



Anna Collyer
Chair
Australian Energy Market Commission
60 Castlereagh St, Sydney NSW, 2000

Reference: ERC0410

Dear Ms Collyer,

The Climate Change Authority is pleased to provide a submission for consideration as part of your consultation on the *National Electricity Amendment (Integrated Distribution System Planning) Rule 2026*.

The Authority is a statutory agency established under the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011* to provide independent, evidenced-based advice to the Australian Government on climate change policy.

The Authority helps guide action to transform the Australian economy and protect communities from dangerous climate change, by providing evidence-based advice about what is possible and necessary to:

- accelerate emissions reductions and position Australia as a leader in the global effort to limit temperature increases
- embrace new opportunities and new ways of doing things, to sustain Australia's prosperity as the world transitions to net zero emissions
- prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, which have already begun and will continue to increase.

The rapid transition to renewable electricity will underpin the achievement of Australia's emissions reduction targets and is vital for ensuring sufficient generation capacity is being built to replace ageing, and increasingly unreliable coal-fired power stations. The Authority's view is that adding more solar PV and battery capacity to distribution networks can help Australia reach its renewable energy targets. Renewable deployment can proceed on distribution networks without waiting for large transmission network extension projects that are currently underway.

Our recent report [Unlocking Australia's clean energy potential](#) included recommended actions aimed at accelerating this deployment and improving utilisation of local networks. These include:

- requiring distribution network service providers (DNSPs) to provide network information to project developers about available capacity at prospective sites. We proposed that

this could include publicly available, up-to-date and comprehensive network maps that are consistent across DNSPs.

- working with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), transmission network service providers and DNSPs to better coordinate and integrate their planning processes to accelerate deployment of renewables and system security services. Efficiencies can be gained through putting distribution planning on the same schedule and process as AEMO's Integrated System Plan.

The rule change proposed by Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) is broadly consistent with these recommended actions. We agree that an integrated, whole-of-system approach to electricity system planning could bring many benefits, such as:

- reduced curtailment of consumer energy resources
- accelerated deployment of renewables and storage
- reduced electricity costs for consumers.

Given the significance of this rule change, we support the AEMC's decision to undertake additional consultation on the issues and proposed solutions raised by ECA.

We trust you find this submission helpful. Our representatives would be happy to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer

11 August 2025