

## Evaluation criteria for the Consumer Trustee

Section 60(1) of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (NSW) (EII Act) requires the Minister for Energy and Environment to appoint a Consumer Trustee. The Consumer Trustee must act independently and in the long term-financial interests of NSW electricity consumers. It will play a crucial role in planning for levels of investment in generation, firming, storage and transmission over time; authorising network infrastructure projects; administering tenders to identify the best generation, firming and storage projects; and designing long term energy service agreements to encourage new generation and storage investment.

To assist the Minister's decision, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (the Department) evaluation is being guided by three strategic principles:

1. Minimise establishment time and costs.
2. Minimise duplication, fragmentation and conflicts.
3. Support the National Electricity Market.

The Consumer Trustee could be one of the following: an existing national market body; an existing NSW Government body; a new NSW Government body; a new body under the umbrella of an existing national body; an existing energy market participant; or an existing financial institution. The Department is evaluating candidates against six criteria:

- **Independence:** Independence from government or other interested parties is critical to delivering for consumers and maintaining the confidence of stakeholders.
- **Conflicts of interest:** Potential conflicts of interest must be minimised or mitigated. Stakeholders must have confidence in the Consumer Trustee's impartial decision making.
- **Industry and market knowledge:** The Consumer Trustee's accountabilities will span a wide range of industries and markets
  - **Electricity industry** – it must have a deep, wholistic understanding of the electricity system, including the systemic issues facing the national electricity system and market.
  - **Infrastructure procurement industry** –it must have an appreciation of the challenges in a globally competitive environment in which the major players operate.
  - **Financial and capital markets** – it must deliver consumer cost benefits through lower electricity prices, optimal scheme costs, and effective underwriting of procurements.
- **Financial and commercial acumen:** The Consumer Trustee must negotiate large, complex commercial transactions with global investors and construction consortiums.
- **Financial stability:** The Consumer Trustee's other operations (if any) must not adversely affect the delivery of its statutory duties under the EII Act.
- **Culture, governance and values:** The Consumer Trustee must have a credible, trusted and professional culture, prioritising strong stakeholder relationships, particularly with investors whose capital will fund the infrastructure. Its governance and values must ensure all statutory duties are delivered consistent with the EII Act's objects.

## Stay up to date on the Roadmap

The Department continues to work with industry and community stakeholders on the detailed design and implementation of the Roadmap. Further information on the Consumer Trustee, its functions, and tenders for Long Term Energy Service Agreements will be released in due course.

For the latest updates, or to join the Roadmap's mailing list, please visit the [Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap webpage](#).