

LGC - Northmore Gordon

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LGC

A Large-Scale Generation Certificate (LGC) is a renewable energy instrument used under the Australian Renewable Energy Target scheme for large-scale renewable energy systems. LGCs represent renewable electricity generation and are tradeable certificates that document renewable energy attributes. Each LGC belongs to its own programme with specific eligibility, creation, and use rules distinct from other renewable instruments.

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What is a Large-Scale Generation Certificate (LGC)?

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Under which Australian scheme do LGCs operate?

LGCs operate under Australia's Renewable Energy Target (RET), specifically as part of the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET). The Renewable Energy Target contains both small-scale and large-scale renewable energy pathways and is scheduled to end in 2030. The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) administers the scheme and provides eligibility guidance for LGC creation and use.

Can LGCs be treated the same as STCs or other renewable energy instruments?

No. LGCs should not be treated as interchangeable with Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs), REGOs, or I-RECs. Each instrument has distinct eligibility, creation, and use rules. Technology, capacity, output, and changes to existing systems are assessed differently under each scheme. A headline comparison such as 'one scheme pays more' is incomplete without project assumptions, applicable rules, and the actual installation date.

Can a facility create both REGOs and LGCs for the same electricity generation?

No. A facility cannot create both REGOs and LGCs for the same electricity generation. This restriction also applies to International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs) created for that generation.

However, a facility may participate in both REGO and LRET schemes separately, provided the electricity generation is not double-counted across the schemes.

What information must be specified when assessing LGC eligibility for a renewable energy project?

When evaluating LGC eligibility, you must gather and document the technology, rated capacity, output profile, commissioning or installation date, and details of any existing or expanded system. You must also document the entity controlling the facility and the rights to environmental attributes. Then separate three questions: which scheme the facility can participate in, which certificates can be created for the relevant generation, and what claim the purchaser or owner can make after certificates are transferred or retired.

What does it mean that solar PV eligibility was announced to expand from 100 kW to 1 MW?

As checked on 15 September 2026, the CER reported an announced expansion of solar PV eligibility from 100 kW to 1 MW, intended for installations from 1 October 2026, subject to regulations being made. This is an announcement, not yet operative entitlement. Do not treat it as proof that a proposed system already has that eligibility. Confirm the enacted requirements and application arrangements for the actual installation date before relying on the expanded capacity.

What should be compared when choosing between LGCs and alternative renewable pathways?

Compare the complete cash-flow timing, evidence costs, and attribute consequences of each option. Consider eligibility requirements under CER guidance, certificate quantity, verification costs, and sale price timing. Model alternatives with their conditions clearly visible. Do not assume that selling renewable attributes allows you to retain the ability to make an equivalent renewable-use claim; check the applicable reporting framework and actual certificate treatment before proceeding.

How does Northmore Gordon help with LGC assessments and certificate pathways?

We describe support for project registration, certificate creation and trading, alongside engineering and commercial assessment. We can help identify the relevant instrument based on activity, jurisdiction, timing, and intended claim. Services include assessing activity eligibility, evidence requirements, certificate quantity and ownership, and evaluating commercial terms. Submit a short project brief identifying the state, project stage, and intended outcome to initiate an assessment.

What are the common pitfalls when planning an LGC project?

Common mistakes include treating LGCs as interchangeable with other certificates, assuming announced eligibility changes are already operative, promising a certificate price or payback based on historical cases, and collapsing multiple funding sources into one threshold. Eligible certificates can contribute revenue, but quantity, eligibility, verification cost, and sale price are separate variables. Prepare the investment case with and without conditional proceeds so management understands the decision.

What evidence is needed to establish LGC eligibility and create a project file?

Prepare the location, equipment and capacity, existing and proposed operating conditions, project timeline, and ownership arrangements. Identify any prior installation, nomination, certificate claim, grant, or assignment of environmental attributes. Provide records that distinguish estimates from measured data. Establish a proposed evidence schedule identifying what must be recorded before works, during installation, and after commissioning, and clarify who gathers evidence, who checks it, and who can make the relevant application or claim.