

Oceania Energy Transition News Q3 2026

Technical Executive Summary and Headline

Scope note. This report covers publicly reported energy-transition developments in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries during Q3 2026. The register prioritises technically material policy, project, funding and deployment milestones; dates reflect publication dates.

Carbon Capture, Transportation and Storage

Australia's CCS market is shifting from resource definition toward hub commercialisation and cross-border service potential. Geoscience Australia's August update recorded 18 projects and 17 active offshore storage permits, while Gorgon and Moomba remained the two operating commercial-scale assets. MCi Carbon's Myrtle facility broadened the pathway from geological storage to mineralisation. The main constraints are permitting integration, bankable CO₂ supply, transport infrastructure and long-term liability; opportunities centre on shared pipelines, shipping terminals, monitoring systems and storage services for Asian emitters.

Low Carbon Hydrogen

Hydrogen activity became more selective and execution focused. New Zealand's NZ\$30 million Regional Infrastructure Fund package targets regional projects, heavy transport and industrial heat, while Australia's 2026 resource assessment reported 76 announced projects and rising operational renewable-hydrogen capacity. The project pipeline has contracted as developers prioritise credible power supply, offtake and infrastructure. Natural and stimulated hydrogen also entered New Zealand's regulatory discussion. Near-term value lies in captive industrial demand, fertiliser, fleet corridors and port clusters rather than merchant export-only concepts.

e-Ammonia

Green-ammonia progress concentrated on brownfield integration. Orica's Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub reached FID for 50 MW of electrolysis beside an existing ammonia complex, and Project Ceres selected a preferred electrolyser supplier for ammonia and urea decarbonisation in Karratha. These milestones favour projects with established utilities, product demand and export logistics. Wider market development remains linked to fertiliser premiums, shipping-fuel rules, certification and renewable-power cost. Equipment opportunities span electrolyzers, compression, water treatment, storage, loading systems and construction support.

e-Methanol

Australia advanced integrated methanol platforms serving shipping and aviation. The Portland Renewable Fuels concept combines forestry residues and renewable hydrogen to produce about 300,000 tonnes per year of low-carbon methanol, while HIF Tasmania continued permitting a roughly 208,000-tonne-per-year e-methanol facility at Burnie. Project competitiveness depends on biogenic CO₂ availability, firm renewable electricity, port access and bankable offtake. Methanol's liquid handling advantage

supports early maritime demand and provides an intermediate for methanol-to-jet conversion.

e-SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel)

SAF received the quarter's clearest policy-to-project signal: Australia committed A\$32 million toward HAMR Energy's forestry-residue-to-methanol and methanol-to-jet chain, targeting approximately 140 ML per year of SAF. In New Zealand, Air New Zealand's SAF share fell to 1.2%, exposing cost, supply and policy gaps against its 2030 ambition. Additional momentum comes from Australian certification and low-carbon-liquid-fuel support. Commercial opportunities include feedstock aggregation, pre-treatment, methanol synthesis, conversion technology, airport blending and book-and-claim systems.

Renewable Fuels

Renewable fuels moved into a broader energy-security framework. Australia's A\$14.8 billion Fuel Security and Resilience Package links strategic inventories and refinery continuity with domestic low-carbon liquid-fuel production. Forestry residues, agricultural by-products, waste oils and renewable hydrogen are emerging as core feedstocks for diesel, marine and aviation applications. Investment priorities are supply-chain traceability, lifecycle-carbon certification, stable demand mechanisms and refinery integration. The strongest projects combine emissions reduction with import substitution, regional jobs and utilisation of existing fuel infrastructure.

Eventual Others

Power-system investment remains the enabling layer for all molecule-based pathways. Australia's transition landscape showed continued strength in batteries, transmission and renewable generation, although weak financial close for new large-scale generation remains a concern. In the Pacific, Niue commissioned a 2.79 MWp solar and 8.19 MWh battery system, sharply reducing diesel runtime, while Palau progressed storage expansion and regional coordination gained a proposed Renewable Energy Commissioner. Distributed solar, resilient mini-grids, storage, grid controls and electric mobility are the most immediate island-market opportunities.

Other Relevant Developments

Three cross-cutting developments materially affect the investment outlook. First, critical-minerals processing, battery manufacturing and grid-scale storage are increasingly treated as integrated industrial policy rather than stand-alone power projects. Second, Pacific Island deployment is shifting toward resilience-led solar, storage, water and essential-service packages, supported by concessional finance. Third, project bankability is tightening: developers must demonstrate secure renewable electricity, sustainable feedstock, credible lifecycle accounting, community acceptance and contracted demand. These factors will determine which announced projects convert to construction.

Strategic Summary

Q3 2026 indicates that Oceania's transition is moving from broad ambition to selective, infrastructure-led execution. Australia offers the region's strongest pipeline in CCS, ammonia, methanol and SAF, but successful projects increasingly rely on brownfield integration, policy support and contracted offtake. New Zealand is prioritising targeted hydrogen capability while facing a clear SAF affordability gap. Pacific Island markets favour modular solar, storage and resilience investments. High-potential opportunities include CO₂ transport and monitoring, port and terminal systems, renewable-fuel processing, electrolysis balance-of-plant, grid integration, construction equipment and long-term asset services.

Date	Country	Theme	Headline / development	Source
3 Jul	Australia	e-Ammonia	Orica reaches FID on Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub	https://ammoniaenergy.org/articles/orica-reaches-fid-on-hunter-valley-hydrogen-hub/
22 Jul	Australia	e-SAF / e-Methanol	A\$32 million to turn forest waste into jet fuel	https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/bowen/media-releases/joint-media-release-32-million-help-turn-forest-waste-jet-fuel
23 Jul	Niue	Renewables / Storage	Solar-plus-battery system handed over	https://sunergise.nz/niue-cuts-diesel-use-by-1-2-million-litres-a-year-with-new-solar-battery-system/
30 Jul	Australia	e-Methanol	Portland Renewable Fuels project profile updated	https://research.csiro.au/hyresource/portland-renewable-fuels/
10 Aug	Australia	Hydrogen / CCS	Australia's Energy Commodity Resources 2026 released	https://www.ga.gov.au/news/2026-australias-energy-commodity-resources-publication
12 Aug	New Zealand	Low-Carbon Hydrogen	NZ\$30 million Regional Infrastructure Fund hydrogen package announced	https://opengovasia.com/new-zealand-sets-regional-fund-package-to-support-hydrogen-development/
17 Aug	Australia	CCS	Australian CCS projects dataset updated	https://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/energy/resources/carbon-capture-and-storage-ccs/australian-ccs-projects
18 Aug	Australia	Renewable Fuels	A\$14.8 billion Fuel Security and Resilience Package consultation	https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/bowen/media-releases/joint-media-release-building-australias-fuel-security-strategic-fuel-reserves-and-low-carbon-liquid-fuels
26 Aug	Australia	Carbon Utilisation	MCi Carbon opens Myrtle carbon refinery	https://mcicarbon.com/myrtle-opening-worlds-first-carbon-refinery/
3 Sep	Australia	e-Ammonia	Electric Hydrogen selected for Project Ceres electrolyzers	https://ammoniaenergy.org/articles/electric-hydrogen-to-supply-electrolyzers-in-karratha-western-australia/
4 Sep	Palau / Pacific	Renewables / Policy	Australia funds Pacific Renewable Energy Commissioner	https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2026/09/04/australia-funds-pacific-clean-energy-commissioner-amid-coal-mine-backlash/
20 Sep	New Zealand	e-SAF	Air New Zealand reports SAF share fell to 1.2%	https://www.thepost.co.nz/travel/361078373/air-new-zealand-wants-fly-greener-fuel-it-needs-costs-far-more