FACTSHEET | INDO-PACIFIC ANALYSIS

Energy security in the Indo-Pacific

Redefining resilience in a changing world

Perth USAsia Centre
INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

The 5 facets of modern energy security

Energy security is no longer just about oil and gas. Today, it encompasses electricity grids, critical minerals, digital infrastructure, supply chains, and strategic partnerships.

Resilience

Energy supply
Can we reliably generate and supply power?

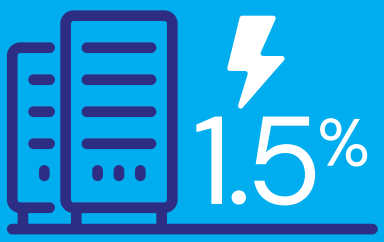
Infrastructure
Can we safely transport and store energy?

Industry
Can we locally process and manufacture materials?

Technology
Can critical digital systems remain operational?

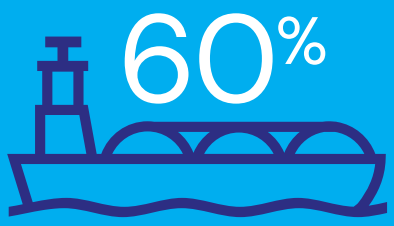
Partnerships
Can trusted global allies reduce our vulnerability?

Quick facts



Amount of global electricity already consumed by AI and data centers.

National liquid fuel reserves currently held by Australia.



Share of Australia's total LNG exports supplied by Western Australia.

Why WA matters

Western Australia sits at the geographic and economic centre of the Indo-Pacific energy transition:

Global supplier
Produces over 40% of the world's lithium and supplies 10% of global LNG.

Domestic anchor
Maintains a strict 15% domestic gas reservation policy to protect local power.

Future engine
Serves as an emerging hub for clean energy industries, including green hydrogen, CCS, renewable energy and battery mineral processing.

Strategic asset
Hosts critical defence infrastructure and major Indian Ocean shipping routes.

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Traditional energy security vs Modern energy resilience

Past Focus	Future Focus
Volatile oil & gas markets	Stable electricity grids
Vulnerable physical pipelines	Secured critical mineral refining
Refined fuel import dependency	Resilient AI & data center power
Macroeconomic price shocks	Advanced manufacturing capabilities

Risks & implications

⚠ Shipping disruptions

Directly threatens critical fuel imports and export routes.

⚠ Fuel import dependence

Australia relies heavily on imported refined fuels, leaving it vulnerable to supply breaks.

⚠ Critical minerals concentration

Global processing is heavily dominated by China, creating supply chain bottlenecks.

⚠ Extreme weather

Causes severe physical disruption to energy generation and transport infrastructure.

⚠ Workforce & skills shortages

Delays critical energy transition and infrastructure projects.

⚠ Cyber attacks

Exposes the increasing vulnerability of digitised, interconnected electrical grids.

Key takeaways & strategic outlook

Shift focus

True resilience requires moving beyond fossil fuel management to secure digital grids and processing chains.

Address vulnerabilities

Australia's primary strategic weak points lie in refining, processing, and extreme supply chain dependencies.

Leverage allies

Strong bilateral trade partnerships, particularly with Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia, will dictate future economic security.

This fact sheet is part of our ongoing Energy security series. Scan the QR code to read the full research explainer or access our digital resource library.

Learn More

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