



Draft National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026

The Australian Energy Market Commission makes the following Rule under the National Electricity Law to the extent applied by:

- (a) the *National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996* of South Australia;
- (b) the *Electricity (National Scheme) Act 1997* of the Australian Capital Territory;
- (c) the *Electricity - National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997* of Queensland;
- (d) the *National Electricity (New South Wales) Act 1997* of New South Wales;
- (e) the *Electricity - National Scheme (Tasmania) Act 1999* of Tasmania;
- (f) the *National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005* of Victoria; and
- (g) the *Australian Energy Market Act 2004* of the Commonwealth.

Anna Collyer
Chairperson
Australian Energy Market Commission

Draft National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026

1 Title of Rule

This Rule is the *Draft National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026*.

2 Commencement

Schedule 1 of this Rule commences operation on 1 December 2027.

Schedule 2 of this Rule commences operation on 23 July 2026.

3 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 1.

4 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 2.

Schedule 1 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

(Clause 3)

[1] Clause 5.3A.A1 Definitions

In clause 5.3A.A1, omit the definitions of "**sub-transmission line**" and "**zone substation**".

[2] Clause 5.3A.2 Miscellaneous

In clause 5.3A.2(b)(1), omit "clause 5.13.1(g)" and substitute "clause 5.13.4(c)".

[3] Clause 5.3A.2 Miscellaneous

In clause 5.3A.2(b)(2), omit "*Distribution Annual Planning Report*," and substitute "*Distribution Network Development Plan*; or".

[4] Clause 5.3A.2 Miscellaneous

After clause 5.3A.2(b)(2), insert:

- (3) an annual update under clause 5.13.2,

[5] Clause 5.10.1 Content of Part D

In clause 5.10.1(e1), omit "provide distribution *zone substation* information" and substitute "publish distribution network data".

[6] Clause 5.10.2 Definitions

In clause 5.10.2, omit the definitions of "**distribution asset**", "**firm delivery capacity**", "**forward planning period**", "**industry engagement document**", "**industry engagement strategy**", "**normal cyclic rating**", "**RIT-D project**", "**system limitation**", "**system limitation template**", "**total capacity**" and "**transmission asset**".

[7] Chapter 5 Cost threshold determination

In Chapter 5, including in the second note in clause 5.15.3, omit "*cost threshold determination*" and substitute "cost threshold determination" wherever occurring.

[8] Chapter 5 Sub-transmission lines

In clause 5.10.2, in the definition of "**primary distribution feeder**", and in Schedule 5.4A(h), omit "*sub-transmission lines*" and substitute "sub-transmission lines" wherever occurring.

[9] Clause 5.10.2 Definitions

In clause 5.10.2, in the definition of "**primary distribution feeder**", omit "*sub-transmission assets*" and substitute "sub-transmission assets".

[10] Clause 5.10.2 Definitions

In clause 5.10.2, in the definition of "**sub-transmission line**", omit "*sub-transmission asset*" and substitute "sub-transmission asset" wherever occurring.

[11] Clause 5.10.2 Definitions

In clause 5.10.2, in the definition of "**zone substation**", omit "*sub-transmission network*" and substitute "sub-transmission *network*".

[12] Clause 5.12.2 Transmission Annual Planning Report

In clause 5.12.2(b), omit "*Distribution Annual Planning Report*" and substitute "*Distribution Network Development Plan* or annual update under clause 5.13.2".

[13] Clause 5.12.2 Transmission Annual Planning Report

In clause 5.12.2(c), omit "*de-rated*" and substitute "de-rated" wherever occurring.

[14] Clause 5.12.2 Transmission Annual Planning Report

In clause 5.12.2(c), omit "*de-rate*" and substitute "de-rate" wherever occurring.

[15] Clause 5.12.2 Transmission Annual Planning Report

In clause 5.12.2(c)(7), omit "*asset management*" and substitute "asset management" wherever occurring.

[16] Rule 5.13 Distribution annual planning process

In rule 5.13, in the heading, omit "annual".

[17] Clause 5.13.1 Distribution annual planning review

Omit clause 5.13.1, clause 5.13.2, clause 5.13.3 and rule 5.13A, including the headings.

[18] Rules 5.13 and 5.13A Distribution planning and network data

After the heading of rule 5.13, insert:

5.13.1 Distribution Network Development Plan

- (a) *A Distribution Network Service Provider* must, at the same time that it is required to submit a *regulatory proposal* under clause 6.8.2, submit a plan for the development of its *distribution network* to the *AER* and publish the plan on its website.

Note

Under clause 5.12.2(b), if a person is a *Transmission Network Service Provider* only because it owns, operates or controls *dual function assets* then it may publish its *Transmission Annual Planning Report* in the same document and at the same time as its *Distribution Network Development Plan* under this clause 5.13.1(a) or its annual update under clause 5.13.2.

Note

The AEMC proposes to recommend that this paragraph is classified as a Tier 1 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

- (b) The purpose of the *Distribution Network Development Plan* is to maximise the long-term interests of consumers across a range of future scenarios.
- (c) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must prepare a *Distribution Network Development Plan* in accordance with the guidelines published by the *AER* under clause 5.13.3.

Note

The AEMC proposes to recommend that this paragraph is classified as a Tier 1 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

- (d) Subject to paragraph (c), when preparing the *Distribution Network Development Plan*, a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must:
 - (1) to the extent practicable, adopt the inputs, assumptions and scenarios consistent with the *Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report*;
 - (2) consider other scenarios that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* considers reasonable and appropriate;
 - (3) outline how any inputs, assumptions or scenarios vary from the *Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report*, including the reasons why it was not practicable to adopt them consistently with that report; and
 - (4) include the information specified in Schedule 5.8 in relation to all assets and *non-network options* that would be expected to have a material impact on its *distribution network*.

Note

This paragraph is classified as a Tier 1 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

- (e) Despite paragraph (d), a *Distribution Network Service Provider* is not required to include in the *Distribution Network Development Plan* information required in relation to transmission-distribution

connection points if it is required to do so under *jurisdictional electricity legislation*.

- (f) At the same time that it publishes a *Distribution Network Development Plan*, a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish on its website:
 - (1) the contact details for queries on the plan; and
 - (2) a map of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's distribution network* as a whole, or maps by regions, in accordance with the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* planning methodology or as required under any *regulatory obligation or requirement*, identifying:
 - (i) sub-transmission lines, zone substations and transmission-distribution connection points; and
 - (ii) any *system limitations* that have been forecast to occur, including, where they have been identified, overloaded primary distribution feeders.

5.13.2 Annual update on distribution network development

- (a) Each year, by the applicable date in paragraph (b), a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish on its website:
 - (1) a report with an overview of the following since the previous year and since the *Distribution Network Development Plan*, as relevant:
 - (i) changes to its *distribution network*, operating environment and the number and types of its *distribution assets*;
 - (ii) *RIT-D projects* it has completed or progressed;
 - (iii) joint planning it undertook with other *Network Service Providers*;
 - (iv) *non-network options* that it has considered, including *generation from distribution connected units*;
 - (v) any engagement with non-network providers in accordance with its *industry engagement strategy*;
 - (vi) key issues arising from *applications to connect distribution connected units* received;
 - (vii) actions taken to promote non-*network* proposals or (for a *SAPS enabled network*) *SAPS* proposals, including *generation from distribution connected units*;
 - (viii) severe weather events that occurred, and the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* performance and outcomes

- for consumers as specified by the *AER* in the *Network Resilience Guidelines*;
- (ix) *resilience expenditure*, including the amount and nature;
 - (x) investments it made in information technology and communication systems;
 - (xi) for a *SAPS enabled network*, information on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* activities in relation to *DNSP-led SAPS projects* including:
 - (A) opportunities to develop *DNSP-led SAPS projects*;
 - (B) committed projects to implement a *regulated SAPS*; and
 - (C) a quantitative summary of the total number of *regulated SAPS* in the *network* and the total number of premises of *retail customers* supplied by means of those *regulated SAPS*; and
 - (xii) the information specified in the guidelines published by the *AER* under clause 5.13.3(a)(2); and
- (2) the *system strength locational factor* for each *system strength connection point* for which it is the *Network Service Provider* and the corresponding *system strength node*.
- (b) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish the information required under paragraph (a):
- (1) by the date specified for each year in the guidelines published by the *AER* under clause 5.13.3; or
 - (2) if no date is specified in the guidelines:
 - (i) by 31 December in each year that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* submits and publishes a *Distribution Network Development Plan*; and
 - (ii) by 31 October in all other years.

Note

Under clause 5.12.2(b), if a person is a *Transmission Network Service Provider* only because it owns, operates or controls *dual function assets* then it may publish its *Transmission Annual Planning Report* in the same document and at the same time as its *Distribution Network Development Plan* under clause 5.13.1(a) or its annual update under this clause 5.13.2.

Note

The AEMC proposes to recommend that this clause is classified as a Tier 2 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

5.13.3 Guidelines for Distribution Network Development Plan and annual update

- (a) The *AER* must develop and *publish* guidelines that:
 - (1) must include requirements for the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* forecasting practices and processes as they relate to the *Distribution Network Development Plan*;
 - (2) may specify additional information to be included in the *Distribution Network Development Plan* or the annual update under clause 5.13.2, if the *AER* considers it necessary to align the plan or the update with other information that *Distribution Network Service Providers* provide under the *Rules*; and
 - (3) may specify a date by which a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish the annual update under clause 5.13.2 for any year.
- (b) When developing or amending the guidelines, the *AER* must:
 - (1) consider the purpose in clause 5.13.1(b); and
 - (2) follow the *Rules consultation procedures*.
- (c) The *AER* must, at least once every five years, review the guidelines and *publish* either:
 - (1) updated guidelines; or
 - (2) a notice stating that the *AER* has decided not amend the existing guidelines as a result of the review.
- (d) To avoid doubt, the *AER*:
 - (1) may *publish* the guidelines under this clause 5.13.3 in the same document as another guideline *published* under the *Rules*; and
 - (2) is not required to follow the *Rules consultation procedures* if it decides not to amend the existing guidelines after the review in paragraph (c).

5.13.4 Industry engagement obligations

- (a) Each *Distribution Network Service Provider* must develop a strategy for:
 - (1) engaging with non-network providers;
 - (2) considering *non-network options*; and
 - (3) in relation to a *SAPS enabled network*, considering *SAPS options*.

- (b) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must engage with non-network providers and consider *non-network options* and *SAPS options* for addressing *system limitations* and risks identified under clause S5.8(a)(4) in accordance with its *industry engagement strategy*.
- (c) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must develop and publish an *industry engagement document* setting out its *industry engagement strategy*.
- (d) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must include the information specified in Schedule 5.9 in its *industry engagement document*.
- (e) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must review and publish a revised *industry engagement document* by no later than 6 months before it is required to submit a *regulatory proposal* under clause 6.8.2.

5.13A Distribution network data

5.13A.1 Publishing distribution network data

- (a) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish *distribution network data* in accordance with the guidelines published by the *AER* under clause 5.13A.2.

Note

The AEMC proposes to recommend that this paragraph is classified as a Tier 1 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

- (b) The purpose of publishing the data is to improve visibility on the state of *distribution networks* in a way that maximises the benefits to current and prospective network users, including visibility on:
 - (1) the current state of *distribution networks*, such as available capacity at zone substations or indicative local network constraints;
 - (2) the historical state of *distribution networks*, such as utilisation or levels of curtailments; and
 - (3) the expected state of *distribution networks* within the next 5 years, such as whether there are known constraints on zone substations and any existing plans to address them.

5.13A.2 Guidelines for distribution network data

- (a) The *AER* must develop and *publish* guidelines that set out the *distribution network data* that a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish.
- (b) When developing or amending the guidelines, the *AER* must:

- (1) consider:
 - (i) the purpose in clause 5.13A.1(b);
 - (ii) the *net economic benefit* of compliance with the guidelines;
 - (iii) protection of *confidential information* and personal information; and
 - (iv) data that would otherwise be publicly available; and
- (2) follow the *Rules consultation procedures*.
- (c) The guidelines must specify timeframes for when *Distribution Network Service Providers* must publish the *distribution network* data.
- (d) The guidelines may require *Distribution Network Service Providers* to:
 - (1) publish data in stages;
 - (2) publish different data, according to the circumstances of the *Distribution Network Service Provider*;
 - (3) publish a plan for how they will collect, use and publish data; and
 - (4) consult with relevant stakeholders when preparing the plan under paragraph (3).
- (e) The *AER* must, at least once every five years, review the guidelines and *publish* either:
 - (1) updated guidelines; or
 - (2) a notice stating that the *AER* has decided not to amend the existing guidelines as a result of the review.
- (f) To avoid doubt, the *AER*:
 - (1) may *publish* the guidelines under this clause 5.13A.2 in the same document as another guideline *published* under the *Rules*; and
 - (2) is not required to follow the *Rules consultation procedures* if it decides not to amend the existing guidelines after the review in paragraph (e).

**[19] Clause 5.14.1 Joint planning obligations of
Transmission Network Service Providers
and Distribution Network Service
Providers**

In clause 5.14.1(d)(1), omit "*transmission-distribution connection points*" and substitute "transmission-distribution connection points".

**[20] Clause 5.14.1 Joint planning obligations of
Transmission Network Service Providers
and Distribution Network Service
Providers**

In clause 5.14.1(d)(3A), omit "5.13.1(d)(6)" and substitute "S5.8(c)".

[21] Chapter 5 Industry engagement register

In clause 5.14.1(d)(4)(i), clause 5.17.4 and Schedule 5.9(n), omit "*industry engagement register*" and substitute "industry engagement register" wherever occurring.

[22] Clause 5.15.3 Review of costs thresholds

In clause 5.15.3(c)(2), omit "*Distribution Annual Planning Report*" and substitute "*Distribution Network Development Plan*".

[23] Clause 5.15.3 Review of costs thresholds

In clause 5.15.3(d)(4), at the end of the text, insert "and".

[24] Clause 5.15.3 Review of costs thresholds

Omit clause 5.15.3(d)(4A).

[25] Clause 5.15.3 Review of costs thresholds

Omit clause 5.15.3(d)(5) and substitute "[Deleted]".

**[26] Clause 5.16.4 Regulatory investment test for
transmission procedures**

Omit clause 5.16.4(i) and substitute "[Deleted]".

**[27] Clause 5.16.4 Regulatory investment test for
transmission procedures**

Omit clause 5.16.4(n) and substitute "[Deleted]".

[28] Clause 5.16.4 Regulatory investment test for transmission procedures

Omit clause 5.16.4(z) and substitute "[Deleted]".

[29] Chapter 5 Non-network providers

In Chapter 5 and Schedule 5.9 omit "*non-network providers*" and substitute "non-network providers" wherever occurring.

[30] Clause 5.17.4 Regulatory investment test for distribution procedures

In clause 5.17.4(s), omit "*its Distribution Annual Planning Report (where the RIT-D proponent is a Distribution Network Service Provider) or*".

[31] Clause 5.18B.1 Definitions

In clause 5.18B.1, omit the definition of "DAPR date".

[32] Clause 5.18B.2 Register of completed distribution connection resource projects

In clause 5.18B.2(c)(1), after "completed distribution connected resource projects", omit "projects".

[33] Clause 5.18B.2 Register of completed distribution connection resource projects

In clause 5.18B.2(c)(2), omit "by the *DAPR date* each year thereafter" and substitute "each year, by the date that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* is required to publish its annual update under clause 5.13.2,".

[34] Clause 5.18B.2 Register of completed distribution connection resource projects

In clause 5.18B.2(c)(2), at the end of the text, omit "the *DAPR date*" and substitute "that date".

[35] Clause 5.20A.2 General power system risk review process

In clause 5.20A.2(b)(2), omit "their annual planning review" and substitute "their planning".

[36] Schedule 5.4A Preliminary Response

In Schedule 5.4A(a)(5) and Schedule 5.4A(h), omit "*zone substations*" and substitute "zone substations" wherever occurring.

[37] Schedule 5.8 Distribution Network Development Plan

Omit Schedule 5.8 and substitute:

Schedule 5.8 Distribution Network Development Plan

A Distribution Network Service Provider must include the following information in its Distribution Network Development Plan:

- (a) for the 20-year period from the commencement of the next *regulatory control period*:
 - (1) forecasts, including detailed forecasts for the initial 5-year period, of demand and *network* utilisation, limitations and whether any corrective action is required for those limitations:
 - (i) at the transmission-distribution connection points;
 - (ii) for sub-transmission lines; and
 - (iii) for zone substations;
 - (2) if any corrective action is required to address any *system limitations*, whether the *Distribution Network Service Provider* is required to:
 - (i) carry out the requirements of the *regulatory investment test for distribution*; and
 - (ii) carry out industry engagement obligations as required under clause 5.13.4(b);
 - (3) forecasts, including detailed forecasts for the initial 5-year period, of metrics underpinning:
 - (i) planned capital works for *network elements* between the zone substation and the *connection point* for an end user, such as primary distribution feeders, *transformers* and *distribution* circuits; and
 - (ii) *non-network options* relating to those *network elements*.
 - (4) risks of power *outages* caused by severe weather events, taking into account the impacts of climate change;
 - (5) a description of any other factors that may have a material impact on its *distribution network*, including the factors affecting:
 - (i) fault levels;
 - (ii) voltage levels;
 - (iii) other *power system security* requirements;

- (iv) the quality of *supply* to other *Network Users* (where relevant); and
 - (v) ageing and potentially unreliable assets;
 - (6) an explanation of how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* takes into account the risks identified under paragraph (4) when developing and implementing its asset management and investment strategy;
 - (7) for a *SAPS enabled network*, information on *system limitations* and the risks identified under paragraph (4) for which a potential solution is a *regulated SAPS*, including at least:
 - (i) detailed information for the initial 5-year period;
 - (ii) estimates of the location and timing (month(s) and year) of the *system limitation* or risk of power outage; and
 - (iii) a brief discussion of the types of potential *stand-alone power systems* that may address that issue;
 - (8) the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* plans for demand management and *generation* from *distribution connected units*;
 - (9) information on the amount and nature of its planned *resilience expenditure*;
 - (10) planned investments in information technology and communication systems related to management of *distribution network* assets, including a detailed plan for the initial 5-year period;
- (b) information regarding the *Distribution Network Service Provider* and its *distribution network*, including:
 - (1) a description of its *distribution network*;
 - (2) a description of its operating environment;
 - (3) the number and types of its *distribution assets*;
 - (4) methodologies used in preparing the plan, including methodologies used to identify *system limitations* and any assumptions applied; and
 - (5) analysis and explanation of any aspects of forecasts and information provided in the plan that have changed significantly from previous forecasts and information provided in the previous plan;
- (c) an analysis of the known and potential interactions between the following, where the *Distribution Network Service Provider* expects

that such interactions would be likely to lead to *cascading outages* or *major supply disruptions*:

- (1) any *emergency frequency control schemes*, or emergency controls in place under clause S5.1.8, on its *distribution network*; and
 - (2) *protection systems* or *control systems* of plant connected to its *distribution network* (including consideration of whether the settings of those systems are fit for purpose for the future operation of its *distribution network*);
- (d) a description of proposed actions to be undertaken to address any adverse interactions identified under paragraph (c);
- (e) a description of:
- (1) how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* has engaged with relevant stakeholders, including *distribution service end users* or groups representing them;
 - (2) the relevant concerns identified as a result of that engagement; and
 - (3) how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* has sought to address those concerns; and
- (f) a hyperlink to where the annual update will be published under clause 5.13.2.

[38] Schedule 5.9 Industry engagement document

In Schedule 5.9, in the heading, omit "5.13.1(h)" and substitute "5.13.4(d)".

[39] Schedule 5.9 Industry engagement document

In Schedule 5.9, in the first paragraph, omit "5.13.1(h)" and substitute "5.13.4(d)".

[40] Schedule 5.9 Industry engagement document

In Schedule 5.9(k), after "application to connect for", omit "an" and substitute "a".

[41] Clause 5A.D.1A Register of completed non-registered DER

In clause 5A.D.1A(a), omit the definition of "DAPR date".

[42] Clause 5A.D.1A Register of completed non-registered DER

In clause 5A.D.1A(d)(1), omit "by the *DAPR date* each year," and substitute "each year, by the date that it is required to publish its annual update under clause 5.13.2,".

[43] Clause 5A.D.1A Register of completed non-registered DER

In clause 5A.D.1A(d)(2), after "update the register by", omit "the *DAPR date*" and substitute "the date that it is required to publish its annual update under clause 5.13.2".

[44] Clause 5A.D.1A Register of completed non-registered DER

In clause 5A.D.1A(d)(2), at the end of the text, omit "the *DAPR date*" and substitute "that date".

[45] Clause 6.4.6 Network Resilience Guidelines

In clause 6.4.6(a)(3), omit "*Distribution Annual Planning Reports* under clause S5.8(j1)" and substitute "annual updates under clause 5.13.2(a)(1)(viii)".

[46] Clause 6.8.2 Submission of regulatory proposal, tariff structure statement and exemption application

After clause 6.8.2(c3), insert:

(c4) The *regulatory proposal* must be accompanied by a *Distribution Network Development Plan*.

[47] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definitions of "*asset management*", "*cost threshold determination*", "*DAPR date*", "*de-rate*", "*Distribution Annual Planning Report*", "*firm delivery capacity*", "*forward planning period*", "*industry engagement register*", "*non-network provider*", "*normal cyclic rating*", "*primary distribution feeder*", "*sub-transmission*", "*sub-transmission line*", "*system limitation template*", "*total capacity*", "*transmission-distribution connection point*" and "*zone substation*".

[48] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, insert the following definition in alphabetical order:

Distribution Network Development Plan

A plan published by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.1(a).

[49] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, in the definition of "*considered project*", in paragraph (a)(3)(iii), omit " or *Distribution Annual Planning Report*" and substitute ", *Distribution Network Development Plan* or annual update under clause 5.13.2".

[50] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definition of "*distribution asset*" and substitute:

distribution asset

The apparatus, equipment and plant, including *distribution lines*, *substations* and sub-transmission lines (within the meaning of clause 5.10.2), of a *distribution system*.

[51] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definition of "*industry engagement document*" and substitute:

industry engagement document

The document published by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.4(c).

[52] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definition of "*industry engagement strategy*" and substitute:

industry engagement strategy

The strategy developed by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.4(a) and described in its *industry engagement document*.

[53] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, in the definition of "*network option*", omit "For the purposes of this definition, **transmission asset** and **distribution asset** has the same meaning as in clause 5.10.2."

[54] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definition of "*RIT-D project*" and substitute:

RIT-D project

Any of the following projects:

- (a) a project the purpose of which is to address an *identified need* identified by a *Distribution Network Service Provider*; or
- (b) a *joint planning project* that is not a *RIT-T project*.

[55] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definition of "*system limitation*" and substitute:

system limitation

A limitation identified by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause S5.8(a)(1).

[56] Chapter 10 Glossary

In Chapter 10, omit the definition of "*transmission asset*" and substitute:

transmission asset

The apparatus, equipment and plant, including *transmission lines* and *substations* of a *transmission system*.

Schedule 2 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

(Clause 4)

[1] Part ZZZZZK 2026 Savings and Transitional Rules

After Part ZZZZZJ, insert:

Part ZZZZZK 2026 Savings and Transitional Rules

11.XXX Rules consequential on making the National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026

11.XXX.1 Definitions

(a) In this rule 11.XXX:

ACT distributor means Evoenergy (ABN 76 670 568 688) or any successor to its business.

Amending Rule means the *National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026*.

commencement date means 1 December 2027, being the commencement date of Schedule 1 of the Amending Rule.

Distribution Network Development Plan means a plan published by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under new clause 5.13.1(a).

NSW distributor means each of the following or any successor to its business:

- (1) Ausgrid Operator Partnership (ABN 78 508 211 731);
- (2) Endeavour Energy Network Operator Partnership (ABN 11 247 365 823); and
- (3) Essential Energy, the energy services corporation of that name, which is constituted under section 7 of the *Energy Services Corporations Act 1995* (NSW) and specified in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of that Act.

Queensland distributor means either of the following or any successor to its business:

- (1) Ergon Energy Corporation Limited (ACN 087 646 062); and
- (2) Energex Limited (ACN 078 849 055).

SA distributor means SA Power Networks (ABN 13 332 330 749) or any successor to its business.

sub-transmission line has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.

system limitation template means a template developed and *published* by the *AER* under old clause 5.13.3.

Tasmanian distributor means Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (ACN 167 357 299) or any successor to its business.

Victorian distributor means each of the following or any successor to its business:

- (1) AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (ABN 91 064 651 118);
- (2) Citipower Pty Ltd (ACN 064 651 056);
- (3) Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Limited (ACN 064 651 083);
- (4) Powercor Australia Limited (ACN 064 651 109); and
- (5) United Energy Distribution Pty Ltd (ACN 064 651 029)

zone substation has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.

- (b) For the purposes of this rule 11.XXX, a reference to:
 - (1) a new clause or rule is a reference to that clause or rule as in force on and from the commencement date; and
 - (2) an old clause or rule is a reference to that clause or rule as in force immediately before the commencement date.

11.XXX.2 Initial guidelines

By no later than 1 March 2028, the *AER* must *publish* guidelines in accordance with new clause 5.13.3 and new clause 5.13A.2.

11.XXX.3 Initial distribution network development plan

- (a) For the first Distribution Network Development Plan that an ACT distributor, NSW distributor and Tasmanian distributor submits and publishes:
 - (1) the *Distribution Network Service Provider* is not required to comply with new clause S5.8(a)(3) or the guidelines under new clause 5.13.3; and
 - (2) the plan must contain the following information in the form required by the system limitation template:
 - (i) the name (or identifier) and location of *substations*, sub-transmission lines, zone substations and, where appropriate, primary feeders, where there is a *system limitation* or a projected *system limitation* during the initial 5-year period of the plan that has been identified in the plan;

- (ii) the estimated timing (months(s) and year) of the *system limitation* or projected *system limitation* identified in subparagraph (i);
 - (iii) the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* proposed option to address the *system limitation*;
 - (iv) the estimated capital or operating cost of the proposed option; and
 - (v) the amount by which peak demand at the location of the *system limitation* or projected *system limitation* would need to be reduced in order to defer the proposed solution, and the dollar value to the *Distribution Network Service Provider* of each year of deferral.
- (b) A Queensland distributor and SA distributor:
- (i) must comply with old rule 5.13 until 31 December 2027; and
 - (ii) is not required to comply with new clause S5.8(a)(3) when submitting and publishing its first Distribution Network Development Plan.
- (c) A Victorian distributor must comply with old rule 5.13 until 31 December 2028.

11.XXX.4 Initial annual update

A Distribution Network Service Provider is not required to publish an annual update under new clause 5.13.2 until the year that it is first required to submit and publish a Distribution Network Development Plan.

11.XXX.5 Initial distribution network data reporting

A Distribution Network Service Provider is not required to comply with new clause 5.13A.1 until 1 September 2028.