

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

# Draft Network-to-Network Connection Guidelines – Consultation Paper

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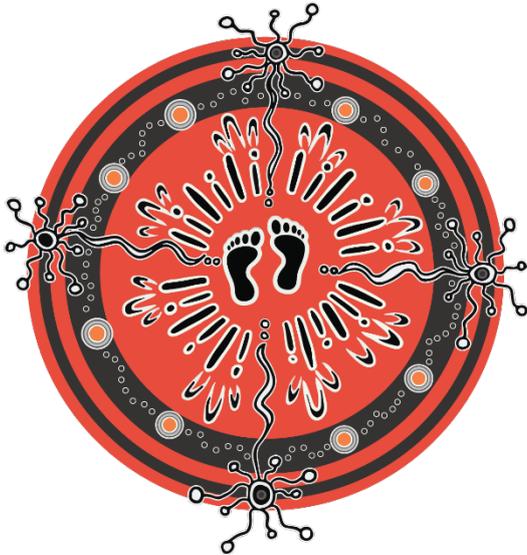
Supporting the delivery of the NSW Government's  
Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

March 2026



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# Acknowledgement of Country



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society.

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.

Draft Network-to-Network Connection Guidelines – Consultation Paper

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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this consultation paper is to seek stakeholder views on proposed reforms to improve the network-to-network electricity infrastructure connection process in New South Wales (NSW).

This consultation paper:

- outlines recommendations from the Transmission Planning Review and subsequent amendments to the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*
- explains the approach adopted in the Draft Network-to-Network Connection Guidelines and invites feedback on the Draft Guidelines
- invites feedback on the proposed approach to derogations from the National Electricity Rules (NER) to align with and support the Draft Guidelines
- invites feedback on the proposed approach to a new licence condition, to be applied to transmission and distribution network operators licensed under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) will consider and incorporate stakeholder feedback and the final Guidelines will then be published by the Minister for Energy.

Stakeholder feedback will also inform the development of regulations under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* which will be used to modify or disallow specific provisions of the NER in order to create a streamlined regulatory framework.

Stakeholder feedback will also inform the licence condition to be imposed by the Minister on transmission and distribution network operators under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

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## 1.2 Context

The energy sector is undergoing an unprecedented transition. Around 7GW of coal fired generation capacity is expected to exit the NSW energy market by 2033, creating an urgent need to replace this ageing infrastructure with new generation capacity, supported by storage and network infrastructure to maintain a reliable electricity supply.

In 2020, the NSW Government introduced the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (Roadmap) and its enabling legislation, the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (EII Act), to ensure the affordable, reliable, secure and sustainable supply of electricity. This included legislated targets of at least 12 gigawatts of new renewable energy generation capacity and 16 gigawatt hours / two gigawatts of capacity of long duration storage by 2030. In addition, the EII Act provides for a target of at least 28 gigawatt hours of long duration storage by 2034.

Achieving these targets will require a step-change in the delivery of new network infrastructure in NSW. To facilitate this, the EII Act provides for the contestable delivery of renewable energy zone network infrastructure projects (RNIPs) and priority network infrastructure projects (PNIPs).

Contestable procurement was first implemented in 2022 when a new network operator (ACEREZ) was selected, following a competitive process, to undertake the Central-West Orana REZ.

Other new projects and augmentations will need to connect to existing REZ, transmission and/or distribution networks, and may require existing network operators to undertake enabling works to support these new connections. This includes the New England REZ which is at an advanced staged of planning and procurement.

The current connection process in Chapter 5 of the NER is not well suited to network-to-network connections, having been developed primarily to support the connection of generators and loads. It was also not designed to support a contestable process, including the role of the Infrastructure Planner which, under the EII Act, is responsible for undertaking early project planning prior to the selection of the network operator which will deliver an RNIP or PNIP.

The process of negotiating connection arrangements for the CWO REZ presented challenges and prompted recognition of the need to improve the current network-to-network connection regime. Issues relating to network-to-network connections were examined by the Transmission Planning Review (TPR)<sup>1</sup>, a process established by the Minister for Energy in response to a recommendation in the Electricity Supply and Reliability Check Up conducted by Marsden Jacobs.<sup>2</sup>

The TPR Final Report recommended a stronger network-to-network connections regime, including:

- An obligation on network operators to negotiate in good faith to facilitate network-to-network connections on reasonable terms.
- Clear processes and timeframes for connecting new networks to existing network infrastructure.
- Enhanced joint planning processes between network operators and Energy Corporation of New South Wales (EnergyCo)<sup>3</sup> in relation to network connections, including enhanced obligations to provide information to each other to inform their respective functions.
- A mechanism for EnergyCo to commence negotiations on network-to-network connections in relation to a proposed project prior to the appointment of a preferred network operator for that project.
- Publication of template agreements and technical requirements for network-to-network connections.
- A mechanism to resolve disputes.
- Powers for a suitable body such as IPART to enforce compliance with these requirements.

The NSW Government has accepted the TPR's recommendations and in November 2025 amended the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* (ES Act) to empower the Minister to issue Network-to-network Connection Guidelines and impose licence conditions in relation to them.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/regulation-and-policy/nsw-transmission-planning-review-2025](http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/regulation-and-policy/nsw-transmission-planning-review-2025).

<sup>2</sup> Marsden Jacob Associates, *NSW Electricity Supply and Reliability Check Up*, 4 August 2023, p14.

<sup>3</sup> EnergyCo is the Infrastructure Planner responsible for leading the delivery of the first five REZs under the EII Act and for PNIPs such as the Waratah Super Battery and Hunter Transmission Project.

A new section (s192C) in the ES Act provides that the Guidelines may include the following:

- a) principles for conducting and engaging in the planning, negotiation and delivery of network-to-network connections,
- b) processes and requirements for —
  - i. the planning, negotiation and delivery of network-to-network connections,
  - ii. information sharing for the purposes of planning, negotiating and delivering network-to-network connections,
  - iii. compliance and dispute resolution,
- c) requirements that apply in relation to specific network-to-network connections (*project-specific schedules*), including planning, procurement and delivery milestones,
- d) processes for developing and amending project-specific schedules,
- e) standard templates for agreements and documents relating to network-to-network connections,
- f) other matters relating to network-to-network connections that the Minister considers necessary.

The NSW Government has now prepared draft Network-to-Network Connection Guidelines and invites stakeholders to provide feedback on any aspect of the Draft Guidelines.

We also seek feedback on the proposed licence condition which will require licensed network operators to comply with the Guidelines.

Finally, we seek input on what provisions of the NER should be modified or disallowed to create a streamlined regulatory framework.

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## 2 Approach to the Guidelines

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### 2.1 Application of Guidelines

The proposed approach is for the Guidelines to apply to RNIPs and PNIPs progressed under the EII Act which involve new or augmented connections between networks. Such projects involve a role for the Infrastructure Planner which is not contemplated in Chapter 5 of the NER.

The Draft Guidelines address this by enabling the Infrastructure Planner to commence the network-to-network connection planning process before a network operator has been selected to undertake the project. By contrast, non-EII Act projects can progress under the existing NER framework: the NSW Government does not wish to alter those existing processes.

Licensed transmission and distribution operators will be required to comply with the Guidelines under a new licence condition to be imposed by the Minister for Energy. As set out in the draft Guidelines, the Infrastructure Planner will enliven the application of the Guidelines to a given project by issuing a notification to one or more relevant parties (clause 9.1). The Infrastructure Planner will also notify each party when the network-to-network connection project is complete and the notification is no longer in effect (clause 9.8).

The Guidelines will apply to new projects progressed under the EII Act and to projects (such as the New England REZ) which are already in planning. The Guidelines will not apply to projects with connection agreements already in place (e.g. the existing connection agreement between Transgrid and ACEREZ for the CWO REZ).

In relation to augmentations that build on an existing EII Act project (with a connection agreement already in place), the Draft Guidelines adopt a flexible approach. Clause 9.4 of the Draft Guidelines enables the Infrastructure Planner to confer with the network operators involved to assess whether existing arrangements for progressing the augmentation are adequate, or whether application of the Guidelines (in part or in whole) could support the process.

For example, the timing and working group aspects of the Guidelines may help support timely delivery of the augmentation, even if the pro forma agreements are not needed given that a connection agreement is already in place.

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### 2.2 Approach underpinning the Guidelines

The Draft Guidelines recognise that each network-to-network connection project (the connection of a new EII Act project and existing network infrastructure) is different in scale and complexity. As such, it is not possible to develop a “one size fits all” approach that is suitable for all projects. Prescribing uniform processes and timeframes for all projects would not accommodate project specific issues and needs. Instead, the Guidelines set out a process which can be adapted to suit the specific characteristics of each project.

The process includes establishing a work group for each project whose role is to develop a “Project-specific Schedule”. This is a high-level timetable for planning, procuring and delivering each project. The Project-specific Schedule is in turn supported by a more detailed work program, setting out the

work required to undertake technical studies and options analysis, and the development of draft agreements required to facilitate the project, including any competitive selection process.

The Draft Guidelines seek to provide a common sense, collaborative approach that supports timely and efficient project delivery. They include a set of principles with which the parties are to comply (clause 6). These are designed to promote an approach underpinned by:

- early collaboration, engaging in good faith, sharing information in a timely manner
- arrangements that are consistent with the safe and reliable operation of the integrated power system and good electricity industry practice
- upholding arrangements already agreed (to avoid inefficient reworking and project delays).

The Draft Guidelines are designed to sit alongside existing regulatory frameworks, addressing known issues and gaps without creating a complex duplicate framework. Mindful of the fact that network operators will need to comply with both the NER and the Guidelines, the Guidelines are designed to align with key elements of the NER. For example, the dispute resolution provisions are based on NER Rule 5.5 and the information sharing requirements are based on NER Rule 8.6. They do not prescribe a new cost recovery process as this is already covered by either the EII Act or the NER.

Targeted derogations from the NER in relation to network-to-network connection matters will be made via a regulation under the ES Act (supported by the new head of power in s192B of the ES Act). Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the NER clauses that should be modified or disallowed to create a streamlined network-to-network connection framework which supports the Guidelines while avoiding inconsistencies with the NER. (This is discussed further in section 4.)

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## 2.3 Key steps in the Guidelines process

The Draft Guidelines set out a process which covers the steps required to plan for and deliver each network-to-network connection project, including:

- early project planning and development of draft agreements to inform a selection process,
- negotiations with the preferred candidate identified by that selection process,
- finalisation of contractual arrangements with the connecting network operator (once appointed),
- delivery of the project.

This process is depicted below and shows how the parties involved in the process evolve as the project progresses, and how the various elements of the regulatory framework (including the NER and Guidelines) fit together.

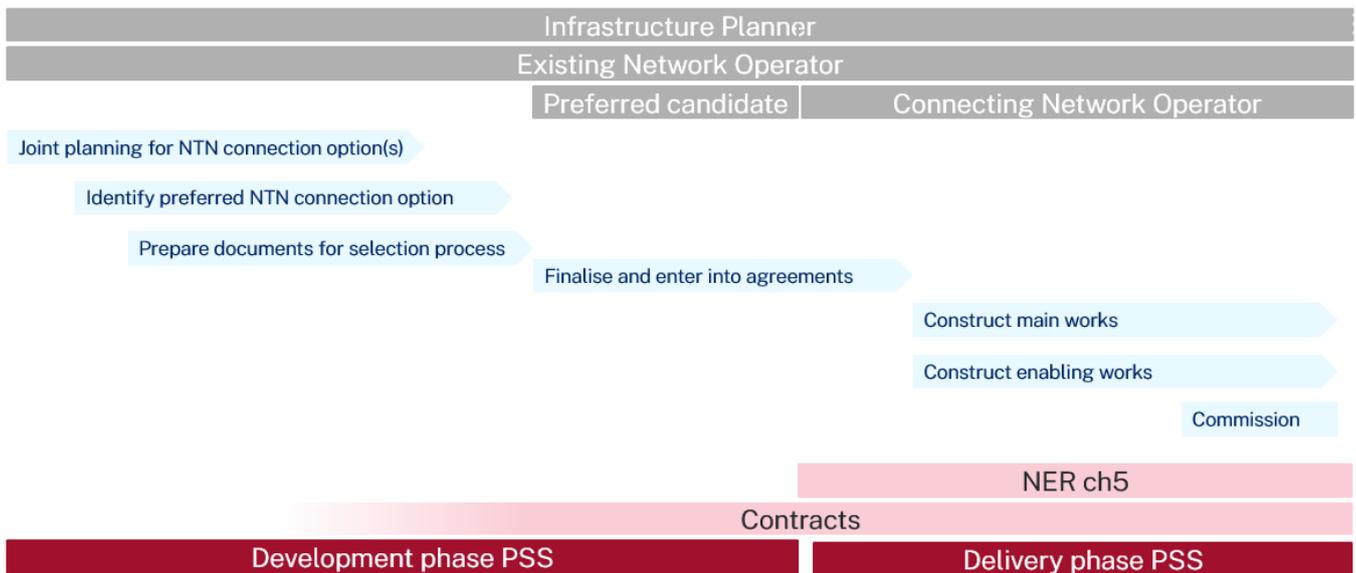


Figure 1: steps in planning and delivering network-to-network connection projects.

The Guidelines set out the following key steps:

- The Infrastructure Planner activates the Guidelines by issuing a notification under clause 9. This sets out the proposed nature, location, capacity, asset ownership and operational boundaries of the proposed network-to-network connection interface/s (to extent known).
- A working group is set up involving the Infrastructure Planner and existing network operator in the early stages; the preferred candidate/connecting network operator will join the group once selected.
- The working group can be an existing group, and subject matter experts can augment the core group as needed. The working group may also include any other third party that all parties agree should be invited to join.
- The working group develops a *development phase project-specific schedule (PSS)* which is a high level “plan to plan”, setting out the timeframe for planning, design and procurement stages. Where possible, the milestones in the PSS are negotiated and agreed by the parties. Where the parties cannot agree, the schedule will be finalised by the Minister, having regard for the views of the parties.
- Once the schedule is issued by the Minister it becomes binding on the parties, creating a means to hold all parties to account to deliver the project to the agreed timetable. This approach has been adopted because timely delivery of EII Act projects is critical to maintain electricity reliability as coal plants exit the market.
- The working group then develops the more granular *work program* which is to be signed by executives of each party (rather than issued by the Minister). Unlike the PSS, the timeframes in the work program are not enforceable milestones, recognising that large electricity projects are complex and timeframes (particularly more granular programs of work) may need to be adjusted as the project progresses. However, adhering to the work program will be an important means to ensure that the parties can comply with the timetable set out in the high level (and binding) project-specific schedule.

- Once the work program is in place, the working group then oversees the required analysis and develops the proposed approach to the project. This may include assessing interface options, undertaking grid studies, identifying the preferred option, developing technical specifications and draft commercial agreements for use in a competitive selection process.
- The Infrastructure Planner then undertakes the selection process and selects the “preferred candidate” which later becomes the “connecting network operator” when appointed, authorised or directed under the EII Act.
- Once the connecting network operator is appointed, authorised or directed under the EII Act, the parties then move into the delivery phase. The first step is to prepare a *delivery phase project-specific schedule* which sets the timeline for finalising contract negotiations and delivering the project. This again is issued by the Minister and becomes binding on the parties.
- Contractual negotiations then take place between the parties with the Infrastructure Planner playing a supervisory role.
- Once the parties finalise and enter into the contracts, reaching contractual close, and an AER revenue determination is issued, financial close can occur.
- The parties then deliver the project in line with the contractual arrangements (which are consistent with the timeframes set out in the delivery phase PSS; this ensures critical projects are delivered in time to maintain a reliable electricity supply as coal exits the market).

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## 2.4 Contract negotiation

The Guidelines include a number of measures that are designed to help create a more level playing field between existing (incumbent) and new (“connecting”) network operators. These include:

- Pro forma agreements which are issued by the Minister on advice of the Infrastructure Planner. These build on experience to date and are designed to facilitate a fair allocation of risks, responsibilities and liability as between the parties. They provide a starting point for negotiations and do not dictate the details of the agreements ultimately negotiated by the parties in accordance with the Guidelines.
- Principles (set out in clause 6) with which the parties must comply.
- A requirement for negotiations to take place via the working group. This will facilitate coordination, noting each project is likely to involve agreements between:
  - the Infrastructure Planner and existing network operator
  - the Infrastructure Planner and connecting network operator
  - the existing network operator and connecting network operator
- A requirement for contract terms and conditions to be fair and reasonable (consistent with the NER in relation to connection agreements) and examples of the type of terms that may be considered unfair.

In addition to facilitating coordination, the requirement that contracts be negotiated via the working group enables the Infrastructure Planner to play a supervisory role, thereby helping to ensure that the terms negotiated by the parties are “fair and reasonable” (as required by the NER).

The Department is aware that connection applicants rarely raise a dispute in relation to the terms of connection agreements. This reflects the reality of the power imbalance between the parties, with the incumbent network operator effectively having monopoly power and the connection applicant being entirely reliant on the incumbent network operator and an ongoing collaborative relationship with it. It is important that this dynamic does not result in terms that unreasonably favour one party over the other. This could lead to inefficient outcomes that are not in the best interests of NSW electricity consumers.

Clause 13.6 of the Draft Guidelines sets out a non-exhaustive list of examples of contractual provisions that may be considered unfair. These are to be read in light of the test in clause 13.5. Importantly, that test acknowledges that a contractual provision can protect the legitimate interests of one party so long as that is reasonably necessary, and either does not cause a significant imbalance or would not cause detriment to the other party.

The examples in clause 13.6 apply equally to both parties and do not give either network operator an advantage over the other. They are designed to ensure that obligations and liabilities between parties are more reciprocal and fairer – rather than being one-sided and unequal. (This is different to the unfair contract terms in the consumer context, where only the consumer is protected.)

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## 2.5 Dispute resolution

The approach in the Draft Guidelines to dispute resolution is designed to be pragmatic and time efficient. Wherever possible, the Guidelines seek to adopt a collaborative approach, with the parties working together to reach agreement, come up with solutions to problems, and keep projects progressing to schedule. Lengthy dispute resolution processes will not support the timely delivery of projects that are critical to maintaining a reliable and affordable electricity supply.

In the first instance, if the working group cannot agree on a technical or commercial matter, the matter is to be elevated to direct discussion between executives of each party. If the matter is still not resolved, any party (including the Infrastructure Planner) can invoke the dispute resolution mechanism in the Guidelines (which is based on rule 5.5 of the NER).

If this process is triggered, an independent expert will be appointed to determine the matter. The determination is to be made within 30 business days (or such other period, not exceeding 60 business days, as all the parties agree) and is binding on the parties.

All disputes relating to network-to-network connection projects will be dealt with under the Guidelines. This will avoid split forums which could arise if some disputes proceed under the Guidelines and some (e.g. concerning the connection agreement) proceed under the NER. This will be given effect via a regulation under the ES Act which will be used to modify or disallow certain NER provisions.

To facilitate a timely and efficient process, the dispute resolution mechanism will not be available with respect to all matters dealt with under the Guidelines. The following carve outs will apply:

- Where the parties cannot agree on the contents of a Project-specific Schedule (including via executive level discussions), the Minister will determine the matter (having regard for the parties' views) and issue the Schedule.
  - Where the parties cannot agree on the content of the work program, this is to be resolved by direct discussion between executives and is not to go to dispute resolution.
  - Where matters relating to information sharing cannot be resolved through direct discussion, the matter should be referred to the Tribunal, the Infrastructure Planner or the Secretary of the Department as a compliance matter under the Guidelines.
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## 2.6 Compliance

The Guidelines require each of the parties involved in delivering EII Act projects (the Infrastructure Planner, existing network operator and preferred candidate/connecting network operator) to take all reasonable steps to comply with the Guidelines, including meeting any timelines set out in a Project-specific Schedule: clause 17.1. This is reiterated in the principles which require the parties to take all reasonable steps to meet timelines required for the network-to-network connection project: clause 6.1(g).

The NSW Government recognises that incumbent network operators have a number of competing priorities and are required to respond to connection applications from a range of stakeholders. Nonetheless, there is a need to prioritise and resource critical EII Act projects which are essential to maintaining a reliable and affordable electricity supply.

To ensure timely delivery of these projects, the Government considers that it is appropriate to require all parties to comply with project timeframes via the Guidelines.

The approach to compliance is designed to be proactive and proportionate. It includes:

- an obligation to self-report and develop a cure plan to prevent an anticipated breach or respond to an actual breach of the Guidelines or a Project-specific Schedule
- a party concerned about a potential breach by another party can seek information, raise the matter with the working group, and escalate to direct discussion if required
- if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, a party can notify the relevant authority which can then take such action as is appropriate in the circumstances.

Given the different characteristics of each party, the approach to enforcement will vary:

- Licensed network operators will be bound to comply with the Guidelines via their network operator licence under the ES Act. IPART is responsible for overseeing licence compliance.
- Preferred candidates and connecting network operators (until such time as they are licensed under the ES Act) will be required to comply with the Guidelines under their contractual arrangements with the Infrastructure Planner.
- The Infrastructure Planner will be required to comply with the Guidelines by the Minister (the Infrastructure Planner is subject to Ministerial direction and control under s63(8) of the EII Act).

In developing the approach to compliance, the Department considered whether to allow some leeway to accommodate time overruns. The Department understands that, particularly with large, complex projects, unforeseen issues arise and delays occur. However, providing some leeway – for

example, not taking compliance action if the delay in achieving a PSS milestone is less than 10 days – effectively just means that the compliance framework shifts back by 10 days: there will still be a point at which a breach occurs.

The Department also considered whether to introduce the concept of a *material* breach versus a *technical* or non-material breach. This approach has not been adopted because it introduces uncertainty as to what constitutes a material breach. It also weakens the framework generally and creates a risk that a series of more minor breaches will add up to material delays that will put the project behind schedule. Given the criticality of EII Act projects to maintaining a reliable electricity supply, such an approach is not considered appropriate.

Instead, the approach in the Guidelines is that the parties will work together to develop a timeframe (to be set out in the PSS) that is realistic and can be met.<sup>4</sup> This process will need to include contingencies and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to support achievement of the agreed timetable (supported by the more granular work program). The parties are then held to account to deliver against that timetable.

The Guidelines distinguish between the development phase PSS and delivery phase PSS, recognising that the time required to deliver a project will not be certain in the early planning phase (meaning it will not be possible to set accurate project delivery milestones).

In most cases, the development phase PSS is developed by the Infrastructure Planner and the incumbent network operator. It sets out milestones for planning and procurement, up to and including the point when the connecting network operator is appointed and the parties agree on timeframes to be included in the delivery phase PSS.

The delivery phase PSS sets out dates for finalising contractual arrangements, the revenue determination process, contract close and project delivery (i.e. the date by when a network-to-network connection project must be energised and commissioned). The delivery date in the PSS will set the timeframes in the contractual arrangements between the parties: delivery dates in contractual arrangements may be earlier than but not later than the dates set out in the delivery phase PSS. In this way, the Minister – via the PSS – can help ensure that critical projects are delivered on time.

The NSW Government recognises that contractual arrangements for complex projects include extension of time and force majeure mechanisms. Where milestones in a delivery phase PSS correspond with milestones set out in contractual arrangements to which the Infrastructure Planner is a party, the milestone dates set out in the delivery phase PSS may be adjusted in line with those contractual arrangements (taking a similar approach to that used in the EII Act direction for the Waratah Super Battery).

This acknowledges that complex projects may experience delays, which must be managed in accordance with the contractual arrangements, while proscribing delays which are not contemplated under relevant contractual arrangements.

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<sup>4</sup> As noted previously, wherever possible, the Project-specific Schedule should be agreed by the parties through a collaborative process. However, where the parties cannot agree, this will be determined by the Minister, having regard for the parties' views.

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## 3 Pro forma agreements

A number of pro forma agreements will be prepared by the Infrastructure Planner, based on experience with previous projects, and issued by the Minister to provide a starting point for negotiations between the parties.

The final allocation of risks and liabilities etc will be resolved by negotiations between the Parties in accordance with the Guidelines, including the principles in clause 6 and the test in clause 13 (regarding fair terms).

Pro forma agreements are expected to include:

- Network connection agreement
- Line crossing agreement
- Construction interface agreement
- Provisions for inclusion in project or delivery agreements between network operators and the Infrastructure Planner.

Energy Co is preparing pro forma agreements and intends to release them for stakeholder feedback at a later date. This approach has been adopted because Energy Co, as the Infrastructure Planner for the New England REZ, is currently undertaking procurement processes for contestable and non-contestable network infrastructure which includes network-to-network connections. To avoid impacts on those procurement processes, consultation regarding the pro-forma agreements will occur after the existing and potential network operators involved in the procurement processes have provided firm positions on the proposed agreements for the network-to-network connections.

Stakeholders will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the pro forma agreements (noting that they do not prescribe final positions regarding risk allocation etc) before they are issued by the Minister.

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## 4 Relationship with the NER

As noted earlier, the NSW Government proposes to modify or disallow select provisions of the NER to create a streamlined network-to-network connection framework which supports the Guidelines while avoiding inconsistencies with the NER. Conscious that network businesses will continue to comply with the NER in relation to non-EII Act projects, and that the NER continue to evolve, we wish to avoid creating a duplicate regulatory framework.

Accordingly, we propose to make minimal derogations – for example, disallowing clauses relating to the connection enquiry process but preserving the operation of clauses relating to the connection application and agreement. This will allow the early planning phase of a network-to-network connection project to proceed under the Guidelines, and “join” the NER framework at the point when a connection application is ready to be submitted under the NER.

It is also envisaged that the dispute resolution process in the NER will be disapplied in relation to connection agreements so that disputes relating to network-to-network connections can be resolved via the process set out in the Draft Guidelines, rather than under the NER. This will enable all disputes relating to a network-to-network connection project to be heard in a single forum.

The proposed approach to derogations will leave intact the majority of the framework in chapter 5 of the NER, including technical matters set out in the schedules to that chapter. While some of these requirements may not be relevant to network-to-network connections, others remain vitally important (e.g. the requirements relating to stability in S5.1.8).

We seek stakeholder input regarding what provisions of the NER should be modified or disallowed to create a streamlined, consistent regulatory framework for network-to-network connections.

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## 5 Network operator licence regime

The Minister for Energy may grant, transfer or cancel a licence for the distribution or transmission of electricity in NSW under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*. Ausgrid, ACERZ, Endeavour Energy, Essential Energy and Transgrid each hold an operating licence in NSW at present. These licences include conditions covering matters such as consumer protection and network reliability. They do not currently include conditions relating to network-to-network connection.

Schedule 2 of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* provides guidance on the conditions the Minister may impose in an electricity network operating licence. Following amendments made in November 2025, clause 6(2)(j) now empowers the Minister to impose a condition requiring the holder of the licence to comply with the network-to-network connection guidelines (which the Minister has power to issue under s192C of the Act).

Schedule 2 of the ES Act also sets out the process the Minister must follow to impose or vary a condition of a licence. This process involves providing the licence holder with notice of a proposed change and an opportunity to make submissions on the proposed change: clause 9. The Minister (being the Minister for Energy) is also required to consult with such other Ministers as the Minister considers appropriate before imposing or varying licence conditions: clause 6(9) and 7(2).

Set out below is the proposed condition which would be imposed on transmission and distribution licences:

*The Licence Holder must comply with the Network-to-network Connection Guidelines, including any associated Project-specific Schedule(s).*

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on this proposed wording.

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## 6 Next steps

We seek your feedback by **14 April 2026**.

Your feedback will inform the final Guidelines (scheduled for publication in April), the licence condition imposed on network operators, and the approach to NER derogations.

Feedback should be provided by email to [energy.consult@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:energy.consult@dpie.nsw.gov.au).

If any part of your feedback is confidential, please identify this information and provide reasons. We may need to release confidential information by law, for example, to comply with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. For more information, please visit DCCEEW's information access page here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew/information-access-governance-and-feedback>.