WHAT THE RULE IS ABOUT
This new rule provides clear boundaries for negotiations to connect new generators to the power system.

Generators without technical capabilities to support system security can’t connect.

Generators must negotiate with AEMO and networks to match their technical capabilities to local power system needs.

Generators with technical capabilities to support system security are able to connect no matter where they are located.

MATCHING TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO LOCAL SYSTEM NEEDS
Generators that don’t meet ‘automatic’ access standards must negotiate with networks and the market operator, AEMO, to agree on what technical capabilities they need to bring when they connect. This depends on power system conditions in the local area such as levels of system strength and inertia, and the mix of network and generation equipment.

The rule:
- sets clearer roles and responsibilities so all parties - generators, networks and AEMO - know what they have to do when negotiating
- sets clearer goal posts for ‘minimum’ and ‘automatic’ access standards
- tightens some standards where needed

This flexible approach to setting standards enables targeted, least cost ways of connecting new generation.

OTHER WORK UNDERWAY
This rule change addresses the Finkel Panel recommendation to update generator connection standards.

It is also part of the AEMC’s security and reliability action plan to ensure AEMO has the tools it needs to manage a power system with a growing share of renewables. This includes new rules which started in July 2018 to make networks maintain minimum levels of system strength and inertia.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
The new rule starts on 5 October 2018. For generators which have already started the connection process, the rule includes transitional arrangements to finalise their access standards by 1 February 2019.