

HAVE YOUR SAY: MAKING ROOM FOR MORE SOLAR AND NEW TECH ENERGY

DRAFT DETERMINATION 25 MARCH 2021

The AEMC today released a draft reform package designed to open a solar gateway to the electricity grid. We can decarbonise faster and for less cost if we change the power system to allow more customers to connect solar and make it more worthwhile for them to install batteries. We've suggested a way to do that, but we want to know what you think.



What we're proposing



Changing distribution power networks' existing incentives to provide services that help people send power back into the grid. Gives networks a stronger reason to deliver quality export services that customers value. At the moment, there are no financial penalties for poor network export service and no rewards for good service.



Officially recognising energy export as a service to the power system. Gives consumers more influence over what export services their networks deliver and how efficiently they deliver them.



Allowing power networks to develop new tariff options including two-way pricing. Networks may reward you for sending power when it's needed and charge for exporting when demand is low. Investing in a battery would bring benefits. Options could include free export up to a limit or paying extra for access during busy times.



Flexible pricing solutions at the network level. Each network devises its own pricing structure based on customer preferences. There will be no blanket approach because different networks have different capabilities and customers and are subject to different government energy policies. Each plan must be approved by the energy regulator.

Consumer protections



How did we get here?

This package of reforms follows a nine-month process of working with stakeholders as part of ARENA's Distributed Energy Integration Program. The program was led by a steering group of consumer representatives, industry association and energy market bodies. As a result of that work, South Australian Power Networks, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Total Environment Centre and the Australian Council of Social Services requested the AEMC change the rules. This draft determination is our response to those requests.

Next steps

13 MAY 2021

Submissions to AEMC draft determination due

24 JUNE 2021

Final AEMC determination due

MID 2021

Consultations between power networks and consumers begin.



Have your say: Respond by 13 May 2021 at aemc.gov.au