

Public forum summary- Updating network regulatory arrangements for DER integration

On 13 August 2020, the AEMC held a public webinar on the three rule change requests that aim to better facilitate the efficient integration of distributed energy resources (DER):

- *Allowing DNSPs to charge for exports to the network* (ERC0310) from **St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria**
- *Access, pricing and incentive arrangements for distributed energy resources* (ERC0311 and RRC0309) from **SA Power Networks**
- *Network planning and access for distributed energy resources* (ERC0309) from **Total Environment Centre and Australian Council of Social Service**

The primary purpose of the webinar was to provide the opportunity for proponents to discuss their requests with stakeholders. Each proponent provided a presentation at the webinar (the webinar presentations are available on the project page).

The webinar was well attended by jurisdictional government officials, market bodies and industry participants from DNSPs, retail businesses, customer advocates and peak bodies. Approximately 170 participants attended. In addition, the webinar was attended by two AEMC Commissioners: Acting Chair Merryn York and Charles Popple.

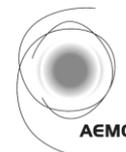
The forum included a 75-minute Q&A session where webinar attendees were able to ask questions of the proponents. The questions (and some comments) generally related to the following areas:

Recognising export services in regulation

- There was general support for the need to recognise export services in the regulatory framework.
- Participants sought to understand how the proposals for export charges to be introduced would be presented to DER customers, noting that customers may see managing network issues from solar as the 'system's' problem.

Export charges and allocation of hosting capacity

- Participants expressed a range of views on whether it is appropriate to enable export charges to signal the need for additional network expenditure where appropriate, and better allocate costs and reward customers for providing DER services.
- Some participants noted that the current rules do not guarantee that network price signals are seen by the customer, which will impact the value customers could receive if retailers do not pass on the network tariff benefit.
- Participants also noted the need to carefully consider how the pricing principles should be amended to ensure that export tariffs are targeted in only those locations of the network where export hosting capacity is limited.
- Some participants highlighted the importance of transparency of network constraints in enabling more cost reflective charging arrangements.
- Participants noted that a feature of most of the proposals is ensuring customers have access to hosting capacity for export and allocating that hosting capacity more equitably. Participants considered it would be useful to investigate further how networks should determine what hosting capacity is at any given time for any given customer.



- Participants sought to understand how the proposed approaches to allocating hosting capacity would apply to DER operating at an aggregated level — for example, could a virtual power plant with batteries or a vehicle-to-grid export purchase hosting capacity outside of customer arrangements.

The Commission is seeking stakeholder views on the issues raised during the public forum and on the consultation paper via submissions to the consultation paper. Written submissions are due by **10 September 2020**. The Commission also plans to establish a Technical Working Group as a targeted consultation mechanism to seek feedback on key issues raised in the rule change requests, and inform AEMC staff's thinking. The Commission seeks to include a broad range of stakeholders. Interested parties can register their interest at: registration@aemc.gov.au before **21 August 2020**.