessary capital for projects to get off the ground.</p>	<p>Developer retains substantial control of development, with the capital partner only committed to provide equity for construction once the agreed technical and financial criteria are met (including debt raising).</p> <p>These structures lock-in both parties if agreed criteria is met.</p> <p><b>Benefit:</b> Provides mutual certainty - developers gain comfort that capital can be accessed if it meets the criteria, while the investor is only locked-in if the project stacks up.</p>	<p>Capital partners are only sought once assets are nearing financial close, with equity and debt transactions targeted to close in tandem.</p> <p><b>Benefit:</b> Maximises value for developers in strong markets.</p>
Key considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option structure.</li> <li>Forfeiture / refundability of costs.</li> <li>Project prioritisation by the developer (vs other projects).</li> <li>Control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defining the funding criteria.</li> <li>Early exit rights.</li> <li>Management of conflicts of interests (eg construction management or under Power Purchase Agreements).</li> <li>For platforms: issues around platform / pipeline definition and conflicts with other projects, selection, priority and exclusivity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds significant risk in weaker markets.</li> <li>May need to fund equity into construction / delay projects if partners can't be found / delayed by regulatory requirements (eg FIRB or ACCC).</li> </ul>



**QUEENSLAND: OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE CAPITAL**

There has been a major shift in Queensland, with State-owned generators pivoting away from funding and owning new generation and storage assets under the [Queensland Energy Roadmap](#). While they are less likely to own new assets, the State-owned generators will play a key role in project delivery. They are expected to support equity investment and project finance structures through offtake arrangements.

This creates significant opportunities for private sector capital, to partner with Queensland government backed generators and benefit from offtake arrangements supported by the Queensland government's credit rating.

For the private sector, a carefully designed offtake arrangement is critical - particularly those involving storage - and any related arrangements to ensure accounting (balance sheet) and tax outcomes are aligned with the generators' and State's objectives.

These structures will be of particular importance in delivering large-scale storage projects including pumped hydro and further gas peaking plants, which are critical to firming capacity.

Looking ahead - What to expect

Given the scale of projects in the pipeline, there will be more pre-financial close transaction structures, built around high-quality developers with large-scale projects and involving multiple equity partners or upstream equity consortia. In these structures, there will continue to be tension between more relational approaches - characterised by greater flexibility on exclusivity, exit rights and funding commitments - and more firm contractual approaches, in which contingencies are exhaustively addressed in the transaction documents.

Getting the balance right, together with appropriate timing to resolve the final investment decision or assess the final hurdle, is critical to ensure projects can proceed within the partnership or return to market.

We explore these themes further in Episodes 4 and 5 of our Power Perspectives Podcast, available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

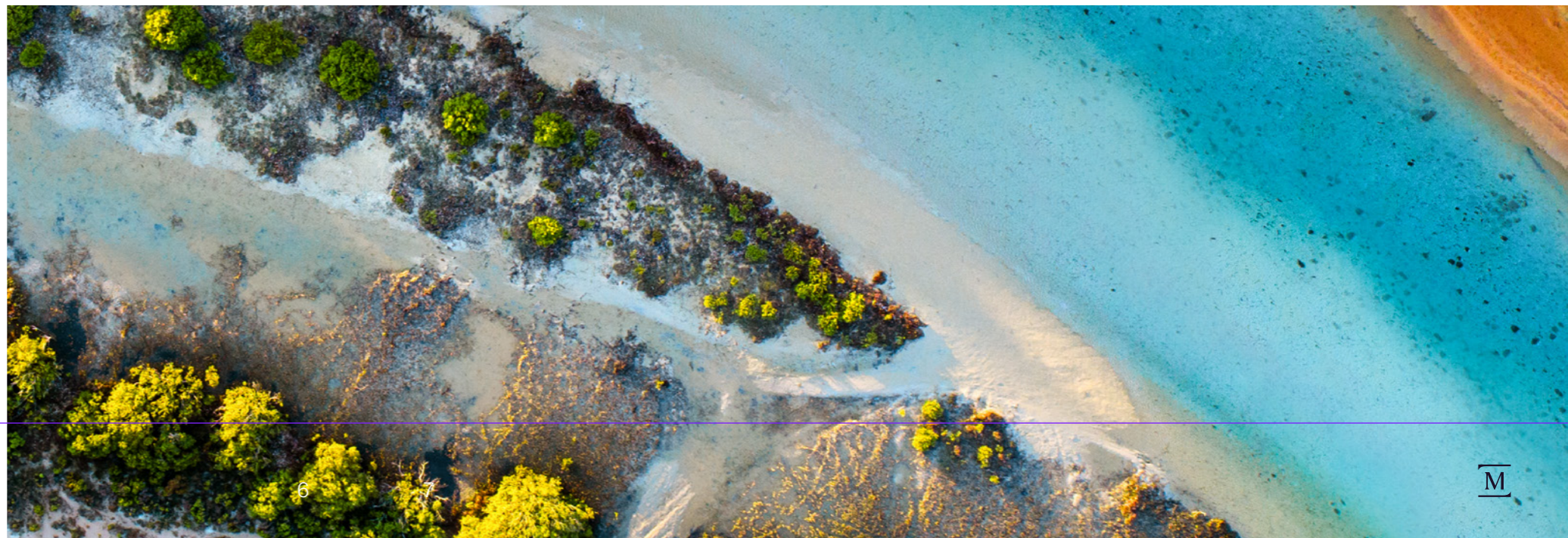
The rise of JD structures in renewable energy



Queensland's Energy Roadmap 2025



Demand for institutional capital remains strong in the power sector, though competition has intensified across other infrastructure classes and technologies such as data centres. This has meant clean energy assets must stand on their own and compete for capital, with less reliance on their green credentials. A marked change from two or three years ago.



# Policy & Regulatory Spotlight

## Nelson Review: ESEM—Bling a Bridge Between Offtaker and Developer Expectations

Policy certainty and market accessibility continue to be critical for investors looking at the energy transition as a fertile source of opportunity – especially in capital-intensive generation projects. The Nelson Review (a 2025 independent review of Australia's National Electricity Market) highlighted the need for mechanisms that would encourage new capacity while maintaining system stability and affordability.

To lower barriers for new participants, the Nelson Review proposed the introduction of the ESEM which:

- is an underwriting mechanism to bridge the gap between offtaker and developer contract tenure expectations for new zero emissions projects and new or existing shaping and firming services, and
- provides investors with a new avenue, ESEM contracts, to de-risk project cashflows in the mid-long run horizon (ie beyond the 3-year horizon).

For those able to access the ESEM, it can offer a valuable platform for projects requiring longer underwriting periods, especially for capital-intensive developments such as pumped hydro and gas generation.

The review provides an enduring, market-based approach to resolving the misalignment between investor and offtaker expectations by providing a government underwrite to resolve mid to long run revenue risk.

It has the potential to shape a more competitive and investable electricity market, by influencing capital flows and allocations. This will be particularly interesting for gas generators if they are able to access the mechanism to improve investor confidence.

## Intention Behind ESEM Contracts

An ESEM contract represents a structured, government-backed revenue support mechanism designed to boost project bankability.

### KEY CONTRACT FEATURES



A government-underwritten offtake framework, facilitated through fungible contracts (ESEM contracts) providing revenue support beyond the initial 3 years of a project.



Allocation following a competitive reverse auction process.








The 'recycling' of ESEM contracts by the administrator of the ESEM once demand materialises (closer to year 8 of a project) to assist with providing transparent forward pricing signals to the market and addressing long-dated revenue certainty.

### INVESTMENT RATIONALE:

- provide revenue certainty in the later stages of a project's life at a time when its most needed (ie on development/ financing), materially reducing risk and improving access to capital; and
- focus investment on services that are necessary to support the long-term viability of the National Electricity Market.

## ESEM Contracts – Breaking it Down

ESEM contracts will be developed based on input from an industry body co-convened by the Australian Energy Regulator and the ESEM Administrator (Co-design group) and will cover the procurement of possible identified, services which are outlined below.

Services	What they procure	Project type	What they could look like
<b>Bulk Energy</b>	Zero-emissions electricity generation.	 Solar  Wind  Hydro	Likely procured through dispatch weighted average swaps and 'heads and tails' products with capped and uncapped time block contracts potentially being workable alternative variants of these contracts.
<b>Shaping</b>	Load shifting/time shifting type services.	 Battery	
<b>Firming</b>	Contracts for capacity from Facilities that are capable of being dispatched continuously for the time it takes to reach the cumulative price threshold if prices are at the market price cap, currently 7.5 hours.	 Hydro	Likely procured through cap contracts.

## Looking ahead – What to expect

Progress has commenced with an industry-led Working Group on co-design of the contract structures with the aim of proposed term sheets by November. In early 2027 there will be the development and formalisation of final contract templates.

Investors should look out for the first ESEM Contract tender, which is scheduled to be held by the end of 2027.

*Importantly, Queensland, unlike all other National Electricity Market jurisdictions, has not yet accepted the findings from the Review.*

# Sector Trends

## Wired For Growth: Capitalising on Energy Demand from the Data Centre Revolution

The data centre boom is rewriting the rules of energy investment. Surging demand for AI, cloud computing and raw processing power is driving unprecedented growth in data centres, but our energy infrastructure is not keeping pace.

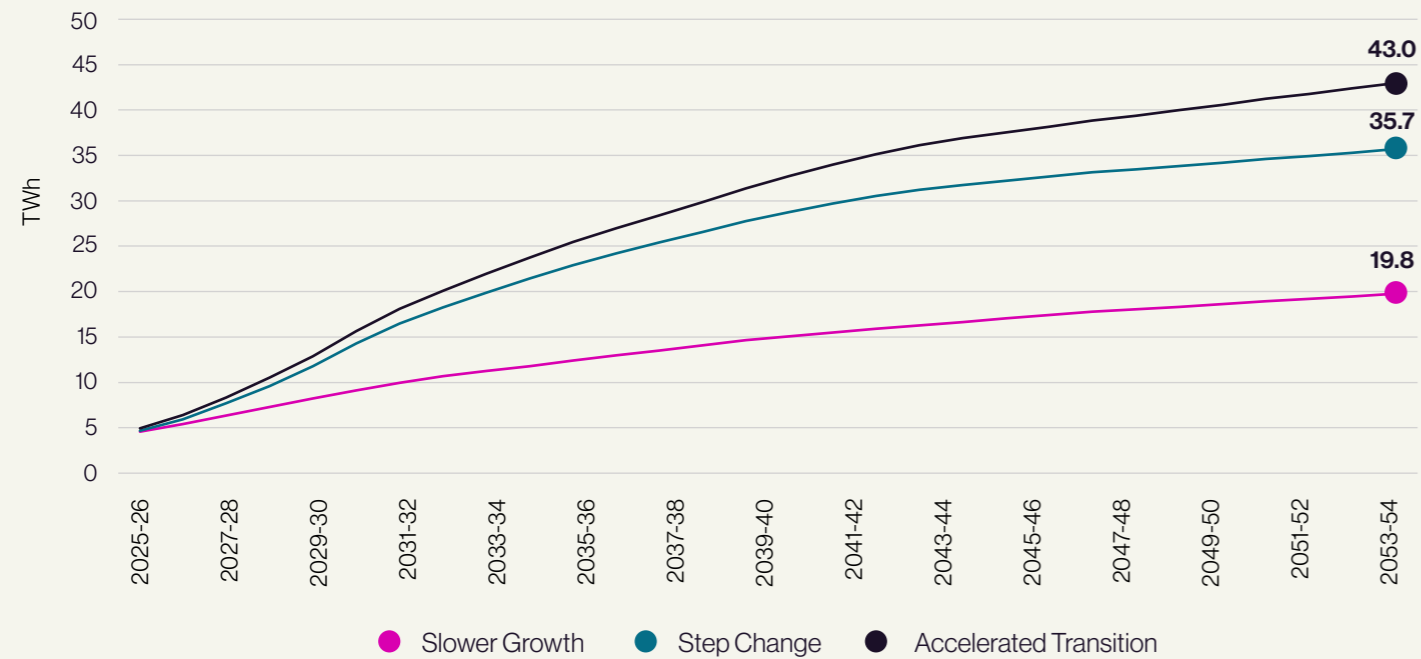
For investors, this creates a landscape rich with opportunity - but only for those who understand the two fundamental bottlenecks: grid access and generation capacity. These constraints are determining which projects proceed, where capital flows, and ultimately who captures value.

The Australian Government's newly released *Expectations of data centres and AI infrastructure developers (DC Guidelines)* have brought these challenges into focus. Operators are now expected to fund their share of grid infrastructure costs and secure their own power generation.

The solution is deceptively simple: increase grid access and electrons. But the challenge lies in the execution...

### AN INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR ENERGY

#### Forecast demand over the next three decades



Source: AEMO/Oxford Economics Data Centre Energy Demand Final Report, July 2025

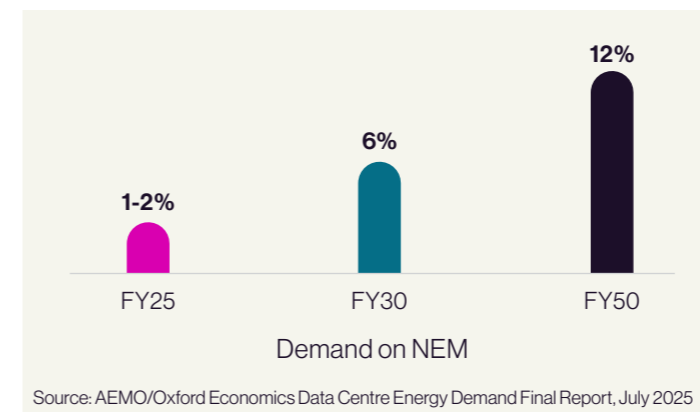


### GRIDLOCK – BROUGHT TO YOU BY SHARING

Data centre demand is accelerating rapidly, with consumption projected to reach **6%** of NEM grid-supplied electricity by 2029-30, and **12%** by 2049-50. The fundamental constraint is grid capacity.

In core markets such as Sydney and Melbourne, available network capacity is close to being exhausted. Transmission infrastructure is not scaling at the pace required to support incremental load, creating a structural bottleneck. Unlocking additional capacity will likely require multi-billion-dollar investment in network augmentation.

This raises an inevitable question: Who pays? The DC Guidelines establish that operators (and not electricity consumers or taxpayers) should fund their 'share of transmission and distribution infrastructure costs'. While this principle is simple in concept, its practical application is far from straightforward. For downstream connection assets (ie assets that physically connect a data centre to the grid), the model is clear and well-established: a data centre owner (or its customers) should underwrite connection costs. This aligns with current regulatory settings and prevailing market practice.



Source: AEMO/Oxford Economics Data Centre Energy Demand Final Report, July 2025

However, for upstream transmission augmentation – particularly large-scale, 'step-change' upgrades to shared infrastructure – the framework becomes less certain. These augmentations deliver system-wide benefits and require capital commitments that are unlikely to be underwritten by a single operator. It also highlights potential challenges in the existing regulatory framework. While cost-sharing across multiple data centre developers is theoretically efficient, in practice it introduces coordination challenges across competitors including:

- alignment on timing and capacity requirements
- allocation of capital contributions, and
- commercial, governance and risk-sharing complexities.

*Against this backdrop, there is a strong case for evolving the regulatory framework to enable coordinated funding of upstream grid augmentation costs – while ensuring operators are not over-exposed to shared system costs.*

Absent reform, the risk is clear: demand continues to scale, but deployment is constrained by infrastructure, not capital.

## The Generation Gap

Even if grid access constraints were solved tomorrow, Australia still faces a structural shortfall in available generation to support the next wave of data centre development.

The federal government's policy position – now formalised in the DC Guidelines – is clear: data centres should 'procure additional clean energy generation and/or storage to offset demand'.

Helpfully, the DC Guidelines provide flexibility in how this expectation may be achieved, with three examples outlined below:

### 01 Onsite generation

Non-mandatory co-location

The Guidelines do not require physical co-location of generation assets with the data centre it supplies.

While co-location may be viable in select regional markets, it is unlikely to be economically viable for data centres located in metropolitan areas where space is often priced at a premium, and the cost of land is higher.

This reinforces the case for off-site generation paired with contractual structuring, rather than balance-sheet-heavy real estate allocation.

### 02 Ownership of generation asset

Not required

There is no requirement for data centre operators to take equity ownership in generation or storage assets.

While co-ownership may appeal to some infrastructure-backed operators (particularly for data centres owned by superannuation or infrastructure funds who already invest in generation and storage), mandating co-ownership would materially increase capital intensity to the already high costs and funding requirements of projects.

### 03 Third-party offtake

PPA-led model

The DC Guidelines appear to allow offtake or power purchase arrangements with third-party projects.

This could be viewed by data centre operators as a capital-efficient solution and aligns with hyperscalers such as Microsoft or Amazon continuing to underwrite new renewable and storage projects via long-term contracts.

For investors, this reinforces a familiar model where counterparties anchor project finance structures, supporting bankability and scale deployment.

Despite this helpful flexibility, the definition and practical application of 'additionality' (that data centre operators should actively contribute to the development of new renewable energy projects, rather than merely drawing upon existing generation capacity) remains unresolved. One key area is whether buying power from a renewable energy project that is already supported by government (eg under the ESEM) meets the 'additionality' requirement.

A central question for the market is:

*Does contracting with a government-supported renewable project satisfy the additionality requirement, or must capacity be incremental beyond existing policy-backed pipelines?*

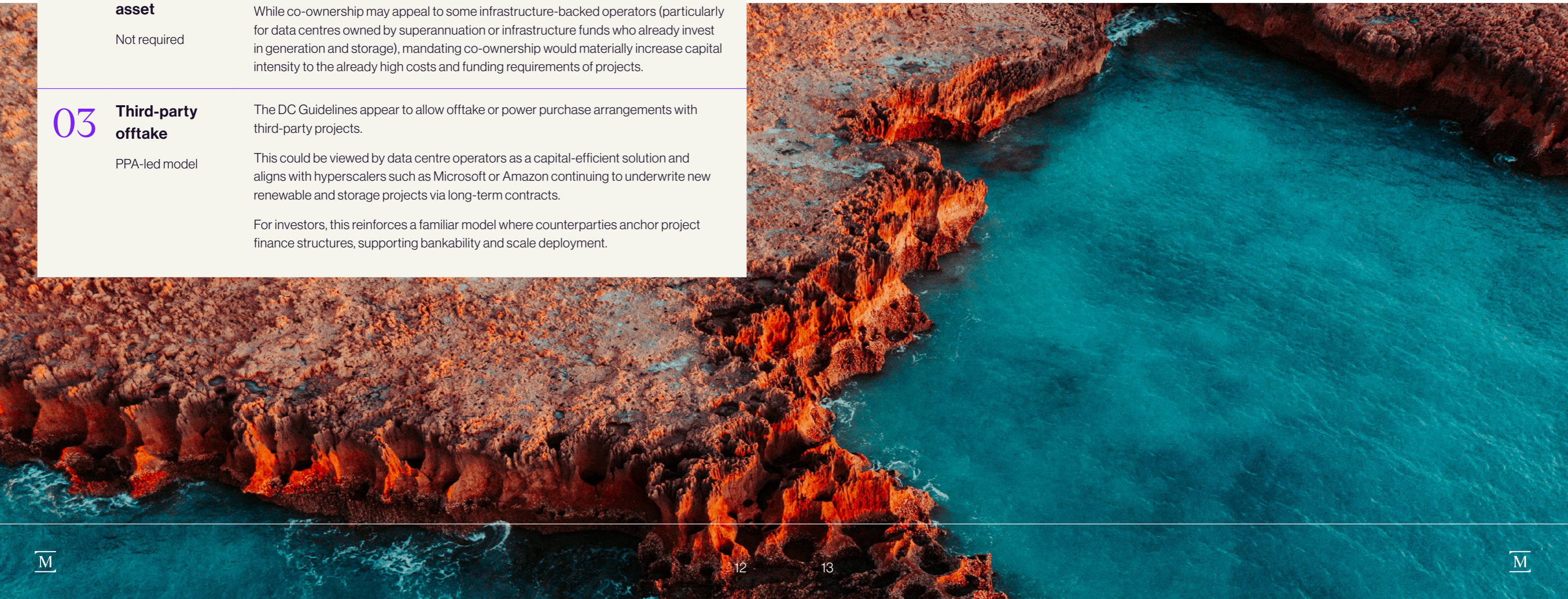
There would be clear benefit in allowing data centres operators to buy power from government-supported projects. In particular, the government support schemes are not intended to provide all of the support required to underwrite a project. Instead, they are designed to incentivise projects to sell contracts to large customers (like data centre operators and customers), meaning that data centre demand for power would help realised the objectives of the schemes.

## The Bottom Line

The data centre boom is not a problem to be managed - it is an opportunity to be seized.

Grid constraints and generation shortfalls are real, but so is the demand - and it is not going away. For generators and energy developers willing to move quickly, this is one of the most compelling opportunities in the current market.

Those who can deliver firm, reliable power at pace will be well positioned to capture the gains.



## Gas – The Linchpin During Times of Uncertainty

Gas continues to play a central role in Australia's energy transition - supporting domestic supply, enabling exports and economic growth, and providing critical firming capacity as renewable generation scales.

### Domestic Landscape



### Beetaloo

You're gonna need a bigger boat...

Resources	High quality	Economic value	Jobs
500 trillion cubic feet	Clean & reliable with lower CO <sub>2</sub> content than alternatives	A\$17b over 20 years	13,000

### West Coast

AEMO's 2025 WA Gas Statement of Opportunities (**GSOO**) shows a broadly balanced near term, contingent on new supply (including Scarborough) from the second half of 2026.

Forecast supply gaps will grow from 2028 and beyond if projects slip further and reserves are downgraded.

#### INVESTMENT TRENDS

A tightening supply outlook and increased domestic gas needs are improving project economics for reliable, near-term local supply, further supported by the need for gas-fired generation to replace aging coal-fired generation.

This provides power system reliability and firming as renewable generation and battery storage penetration increases in the South-West interconnected system and address peak day gas demand shortfalls that are forecast from 2029. Those forecast requirements for gas-powered generation may also give rise to potential pipeline constraints arising from 2029.

#### TRAJECTORY

Gaps widen from 2028 with annual supply gaps forecast potentially through to 2045 and beyond as gas powered generation becomes more seasonal and amidst possible declining production from existing and committed gas fields.

### East Coast

Queensland anchors East Coast production, while declining southern production will deepen reliance on northern gas (including storage and transport) and possibly imports.

#### INVESTMENT TRENDS

Shifting to upstream development in new acreage in Queensland and Northern Territory (eg Taroom Trough & Beetaloo Basin), pipelines to connect northern production to southern demand, gas storage and gas-fired peakers to support the energy transition.

#### TRAJECTORY

Forecast gas shortfalls recently pushed out to beyond 2030 due to delays in coal-fired generation retirements and rollout of batteries.

## Influence of International Markets

Escalation of the Middle East conflict has significantly impacted trade through the Strait of Hormuz and curtailed LNG supply to international markets. Australia's self-sufficiency has kept us relatively protected against geopolitical shocks (particularly for gas) and domestic gas prices are the lowest they have been in years [as reported in the AFR](#). East coast spot gas prices have remained subdued at about A\$9-\$10.75 per gigajoule, though [prices are likely to rise materially if disruption persists](#).

## Bottom Line, Investment Challenges and Opportunities

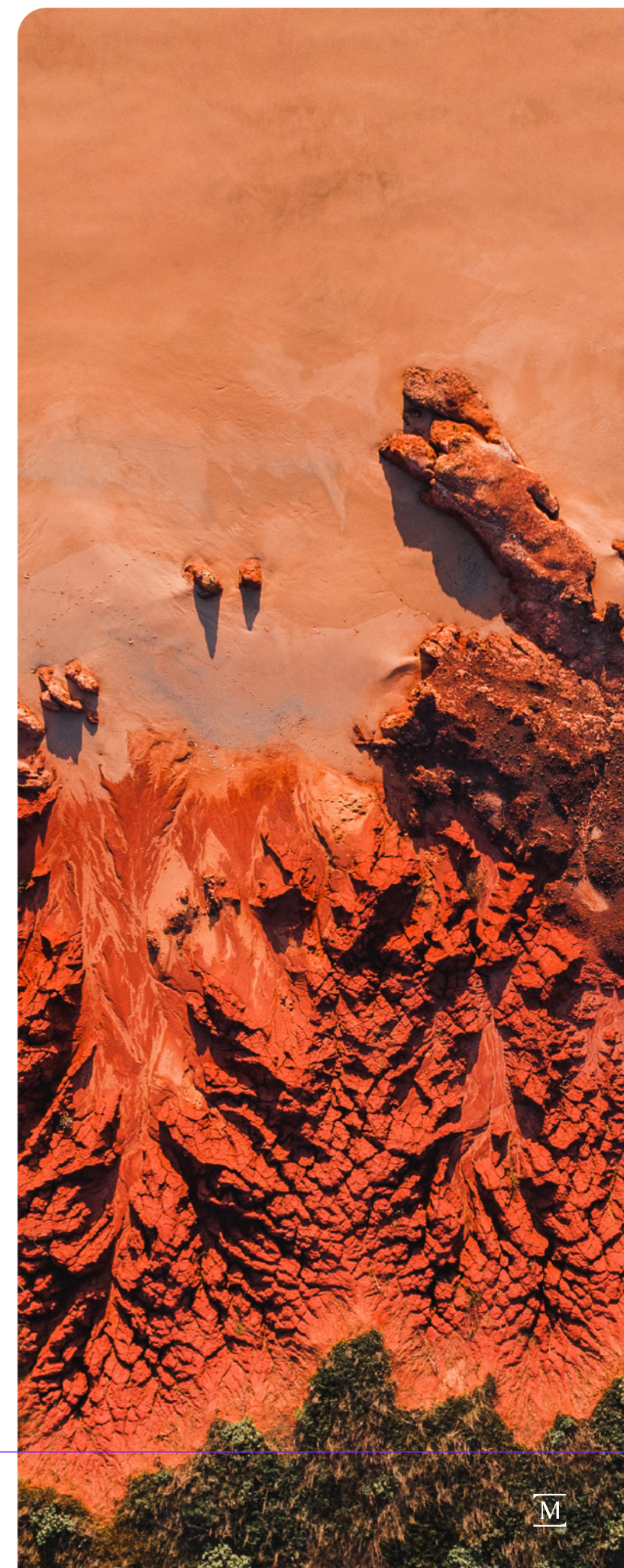
Gas remains critical to Australia's economy, with about 90% of domestic consumption supporting key industries, supplying one-fifth of the nation's energy needs and generating about [A\\$65b in annual export earnings](#). The Middle East conflict has heightened price and energy security risks.

For investors, the opportunities are where capital can solve east coast deliverability constraints or back tightening west coast sources of supply and potential gas pipeline infrastructure constraints, or to meet anticipated higher gas-powered generation peaks as coal retires, particularly in the context of reserve capacity mechanism support.

On the east coast, that means backing upstream development, as new plays such as Beetaloo and Taroom emerge, transport to move northern gas into southern deficit markets and storage. In Western Australia, tightening supply and higher prices are already improving project economics and reviving assets that once looked marginal.

Capital investors must price more than complex geology as policy risk, potential new levies on gas producers and the broader interventionist direction of recent reforms (such as the recently announced gas reservation scheme discussed below) also bring risks to investments. The strongest investment opportunities combine supply access, infrastructure and regulatory resilience, solving both security of supply and system reliability issues.

We discuss Australia's gas market in our **Power Perspectives** podcast.



## Reserving The Future – From Exports To Energy Security

Australia's proposed national gas reservation scheme is being developed against a backdrop of rising domestic and international energy costs, declining production in southern states and increasing geopolitical risk, including global LNG disruptions linked to the conflict in the Middle East.

### WHAT AUSTRALIAN MARKETS ARE AFFECTED BY THE NEW SCHEME?

The new scheme is national in scope and no exporter is exempt.

While the west coast has experienced a domestic reservation of 15% for the past 20 years, the east coast and northern Australia have operated without any equivalent obligation. Therefore, the scheme is more relevant to the east coast market given emerging shortfalls, export projects not located near southern centres and no historical reservation policy.

In Victoria, gas reserves are steadily depleting. AEMO indicated that without new supply, a [structural gas shortfall could occur from 2029](#). How Victoria will access gas reserved under the scheme remains uncertain.

Interestingly, emerging projects such as Beetaloo would be subject to the new 20% domestic supply requirement on any future LNG export production. With Tamboran Resources targeting first Beetaloo gas sales later this year and APA Group progressing pipeline infrastructure to connect the basin to the east coast grid and Darwin, how the scheme interacts with these developments as they progress toward LNG export also remains a live question.

### WHAT IS THE SCHEME SEEKING TO ACHIEVE?

The scheme is intended to reduce gas costs for consumers and may create new opportunities across the gas sector, including in power generation and customer supply. It aims to ensure that a sufficient portion of domestically produced gas is available to support key industries, such as manufacturing, address cost-of-living pressures, and potentially reduce pressure to increase taxes on gas exports.

Following months of consultation with industry, the Government confirmed the key features of the scheme on 7 May 2026. A draft Design Framework has since been developed and was released on 25 May. The government is inviting interested stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft Design Framework, which outlines how the reservation scheme would operate.

Under the draft Design Framework, LNG exporters will be required to supply (rather than merely offer) a volume equal to 20% of their total exports to the domestic market, commencing on 1 July 2027. Export contracts entered into before 22 December 2025 will be honoured, allowing exporters to meet their existing commitments. However, the protection for pre-existing contracts is subject to the exporter demonstrating that there is no viable alternative to meet the domestic supply obligation other than breaching those contracts. As such, it does not appear that exporters will automatically receive an exemption for pre-existing contracts if there are alternative ways to achieve domestic supply (such as purchasing third-party gas).

The scheme will replace the ADGSM and the voluntary Heads of Agreement and reform the Gas Market Code. The Government has described this as a historic shift in domestic gas market settings, creating a single national domestic supply obligation and offering greater certainty to the local market.

LNG exporters seeking access to the international spot market will need to demonstrate to the Minister that they have actually supplied the domestic market to obtain an export approval.

### THE DESIGN OF THE SCHEME WILL BE CRITICAL TO ENSURING THAT

01

It does not discourage investment in new gas production.

02

It is compatible with State-based regimes (such as Western Australia's reservation scheme).

03

Leads to gas actually being supplied into the domestic markets where there are forecast shortfalls (given LNG export projects are not located in the southern States).

Further, given that the export contracts entered into before 22 December 2025 are preserved, the impact of the scheme on domestic gas supply in the short to medium term is unclear. The Government has confirmed the scheme applies to the spot market and prospective (uncontracted) gas, meaning its impact will increase as existing long term LNG contracts expire.

All participants in Australia's gas market are highly interested in the final design of the scheme.

# In Case You Missed It...

- [Our update on the Federal Budget](#) highlights a pivot towards energy security and domestic supply, with material funding for fuel resilience and a 20% gas reservation policy aimed at moderating prices and supporting industry (we unpack this in more detail in this edition). Capital is being reallocated more selectively across the transition - with cuts to some renewable programs (Hydrogen Headstart and the Battery Breakthrough Initiative) offset by targeted support for critical minerals, heavy industry and faster project approvals. It reflects a more pragmatic balance between decarbonisation, affordability and sovereign capability.
- The NSW Government's recent Prioritising Renewable Energy Bill seeks to accelerate renewable project approvals. In our [NSW to prioritise renewables update](#) we explore key features including expanded ministerial powers to declare Priority Energy Projects, fast tracking through the Development Coordination Authority, centralised decisions as State significant development/infrastructure, IPC public hearings that limit court merit appeals, with strengthening on community benefit sharing rules.
- Australia's most significant overhaul of federal environmental laws in decades is now underway, with [EPBC Act reforms rolling out progressively through 2026 and beyond](#) introducing new agencies, national environmental standards and staged commencement dates. We highlight how this year will be pivotal for reform implementation, making early planning essential for projects navigating approvals and compliance under the new framework.
- [South Korea's net zero transition](#) presents a complex mix of opportunity and challenges, with accelerating investment in offshore wind, hydrogen, EVs and energy storage set against grid constraints, permitting delays and reliance on fossil fuels. This chapter of our APAC Climate Guide explores the regulatory landscape, key growth sectors and considerations for investors navigating the local climate and energy framework.
- Australia has a generational opportunity to be a global hub for AI infrastructure. Grid connection and capacity remain a major bottleneck to this opportunity. In [AI data centres in Australia: breaking down barriers to investment](#) we explore this and other steps the Government should take to break down barriers to getting developments off the ground.
- The Government has released draft guidance on application of the Community Benefit Principles to the CMPTI, outlining new reporting, publication and compliance requirements to access the 10% tax offset. Our [CMPTI community benefit principles](#) article discusses how the guidance signals increased scrutiny on transparency, tax compliance and demonstrable community benefits for critical minerals projects, with financial penalties where requirements are not met.
- On 25 May the Federal Government released a [draft Design Framework detailing its Domestic Gas Reservation Scheme](#), set to start 1 July 2027. Our update unpacks the key elements of the Scheme as set out in the Draft Framework, potential risks for market participants and next steps.

## PODCAST: POWER PERSPECTIVES



- [The Rise of JD Structures in Renewable Energy](#) discusses how capital partnering models create value for investors and developers, emerging models and the important elements for avoiding disputes and building successful, scalable partnerships.
- [Offshore Wind in the Inland Sea](#) explores the proposed mega scale Inland Renewable Energy Zone in far western NSW and examine why Australia's offshore wind ambitions are faltering amid rising costs, transmission constraints and policy uncertainty—and what that means for the future shape of large scale renewable development.
- [Inside Australia's East and West Coast Gas Markets](#) discusses key market developments, policy, pricing trends, and investment drivers shaping the gas sector.

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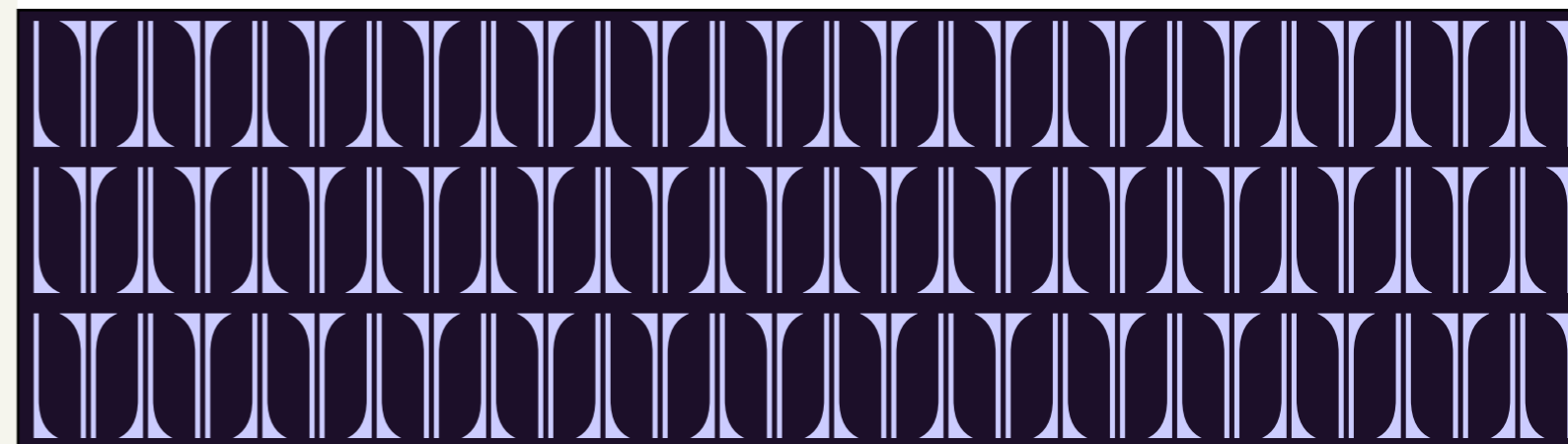
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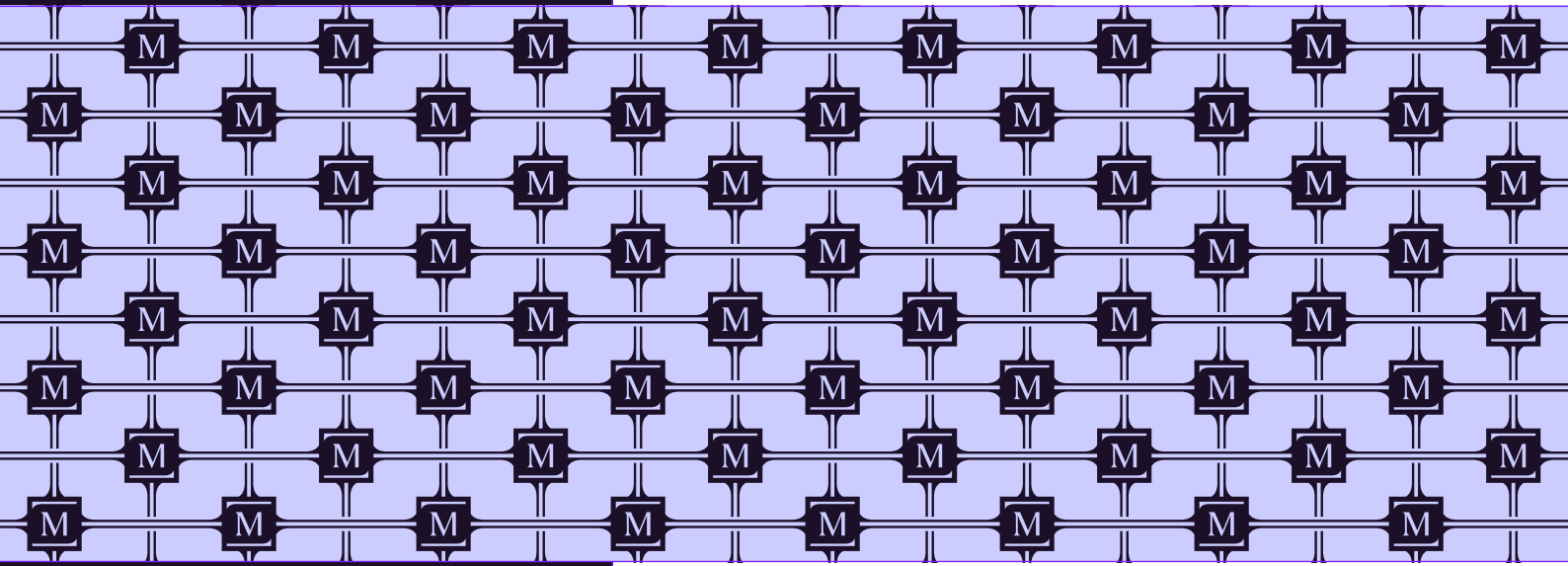
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