

AEMC Terms of Reference

Reliability Panel

Template for Compliance Programs Review 2026

These terms of reference are intended to guide the Reliability Panel (the Panel) in the requested review of the Template for compliance programs (the Template). The purpose, scope, and timing for this review are set out below.

Under clause 8.8.1(a)(2b) of the National Electricity Rules (NER), the Panel must determine, and modify as necessary, and publish the Template. The Panel must determine the template in accordance with clause 8.8.3.

Clause 8.8.3(ba) of the NER requires the Panel to conduct a review of the template at least every five years from the date the template for compliance programs determined pursuant to clause 8.8.3(a) of the NER and at such other times as the AEMC may request. In November 2024, the Commission made a rule change to allow the Panel's next review of the template for generator compliance programs to commence by 19 December 2025.¹ This deferral was to enable the Panel to consider the Commission's decisions on two access standard rule changes for its next Template review.²

Following this review, the Panel may amend the template for compliance programs in accordance with its report to the AEMC submitted under clause 8.8.3(j) of the NER.

1. Context and purpose of the review

To maintain power system security of the National Electricity Market (NEM), registered participants must comply with their performance standards.³ Achieving high levels of compliance with technical standards is fundamental to the safe and reliable operation of the NEM within the power system's technical envelope.

On 22 May 2025, the Commission made the *Improving the NEM access standards - Package 1 Rule 2025*, (*Access Standards Package 1 rule*). This rule amended existing technical requirements and added new requirements applying to plant connections under Schedules 5.2, 5.3 and 5.3a of the NER. As a result of these changes, the Template needs to be updated to reflect the amendments and additions to the technical requirements.

The *Access Standards Package 1 rule* also amended the name of the Template by removing the word 'generator'. This reflects the application of the technical requirements in Schedules 5.2, 5.3 and 5.3a of the NER to several plant types, many of which may not be generators (for example, synchronous condensers, integrated resource systems, distribution networks, loads, and HVDC links).

The template provides clarity on what constitutes good electricity industry practice with respect to performance standard compliance. By defining an appropriate compliance framework, it assists

¹ NER, rule 11.178.

² See the *Rescheduling the generator compliance programs review* [project page](#).

³ NER, clause 4.15(a)

registered participants with developing and designing their compliance programs. While registered participants are responsible for instituting and maintaining their own compliance programs, they need to ensure their programs are consistent with the template. The template may also assist the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) with its enforcement and monitoring of registered participants' compliance with their performance standards under the NER.

2. Scope of the 2026 Review

In accordance with clause 8.8.3(c) of the NER, the AEMC requests the Panel to undertake a review of the Template. In undertaking this review, the AEMC requests the Panel to amend the Template to reflect the changes to the NER following implementation of the *Access Standards Package 1 rule*. This includes:

- changes or additions to the template as necessary to account for the changes to the technical requirements made in the Access Standards Package 1 rule
- changes or additions to the template as necessary to broaden the template to apply to plant types other than generators, such as (but not limited to) synchronous condensers, integrated resource systems, HVDC links and loads.

In addition, the Panel may also consider whether:

- there have been any changes to technology or cost that should be reflected in the Template
- the compliance principles set out in the Template remain fit for purpose
- there have been any other material changes to the NER that impact the Template
- there are opportunities for the Template to be amended or restructured to improve the application of the template in guiding compliance programs.

The Commission notes that consultation is ongoing on the *Improving the NEM access standards – Package 2 [rule change process](#)* (*Access Standards Package 2 rule change*). Through this review, the Commission does not expect the Panel to amend the Template to reflect any potential changes to the access standards currently under consideration through the *Access Standards Package 2 rule change*.

3. Assessment approach

In undertaking this review, the Panel's assessment should be guided by the national electricity objective as set out in section 7 of the National Electricity Law. The Panel may develop assessment criteria to guide its review and may also consider the compliance principles as set out in the latest version of the template.

4. Timing and deliverables

The Panel must carry out the review of the template in accordance with the following process:

- commence the conduct of its review by 19 December 2025 in accordance with rule 11.178 of the NER
- request the AEMC publish a notice of review in accordance with clause 8.8.3(d) of the NER
- publish a draft report and invite submissions for a period of at least four weeks
- if a public meeting has been requested, notify stakeholders in accordance with clause 8.8.3(f) of the NER
- subject to any extensions that the Reliability Panel considers necessary to account for issues of sufficient complexity or difficulty raised in submissions, publish a final report and submit this report to the AEMC by 25 June 2026.