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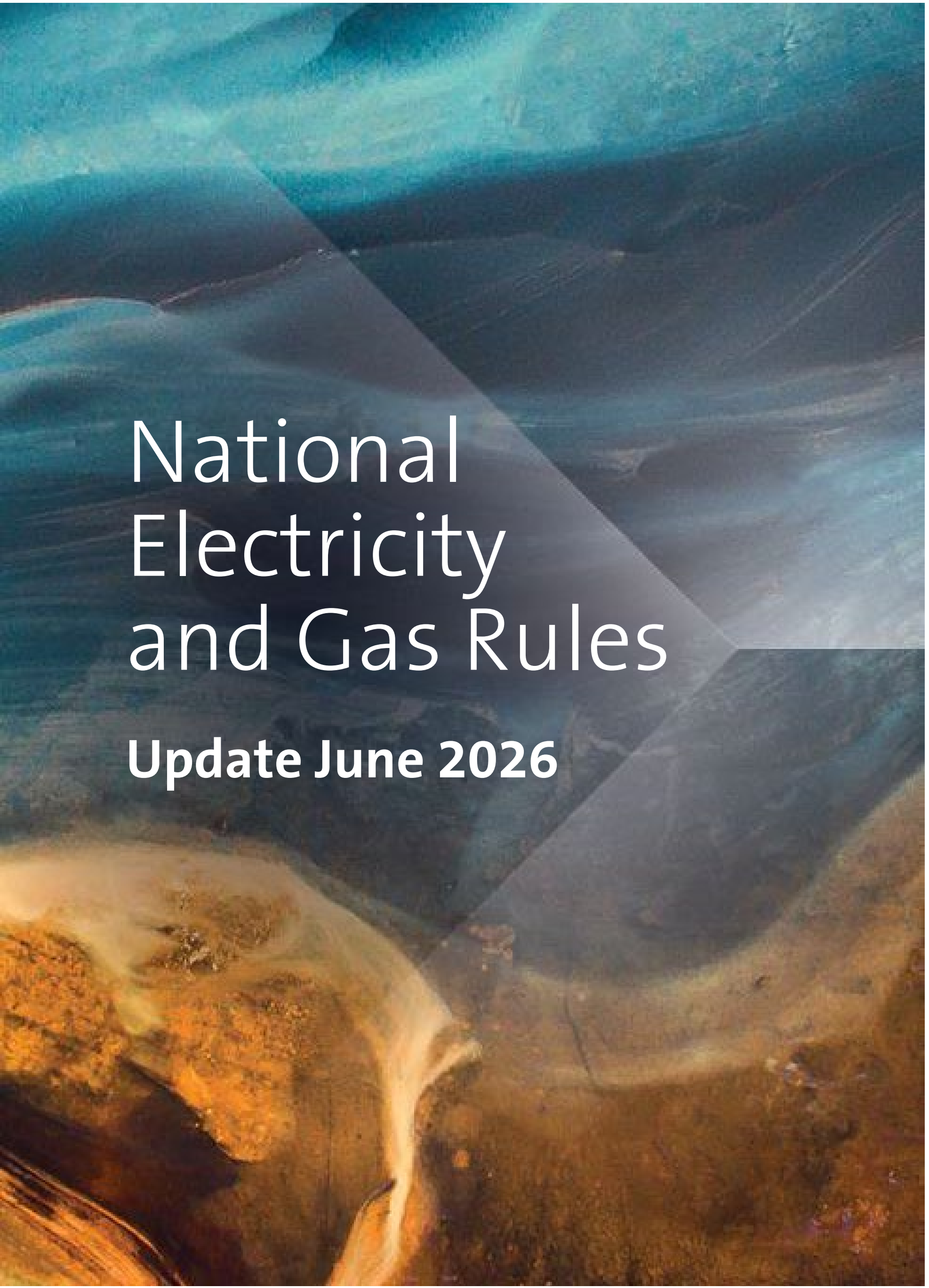

National Electricity and Gas Rules

Update June 2026

Introduction

This document outlines all rule change requests for the National Electricity Rules (the *NER*) and the National Energy Retail Rules (the *NERR*) (in section 1) and the National Gas Rules (the *NGR*) (in section 2) currently under consideration by the Australian Energy Market Commission (the *AEMC*), as well as completed rule changes regarding which the final rule has not yet commenced in full. The status of each proposed rule is regularly updated on the AEMC's website and this document is amended on a monthly basis to reflect those changes.

National Energy Retail Rules

Since 1 July 2012, the AEMC has held the role of rule maker for the Australian retail energy markets. This includes the power to amend the NERR that are part of the National Energy Customer Framework (the *NECF*). The NECF has commenced in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. Victoria has implemented the NECF in so far as it applies to Chapter 5A of the NERR. Western Australia and the Northern Territory do not propose to implement the NECF. The AEMC may amend the NERR independently to, or in conjunction with, amendments to the NER.

The NER and NERR

New rule change requests	Clarifying distribution ring-fencing in emerging energy markets Enabling distribution network service provider-led electric vehicle charging infrastructure Strengthening standards for payment difficulty assistance
New draft determinations	Streamlining payment difficulty protections
Completed rule changes	Supporting compliance with meter maintenance obligations Improving life support processes

The NGR

New rule change requests	National Gas Amendment (Minor Changes Rule 1) Rule 2026
New draft determinations	There have been no new draft determinations since the last update
Completed rule changes	ECGS Supplier of last resort mechanism ECGS Projected Assessment of System Adequacy ECGS Enhancing reliability and supply adequacy arrangements

Opportunities for stakeholders

Due by	Opportunities for submission
No new opportunities for submission.	

Energy reform

AEMC commences review of electricity network regulation

Australia's power system is currently undergoing its most significant transformation in a generation, with renewables now accounting for more than half of electricity generation in the national market. To address these developments, the AEMC has commenced a review of the economic regulation governing electricity networks. The review will examine the changing role of networks at both transmission and distribution levels, how revenues are set and the incentives for networks to deliver their services at the lowest cost to consumers.

Given the size and complexity of the issues that will be examined, the review will be conducted in two packages:

- **Package 1 will consider:**
  - which services should be provided by networks and which should be subject to competition; and
  - service classification, ring-fencing, the interaction between network businesses and contestable markets, and areas where the energy transition is challenging the existing framework.
- **Package 2 will consider:**
  - how the existing framework ensures networks operate and spend efficiently;
  - how the existing framework allocates risks and costs between network businesses and consumers; and
  - whether the existing framework delivers an effective process for setting network revenues.

Package 1 is being initiated alongside two related rule change requests from Energy Networks Australia and Nexa Advisory, each of which is discussed in more detail in this update.

The AER has also commenced a review of its Distribution Ring-Fencing Guideline and Shared Asset Guideline, which will consider immediate issues that can be addressed through those guidelines. The AEMC's review, in contrast, considers whether changes to the NER or other more principles-based changes are warranted.

A public forum will be held in August.

READ MORE HERE.

National Electricity Rules and National Energy Retail Rules

Rule change requests

New rule change requests (since last update, 1 June 2026)

Rule name	Clarifying distribution ring-fencing in emerging energy markets	ERC0435
Proponent	Nexa Advisory	
Key dates	Initiation date: 25 June 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (23 July 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from Nexa Advisory that seeks to strengthen the ring-fencing framework governing distribution ring-fencing arrangements. Nexa has raised concerns about the increasing involvement of DNSPs in contestable markets and the perceived weakening of DNSP ring-fencing arrangements and safeguards that are intended to preserve competition neutrality. Its proposal aims to address the deficiencies by introducing the following additional protections into Chapter 6 of the NER:

- elevating core ring-fencing obligations and waiver conditions from the AER's distribution ring-fencing guidelines into the NER;
- restricting the availability of DNSPs to obtain ring-fencing waivers so that they are granted only as a last resort where there is independently verifiable market failure and a demonstrable consumer benefit;
- providing more guidance on affiliate dealings, data access, branding and cross-promotion ring-fencing obligations;
- introducing financial resilience requirements that can be used to financially ring-fence a DNSP if its financial position deteriorates; and
- providing greater transparency over the AER's compliance and enforcement activities and establishing a formal complaints process for ring-fencing matters.

This consultation paper is the first step for Package 1 of the Electricity Network Regulation Review (***ENRR*** orthe ***Review***) and this rule change request is being considered alongside Energy Network Australia's rule change request relating to DNSP-led electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The AEMC is seeking stakeholder feedback (among other things) on the current service classification framework, whether any changes are required to the ring-fencing arrangements in the NER, and Nexa's proposed solution to the problem.

Submissions on the consultation paper were due by 23 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE

Rule name	Enabling distribution network service provider-led electric vehicle charging infrastructure	ERC0437
Proponent	Electricity Networks Australia	
Key dates	Initiation date: 25 June 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (23 July 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from Energy Networks Australia that seeks to enable DNSPs to deploy and operate kerbside electric vehicle charging infrastructure (***EVCI***) as a regulated service. The proposal aims to address the perceived 'chicken and egg' problem between electric vehicle uptake and the availability of charging infrastructure by facilitating the rollout of publicly accessible EV charging services.

To achieve this, the rule change request proposes amendments to the NER, including changes to service classification provisions in Chapter 6 of the NER, that would:

- permit DNSPs to opt in to install, own and maintain kerbside EVCI and provide retailers and other commercial suppliers of EV charging services with open access to EVCI services; and
- enable EV charging service providers to compete to supply electricity and charging services to EV users at the EVCI charging point on an ongoing basis.

The changes proposed would enable DNSPs to recover the costs of developing and operating the EVCI through regulated network charges paid by electricity consumers, and DNSPs intending to install EVCI will also be required to publish a Distribution EVCI Deployment Strategy.

This consultation paper is the first step for Package 1 of the ENRR and is being considered alongside Nexa Advisory's distribution ring-fencing rule change request. The AEMC is seeking stakeholder feedback (among other things) on the materiality of the 'chicken and egg' problem and if the proposed solution addresses the identified problem or if there are any alternative solutions to the issue.

Submissions on the consultation paper were due by 23 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE

Rule name	Strengthening standards for payment difficulty assistance	RRC0074
Proponent	AER	
Key dates	Initiation date: 18 June 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (30 July 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from the AER that seeks to strengthen the standards governing payment difficulty assistance provided to energy customers. The proposal aims to address concerns that the current framework is often ineffective, applied inconsistently across retailers and can result in customers being placed on payment plans that are unaffordable or unsustainable.

To achieve this, the rule change request proposes amendments to the NERR that would:

- prohibit retailers from requiring documentary evidence as a precondition to providing payment difficulty assistance to customers experiencing payment difficulty or hardship;
- require retailers to consider information provided by the customer, or a third party acting on the customer's behalf, regarding what the customer can afford to pay; and
- require payment plans to be reviewed and updated where there is information indicating a change in the customer's circumstances, including changes to their capacity to pay, accrued arrears or energy consumption needs.

This rule change forms part of a broader package of reforms arising from the AER's Review of Payment Difficulty Protections in the NECF that was published on 15 May 2025 and identified 13 opportunities for reform. There are four other related rule change requests submitted by the AER (consolidated into a single rule change request and fast-tracked by the AEMC) that seek changes to the NERR to improve and enhance existing requirements to support customers experiencing payment difficulties (see 'Streamlining payment difficulty protections' below).

The AEMC is seeking stakeholder feedback on the proposed reforms and submissions on the consultation paper were due by 30 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE

Rule name	Streamlining payment difficulty protections	RRC0075
Proponent	AER	
Key dates	Draft determination: 18 June 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (30 July 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination and draft rule	

Summary of request

On 18 June 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination and draft rule in response to four rule change requests to the NERR from the AER, which have been consolidated into one singular rule change request.

The draft determination is split into two themes and proposes to:

- **(clarify and strengthen disconnection protections to better serve customers)** clarify when disconnection is officially requested by a retailer. It also requires retailers to contact customers through at least two channels of communication where they are at risk of disconnection and applies the minimum disconnection amount to all customers (rather than only those who have agreed to repay their debt); and
- (**streamline and improve payment difficulty assistance information for customers**) streamline payment difficulty assistance eligibility categories, such that customers would receive the same assistance regardless of whether they self-identify or are identified by the retailer as experiencing payment difficulties. It also requires retailers to provide clearer and more accessible information on payment difficulty assistance on their websites and on disconnection warning notices.

The four rule changes form part of a broader package of reforms arising from the AER's Review of Payment Difficulty Protections in the NECF, and the AEMC decided to fast-track these four requests as they were developed through extensive consultation by the AER throughout the review process.

The draft determination and draft rule propose a commencement date of 30 March 2027.

Written submissions were due by 30 July 2026, with the final determination due to be published on 10 September 2026.

READ MORE HERE

Existing rule change requests

Rule name	Facilitating EV charging infrastructure rollout under Commonwealth grants	ERC0436
Proponent	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (*DCCEEW*)	
Key dates	Initiation date: 28 May 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (25 June 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from DCCEEW that seeks to enable its $40 million 'Accelerating Electric Vehicle Charging Program' (***Program***) to proceed. The rule change request is seeking to allow DNSPs to add the costs incurred by them in connection with the Program to their operating Regulatory Asset Base (***RAB***) and to be recoverable from electricity consumers.

The Program was announced in September 2025 and seeks to address the 'chicken and egg' problem, being the hesitancy of consumers to purchase electric vehicles (***EVs***) due to insufficient EVCI and hesitancy from investors to deploy EVCI due to low utilisation. The Program will facilitate the deployment of kerbside slow charging EVICs in metropolitan areas and fast charging EVCIs in uncommercial regional black spots.

Under the Program, DNSPs will be responsible for identifying suitable sites for EVCIs and performing connection works. In metropolitan areas, charge point operators (***CPOs***) will be given the first right of refusal to install, maintain and operate EVCI at the identified sites and if CPOs are unwilling or unable to do so, DNSPs will act as a provider of last resort to install and maintain EVCIs (with a CPO appointed to operate the site and supply services). In regional black spot areas, where the prospect of competition is unlikely, DNSPs will be responsible for installing and maintaining EVCI and CPO will be appointed to operate and sell energy at the site.

To implement the design of the Program, the rule change request proposes the following amendments to the NER (noting that this will only apply for EVCIs supported under the Program which is set to conclude on 30 June 2029):

- (**capital expenditure**) the AER be required to include approved capital expenditure amounts for EVCI projects in a DNSP's RAB at the beginning of the next regulatory control period (***RCP***);
- (**standard control services**) in order to enable RAB adjustment, all EVCI services under the Program will be considered standard control services in the first RCP; and
- (**operating expenditure**) the AER be required to include approved operating expenditure amounts for EVCI projects in each a DNSP's RAB at the beginning of the RCP, with operating expenditure amounts for subsequent RCPs to be treated in the same way as standard control services.

AEMC is seeking stakeholder feedback on whether the proposed changes to the NER to give effect to the Program will, or is likely to , contribute to the achievement of the National Energy Objective, as assessed against three criteria:

- (**Outcomes for consumers**) Is it appropriate for EVCI projects approved as part of the Program to receive some funding from electricity consumers ?
- (**Emissions reduction**) What are the emission reduction benefits from increased EV uptake as a result of the program?
- (**Principles of market efficiency**) How would the program drive efficiencies that influence the cost of EVCI and the residual cost that electricity consumers would need to cover?

The AEMC has also received two rule change requests related to service classification for EVCI and ring-fencing. This rule change request, alongside the two rule change requests, will be considered as part of Package 1 of the AEMC's ENRR.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback on the above proposal was 25 June 2026.

READ MORE HERE

Rule name	Improving compensation frameworks	ERC0425
Proponent	AEMO, Tilt Renewables	
Key dates	Initiation date: 19 March 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (30 April 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on three interrelated rule change requests to update the compensation frameworks for administered pricing, market suspension and scheduling errors. AEMO's request focuses on changing the compensation frameworks in line with the AEMC's recommendations under its *Review into compensation frameworks*, which was completed after the market suspension of June 2022. Tilt Renewable's requests propose to allocate costs of capacity directions to consumers, as the ultimate beneficiary of these directions, and to impose a $0/MWh price floor on spot prices to compensate participants for scheduling errors. The three rule change requests have been consolidated into a single rule change, which proposes to:

- (**objective of directions compensation**) introduce a formal objective to clearly define the purpose of the directions compensation framework, distinct from administered pricing and market suspension objectives.
- (**calculation and cost recovery of compensation claims**) harmonise compensation calculations and cost recovery across frameworks by aligning upfront payment calculations and definitions of direct costs, permitting opportunity cost recovery across all frameworks and applying a more targeted approach to administered pricing compensation.
- (**governance and processes**) reform compensation governance and processes, including who assesses and receives claims, improvements to the independent expert process, consistent standards for supporting information and the removal of the separate eligibility determination process for other compensable services.
- (**framework alignment**) align and consolidate compensation frameworks within a single NER rule, enabling market participants to submit one compensation claim covering multiple existing frameworks.

The AEMC published a consultation paper seeking feedback on new issues, proposed changes or targeted areas highlighted in the paper. Submissions on the consultation paper were due by 30 April 2026. The AEMC expects to issue a draft determination on 9 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Security framework enhancements	ERC0428/ERC0424
Proponent	AEMO, Australian Energy Council (*AEC*) and the Clean Energy Council (*CEC*)	
Key dates	Initiation date: 12 March 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (16 April 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

On 12 March 2026, the AEMC published a consultation paper in respect of two rule change requests – one submitted by AEMO, and another by the AEC and CEC – regarding bolstering the NEM's system security frameworks in light of the increased uptake of renewable energy resources. Both rule change requests raise problems with the ability of the current security framework to effectively and efficiently deliver a secure system.

The two rule change requests propose:

- (**procurement of security services – ERC0424**) to improve how the NEM plans for and procures system security services (including system strength, inertia and network support and control ancillary services frameworks) with a particular focus on timing, flexibility and effectiveness. The proposed rule change contemplates extending timeframes for obligations placed on TNSPs for meeting system strength and inertia requirements from three years to five years, extending the notice of closure period for existing plants in the NER from 42 months to five years, and creating a streamlined or alternative RIT-T process for system security investments.
- (**clarity and transparency in security frameworks – ERC0428**) to strengthen the governance and transparency of the planning and procurement of security services, by embedding principles in the NER to strengthen the practical effect and actionability of AEMO's annual *Transition Plan for System Security* and prescribing a standardised procurement process for ESS across the NEM (including responsibility for determining efficient ESS procurement levels, deployment and procurement targets, investment lead times and the role of backstop mechanisms).

On 18 June 2026, the AEMC consolidated the two requests into a single rule change request titled 'Security framework enhancements' (ERC0424). The consolidated rule change seeks to improve how system security services are planned, procured and delivered to ensure the NEM can continue to operate securely as the generation mix changes and large thermal generators retire.

The consultation period closed on 16 April 2026. The AEMC extended the timeframe to make a draft determination and intends to publish a draft determination on 15 October 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Improving contingency FCAS arrangements	ERC0359
Proponent	Grids Energy	
Key dates	Initiation date: 20 November 2025 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (16 July 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

Summary of request

On 4 June 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination and draft rule in relation to two rule change requests from Grids Energy concerning contingency frequency control ancillary service (*FCAS*) arrangements for power system stability after disturbances.

The AEMC decided to consolidate the two requests, given their shared objective of improving the efficiency of the NEM's contingency FCAS framework.

The draft rule seeks to:

- (**formalising contingency size co-optimisation**) formalise the requirement for AEMO to use reasonable endeavours to co-optimise the size of the largest credible contingency in central dispatch and to set out its approach in the constraint formulation guidelines; and
- (**transparency and reporting obligations**) require AEMO to report on instances where contingency size co-optimisation constraints are applied and, where relevant, AEMO's assessment of its impact on maximising the value of spot market trade.

The AEMC considered the merits of more cost-reflective recovery arrangements, including runway and alternative cost recovery approaches. However, the AEMC decided to retain the existing contingency FCAS cost recovery framework, as the proposed reforms would be complex to implement and are unlikely to deliver material consumer benefits. On balance, the AEMC preferred to undertake a more targeted approach to formalise and increase transparency of contingency size co-optimisation practices.

Stakeholder submissions on the draft determination and draft rule were due on 16 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	**Clarifying the treatment of jurisdictional policies and system costs in the ISP**	**ERC0406**
Proponent	Centre for Independent Studies	
Key dates	Initiation date: 9 October 2025 Deadline for submissions: Deadline Passed (28 May 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

Summary of request

On 16 April 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination not to make a draft rule in relation to the Centre for Independent Studies' rule change request which sought amendments to require:

- (**baseline scenario without policy constraints**) AEMO to model and publish a 'baseline' scenario in the ISP that does not include any binding jurisdictional emissions reduction or renewable energy policy constraints, to show the system and costs without additional government policies;
- (**scenarios for plausible policy changes**) AEMO to model and publish scenarios that reflect 'plausible changes in government policies', such as emissions reduction or renewable generation targets being missed, reduced or removed, to ensure the ISP is robust to policy uncertainty;
- (**whole of system costs**) AEMO to explicitly assess and publish the 'whole of system' costs faced by consumers, including costs currently excluded such as consumer energy resources, distribution network upgrades, recycling and disposal of renewables, and payments to coal generators for life extensions;
- (**cost impact of individual policies**) the ISP to state the cost impact of each individual jurisdictional policy on the whole system, to improve transparency for consumers and policymakers; and

- (**transitional arrangements for immediate transparency**) AEMO to publish an addendum to the 2024 ISP within three months of the rule change, providing an assessment of whole of system costs and the cost impacts of each policy.

The AEMC made its draft determination on the basis that the current rules already have sufficient flexibility to enable consideration of the risks raised by the proponent, and that the analysis and information proposed by the proponent is inconsistent with the governance arrangements of the national electricity framework, can already be considered under the current rules, and would increase costs while providing limited benefits.

The deadline for stakeholder submissions on the draft determination to not make a draft rule in relation to a rule change request was 28 May 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	**Enhancing distribution network planning & reporting**	**ERC0410**
Proponent	Energy Consumers Australia	
Key dates	Initiation date: 26 June 2025 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (4 June 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

Summary of request

On 5 March 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination and a more preferable draft rule, aimed at enhancing distribution network planning and reporting. The draft rule seeks to address emerging challenges in long-term distribution planning by requiring DNSPs to adopt a new distribution network planning process and establishing a new principles-based framework for distribution network data reporting.

The draft rule:

- (**distribution network development plan**) would replace the existing annual planning process with a new distribution network development plan (***DNDP***), which is intended to provide a long-term view of how distribution networks are expected to develop. Each DNSP would be required to publish a DNDP every five years, aligned with their regulatory proposals, adopting a 20-year planning horizon based on AEMO's Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report, demonstrating stakeholder engagement, and identifying emerging network limitations, risks and opportunities, including the role of non-network options and CER.
- (**medium term planning transparency**) would, to maintain near to medium term planning transparency, require DNSPs to publish a concise annual update setting out material changes since the DNDP or previous update.
- (**enhanced data reporting**) would establish a new principles-based framework for distribution network data reporting, requiring DNSPs to publish data in accordance with AER guidelines. The framework would include a statement of purpose clarifying the types of distribution data to be captured, and the AER would be required to have regard to that purpose as well as principles including net economic benefit and publicly available data when developing the guidelines. The proposed framework is designed to maintain flexibility to adapt to the outcomes of other ongoing projects, such as the national CER roadmap.

Submissions on the draft determination were due by 4 June 2026. The final determination is due to be published 16 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Improving the NEM access standards – Package 2	ERC0394
Proponent	AEMO and Rod Hughes Consulting	
Key dates	Initiation date: 8 May 2025 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (7 May 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

Summary of request

The AEMC has made a more preferable draft rule to update and improve the technical performance requirements for connection to the NEM, with a focus on the social security impacts of large inverter-based loads (*IBLs*), which are connecting to the NEM rapidly and posing novel challenges to power system security. The draft rule would:

- (**new access standards for large IBLs**) introduce new disturbance ride-through and instability-monitoring access standards for IBLs to mitigate the risk of outages or system black events, helping to avoid higher system costs for consumers and enable NSPs to request information from connecting loads about their ride-through capability.
- (**clear framework for classifying IBLs**) create a three-tier regulatory framework to classify IBLs connecting to distribution networks, ensuring that access standards are applied proportionately in order to ensure that technical and compliance costs are aligned with the load's impact on power system security. It is proposed that:
  - Tier 1 connection would apply to IBLs with a nameplate rating of up to 30 MW and all non-IBLs (regardless of nameplate ration);
  - Tier 2 connection would apply to IBLs with a nameplate rating between 30 MW and 100 MW; and
  - Tier 3 connection would apply to IBLs with a nameplate rating of 100 MW or more.
- (**improvements to the NEM access standards**) reform the broader access standards framework, including by strengthening the compliance framework for Chapter 5 plants, limiting the application of the short circuit ratio access standard to large IBLs and formally defining primary and back-up protection systems to clarify protection obligations under Chapter 5 of the NER.
- **(international alignment)** align Australian standards with those used or proposed in jurisdictions such as Texas, Ireland and Finland, supporting faster deployment, lower costs and greater investment certainty.

The AEMC published a draft determination on 12 March 2026. Submissions in response to the draft determination were due on 7 May 2026. The final determination is due to be published on 29 October 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Completed rule changes

Final rule determinations (since last update, 1 June 2026)

Rule name	**Supporting compliance with meter maintenance obligations**	**ERC0419**
Amending Rule	NER 2026 No. 6	
Date of final determination	18 June 2026	
Commencement date	25 June 2026 (Schedule 5) 1 September 2026 (Schedule 1) 1 September 2027 (Schedule 2) 1 November 2027 (Schedule 3) 30 November 2028 (Schedule 4)	

Details

On 18 June 2026, the AEMC published a final determination and made a more preferable final rule to support metering coordinators (***MCs***) to meet their meter maintenance obligations. The final rule responds to rule change requests from Yurika, PLUS ES, Intellihub and AEMO, which were consolidated into a single rule change request, known as 'Supporting compliance with meter maintenance obligations' (ERC0419).

The rule change seeks to address challenges faced by MCs in complying with their obligations under the NER to test and inspect metering installations and repair metering malfunctions within prescribed timeframes. The AEMC recognised that compliance can be difficult in circumstances outside a MC's control, including where access to sites is unavailable or there is a defect at a small or large customer's metering installation that is not promptly rectified.

The final rule will amend the NER to:

- introduce an obligation that the party that appoints an MC (generally retailers or large customers) must support MCs in meeting their testing, inspection and repair obligations;
- expand the exemption framework for meter malfunctions and introduce an exemption framework only for testing metering installations and not inspecting them, which will allow MCs greater flexibility to manage situations where metering installation is not accessible, safe or ready;
- require previous MCs to provide test certificates to incoming MCs; and
- require MCs to make information regarding the compliance status of metering available through AEMO's Market Settlement and Transfer Solutions procedures.

The final rule is intended to result in more accurate meters, which will improve the overall accuracy of customer billing, give MCs more flexibility to manage situations to meet their obligations and improve efficiency by providing additional transparency and information to AEMO and participants.

The commencement of various aspects of the final rule is staged.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Improving life support processes	RRC0064
Amending Rule	NERR 2026 No. 2	
Date of final determination	25 June 2026	
Commencement date	1 December 2027 (Schedule 1) 25 June 2026 (Schedule 2)	

Details

On 25 June 2026, the AEMC published a final determination and made a more preferable final rule to improve the existing processes of retailers and distributors in registering and serving customers with life support equipment. The final rule responds to the 'Improving life support processes' rule change (RRC0064) requested by SA Power Networks and Essential Energy .

The final determination covers three key themes:

- (**improve key definitions**) improves protections for life support customers, including adding relevant definitions to the NERR, allowing medical practitioners to use a standardised medical form to identify whether a life support user has a life-threatening condition and not reducing important penalties or reporting requirements for breaches relating to any life support customers;
- (**streamline the registration and deregistration processes**) makes retailers responsible for life support registrations and de-registrations to ensure that customers have one point of contact, imposes additional obligations on retailers (including during the registration process) and introduces a new penalty for retailers so as to strengthen the deregistration process; and
- (**improve communications with life support customers)** allows the contact details of a secondary contact person to be captured by the retailer and clarifies that electronic communication methods can be used for outage and other notifications, according to the customer's preferences.

The final rule is intended to improve the accuracy of life support customer records, strengthen communication between retailers, distributors and life support customers, and ensure life support protections are applied consistently and effectively. The reforms maintain existing consumer protections while reducing administrative complexity and improving the operation of life support arrangements across the National Energy Customer Framework.

The final rule has a commencement date of 1 December 2027, except for the transitional arrangements, which commenced when the final rule was made.

READ MORE HERE.

Other rules not yet commenced

Rule name	**Small changes to Integrating Price-responsive Resources rule**	**ERC0430**
Amending Rule	NER 2026 No. 5	
Date of final determination	14 May 2026	
Commencement date	21 May 2026 (Schedule 1) 23 May 2027 (Schedule 2)	

Details

The AEMC's final rule determination implements five minor amendments to the Integrating Price-responsive Resources (***IPRR***) framework in response to drafting, timing and alignment issues which transpired following the framework's inception. The IPRR established a new framework enabling CER, DER and price responsive loads to be nominated and aggregated as a Voluntary Scheduled Resource (***VSR***), which is then scheduled and dispatched into the NEM. To encourage VSR participation, the framework features an incentive mechanism (the *VIM*). The final rule:

- (**timing of cost recovery**) changes the timing of VIM cost recovery payments from annually to monthly;
- (**deferring AEMO's obligation to consider VSR eligibility for frequency performance payments (*FFPs*)**) deferring the deadline for AEMO to modify its procedures in relation to FFPs 23 May 2027, to allow for greater time to consider the costs and benefits of applying FPPs to VSRs;
- (**including VSRs in the definition of minimum ramp rate requirements**) expressly includes VSRs in the definition of 'minimum ramp rate requirement' in Chapter 10 of the NER (which previously encompassed generating units, bidirectional units, scheduled loads and scheduled network services), for clarity and brevity;
- (**treating non-conforming VSRs consistently with other scheduled resources**) removes the VSR specific non-conformance clause and adds VSRs to the general NER clause for non-conformance processes such that the treatment for VSRs in respect of non-conformance is aligned with other scheduled resources. Note that AEMO will retain the discretion to have different requirements for VSRs in the future through guidelines and dispatch procedures; and
- (**treatment of deactivated and hibernated VSRs**) clarifies that deactivated or hibernated VSRs that is classified as an ancillary services unit may continue to provide ancillary services despite not being able to participate in central dispatch for energy. This aligns the Rules with the IPRR final determination.

The amendments to cost recovery under the VIM and the minimum ramp rate definition will come into effect on 21 May 2026, with the remaining three changes commencing on 23 May 2027 when dispatch mode comes into effect.

The final rule will commence on 23 May 2027.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Establishing a regulatory framework for retail customer initiated gas abolishment (Retail)	RRC0068
Amending rule	NERR 2026 No. 1	
Date of final determination	2 April 2026	
Commencement date	9 April 2026 (Schedule 2) 1 October 2026 (Schedule 1)	

Details

For further information, please refer to the rule change request with a corresponding title under the National Gas Rules section below (GRC0086). This rule change request supports consequential changes to the NERR that are required as a result of the main NGR rule change request described below.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Amending the Cumulative Price Threshold Methodology / CPT calculation during administered scheduled pricing	ERC0356 / ERC0374
Amending rule	NER 2026 No 1	
Date of final determination	23 April 2026	
Commencement date	1 November 2028	

Details

The AEMC's final determination on two consolidated rule changes relating to the calculation of the cumulative price threshold (*CPT*) in the NEM, prompted by market events leading to the suspension of the NEM in 2022. The final rule allows the following:

- (**use of settled prices for CPT calculation – ERC0356**) in circumstances where a region is not under administered pricing but is exporting to a region that is, for received prices (rather than dispatch prices) to be used to calculate when the CPT is reached in that region. This change corrects the previous misalignment where the CPT could be reached based on higher dispatch prices despite generators receiving lower settled prices. The final rule is intended to strengthen price signals for peaking generators to bid competitively during periods of tightening supply and demand across multiple regions approaching their CPT, and to provide clearer signals for investment and maintenance decisions.
- (**suspension of CPT calculation under market suspension pricing schedule – ERC0374**) for the calculation of the CPT to be suspended during trading intervals in which AEMO has set the price in accordance with the market suspension pricing schedule. This change is intended to reduce risks for generators selling hedging products by removing uncertainty associated with CPT operation during market suspension, incentivising fuel-constrained generators to offer hedges at competitive prices without an additional risk premium. The rule also ensures that the updated methodology applies uniformly to all market suspension scenarios, enabling AEMO to implement the changes without unnecessary cost or complexity.

The final rule will come into effect 1 November 2028, to allow AEMO sufficient time to update relevant processes given its existing resourcing commitments.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Enhancing access for registered participant representatives (Electricity)	ERC0415
Amending rule	NER 2026 No.3	
Date of final determination	30 April 2026	
Commencement date	7 May 2026 (Schedule 2) 1 March 2027 (Schedule 1)	

Details

The AEMC's final rule determination allows AEMO to share confidential information directly with specific third parties that registered participants are already permitted to share information with. Under the final rule, AEMO will be:

- enabled to implement upgrades to its identity and access management system by mid-2027;
- subject to disclosure principles and extended confidentiality and indemnity obligations under the NER and NGR;
- required to develop procedures governing the authorisation process and conditions for system access; and
- required to have made the relevant procedures under both the NER and NGR by commencement of the final rule.

Additionally, the final rule will also prohibit registered participants from sharing means of electronic access to National Metering Identifier standing data with service providers.

The final rule will commence on 1 March 2027.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Real-time data for consumers	RRC0057	ERC0399
Amending rule	NER 2025 No. 12; NERR 2025 No.6		
Date of final determination	18 December 2025		
Commencement date	30 November 2028 (Schedule 2 of the Electricity Rule) 30 November 2028 (Schedule 1 of the Retail Rule) 26 November 2026 (Schedule 1 of the Electricity Rule) 18 December 2025 (Schedule 3 of the Electricity Rule)		

Details

The AEMC’s final rule determination confirms a framework that will progressively enable all small customers to access real-time data from smart meters at the lowest practicable cost. The final rule largely adopts the approach outlined in the draft determination but introduces several refinements in response to stakeholder feedback.

Under the final rule, all new smart meters installed from 30 November 2028 must have in-built wireless functionality enabling real-time data access, and retailers must facilitate access to this data upon request from customers or their authorised representatives. Customers with these new meters will be able to access real-time data free of charge, with implementation costs shared across all consumers via existing metering cost-recovery arrangements. The framework applies only to small customers and does not apply to embedded networks or type 4A meters.

Key elements of the final rule include:

- (**defining real-time data**) departing from the rule change request and the draft determination, the AEMC proposes that 'real-time data' will have a more technical definition based on measurements of voltage, current, and phase angle. These measurements will be made available in a small customer metering installation at a resolution of no less than once per second. In response to stakeholder feedback, the AEMC has excluded type 4A, 8 and 9 meters from the definition;
- (**access to real-time data and cost recovery**) allowing customers with these new meters to access real-time data free of charge, with implementation costs socialised through existing metering cost-recovery arrangements. For customers with pre-2028 meters that do not meet the new specification, retailers may charge to facilitate access via retrofit or replacement at a reasonable cost;
- (**interoperability and cybersecurity**) requiring that real-time data services use open-standards-based communication protocols to support interoperability, with AEMO expected to consider Wi-Fi-based mechanisms. Departing from the draft determination, AEMC has concluded that data ports are no longer required due to cost and security risks;
- **(retailer obligations)** requiring retailers to facilitate access within 15 business days, verify and retain customer consent for two years, revoke access within three business days when appropriate, and treat real-time data as 'affected customer information' to support family violence protections;
- (**metering coordinator obligations**) obliging MCs to ensure at a minimum that it provides unidirectional signal from the meter, support multi-party access (at least four parties simultaneously) and cooperate with dispute-resolution processes; and
- (**third-party access and consent**) requiring non-registered parties to be accredited by AEMO and to use real-time data only for the service consented to, with limited consent exemptions for DNSPs (where customer infrastructure is not used) and AEMO (for accreditation-related audits).

Further technical details will be specified in forthcoming AEMO procedures, expected by 30 November 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	**Improving the ability to switch to a better offer**	**RRC0062**
Amending rule	NER 2025 No. 4	
Date of final determination	11 September 2025	
Commencement date	30 December 2026 (Schedule 1) 11 September 2025 (Schedule 2)	

Details

The final rule aims to increase the number of customers switching to lower-cost electricity plans by improving the visibility of potential savings, rather than by changing the switching process itself. Retailers will be required to include a 'deemed better offer' message not only on bills, but also in any written communications sent with a bill. The rule responds to findings that a significant proportion of customers could save money by switching plans, but many do not do so, often because they are unaware of better offers.

Key features of the final rule include:

- (**extension of the Better Bills Guideline (*BBG*)**) expanding the BBG to require retailers to include comparative information (such as the 'deemed better offer' message) not only on bills, but also in any written communications that relate to and are sent at the same time as a bill (eg, cover emails, bill summary letters). The BBG will specify details such as formatting requirements, wording for 'deemed better offer' messages and exemptions, drawing upon the AER's researching into bill formatting with BETA.
- (**communication channels**) clarifying that comparative information is only required to be included in communications customers have already opted to receive (new communication channels are not required).
- (**communications in scope**) clarifying that only written communications accompanying a bill are included (not all customer communications), and explicitly excludes certain notices (eg, overcharge, undercharge, tariff change, end of contract, and benefit change notices).
- (**consent requirements**) maintaining the requirement that customers must provide explicit informed consent before being switched to a new contract.

The final rule will commence on 30 December 2026. The AER must update the BBG by 30 September 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	**Assisting hardship customers**	**RRC0060**
Amending rule	NER 2025 No. 2	
Date of final determination	19 June 2025	
Commencement date	26 June 2025 (NER Schedule 2) 30 December 2026 (NER Schedule 1)	

Details

The final rule will support retail energy customers experiencing hardship by providing credit on their bill where a deemed better offer is available. The rule change forms part of the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (*ECMC*)'s suite of proposed rule changes aimed at supporting energy consumers through changes to the regulatory requirements regarding retail energy contracts.

The proponent for the initial rule change request adopted a proposal that provided consumers with a credit on their retail account where a deemed better offer is available to the customer.

The final rule will:

- require that retailers ensure hardship customers are not financially worse off than the deemed better offer applicable to that customer. The retailer will have flexibility to provide financial benefit under the current plan, or (with the customer's explicit informed consent) move the customer to the deemed better offer;

- strengthen retailer obligations to notify customers of better offers on an ongoing basis (offers will be presented upfront when a customer joins a hardship program, and at least once every 100 days thereafter); and
- introduce new indicators for hardship programs that retailers must report on to the AER. Statistics relating to these hardship programs will be published in the AER's annual retail market report.

The substance of the final rule will commence on 30 December 2026; however, Schedule 2 of the final rule took effect on 26 June 2025, requiring the AER to update the Better Bills Guideline by 30 September 2026 to reflect the terms of the final rule.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Allowing AEMO to accept cash as credit support	ERC0403
Amending rule	NER 2025 No.8	
Date of final determination	26 June 2025	
Commencement date	3 July 2025 (NER Schedule 2) 1 November 2026 (NER Schedule 1)	

Details

The final rule enables cash to be allowed as credit support under the prudential requirements of the NER. Formerly, the NER required market participants to provide bank guarantees or letters of credit to AEMO. The rule change proponent submitted this may have resulted in profitable and solvent participants being unable to provide acceptable forms of credit support because of a lack of willingness from financial institutions to enter into financing arrangements with businesses involved with fossil fuels (due to those institutions' evolving environmental, social and governance policies).

The final rule allows participants to provide cash as credit support up to a limit of $20 million (which was increased from the $5 million limit proposed under the draft determination) for each participant on terms and conditions prescribed by AEMO. In order to mitigate the risk that a liquidator appointed to an insolvent market participant may seek to claw back any cash used as credit support as an unfair preference payment, the final rule includes several layers of protection including granting AEMO first ranking charge over that cash.

Following stakeholder consultation, the final rule was also revised to exclude surety bonds as an acceptable form of credit support and to retain the existing limitations on eligible credit support providers.

The commencement date for the rule change is 1 November 2026, to provide AEMO with sufficient time to implement any necessary changes to its processes and to align with the commencement of the *Shortening the settlement cycle* rule change, which will amend the settlement and prudential systems (including shortening the settlement cycle to nine business days following the end of a billing period).

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Including distribution network resilience in the National Electricity Rules	ERC0400
Amending rule	NER 2025 No.5	
Date of final determination	8 May 2025	
Commencement date	22 May 2025 (NER Schedule 3) 2 October 2025 (NER Schedule 2) 1 July 2027 (NER Schedule 1)	

Details

This final rule will enhance how DNSPs and the AER account for distribution network resilience in the economic regulatory framework of the NER, with a view to enabling DNSPs to undertake efficient expenditure on network resilience measures to prepare for, manage and recover from long-duration outages.

The rule was introduced in response to the increasing frequency of severe weather events, which are, in turn, increasing the likelihood of widespread long-duration outages. As there is currently no formal framework for distribution network resilience expenditure (which is usually recovered as an ex post cost pass through after a long-duration event), consumer outcomes may not be sufficiently prioritised in the existing regulatory arrangements. The AEMC agreed that explicitly recognising distribution network resilience in the NER would increase a DNSP's ability to plan and deliver network resilience, improving consumer outcomes.

The rule will:

- include resilience as an expenditure factor in the NER, meaning that DNSPs can plan their resilience expenditure, and the AER must have regard to resilience when determining whether to accept a DNSP's forecast capex and opex for a regulatory control period. Resilience expenditure should focus on reducing the impact of power outages on consumers before *and* after severe weather events (that is, it should focus on risk reduction and impact mitigation);
- require the AER to develop and publish binding distribution network resilience guidelines that address how DNSPs may propose, and how the AER may assess, expenditure for improving network resilience; and
- introduce requirements for annual resilience planning and reporting.

The rule is limited to outages caused by weather events; outages resulting from other events such as cyber-attacks and terrorism are not captured, as they are governed by other regimes in the NER and other regulatory frameworks.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Integrating price-responsive resources into the NEM	RRC0051	ERC0352
Amending rule	NER 2024 No.24		
Date of final determination	19 December 2024		
Commencement Date	19 December 2024 (NER Schedule 5)		

	1 January 2026 (NER Schedule 3) 31 March 2026 (NER Schedule 2) 23 May 2027 (Schedule 4) 27 May 2027 (Schedule 1)

Details

This final rule implements a new framework to allow aggregated CER to volunteer to be scheduled and dispatched into the NEM by permitting small and medium size price-responsive resources to be active players in the market. Previously, these types of resources were not fully integrated into the NEM's planning and operation functions, and were therefore not adequately accounted for when determining the level of energy demand, how the demand should be met and the price for energy. These features allow energy service providers that use CER (eg, batteries, rooftop solar, electric vehicles and home energy management systems) and other price-responsive resources to participate in NEM scheduling and dispatch processes.

The AEMC argues that the framework, named 'dispatch mode' will lower electricity costs, emissions and prices for consumers. Key features of the framework are:

- establishing a framework for financially responsible market participants to nominated aggregated CER as voluntary scheduled resources (*VSR*) to participate in central dispatch processes akin to traditional generators;
- creates a time-limited incentive mechanism to encourage VSR participation wherein AEMO will run at least two tenders between 1 April 2026 and 31 December 2031 to pay eligible participants to enter into dispatch processes; and
- imposes new monitoring and reporting obligations to allow AEMO and the AER to evaluate the flow-on consequences of price-responsive CER for AEMO's short-term demand forecasts.

The AEMC made a number of changes incorporating the considerable stakeholder input since the rule change was initiated in August 2023, with the key changes outlined below:

- the implementation date for dispatch mode has been extended from November 2026 to May 2027 to ensure success of the rollout;
- the commencement date for incentive tenders was brought forward from January 2027 to April 2026 allowing earlier investment certainty for VSR providers;
- increased flexibility for VSR participants to select to deactivate or hibernate for longer periods; and
- introduction of a requirement for DNSP's to engage in consultation with VSR providers when designing flexible export limits.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	**Shortening the settlement cycle**	**ERC0384**
Amending rule	NER 2024 No.22	
Date of final determination	12 December 2024	
Commencement Date	19 December 2024 (Schedule 2) 9 August 2026 (Schedule 1)	

Details

This final rule shortens the settlement cycle (the period during which AEMO and market participants settle transactions for the relevant billing period) from 20 business days after the end of a billing period to 9 business days. The final rule differs from both the draft determination (which suggested a settlement period of 11 business days) and the original rule change request (which suggested a settlement period of 10 business days) in response to stakeholder feedback. The AEMC considers that the 9 day settlement period will provide a range of benefits, including a reduction in the prudential requirements for market participants and the working capital required by market participants to manage hedge exposure, which will in turn lead to lower prices for consumers.

The final rule also introduces a new 'routine revised statement', which will be issued 20 business days after the end of a billing period to allow AEMO and market participants to manage market suspension and intervention settlement amounts, meter data exceptions, disputes and adjustments.

As such, the settlement cycle will operate as follows under the final rule:

- 3 business days after the end of a billing period – AEMO will issue preliminary statements;
- 7 business days after the end of a billing period – AEMO will issue final statements;
- 9 business days after the end of a billing period (or two business days after receiving a final statement, whichever is later) – settlement payment date;
- 15 business days after the end of a billing period – AEMO and market participants have until this date to use reasonable endeavours to resolve disputes regarding preliminary statements;
- 20 business days after the end of a billing period – AEMO will issue routine revised statement.

READ

Rule name	**RRO exemption for scheduled bi-directional units**	**ERC0389**
Amending rule	NER 2024 No.19	
Date of final determination	14 November 2024	
Commencement Date	3 December 2024 (Schedules 1, 2 and 4) 1 November 2026 (Schedule 3)	

Details

The final rule exempts large-scale batteries, pumped hydro energy storage and other forms of storage assets from being liable entities under the RRO. The RRO requires liable entities to enter into 'qualifying contracts' to cover their share of the peak demand forecast for their region during the relevant reliability gap period.

This rule overcomes an unintended operation of the prior rule, which incentivised storage assets to withhold the provision of system security services to avoid being liable under the RRO, which may in turn increase system security risks. The final rule aims to:

- (**improve security**) allow energy storage assets to prioritise security services without the risk of triggering RRO penalties. The exemption for pumped hydro energy storage unlocks additional capacity for grid-supporting services during periods with reliability gaps; and

- (**increase FCAS market health**) reduce the risk of inflating FCAS prices during reliability gap periods, which in turn prevents the increase of other market costs including RRO penalty risks, the cost to hedge against those risks, and the costs of AEMO issuing compensable directions when there is a risk to power system security.

The key points to note are:

- (**registration / classification**) storage assets will need register, or otherwise be classified, as part of an 'Integrated Resource System' and meet other specified requirements for the relevant connection point to qualify as an 'exempt market connection point';
- (**exemption**) load at an 'exempt market connection point' will be excluded from the calculation that determines (1) liability under the RRO at the end of the contract and (2) the liable load during the reliability-gap period. However, entities are not exempt at other connection points that are not captured under the RRO (eg, end-user load connection points); and
- (**hybrid plants**) an entire connection point will be exempt where an asset shares its connection point with another generator or load centre and there is no other load. However, co-located storage with other load centres will only be exempt if total annual consumption at the connection point is less than 10 GWh.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	**Unlocking CER benefits through flexible trading (Electricity and Retail)**	**RRC0045**	**ERC0346**
Amending rule	NER 2024 No. 15; NERR 2024 No. 4		
Date of final determination	15 August 2024		
Commencement Date	29 August 2024 (NER Schedules 1 and 6; NERR Schedule 3) 31 May 2025 (NER Schedule 2) 1 November 2026 (NER Schedules 3, 4 and 5; NERR Schedules 1 and 2)		

Details

These rule changes introduce new arrangements to promote a flexible trading market for CER, such as rooftop solar, batteries and electric vehicle chargers. Consumers can optimise the value of their CER by contracting on different terms (including price) with multiple financially responsible market participants for different components of their load, rather than having their CER connected at one connection point with one associated meter (as per the existing model). The rule change request was developed as part of the Energy Security Board’s CER implementation plan.

The rules have three key elements:

- enabling large customers to select multiple energy service providers for their premises, without using the embedded network framework or establishing multiple connection points to the distribution network in order to obtain a second National Metering Identifier;
- allowing consumers, and retailers and aggregators acting as agents for consumers, to identify and manage their flexible CER separately from other 'passive' or inflexible consumer loads (such as lights and fridges), including by enabling the establishment of secondary settlement points without requiring a second physical connection to the distribution network; and

- creating two new meter types with lower minimum specifications to enable in-built measurement capability in technology (such as EV chargers) to be used for settlement and billing, instead of requiring additional meters.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Enhancing reserve information (formerly Operating reserves)	ERC0295
Amending rule	NER 2024 No. 6	
Date of final determination	21 March 2024	
Commencement date	1 July 2025 (Schedule 1) 1 July 2027 (Schedule 2)	

Details

While the original rule change requests from Iberdrola and Delta Electricity sought to leverage the existing FCAS framework and introduce an operating reserve market or services specific to the provision of reserves to respond to unexpected changes in supply and demand, the AEMC's final determination resolved to not implement an operating reserve market. The key reason for this is that the AEMC considers an operating reserve market would not offer any significant improvements compared to the current arrangements, and would materially increase market costs.

Instead, the final rule improves the existing arrangements and increases transparency around energy availability in the NEM, to facilitate efficient responses from market participants to unexpected fluctuations in supply and demand, when reserves are required. Specifically, the final rule requires AEMO to publish energy availability information in the operational timeframe, including:

- (**state of charge**) the energy availability of batteries, aggregated by region, in close to real time and also on the following trading day by dispatchable unit identifier; and
- (**daily energy constraints**) the combined energy constraints of other scheduled plant types (hydro, gas and coal), aggregated by region and published on a daily basis.

The final rule also requires storage participants to provide their maximum storage capacity to AEMO in their bid and offer validation data.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Amendment of the Market Price Cap, Cumulative Price Threshold and Administered Price Cap	ERC0353
Amending rule	NER 2023 No. 6	
Date of final determination	7 December 2023	
Commencement date	1 July 2025 (Schedule 1) 1 July 2026 (Schedule 2) 1 July 2027 (Schedule 3)	

Details

This final rule amends the MPC, CPT and APC from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028, as follows:

Market price setting	1 July 2025	1 July 2026	1 July 2027
MPC	$18,600/MWh	$20,700/MWh	$22,800/MWh
CPT	$1,674,000/MWh	$1,987,200/MWh	$2,325,600/MWh
CPT hours at MPC	7.5	8	8.5
APC	$600/MWh	$600/MWh	$600/MWh

The AEMC considered that existing market price settings were too low to support sufficient investment in generation, demand response and storage, to address shortages in supply and periods of high prices, and maintain the reliability of the system.

READ MORE HERE.

National Gas Rules

Rule change requests

New rule change requests (since last update, 1 June 2026)

Rule name	National Gas Amendment (Minor Changes Rule 1) Rule 2026	GRC0092
Proponent	AEMC	
Key dates	Initiation date: 4 June 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (2 July 2026)	
Stage	Initiation	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a proposed rule change that would correct minor errors and make non-material changes to the National Gas Rules and the Western Australian version of the National Gas Rules to improve their quality and make the rules clearer to stakeholders. The proposed rule change seeks to:

- (**update civil penalty notes**) update notes relating to civil penalties and conduct provisions in the Western Australian Gas Rules to reflect the classification of these provisions under the *National Gas Access (WA) (Part 3) Regulations 2009*;
- (**address minor implementation issues**) address minor issues relating to implementation of the *National Gas Rules (Gas Pipelines) Amendment Rules 2023*, Schedule 2 of the *National Gas Amendment (Harmonising the national energy rules with the updated national energy objectives) Rule 2024* and Schedules 9 and addition of Schedule 7 of the *National Gas Amendment (Other Gases) Rule 2024* in preparation for these rules to take effect in Western Australian;
- (**minor error corrections**) update minor grammar, typographical and cross-referencing errors in the *National Gas Rules (Gas Pipelines) Amendment Rules 2023*, the *National Gas Amendment (Harmonising the national energy rules with the updated national energy objectives) Rule 2024* and the *National Gas Amendment (Other Gases) Rule 2024*.

The AEMC is seeking to undertake an expedited process to consider this rule change proposal; the deadline for requests to not use the expedited process closed on 18 June 2026. The deadline for written submissions to the rule change proposal closed on 2 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Existing rule change requests

Rule name	Gas cyber security roles and responsibilities for AEMO	GRC0091
Proponent	The Honourable Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy	
Key dates	Initiation date: 29 January 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (18 June 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

Summary of request

On 7 May 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination and draft rule that seeks to formalise AEMO's cyber security functions and obligations under the NGR. The growing digitisation and interconnectedness of the energy system has increased both the likelihood and potential consequences of cyber security incidents. The current NGR does not address cyber security, so AEMO does not have a clear role or confirmed responsibilities in managing these risks for the gas sector. The draft rule expands AEMO's statutory functions to include four key cyber-security activities for the gas sector, including:

- (**coordinating incident responses**) planning, coordinating and leading sector-wide responses to cyber incidents in accordance with the Australian Energy Sector Cyber Incident Response Plan;
- (**supporting cyber preparedness and uplift**) undertaking cyber maturity assessments, scenario testing and training exercises, as well as providing guidance through the Australian Energy Sector Cyber Security Framework to uplift preparedness and resilience across gas market participants;
- (**examining risks and advisory functions**) analysing emerging cyber threats, system vulnerabilities and operational risks across the East Coast Gas System, and providing advice to government and industry to support collaborative risk management;
- (**distributing information to the market**) acting as a central channel for issuing threat warnings, vulnerability alerts and post-incident insights, including redistributing relevant advice from bodies such as the Australian Cyber Security Centre through communication channels that are familiar to market participants.

The draft rule would enable AEMO to recover cyber security costs from gas participants through AEMO's existing cost recovery process and confirms that AEMO has immunity from liability, consistent with its other statutory functions. The deadline for stakeholder feedback has now passed. The AEMC expects to release a final determination by 30 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Gas Networks in Transition	GRC0082
Proponent	Energy Consumers Australia, Justice and Equity Centre	
Key dates	Initiation date: 18 September 2025 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (30 April 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

On 19 March 2026, the AEMC published a directions paper in response to four interrelated rule change requests, which are being considered as a single package due to their overlapping subject matter. The rule change requests respond to the projected decline in residential and small commercial gas demand as electrification accelerates and governments pursue net zero emissions targets. The proponents argued that the current NGR framework, designed for an environment of growing gas demand, is no longer fit for purpose as the sector faces increasing risk of 'asset stranding' . The directions paper sets out the AEMC's proposed policy direction for strengthening the gas pipeline economic regulatory framework, with a focus on the following four key reform areas:

- (**long-term outlook**) requiring service providers and the regulator to demonstrate how long-term energy transition risks and impacts have been considered in access arrangement proposals and decisions (within the access arrangement period and beyond). This aims to promote increased efficiency and consistent outcomes, as well as improving transparency around consideration of longer-term impacts.
- (**capital cost recovery tools**) providing clearer guidance on the potential use of depreciation, compensation for inflation and the treatment and the re-use of redundant capital to support efficient capital recovery in the long-term interests of consumers, while mitigating stranding risks and preserving incentives for service providers to continue delivering safe and reliable services. On balance, the AEMC's proposed policy direction protects consumers by ensuring they will only pay efficient network charges for assets they continue to use and preventing the costs of underutilised or stranded assets from being shifted to consumers, consistent with risk outcomes in a competitive market.
- (**amendments to capital and operating expenditure provisions**) amending the capex provisions and opex definition to reduce the risk of unnecessary or inefficient expenditure and improve the alignment of investment decisions with uncertain demand conditions, as well as improve regulatory clarity through stronger justification and accountability requirements.
- (**guidance on tariff arrangements**) enhancing guidance on reference tariffs and tariff variation mechanisms to ensure they remain economically efficient while better accounting for consumer impacts under varying demand scenarios, during and beyond the access arrangement period.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback has now passed. The AEMC expects to release a draft determination by 27 August 2026.

READ MORE HERE

Rule name	Allowing AEMO to accept cash as credit support under the National Gas Rules	GRC0089
Proponent	Delta Electricity	
Key dates	Initiation date: 26 March 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (30 April 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from Delta Electricity to allow AEMO to accept cash as credit support (up to a limit of $20 million) in the DWGM and Short Term Trading Markets (***STTM***), in addition to bank guarantees. Currently, the only acceptable forms of credit support in the DWGM and STTM are bank guarantees or other immediate, irrevocable and unconditional commitment in a form acceptable to the AEMO. This request follows from a similar final determination made by the AEMC on 26 June 2025, allowing AEMO to accept cash as credit support in the NEM up to a limit of $20 million. Delta Electricity proposes that this would promote lower financing costs for participants, greater market efficiency by reducing barriers to entry, and more predictable and flexible credit support arrangements.

The AEMC has rejected Delta's request to follow an expedited rule change process. It is of the view that a standard rule change process is appropriate, as the proposed rule change could present different issues or risks that were not assessed for the equivalent rule change in the NEM.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback has now passed. The AEMC expects to release a draft determination by 23 July 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Completed rule changes

Final rule determinations (since last update, 1 June 2026)

Rule name	ECGS Enhancing reliability and supply adequacy arrangements	GRC0076
Amending Rule	NGR 2026 No. 3	
Date of final determination	25 June 2026	
Commencement date	16 July 2026 (Schedule 3) 5 November 2026 (Schedule 2) 1 April 2027 (Schedule 1)	

Details

On 25 June 2026, the AEMC published a final determination and a more preferable final rule in relation to the establishment of a new reliability standard for the east coast gas system (***ECGS***) to enable more timely, informed and efficient market responses to threats in the ECGS by ensuring that AEMO and market participants have appropriate tools and information to efficiently make decisions in both the long and short terms. The final rule also introduces a new governance framework for gas market price setting reviews to strengthen AEMO's ability to conduct longer-term gas supply forecasting to support AEMO's use of the Supplier of Last Resort (***SoLR***) mechanism.

The final rule consists of three major components:

- (**A risk or threat signalling framework**) The new rule will introduce an objective and transparent three-tiered framework for AEMO to assess, classify and communicate risks or threats to reliability and supply adequacy in the ECGS. The framework will require timely publication of information on the likelihood, severity, timing and location of potential supply shortfalls and the classification of threats may be escalated or de-escalated based on updated assessments.
- (**New governance arrangements for market settings reviews**) The new rule will establish a Gas Reliability Committee (***GRC***) comprising representatives from AEMO, AEMC and representatives from ECGS gas supply chain segments, including both large and small users. The AEMC will develop an operating manual, which will establish market setting guidelines that the GRC will follow when conducting the reviews. The GRC will conduct market reviews every four years (with the first review to take place for the period 1 July 2032 to 30 June 2036) and after its review, the GRC will issue a report for the AEMC with its recommendations.
- (**Enhancements to AEMO's GSOO and Victorian Gas Planning Report**) The new rule will enhance AEMO's Gas Statement of Opportunities (***GSOO***) and Victorian Gas Planning Report (***VGPR***) by including information on forecast supply shortfalls and, where reasonably practicable, a more granular regional assessment of gas supply adequacy (for the GSOO). In addition, AEMO will consult on and publish its gas supply adequacy assessment methodology.

The final rule will be implemented progressively. Schedule 3 of the final rule (the transitional rules) commenced on 16 July 2026 with Schedule 2 set to commence on 5 November 2026. The final rule requires AEMO to review and update relevant procedures and guidelines by 1 April 2027, enabling the initial risk or threat signalling framework to become operational once they are published. The gas supply adequacy assessment methodology will be published by 1 October 2027 to inform the 2027 GSOO and VGPR.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	ECGS Projected Assessment of System Adequacy	GRC0080
Amending Rule	NGR 2026 No. 4	
Date of final determination	25 June 2026	
Commencement date	16 July 2026 (Schedule 2) 6 April 2028 (Schedule 1)	

Details

On 25 June 2026, AEMC published a final determination and more preferable final rule that will amend the NGR to introduce a short-term and medium-term projected assessment of system adequacy (***PASA***) for the ECGS. This rule change request forms part of a suite of reforms that will provide stakeholders with better information on the demand and supply balance across the ECGS.

The final rule introduces two new PASA forecasts (7-day outlook and 12-month outlook) that will empower market participants to make better decisions around their supply and demand for gas as well as facility maintenance, and will allow AEMO to make better-informed decisions regarding the responses to risks or threat to the reliability and supply adequacy in the ECGS.

Key features of the final rule include the following:

- a new objective for PASA to outline what PASA is and to guide AEMO's future development and administration of PASA;
- a new PASA framework that consists of two forecasts that cover the intra-year period in the ECGS;
- prescribing of the minimum output requirements for each forecast to provide stakeholders with clarity over the core outputs of PASA; and
- streamlining and consolidating reporting by moving several information disclosure requirements under Part 27 of the NGR to Part 18 of the NGR.

The final rule specifies the key dates for implementation as 1 April 2027, 6 April 2028 and 8 June 2028.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	ECGS Supplier of last resort mechanism	GRC0077
Amending Rule	NGR 2026 No. 5	
Date of final determination	25 June 2026	
Commencement date	16 July 2026 (Schedule 1) 1 April 2027 (Schedule 2)	

Summary of request

On 25 June 2026, the AEMC published a final determination and more preferable draft rule that will replace the existing $35 million capped trading fund with a supplier of last resort (***SoLR***) mechanism for the ECGS. This will enable AEMO to contract a range of supply- and demand-side services year round by way of competitive tendering if reliability and supply adequacy issues arise that cannot be resolved by industry.

The key features of the final rule are as follows:

- It sets out mandatory principles that AEMO must have regard to when establishing a SoLR reserve and activating or using a SoLR reserve.
- AEMO will be able to procure supply-side and demand-side services to address threats to gas reliability and supply adequacy in the ECGS as those issues arise. This ability will be linked to the tiered risk or threat signalling framework set out in the ECGS Enhancing reliability and supply adequacy arrangements final rule (GRC0076).
- AEMO is entitled to enter into one or more contracts for the sale or supply of covered gas, pipeline services, services provided by a storage provider, administered demand response or any other service referred to in section 91AD(f) of the NGL.
- SoLR service contracts between AEMO and a SoLR Provider will be subject to an upper price limit of $40/GJ for each SoLR contract payment made by AEMO to a SoLR provider and a new annual aggregate spending limit of $50 million will apply across actual expenditure on all SoLR service contracts, with both components of the SoLR cost constraints indexed annually using CPI.
- AEMO will recover costs by implementing a demand-based cost recovery methodology, which will involve allocating costs by the proportion of (gross) demand from gas industry participants in the location and at the time of the SoLR intervention.
- AEMO will be subject to enhanced transparency and accountability measures, including being required to publicly report at one- and four-month intervals after SoLR activation, reviewing the SoLR procedures, guidelines and relevant tender processes within 18 months after its first activation, and maintaining separate financial accounts relating to its SoLR functions.

Schedule 1 of the final rule commenced on 16 July 2026 with Schedule 2 commencing on 1 April 2027.

READ MORE HERE.

Other rules not yet commenced

Rule name	Enhancing access for registered participant representatives (Gas)	GRC0087
Amending rule	NGR 2026 No. 1	
Proponent	AEMO	
Date of final determination	30 April 2026	
Commencement date	7 May 2026 (Schedule 2) 1 March 2027 (Schedule 1)	

Details

For further information, please refer to the rule change request with a corresponding title under the National Electricity Rules section above. This rule change request (GRC0087) relies on the same consultation paper published in respect of the rule change request ERC0415.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Establishing a regulatory framework for retail customer initiated gas abolishment	GRC0086
Amending rule	NGR 2026 No. 1	
Proponent	Justice and Equity Centre	
Date of final determination	2 April 2026	
Commencement date	9 April 2026 (Schedule 2) 1 October 2026 (Schedule 1)	

Details

The AEMC's final rule determination establishes a clear regulatory framework for gas disconnections (both temporary disconnection and permanent abolishment) and associated remediation services.

Previously, the NER was silent about what different disconnection services should entail, who should provide those services and how much they should cost. This has led to inconsistent regulatory decisions, varied pricing, safety concerns and inefficient incentives that discourage electrification. The final determination includes clear definitions for disconnection services, a minimum safe service standard, and provides for jurisdictions to elect for permanent disconnection services and remediation services to be contestable services.

The new framework will facilitate retail customer access to disconnection services on fair and reasonable terms by ensuring that customers only pay the prudent and efficient costs for a customer initiated abolishment. The rule change accommodates the contestability of abolishment services, where permitted by the relevant jurisdiction, modelled on Part 12A of the NGR, which covers gas connections for retail customers.

Schedule 2 to the final rule commenced on 9 April 2026 and schedule 2 will commence on 1 October 2026.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	Updating the regulatory framework for gas connections	GRC0085
Amending rule	NGR 2025 No.4	
Proponent	Energy Consumers Australia	
Date of final determination	11 December 2025	
Commencement date	1 October 2026 (Schedule 1) 18 December 2025 (Schedule 2)	

Details

This final rule determination requires all newly connecting retail gas customers in NECF jurisdictions to pay the full, cost-reflective cost of their gas connection upfront. The intention of the rule change is to ensure that only the 'prudent, efficient and directly attributable' costs of providing the connection service are recovered. The rule removes the Net Present Value (***NPV***) test, meaning connection-related capital expenditure can no longer be added to a distributor's capital base for recovery from the wider customer base.

The rule change responds to a request from Energy Consumers Australia, which highlighted that electrification is increasingly shifting the cost burden of new gas connections onto remaining customers, many of whom face barriers to transitioning away from gas. This new 'beneficiary pays' approach ensures the costs and risks of new connections sit with those best placed to manage them (ie, the connecting customer) rather than with existing customers.

Additional aspects of the final rule include:

- **(model standing offers and service types)** distributors must continue to offer standardised, AER-approved model standing offers for basic connection services, and may continue to offer model standing offers for standard services and individual negotiation for more complex connections. However, the final rule introduces a new flexibility allowing distributors to seek an AER exemption from maintaining a model standing offer for basic connections where demand is expected to be very low (eg, where new gas connections are banned);
- **(connection charge criteria)** the final rule replaces the NPV test with a new set of principles-based cost-reflective criteria, allowing distributors to recover only 'prudent, efficient, directly attributable' costs (including extensions, augmentation, incidental costs and net tax). Where standardised charges apply, they must satisfy these criteria 'on average';
- **(transparency and regulatory oversight)** the AER must publish all decisions on whether it approves or rejects distributors' model standing offers. The rule also updates the matters the AER must consider when assessing these offers, including satisfaction that the basic connection service is being sought by a reasonable (rather than 'significant') number of customers and removal of the requirement for the AER to have regard to whether the distributor has provided connection services in the past.

The new framework commences on 1 October 2026, with transitional steps requiring distributors to submit revised model standing offers by 1 May 2026 and the AER to approve them by 1 August 2026. Applications lodged before 1 October 2026 remain under the existing NPV-based framework.

READ MORE HERE.

Rule name	DWGM interim LNG storage measures	GRC0065
Amending rule	NGR 2022 No. 4	
Date of final determination	15 December 2022	
Commencement date	15 December 2022 (Schedules 1 and 2) 2 July 2026 (Schedule 3)	

Details

This final rule gives AEMO broader powers to address threats to system security and reliability of supply in the DWGM between 2023 and 2025, in light of the recent decline in the amount of LNG held in storage and the contracted capacity at the Dandenong LNG storage facility.

Under the final rule, AEMO will act as:

1. **Buyer of last resort:**
   - AEMO must contract any storage capacity at the Dandenong LNG storage facility that is uncontracted by 1 March each year. AEMO may also procure any additional uncontracted storage capacity for winter that becomes available after 1 March each year.
   - AEMO must aim to achieve the highest level of contracted capacity reasonably possible by the beginning of winter, or a lower amount as determined by AEMO and approved by the Victorian Minister.
   - AEMO must relinquish contracted capacity if APA (as the LNG storage provider) requests it to do so in order to meet a request from a market participant, and may transfer LNG stock to a market participant if that participant has acquired relinquished capacity.
2. **Supplier of last resort:**
   - AEMO may inject gas from its LNG reserve into the DWGM where it reasonably considers that a threat to system security is unlikely to subside without its intervention.
   - AEMO may also dispose of LNG stock where it is obliged to do so under a contractual or regulatory obligation (using a bid price of $0/GJ).
   - AEMO's LNG reserve gas may only be included in a pricing schedule and an operating schedule after all available market participants' bids have been scheduled, and AEMO's injection bids from LNG reserve must be at a price equal to the value of lost load (ie, $800/GJ).

The final rule also sets out processes for AEMO to recover its costs as buyer and supplier of last resort, and establishes a new cost-recovery proceeds distribution process. It also outlines the contractual arrangements between AEMO and APA (the owner and operator of the Dandenong LNG Facility) to facilitate AEMO's two roles.

The rule applies as an interim measure between 2023 and 2025 while the Energy Ministers develop broader reforms to system security and reliability in the DWGM.

READ MORE HERE.

Glossary

In this document, the following definitions apply:

AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
APC	administered price cap
APP	administered price period
CER	consumer energy resources
CPT	cumulative price threshold
DER	distributed energy resources
DNSP	distribution network service provider
DWGM	declared wholesale gas market
ESB	Energy Security Board
FCAS	frequency control ancillary services
FRMP	financially responsible market participant
IRP	Integrated Resource Provider
ISP	Integrated System Plan
LNG	liquefied natural gas
MPC	market price cap
NECF	National Energy Customer Framework
NER	National Electricity Rules
NERL	National Energy Retail Law
NERR	National Energy Retail Rules
NEM	National Electricity Market
NGR	National Gas Rules
NSP	network service provider
PFR	primary frequency response
RIT-T	Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission
RRO	Retailer Reliability Obligation
TNSP	transmission network service provider
TUOS	transmission use of system

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