

Determinations on the Reliability Panel's review of the system restart standard

An interim system restart standard has been published

The Reliability Panel (Panel) has published a final determination on amendments to the system restart standard (Standard) to guide AEMO's procurement of new technologies and services.

Concurrently, the Panel has also published a draft determination on Standard targets for AEMO's procurement of system restart ancillary services (SRAS) in Queensland. The Panel is seeking stakeholder feedback on the draft determination on Standard targets for SRAS in Queensland by 26 November 2020.

Final determination and interim Standard to incorporate changes made in the SRAS rule

On 29 October 2020, the Reliability Panel (Panel) published a final determination on amendments to the System Restart Standard (Standard) to incorporate changes to SRAS frameworks made in the Commission's final rule for the System restart services, standards and testing rule change (SRAS rule).

The SRAS rule made a number of changes to the frameworks for power system restoration to make them better suited to the changing generation mix.¹ These included:

- expanding the definition of SRAS to include black start services provided by facilities other than generating units, and
- introducing system restoration support services as a new type of SRAS that support the stable re-energisation of the grid following a major supply disruption or black system event.

The Panel's final determination was to amend language in the Standard's qualitative guidance that is unnecessarily limiting, or may create barriers to AEMO's procurement of SRAS from restoration support services and black start SRAS from non-generation providers. The Panel's final determination is to amend guidance in the following sections of the Standard:

- Section 4 - Aggregate reliability of SRAS
- Section 8 - Guidelines for assessing the diversity of services, and
- Section 9 - Strategic location of services

These changes are contained in an interim Standard published along with the final determination.

Draft determination on settings for a combined Queensland sub-network

The Panel has published a draft determination on quantitative Standard settings for a Queensland sub-network concurrently with its final determination (described above).² The Panel's draft determination is made in following AEMO's final determination to combine the existing North and South Queensland sub-networks into a single sub-network for the entire Queensland region.³

¹ For further information see: <https://www.aemc.gov.au/rule-changes/system-restart-services-standards-and-testing>

² The NEM is divided into sub-networks for the purpose of AEMO's procurement of SRAS. AEMO determines the sub-network boundaries in accordance with guidance set out in the Standard.

The Panel's draft determination includes Standard settings for restoration level, restoration timeframe, and aggregate reliability for a combined Queensland sub-network. The Panel also included a requirement for AEMO to procure SRAS north of Bundaberg as an additional locational element of its draft determination.

Next steps

Stakeholder submissions on the draft determination on Standard settings for a combined Queensland sub-network are invited by **26 November 2020**.

A final determination on quantitative Standard settings for a combined Queensland sub-network will be published in January 2021, prior to AEMO commencing its next round of SRAS procurement for Queensland.

Background

SRAS are services that AEMO procures to help re-energise parts of the power system affected by a major supply disruption or black system event. Major supply disruptions and black system events are rare but not impossible events. The most recent black system event was in South Australia in September 2016. Prior to that event, two more have occurred in; northern Queensland in 2009; and New South Wales in 1964. SRAS are provided by facilities that can either self-start without drawing power from the network or support the stable restoration of the power system following its initial re-energisation. AEMO's procurement of SRAS can be likened to an "insurance policy" which minimises the economic disruption arising from a major supply disruption or black system event.

AEMO procures SRAS in accordance with the requirements set out in the Standard, which is determined by the Panel. The Standard provides qualitative guidance on a number of issues relating to SRAS, including the determination of electrical sub-network boundaries and the diversity and strategic location of SRAS sources. The Standard also prescribes quantitative settings applying to AEMO's procurement of SRAS, including the level of restoration, restoration time and required aggregate reliability for SRAS in each sub-network in the NEM

The scope of the Panel's review of the Standard are defined in the terms of reference issued by the Commission which recommend the Panel:

- review the Standard and make any changes necessary to account for the changes to the definition of SRAS made by the SRAS rule,⁴ and
- determine quantitative settings in the Standard for a single Queensland sub-network, should AEMO make a final determination to combine the two existing sub-networks.

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³ AEMO, final determination - SRAS Guideline consultation, 16 October 2020. For further information see: <https://aemo.com.au/en/consultations/current-and-closed-consultations/sras-guideline-2020>

⁴ The Commission's final rule for the System restart services, standards and testing rule change (SRAS rule) expanded the definition of SRAS to include black start services provided by facilities other than generating units and system restoration support services that support the stable re-energisation of the grid following a major blackout.