



# National Electricity and Gas Rules

**Update March 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

<b>New rule change requests</b>	Small changes to Integrating Price-Responsive Resources Clarity and transparency in security frameworks Improving compensation frameworks
<b>New draft determinations</b>	Supporting compliance with meter maintenance obligations Improving life support processes Improving the NEM access standards – Package 2
<b>Completed rule changes</b>	There have been no completed rule changes since the last update

### The NGR

New rule change requests	Allowing AEMO to accept cash as credit support under the National Gas Rules
New directions papers	Gas Networks in Transition
Completed rule changes	There have been no completed rule changes since the last update

### Opportunities for stakeholders

Due by	Opportunities for submissions
23 April 2026	ECGS Supplier of last resort mechanism
30 April 2026	Allowing AEMO to accept cash as credit support under the National Gas Rules; Gas Networks in Transition; Improving compensation frameworks
7 May 2026	Improving the NEM access standards – Package 2; Supporting compliance with meter maintenance obligations

## Energy reform

### AEMC proposes new grid standards for data centre connections

Rapid growth in data centres driven by cloud computing, artificial intelligence and digital services is increasing the number of large, energy-intensive facilities connecting to the National Electricity Market. Data centres tend to be highly-energy intensive loads and typically rely on inverter-based technology and batteries. If the grid experiences a disturbance (such as a voltage dip), these facilities can rapidly reduce demand or suddenly disconnect, which can place significant stress on networks. If not appropriately managed, data centres (as active grid participants rather than passive loads) can increase the risk of cascading events.

To address this, in March 2026 the AEMC released a draft rule proposing new technical connection standards for large data centres and similar facilities. The proposed changes are intended to support continued investment in digital infrastructure while ensuring these loads can operate safely and reliably within the power system.

The draft rule proposes three key changes:

- **(Clearer classification of large inverter-based loads)** The threshold for classification as a large inverter-based load will be increased from 5 MW to 30 MW, so that enhanced technical connection standards apply proportionately based on actual grid risk.
- **(Mandatory disturbance ride-through requirements)** Large data centres will be required to remain connected during certain voltage and frequency disturbances and to recover power within specified timeframes. Data centres will also be required to provide information on their ride-through capability to the NSP and AEMO, at the NSP's request.
- **(International alignment)** Australian standards to be aligned with those used or proposed in jurisdictions such as Texas, Ireland and Finland, supporting faster deployment, lower costs and greater investment certainty.

The technical access standards will apply to a registered participant or a party to a connection agreement (i.e. the participants may be registered or unregistered). This clarity will support enforceability and regulatory certainty, given the increasing number of non-registered plants connecting to the NEM.

The AEMC is seeking stakeholder submissions on the draft rule and determination, with submissions closing on 7 May 2026. AEMO is expecting to publish interim guidance ahead of any final rule change, to assist industry in preparing for the new requirements.

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# National Electricity Rules and National Energy Retail Rules

## Rule change requests

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

Rule name	Small changes to Integrating Price-responsive Resources rule	ERC0430
Proponent	AEMO	
Key dates	Initiation date: 19 March 2026 Deadline for submissions: Deadline passed (16 April 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

### Summary of request

This rule change request aims to amend the Integrating Price-responsive Resources (*IPRR*) rule introduced in December 2024. The IPRR rule 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*). Since the IPRR program's implementation, several drafting, timing and alignment issues have transpired, which this proposal seeks to address through five minor amendments:

- **(timing of cost recovery under the VIM)** under the IPRR rule, participation payments made under the VIM and AEMO's administrative fee costs are recoverable by AEMO annually, in arrears. Stakeholders have expressed the preference for more frequent incentive payments to support cash flow, provide revenue certainty, and deliver more timely signals, given the upfront and ongoing costs of participating in dispatch mode. In response, AEMO developed the VIM Procedure, which operated on the basis that incentive payments would be settled and paid at regular intervals. This rule change request proposes to amend the timing of cost recovery to a monthly frequency to align with AEMO's VIM Procedure to avoid exposing AEMO to unnecessary cash-flow risk and working capital impacts.
- **(deferring AEMO's obligation to consider VSR eligibility for frequency performance payments (FPPs))** under the IPRR rule, there will be the application of frequency performance payments to VSRs through changes to Frequency Contribution Factors Procedures (*FCFP*) by 1 June 2026. However, AEMO has identified that the complexity and cost associated with extending the FPP regime to VSRs may not be justified. Accordingly, this rule change request seeks to provide AEMO with additional time to consider whether VSRs should be eligible for FPPs, avoiding potentially inefficient or reductive procedural changes.
- **(including VSRs in the definition of minimum ramp rate requirements)** currently, the definition of 'minimum ramp rate requirement' in Chapter 10 of the NER encompasses generating units, bidirectional units, scheduled loads and scheduled network services. This rule change request seeks to expressly include VSRs in the definition, with provisions for both generation and consumption, to ensure that ramp rate obligations remain the same across all resource types.
- **(treating non-conforming VSRs consistently with other scheduled resources)** the NER manages non-conforming VSRs through a notice-based framework, under which AEMO specifies a maximum available capacity, rather than using real-time operational directions as it does for scheduled resources. This rule change request seeks to align the treatment of non-conforming VSRs with other scheduled resources by enabling the use of real-time operational directions, with the objectives of minimising implementation complexity, and promoting competition between resources with similar dispatch and operational characteristics.

- **(treatment of deactivated and hibernated VSRs)** these are minor and administrative amendments clarifying that deactivated or hibernated VSRs can partake in market ancillary services as an ancillary services unit despite not being able to participate in central dispatch for energy. This seeks to align the IPPR rule with AEMC's express intent in the IPPR Final Determination.

The AEMC proposes to apply the expedited rule change process to these rule change requests, on the basis that the requests are non-controversial, are unlikely to have a significant impact on the NEM, and will not meaningfully change the policy intent, eligibility settings or incentive design of the IPPR rule.

Objections to the use of the expedited process were due by 12 March 2026, and submissions were due by 2 April 2026.

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Rule name	Clarity and transparency in security frameworks	ERC0428
Proponent	AEMO, Australian Energy Council ( <i>AEC</i> ) and the Clean Energy Council ( <i>CEC</i> )	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 12 March 2026 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> 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. 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 NEM 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 NEM 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).

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Rule name	Improving compensation frameworks	ERC0425
Proponent	AEMO, Tilt Renewables	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 19 March 2026 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> 30 April 2026	
Stage	Initiation	

## 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 are due by 30 April 2026. The AEMC expects to issue a draft determination on 9 July 2026.

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## Existing rule change requests

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Flexible communication requirements for SAPS generation connection points</b>	<b>ERC0414</b>
Proponent	AEMO	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date</a> : 26 February 2026 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions</a> : Deadline passed (26 March 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

### Summary of request

The AEMC consulted on three interrelated rule change requests submitted by AEMO in relation to improving metering and metrology procedures. The three rule change requests propose the following:

- **(flexible communication requirements for SAPS generation connection points - ERC0414)** this rule change request seeks to allow the use of type 4A (manual-read) meters for generation points in standalone power system (SAPS) with a single generator connection, given the difficulty of deploying remote-read metering technology in remote and rural areas with limited reception for communication networks.
- **(refining the eligibility requirements for Secondary Settlement Points - ERC0413)** currently, the NER may restrict premises with Victorian Advanced Metering Infrastructure installations from establishing secondary settlement points, which were intended to be available to all customers across the NEM under the 'Unlocking consumer energy resources benefits' Rule Change . AEMO proposes to replace the current list of eligible metering types with a general requirement for eligible meters to have remote acquisition capability and trading interval data to accommodate Victoria's regulatory framework.
- **(consultation requirements for the Metrology Procedures - ERC0409)** this rule change request seeks to remove the mandatory three-month minimum period between publication and commencement of amendments to the Metrology Procedures, except where amendments are made under the minor rules consultation procedure. The proposed change would align the Metrology Procedures with other AEMO procedures and give AEMO greater flexibility to implement essential changes quickly, subject to the applicable consultation requirements under the Rules.

The AEMC published a joint consultation paper for these interrelated rule change requests to allow for more efficient consideration of the issues by stakeholders. The Commission is also considering whether to consolidate some or all of the rule changes at a later stage. The AEMC proposed to apply the expedited rule change process to these rule change requests on the basis that the requests are non-controversial and unlikely to have a significant impact on the NEM or consumers.

Objections to the use of the expedited process were due by 12 March 2026, and submissions were due by 26 March 2026. The AEMC expects to release a draft determination by 23 April 2026.

[READ MORE HERE](#).

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Supporting compliance with meter maintenance obligations</b>	<b>ERC0419</b>
Proponent	Yurika, PLUS ES, Intellihub, AEMO	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date</a> : 4 December 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions</a> : 7 May 2026	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

### Summary of request

On 26 March 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination and a more preferable draft electricity rule, which seeks to streamline meter maintenance arrangements. The draft rule:

- **(statutory obligations)** expressly obliges retailers and other persons who appoint a metering coordinator (*MC*) to promptly provide the MC with reasonable assistance and cooperation, to assist them with complying with their statutory obligations, including any applicable timing requirements, when the MC requests such assistance. This assistance includes facilitating supply interruptions at connection points and access to installations, notifying retail customers of upcoming test, repair or inspection activities by the MC, informing the MC of any rectification work that has been at metering installations and taking reasonable steps to arrange for the rectification of defects at metering installations. This requirement to support MCs aims to improve meter accuracy, leading to more accurate billing and market settlement and reducing unaccounted-for energy.
- **(expansion of exemption framework)** expands the exemption framework for circumstances by enabling MCs to apply to AEMO to be exempt from the timeframes for testing or inspection if a metering installation is not accessible, safe or ready, with AEMO determining the contents of the exemption on a case-by-case basis. This aims to enable MCs to better manage safety threats and prevent MCs from being penalised for non-compliance for issues beyond their control.
- **(test certificates)** requires former MCs to provide newly appointed MCs with the most recent test certificates within 10 business days of a request by the new appointed MC, albeit without stipulating the means by which test certificates should be shared. This aims to reduce implementation costs by clarifying the responsibilities of market participants and AEMO.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback on the draft determination is 7 May 2026.

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Rule name	Early application of a revised transmission Service Target Performance Incentive Scheme	ERC0421
Proponent	AER	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 13 November 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> 2 April 2026	
Stage	Consultation on Draft Determination	

### Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from the AER that seeks to amend the NER to allow it to reopen a transmission network service provider's revenue determination for the purpose of applying a revised transmission service target performance incentive scheme (**STPIS**) during a regulatory control period. The AER identified that the current NER prevents the timely application of updated incentive arrangements, particularly STPIS Version 6, which was finalised in April 2025 but cannot otherwise take effect until a TNSP's next regulatory control period, meaning potential improvements may be significantly delayed.

On 19 February 2026, the AEMC published a more preferable draft rule determination. The key elements are summarised below:

- **(market impact component)** the draft rule would disapply the market impact component (*MIC*) to TNSP performance from 1 January 2026. This means no MIC adjustments would be made for the 2027-28 regulatory year or any remaining regulatory years, reflecting the AEMC's view that the MIC is no longer influencing TNSP behaviour or providing efficient incentives.

- **(service component)** the draft rule would require the AER, after consultation with a TNSP, to amend the loss of supply frequency parameter under the service component of that TNSP's revenue determination to reflect the pre-rounding value calculated under STPIS Version 5 (with the changes to take effect from 1 July 2026).
- **(network capability component)** no changes would be made to the network capability component (*NCC*). It would remain aligned with STPIS Version 5, with STPIS Version 6 applying only from the start of each TNSP's next regulatory control period, due to the complexity of transitioning bespoke NCC arrangements mid-period.
- **(enduring early application power)** the draft rule would allow the AER to consult with TNSPs on the possible early application of a new STPIS. Once the new STPIS is published, the AER may revoke and substitute a TNSP's revenue determination in line with the early application arrangements (with the substituted determination applying for the remainder of the regulatory control period). The AER would be required to make this decision within 40 business days of the later of publishing the new scheme, receiving proposed STPIS values from the TNSP, or receiving any other required information, without constraining when the new scheme itself may commence.

The deadline for stakeholder submissions on the draft determination is 2 April 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	Optimising contingency size in dispatch	ERC0359
Proponent	Grids Energy	
Key dates	Initiation date: 20 November 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> Deadline passed (18 December 2025)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

#### Summary of request

The AEMC sought stakeholder views on the proposals to optimise contingency size in dispatch and allocate contingency frequency control ancillary service (*FCAS*) costs through 'runway' cost allocation. The consultation paper relates to a package of rule changes previously proposed by Grids Energy to efficiently manage the size of the largest credible load and generation contingency event, which influences the volume of contingency FCAS that AEMO is required to procure.

The proposed amendments include:

- **(optimising contingency size in dispatch)** this rule change proposal seeks to automate and optimise the determination of contingency size in dispatch. Grids Energy proposes that central dispatch should constrain the output of the largest scheduled or semi-scheduled generators or loads when it reduces the amount of contingency FCAS requirements, which leads to overall cost savings to the system, does not reduce system security, and maintains market integrity; and
- **(allocating contingency FCAS costs)** this proposal recommends adopting a 'runway' cost allocation approach. Under this approach, contingency FCAS costs are recovered in proportion to the size of the unit's dispatch, rather than total generation, resulting in a more cost-reflective allocation of costs.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback on the above proposals has now passed. The AEMC is planning to release its draft determination on 4 June 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Amending the Cumulative Price Threshold Methodology / CPT calculation during administered scheduled pricing</b>	<b>ERC0356 / ERC0374</b>
Proponent	Delta Electricity / Snowy Hydro	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date</a> : 16 October 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions</a> : 12 March 2026	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

### Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on two consolidated rule change requests 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 first request, from Delta Electricity, proposes changes to the methodology for calculating the CPT when one or more regions have reached the threshold. The second, from Snowy Hydro, proposes suspending the calculation of the CPT during periods when the market suspension pricing schedule (*MSPS*) is in use.

On 29 January 2025, the AEMC published a more preferable draft rule determination. The key elements are summarised below.

- **(use of settled prices for CPT calculation)** Consistent with Delta Electricity's request, the draft rule proposes that AEMO use received prices (rather than dispatch prices) to calculate CPT when a region is not under administered pricing but is exporting to a region that is. This change corrects the current misalignment where CPT can be reached based on higher dispatch prices despite generators receiving lower settled prices due to scaling under clause 3.14.2(e). Broadly, the AEMC considers this change would ensure that all regions are treated consistently regardless of the status of neighbouring regions.
- **(suspension of CPT calculation under MSPS)** Snowy Hydro proposes that, during periods when the market is suspended and the market suspension pricing schedule (*MSPS*) is in use, the calculation of the CPT should be suspended. The AEMC instead makes a more preferable draft rule, under which such intervals are excluded only when the market suspension is caused by underlying market stress, such as when an administered pricing period (*APP*) precedes a suspension. Where the suspension is caused solely by a technological failure of AEMO's systems, inputs based on the current MSPS would continue to apply. This departure ensures that the methodology is targeted to stress-driven events while avoiding unintended consequences during system-failure suspensions.

The AEMC notes that while both changes are expected to improve the efficiency and integrity of administered pricing mechanisms, the magnitude of benefits is difficult to quantify given the rarity of multi-region APPs and market-stress-induced suspensions. The AEMC is therefore seeking additional information (particularly from AEMO) on implementation costs, which may be significant.

Submissions on the draft determination are due by 12 March 2026, with the AEMC expecting to publish a final rule in April 2027.

[READ MORE HERE AND HERE.](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Enhancing access for registered participant representatives (Electricity)</b>	<b>ERC0415</b>
Proponent	AEMO	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date</a> : 9 October 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions</a> : Deadline passed (19 March 2026 )	
Stage	Consultation on Draft Determination	

### Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from AEMO to clarify and enable AEMO’s ability to disclose confidential information directly to authorised representatives of registered participants and other specified market entities, consistent with existing confidentiality obligations. The rule change request is expected to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen data security as AEMO upgrades the platforms by which it exchanges information with registered participants.

On 5 February, the AEMC published a more preferable draft rule determination. The draft rule proposes to:

- align the existing confidentiality obligations in the NER and NGR, such that Registered Participants and relevant disclosees must take appropriate precautions to ensure proposed recipients keep information confidential;
- allow AEMO to share confidential information directly with existing specific third parties (relevant disclosees specified in the NER/NGR), consistent with current confidentiality obligations;
- extend the obligation of Registered Participants to indemnify market bodies for loss suffered due to the acts or omissions of disclosees (regardless of whether AEMO or the Registered Participant disclosed the information);
- restrict Registered Participants from sharing log-in details to gain electronic access to National Metering Identifier (NMI) standing data with service providers; and
- require AEMO to develop procedures about how to manage the authority of relevant disclosees and access to AEMO databases.

A parallel rule change has been opened in respect of the NGR (GRC0087), which relies upon the same draft determination.

The AEMC sought stakeholder feedback and submissions by 19 March 2026. The final determination is scheduled for publication on 30 April 2026, with a view to AEMO making the relevant procedures by 1 March 2027.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Clarifying the treatment of jurisdictional policies and system costs in the ISP</b>	<b>ERC0406</b>
Proponent	Centre for Independent Studies	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 9 October 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> Deadline passed (6 November 2025)	
Stage	Preparation of draft determination	

#### Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request from the Centre for Independent Studies that seeks to improve the robustness and transparency of the Integrated System Plan (*ISP*) by clarifying how jurisdictional policies and system costs are treated in the ISP.

The proposed amendments include:

- **(baseline scenario without policy constraints)** requiring 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)** requiring 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)** requiring 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)** requiring 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)** requiring 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's consultation on the proposed rule change will include consideration as to whether the existing requirements on AEMO to consider policy uncertainty are sufficient to address this risk, and what objective assessment criteria could be used to assess a baseline scenario and 'plausible changes in government policies'. The AEMC is planning to release its draft determination on 16 April 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	Improving life support processes	RRC0064
Proponent	Essential Energy & SA Power Networks	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 31 July 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> Deadline passed (16 April 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, which aims to enhance the customer experience of those with life support equipment at their homes. The draft rule:

- **(update key definitions)** adds a definition of 'life support user' to the NER and enables medical practitioners to identify whether a life support user has a life-threatening condition, using a standardised medical confirmation form.
- **(streamline the registration and deregistration processes)** sets out increased obligations on retailers to streamline the registration process, including by proactively identifying life support needs at sign-up, applying strict timeframes for information sharing, notifying embedded network operators of registrations and updates and conducting annual checks to confirm ongoing needs. The draft rule also seeks improve the accuracy of the life support register by introducing penalties for failing to deregister customers on request, and allowing deregistration to be expedited with customer consent, reducing delay.
- **(improve communications with life support customers)** allows a secondary contact person and a preferred means of communication to be nominated on the medical confirmation form to help life support customers respond to unplanned and planned interruptions and retailers' annual checks.

Submissions on the draft determination were due by 16 April 2026, with AEMC expecting the final rule to commence on 1 December 2027.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Integrated distribution system planning</b>	<b>ERC0410</b>
Proponent	Energy Consumers Australia	
Key dates	<b>Initiation date:</b> 26 June 2025 <b>Deadline for submissions:</b> Deadline passed (13 November 2025)	
Stage	Preparation of draft determination	

### Summary of request

This rule change request proposes amendments to the NER to replace the current Distribution Annual Planning Report (*DAPR*) process with a new Integrated Distribution System Planning (*IDSP*) framework akin to the transmission Integrated System Planning (*ISP*) framework undertaken by AEMO. Energy Consumers Australia considers that the existing distribution network planning processes are not effective to integrate and co-ordinate the significant uptake of CER into the distribution network in the long term.

The proposed amendments include:

- **(integrated planning requirement)** replacing the five-yearly DAPR with a biennial IDSP, on an alternating cycle to the ISP, to increase the comprehensiveness of distribution planning, and create a more harmonised feedback loop between distribution and transmission planning;
- **(data use and roadmap)** requiring each distribution network service provider (*DNSP*) to prepare a Network Data and Insights Roadmap that sets out how the DNSP will meet the requirements of the IDSP process over an initial seven-year period. The roadmaps would be first published in July 2027;
- **(public access and transparency)** mandating greater transparency in relation to network utilisation metrics, including requiring data, modelling and the outputs of that modelling to be made publicly available by 1 July 2027 with increasing detail made available over time;
- **(additional benchmarking between distributors)** requiring the Australian Energy Regulator (the *AER*) to carry out additional benchmarking of the modelling and methodologies used by DNSPs to prepare their IDSPs, to identify best practice and assess compliance with reporting requirements;
- **(stakeholder engagement)** requiring DNSPs to engage with consumers, governments and service providers to inform planning and improve resilience; and
- **(forecasting and hosting capacity)** requiring DNSPs to forecast demand and CER growth over the next 20 years, for the purpose of assessing hosting capacity and constraints, and identifying the areas most in need of energy storage.

The AEMC's consultation paper sought feedback on 14 questions, including in relation to the shortcomings of the distribution annual planning process, whether there is a lack of consistency between modelling and stakeholder engagement practices across DNSPs, and whether the distribution and transmission planning processes should be integrated. Submissions were due by 24 July 2025.

On 16 October 2025, the AEMC published a directions paper which outlines three alternative policy options that can address the shortcomings identified in the current distribution and annual planning process. Submissions on the directions paper closed on 13 November 2025.

The AEMC has also extended the timeframe for publishing its draft determination to 23 April 2026, due to the complexity of the issues raised by this rule change request.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Establishing a regulatory framework for retail customer initiated gas abolishment (Retail)</b>	<b>RRC0068</b>
Proponent	Justice and Equity Centre	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 12 June 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> Deadline passed (15 January 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on draft determination	

#### Summary of request

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.

The AEMC published a draft determination on 30 October 2025. Submissions on the joint draft determination for this rule change request, and the rule change request in respect of the NGR, were due on 15 January 2026. The timing for making a final determination has been extended to 2 April 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Improving the NEM access standards – Package 2</b>	<b>ERC0394</b>
Proponent	AEMO and Rod Hughes Consulting	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date:</a> 8 May 2025 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions:</a> 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 rating);
  - 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 plant, 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 are due by 7 May 2026. The final determination is due to be published by mid to late 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

# Completed rule changes

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

There have been no final rule determinations since the last update.

## Other rules not yet commenced

Rule name	Real-time data for consumers	RRC0057	ERC0399
Proponent	Energy Consumers Australia		
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	Improving the application of concessions to bills	RRC0063
Amending rule	NER 2025 No. 5	
Date of final determination	25 September 2025	
Commencement date	1 July 2026 (Schedule 1) 2 October 2025 (Schedule 2)	

#### Details

The final rule seeks to ensure that consumers receive concessions and rebates for which they may be eligible for by shifting the onus onto retailers to ensure that applicable concessions and rebates are applied. Under the final rule, retailers are required to:

- proactively seek information from consumers in relation to their eligibility for various concessions and rebate schemes whenever establishing a new contract (subject to carve-outs for product-switching with the same retailer if the retailer is aware that the consumer is already receiving a concession, rebate or relief scheme, or if the retailer has asked the consumer about their eligibility within the last 30 days); and
- provide residential customers with information about all relevant concessions, rebates and relief schemes available in that customer's jurisdiction.

The rule provides flexibility in relation to the level of detail that must be provided. The final rule will commence on 1 July 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	Improving consumer confidence in retail energy plans	RRC0058
Amending rule	NER 2025 No.3	
Date of final determination	19 June 2025	
Commencement date	26 June 2025 (Schedule 3 and 4) 1 July 2026 (Schedule 1 and 2)	

#### Details

The final rule comprises four distinct components, each of which is summarised below:

- **(improving protections for customers on contracts with benefits that expire or change)** From 1 July 2026, customers cannot be charged more than the standing offer price if their benefits change or expire. Retailers are prevented from de-energising carry-over customers on deemed customer retail arrangements where they do not engage with the retailer. Retailers must notify affected customers of the new rules by 1 July 2026.
- **(removing unreasonable conditional penalties)** Customers with high discounts linked to payment conditions will receive their discount, even if they do not meet the payment condition, and customers with high fees linked to payment conditions will have their fees reduced to a reasonable level. Retailers must notify customers of changes in writing between 20 to 40 business days before they take effect.

- **(restricting price increases under market retail contracts)** Price increases under market contracts are restricted to once every 12 months (typically in July). If a contract fixes a period without price changes or decreases in energy payments, then the retailer must provide 20 business days' notice of a price change outside that period. Retailers must provide five business days' notice of any price increases or energy payment decreases for price increases or energy payment decreases that occur in the month of July.
- **(restricting fees and charges)** Retailers will no longer be able to charge fees (except network charges) to hardship customers, customers experiencing payment difficulties and customers experiencing family violence. Account establishment fees, special meter read fees at the start and end of contracts, and re-energisation and de-energisation fees are prohibited for all customers (excluding where those fees are network charges) and at least one free payment method must be offered to customers.

The final rule will commence on 1 July 2026. Retailers have 12 months to update their contracts accordingly and apply the discount unconditionally.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	Assisting hardship customers	RRC0060
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 (Schedules 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 MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	Accelerating smart meter deployment	RRC0052	ERC0378
Amending rule	NER 2024 No.20 NERR 2024 No.6		
Date of final determination	28 November 2024		
Commencement Date	5 December 2024 (NER Schedule 4) 1 June 2025 (NERR Schedule 1) 1 December 2025 (NER Schedule 1; NERR Schedules 2 and 3) 31 May 2026 (NER Schedule 3) 1 July 2026 (NER Schedule 2)		

#### Details

The final rule seeks to expedite the deployment of smart meters to all customers in the NEM by 2030 and to improve the metering framework. The final rule introduces two core reforms, implementing recommendations from the AEMC's Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services:

- **(accelerated deployment of smart meters)** The AEMC considers the deployment of smart meters is a cost-effective decarbonisation strategy, which also reduces the costs of meter reads and metering installations borne by consumers. To achieve the AEMC's objective of universal uptake of smart meters by 2030, the AEMC will implement transitional rules during an 'acceleration phase' from 2025 to 2030, which implements the Legacy Meter Replacement Plan framework. The final rule also obliges retailers to achieve the 2030 target and to report on their progress to the AER, which will be monitoring compliance.
- **(access to power quality data)** This second component involves an expansion of the consumer data access and control requirements in the NER and NERR to allow local DNSPs, the AER and AEMO to access 'basic power quality data' (as defined in the final rule) at no cost. It is intended to assist DNSPs to maximise CER hosting capacity, reduce line losses and minimise costs within the distribution network.

The final rule also implements four supporting reforms that introduce new customer safeguards, seek to improve customer experiences, reduce barriers to installation and enhance meter testing and inspection requirements.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

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 Retailer Reliability Obligation (**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	ERC0295
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 March 2026)

Rule name	Allowing AEMO to accept cash as credit support under the National Gas Rules	GRC0089
Proponent	Delta Electricity	
Key dates	<a href="#">Initiation date</a> : 26 March 2026 <a href="#">Deadline for submissions</a> : 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 AEMC published a consultation paper on 26 March 2026 and submissions were due by 3 April 2026. The AEMC expects to issue a draft determination on 9 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	<b>Initiation date:</b> 29 January 2026 <b>Deadline for submissions:</b> Deadline passed (26 February 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on consultation paper	

### Summary of request

The AEMC is consulting on a rule change request that seeks to formalise AEMO's cyber security functions and obligations under the NGR. The proponent considers that the growing digitisation and interconnectedness of the energy system has increased both the likelihood and potential consequences of cyber security incidents, and that the current NGR does not adequately recognise AEMO's role in managing these risks.

The rule change proposes to expand 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 proponent suggests that embedding cyber security as a statutory function would not only enable AEMO to recover the efficient costs of performing these activities, but also ensure AEMO benefits from the same liability immunity that applies to its other legislated functions.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback has now passed. The AEMC expects to release a draft determination by 7 May 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	Enhancing access for registered participant representatives (Gas)	GRC0087
Proponent	AEMO	
Key dates	<b>Initiation date:</b> 9 October 2025 <b>Deadline for submissions:</b> Deadline passed (19 March 2026)	
Stage	Consultation on Draft Determination	

### Summary of request

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.

The AEMC released its draft determination on 5 February 2026. Submissions were due on 19 March 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: 30 April 2026	
Stage	Preparation of draft determination	

#### 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 AEMC held a public forum on 9 April to discuss the directions paper and written submissions are due 30 April 2026. The AEMC aims to publish the draft determination on 27 August 2026.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>ECGS Supplier of last resort mechanism</b>	<b>GRC0077</b>
Proponent	Energy Senior Officials/Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources	
Key dates	<b>Initiation date:</b> 25 September 2025 <b>Deadline for submissions:</b> 23 April 2026	
Stage	Consultation on Draft Determination	

#### Summary of request

The more preferable draft rule proposes to replace the existing \$35 million trading fund and its associated rules with a supplier of last resort (*SoLR*) mechanism for the east coast gas system (*ECGS*) that would 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 draft rule are as follows:

- AEMO will only be able to contract for, and then activate, services once certain preconditions and triggers are met. The preconditions and triggers will be linked to the tiered risk or threat signalling framework set out in the ECGS Enhancing reliability and supply adequacy arrangements draft rule (GRC0076).
- The range of services for which AEMO may contract will include sale or supply of covered gas, pipeline services, storage of covered gas and administered demand response. Covered gas does not include LNG, but the AEMC may reconsider this in light of other ongoing reforms.
- AEMO must have regard to SoLR principles in how it administers the mechanism, including that AEMO must take the actions that it expects, acting reasonably, to have the least distortionary effect on the operation of the ECGS.
- SoLR contracts will be subject to an upper price limit (\$/GJ) for services, which is proposed to be set at the DWGM market price cap.
- AEMO will recover costs from the use of the SoLR mechanism, and distribute any proceeds, to 'relevant entities' in the ECGS at the location of the identified threat.
- AEMO will be subject to enhanced transparency and accountability measures, including being required to publish a set of notices to inform market participants when AEMO establishes, activates and ceases to use the SoLR mechanism. The draft rule also requires AEMO to make, review and update relevant ECGS procedures and guidelines.

The AEMC is seeking feedback on the draft determination and more preferable draft rule. Submissions are due by 23 April 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

<b>Rule name</b>	<b>Establishing a regulatory framework for retail customer initiated gas abolishment</b>	<b>GRC0086</b>
Proponent	Justice and Equity Centre	
Key dates	<b>Initiation date:</b> 12 June 2025 <b>Deadline for submissions:</b> Deadline passed (15 January 2026)	
Stage	Preparation of final determination	

#### Summary of request

This rule change request proposes amendments to the NGR and NERR to establish a clear regulatory framework for gas disconnections (both temporary disconnection and permanent abolishment) and associated remediation services. The existing rules are 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 proposed amendments include clear definitions for disconnection services, a minimum safe service standard, and providing for jurisdictions to elect for permanent disconnection services and remediation services to be contestable services.

The AEMC published its draft determination and draft rule on 30 October 2025. The AEMC decided to make a more preferable draft gas rule and retail rule, introducing a new framework for customer-initiated gas abolishment services and providing clarity on disconnection and abolishment services through new information requirements in the NGR and NERR.

The new framework would 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 would accommodate 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.

The deadline for stakeholder feedback on the draft determination has now passed. A parallel rule change has been opened in respect of the NERR (RRC0068), which relies upon the same draft determination. The AEMC extended the publication of the final determination to 2 April 2026 due to the complexity of the issues being raised.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	ECGS Projected Assessment of System Adequacy	GRC0080
Proponent	Energy Senior Officials on behalf of the ECMC and the Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP	
Key dates	<b>Initiation date:</b> 10 April 2025 <b>Deadline for submissions:</b> Deadline passed (28 August 2025)	
Stage	Preparation of final determination	

#### Summary of request

This rule change request proposes to amend the NGR to introduce both short-term (7 day outlook) and medium-term (12 month outlook) projected assessments of system adequacy for the ECGS. This rule change request forms part of a suite of reforms that seek to improve the reliability and supply adequacy of the ECGS.

The aim of the reliability and supply adequacy forecasts, which would be produced by AEMO on a rolling basis, is to provide a high-quality, systematically produced suite of information on gas supply, demand, and transport capability in the ECGS. The rule change proponents submit that the proposed forecasting mechanism will enhance stakeholders' ability to plan for gas supply shortfalls and emerging adequacy issues.

According to the feasibility assessment prepared by AEMO, existing data provided under parts 18-20 and 27 of the NGR would be largely sufficient in order for AEMO to produce the short-term and medium-term projected assessment of system adequacy reports, but some enhancements would be required to address specific data gaps and quality issues.

The AEMC published a draft determination on 17 July 2025. Submissions on the draft determination were due on 28 August 2025. The AEMC is working towards the publication of a final determination on 25 June 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

Rule name	ECGS Enhancing reliability and supply adequacy arrangements	GRC0076
Proponent	Energy Senior Officials, Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources	
Key dates	Initiation date: 20 March 2025 Deadline for submissions: 9 April 2026	
Stage	Consultation on Draft Determination	

### Summary of request

This rule change request proposes building a new reliability standard for the ECGS and a review of market price settings to enable more timely, informed and efficient market responses to threats in the ECGS. On 26 February 2026, the AEMC published a draft determination and more preferable draft rule, which proposes three key changes:

- **(a risk or threat signalling framework)** the introduction of a more 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 would require the publication of more granular and timely information on the likelihood, severity, timing and location of potential supply shortfalls, supporting proportionate, market-led responses and reducing reliance on last-resort interventions;
- **(new governance arrangements for market settings reviews)** the establishment of a Gas Reliability Committee (*GRC*) every four years to review the declared wholesale gas market and short-term trading market settings, subject to terms of reference and processes set out in the draft rule. The GRC would include representatives from the AEMC, AEMO and Registered Participants to support structured industry and consumer input; and
- **(enhancements to AEMO's GSOO and Victorian Gas Planning Report)** the enhancement of existing reports to include information about the likelihood of forecast supply shortfalls and, where reasonably practicable, a more granular regional assessment of gas supply adequacy (for the GSOO). In addition, AEMO would consult on and publish its gas supply adequacy assessment methodology.

The AEMC considered, but did not progress, the introduction of a reliability standard for the ECGS, as proposed in the original rule change request. The AEMC considered that a reliability standard would not be effective or proportionate, and would be misaligned with the National Gas Objective given its limited suitability for addressing short-term demand-supply imbalances.

The AEMC is seeking feedback on the draft determination and more preferable draft rule, with submissions due by 9 April 2026. The AEMC has extended the timeframe for its final determination to 25 June 2026.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

## Completed rule changes

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

There have been no final rule determinations since the last update.

## Other rules not yet commenced

Rule name	Updating the regulatory framework for gas connections	GRC0085
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 liquefied natural gas (**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

## Contacts



Kate Axup  
Partner, Melbourne

T +61 3 9613 8449  
Kate.Axup@allens.com.au



Andrew Mansour  
Partner, Sydney

T +61 2 9230 4552  
Andrew.Mansour@allens.com.au



Jodi Reinmuth  
Partner, Perth

T +61 8 9488 3702  
Jodi.Reinmuth@allens.com.au



Melissa Keane  
Partner, Melbourne

T +61 3 9613 8806  
Melissa.Keane@allens.com.au



Karla Drinkwater  
Partner, Brisbane

T +61 7 3334 3337  
Karla.Drinkwater@allens.com.au



Louis Chiam  
Partner, Melbourne

T +61 3 9613 8867  
Louis.Chiam@allens.com.au



Danielle Jones  
Partner, Sydney

T +61 2 9230 4309  
Danielle.Jones@allens.com.au



Jacqui Rowell  
Partner, Perth

T +61 8 9488 3836  
Jacqui.Rowell@allens.com.au

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