

Australia's 2026 Green Economy Boom: Renewable Surge, Carbon Market Shift

Environmental Economy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. As of early 2026, what percentage of Australia's National Electricity Market (NEM) generation is supplied by renewables, marking a significant increase from previous years?

- A) Approximately 30%
- B) Around 46.5%**
- C) Just over 55%
- D) Close to 60%

2. In the Australian carbon market outlook for 2026, what price per tonne of CO₂e are Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) widely expected to breach by mid-2026, driven by Safeguard reforms?

- A) AUD \$20
- B) AUD \$30
- C) AUD \$40**
- D) AUD \$50

3. Which of the following sectors is experiencing significant new demand for water in Australia by 2026 due to cooling requirements, as highlighted in recent infrastructure reports?

- A) Agricultural irrigation
- B) Mining operations
- C) AI data centres**
- D) Tourism and hospitality

4. Australia's renewable energy capacity additions are forecast to reach approximately how many gigawatts (GW) in 2026, according to the International Energy Agency?

- A) 4 GW
- B) 6 GW**
- C) 8 GW
- D) 10 GW

5. What is Australia's ambition for its circular economy by 2035, as outlined in national transition plans?

- A) To increase its circularity by 25%
- B) To double its circularity**
- C) To achieve a 90% resource recovery rate
- D) To eliminate all single-use plastics

6. In the Australian Critical Minerals Prospectus released in March 2026, how many investable projects were highlighted in the new section focused on Critical Minerals Midstream capabilities?

- A) 15
- B) 29**
- C) 49
- D) 78

7. According to the 'Clean Energy Australia 2026' report, what percentage of Australia's electricity was generated by renewable energy in 2025, representing a record year?

- A) 39%
- B) 43%**
- C) 46.5%
- D) 51%

8. What is the projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for Australia's digital water expenditures from 2026 to 2036?

- A) 7.6%
- B) 9.6%**
- C) 11.6%
- D) 13.6%