

National Electricity Rules

Indicative mark-up of changes made by the draft National Electricity Amendment (*Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting*) Rule 2026.

Note:

This is an indicative version of the changes to the National Electricity Rules made by the draft *National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026*. It comprises extracts from the National Electricity Rules updated to take into account changes in rules made but not yet in force.

This document is provided for information purposes only. The actual amendments are set out in the draft *National Electricity Amendment (Enhancing distribution network planning and reporting) Rule 2026*.

The Australian Energy Market Commission does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability or completeness of this indicative mark-up of the National Electricity Rules.

5.3A.A1 Definitions

- (a) [Deleted]
- (b) For the purposes of this rule 5.3A and Schedules 5.4A and 5.4B:
 - detailed response** means the response to a *connection* enquiry prepared under clause 5.3A.8.
 - establish a connection** has the same meaning as in clause 5.3.1.
 - information pack** means information relevant to the making of an *application to connect* specified in clause 5.3A.3(b).
 - preliminary response** means the response to a *connection* enquiry prepared under clause 5.3A.7.
 - ~~**sub-transmission line** has the same meaning as in clause 5.10.2.~~
 - ~~**zone substation** has the same meaning as in clause 5.10.2.~~

5.3A.2 Miscellaneous

- (a) [Deleted]
- (b) To the extent a *Distribution Network Service Provider* has provided information required to be provided under this clause 5.3A by the inclusion of that information in:
 - (1) its *industry engagement document* under ~~clause 5.13.1(g)~~clause 5.13.4(c); or
 - (2) a ~~*Distribution Network Development Plan Distribution Annual Planning Report*~~; or
 - (3) an annual update under clause 5.13.2,it will comply with the relevant information provision requirements of rule 5.3A by including hyperlinks to the relevant information in information provided to a *Connection Applicant*.
- (c) Where this rule 5.3A fixes a time limit for the provision of information or a response then, for the purposes of calculating elapsed time, the period that:
 - (1) commences on the day when a dispute is initiated under clause 8.2.4(a); and
 - (2) ends on the day on which the dispute is withdrawn or is resolved in accordance with clauses 8.2.6D or 8.2.9(a),is to be disregarded.

5.10.1 Content of Part D

- (a) Clause 5.10.2 sets out local definitions used in Part D.
- (b) Clause 5.11.1 sets out obligations regarding forecasts for connection points to the *transmission network*.
- (c) Clause 5.11.2 sets out the obligations of *Network Service Providers* relating to the identification of network limitations.

- (d) Rule 5.12 sets out planning and reporting obligations for *Transmission Network Service Providers*.
- (e) Rule 5.13 sets out planning and reporting obligations for *Distribution Network Service Providers*.
- (e1) Rule 5.13A sets out the obligations to ~~provide distribution zone substation information~~ **publish distribution network data**.
- (f) Rule 5.14 sets out joint planning obligations of *Network Service Providers*.
- (f1) Rule 5.14B relates to guidelines for *Transmission Annual Planning Reports*.
- (g) Rule 5.15 relates to regulatory investment tests generally.
- (g1) Rule 5.15A relates to the *regulatory investment test for transmission*.
- (h) Rule 5.16 relates to the application of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to *RIT-T projects* that are not *actionable ISP projects*.
- (h1) Rule 5.16A relates to the application of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to *actionable ISP projects*.
- (h2) Rule 5.16B relates to disputes about the application of the *regulatory investment test for transmission*.
- (i) Rule 5.17 relates the *regulatory investment test for distribution*.
- (j) Rule 5.18 relates to the construction of *funded augmentations*.
- (j1) Rule 5.18A sets out the obligations of *Transmission Network Service Providers* in relation to a register of large generator and bidirectional connections.
- (j2) Rule 5.18B sets out obligations of *Distribution Network Service Providers* in relation to completed distribution connected resource projects.

Note:

Rule 5.18B commences operation on 1 July 2018 when clause 5.4.5 is renumbered as rule 5.18B under the National Electricity Amendment (Transmission Connection and Planning Arrangements) Rule 2017 No. 4

- (k) Rule 5.19 relates to Scale Efficient Network Extensions.
- (l) Rule 5.20 relates to the *NSCAS Report*, *Inertia Report* and *System Strength Report* and associated methodologies.
- (m) Rule 5.20A relates to general *power system* risk management planning.
- (m1) Rule 5.20B sets out the process for identifying and providing the *inertia requirements* for *inertia sub-networks*.
- (m2) Rule 5.20C sets out the process for identifying and providing the *system strength requirements* for each *region*.
- (n) Rule 5.21 sets out *AEMO's* obligations to *publish* information and guidelines and provide advice regarding network development.
- (o) Rule 5.22 relates to the *Integrated System Plan*.
- (p) Rule 5.23 sets out dispute resolution procedures relating to the *Integrated System Plan*.

- (q) Rule 5.24 relates to *REZ design reports* and joint REZ planning.

5.10.2 Definitions

In this Part D and schedules 5.4A, 5.8, 5.9 and 5.13:

affected network user means, in relation to a proposal to undertake a *DNSP-led SAPS project*:

- (a) each person supplied with a *distribution service* by means of the *network* that will form part of the *regulated SAPS*; and
- (b) each *landowner* for land on which is situated premises supplied by means of the *network* that will form part of the *regulated SAPS*.

asset management means the development and implementation of plans and processes, encompassing management, financial, consumer, engineering, information technology and other business inputs to ensure assets achieve the expected level of performance and minimise costs to consumers over the expected life cycle of the assets.

community engagement expectations in relation to *actionable ISP projects*, *future ISP projects*, or projects within a REZ stage (as applicable), means using reasonable endeavours to ensure that:

- (a) stakeholders receive information that is clear, accessible, accurate, relevant, timely and explains the rationale for the relevant project;
- (b) engagement materials, methods of communication and participatory processes are tailored to meet the needs of different stakeholders;
- (c) the stakeholders' role in the engagement process is clearly explained, including how their input will be taken into account;
- (d) stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to consider and respond to the information they receive;
- (e) stakeholder feedback, including potential ways to deliver community benefits, are considered;
- (f) stakeholders are informed about how stakeholder feedback has been taken into account in decision-making; and
- (g) stakeholders are provided with a range of opportunities to be regularly involved throughout the *actionable ISP projects*, *future ISP projects* and REZ stages (as applicable).

consumer panel report has the meaning given in clause 5.22.7(a).

Cost Benefit Analysis Guidelines means the guidelines made by the *AER* under clause 5.22.5.

cost threshold means a cost threshold specified in clause 5.15.3(b) or 5.15.3(d) (as relevant).

cost threshold determination means a final determination under clause 5.15.3(i).

cost threshold review means a review conducted under clause 5.15.3(e).

credible option has the meaning given to it in clause 5.15.2(a).

demand side factor means a factor that affects demand for, or patterns of use of, the *distribution services* of a *Distribution Network Service Provider*, which may include:

- (a) a development in technology or services available to end users;
- (b) the effect of *distribution connected units*;
- (c) a policy promoting electrification; or
- (d) demand management or energy efficiency schemes,

but the effect of *distribution connected units* that are not *small generating units* or *small bidirectional units* is not a demand side factor.

Demand Side Factors Information Guidelines means the guidelines made by *AEMO* under clause 5.22.6A(g).

demand side factors statement means the statement described in clause 5.22.6A.

de-rate means, in respect of a *Network Service Provider*, a reduction in the *network capability* of a *network element* in the *network* of that *Network Service Provider*.

design fault level means the maximum level of fault current that a *facility* can sustain while maintaining operation at an acceptable *performance standard*.

development path means a set of projects in an *Integrated System Plan* that together address *power system needs*.

dispute notice has the meaning given in rule 5.16B(c)(1) and clause 5.17.5(c)(1).

disputing party has the meaning given in rule 5.16B(c) and clause 5.17.5(c).

~~**distribution asset** means the apparatus, equipment and plant, including *distribution lines, substations and sub-transmission lines*, of a *distribution system*.~~

draft project assessment report means the report prepared under clause 5.17.4(i).

final project assessment report means the report prepared under clauses 5.17.4(o) or (p).

~~**firm delivery capacity** means the maximum allowable output or load of a *network* or *facility* under *single contingency* conditions, including any short term overload capacity having regard to external factors, such as ambient temperature, that may affect the capacity of the *network* or *facility*.~~

Forecasting Best Practice Guidelines means the guidelines made by the *AER* under clause 4A.B.5.

~~**forward planning period** means the period determined by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.1(a)(1).~~

future ISP project means a project:

- (a) that relates to a *transmission asset* or *non-network option* the purpose of which is to address an *identified need* specified in an *Integrated System Plan* and which forms part of an *optimal development path*; and
- (b) that is forecast in the *Integrated System Plan* that identifies the project, to be an *actionable ISP project* in the future.

gas development projections means projections of developments in the covered gas industry used by *AEMO* in the development of an *Integrated System Plan* and which may include a projection over the relevant period of:

- (a) demand for and available supplies of one or more covered gases;
- (b) prices for one or more covered gases;
- (c) capacity and utilisation of covered gas industry facilities,

and in this definition, each of the following terms has the meaning given in the *NGL*: covered gas, covered gas industry and covered gas industry facility.

gas industry information publication means:

- (a) the gas statement of opportunities, as defined in the *NGL*;
- (b) the Gas Bulletin Board, as defined in the *NGL*; and
- (c) a planning review under the declared wholesale gas market rules in Part 19 of the *NGR*.

IASR review report has the meaning given in clause 5.22.9(a).

~~**industry engagement document** means the document published by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.1(g).~~

industry engagement register means a facility by which a person can register with a *Distribution Network Service Provider* their interest in being notified of developments relating to *distribution network* planning and expansion.

~~**industry engagement strategy** means the strategy developed by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.1(e) and described in its *industry engagement document*.~~

ISP candidate option means a credible option specified in an *Integrated System Plan* that the *RIT-T proponent* must consider as part of a *regulatory investment test for transmission* for an *actionable ISP project*.

ISP consumer panel has the meaning given in clause 5.22.7(a).

ISP development opportunity means a development identified in an *Integrated System Plan* that does not relate to a *transmission asset* or *non-network option* and may include *distribution assets*, *generation*, storage projects or demand side developments that are consistent with the efficient development of the *power system*.

ISP methodology means the methodology published by *AEMO* under clause 5.22.8(d).

ISP parameters means, for an *ISP project*:

- (a) the inputs, assumptions and scenarios set out in the most recent *Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report*;
- (b) the other *ISP projects* associated with the *optimal development path*; and
- (c) any weightings specified as relevant to that project.

ISP project means an *actionable ISP project*, a *future ISP project* or an *ISP development opportunity*.

ISP review report has the meaning given in clause 5.22.13(a).

ISP timetable means the timetable published by *AEMO* under clause 5.22.4(a).

joint planning project means a project the purpose of which is to address a need identified under clause 5.14.1(d)(3) or clause 5.14.2(a) or clause 5.14.3(a).

landowner means, in relation to an area of land, each person who is an owner or lessee of the land.

load transfer capacity means meeting the *load* requirements for a *connection point* by the reduction of *load* or group of *loads* at the *connection point* and increasing the *load* or group of *loads* at a different *connection point*.

non-network provider means a person who provides *non-network options*.

~~**normal cyclic rating** means the normal level of allowable load on a primary distribution feeder having regard to external factors, such as ambient temperature and wind speed, that may affect the capacity of the primary distribution feeder.~~

options screening report means the report prepared under clause 5.17.4(b).

potential credible option means an option which a *RIT-D proponent* or *RIT-T proponent* (as the case may be) reasonably considers has the potential to be a credible option based on its initial assessment of the *identified need*.

potential transmission project means investment in a *transmission asset* of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* which:

- (a) is an *augmentation*; and
- (b) has an estimated capital cost in excess of \$5 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~*cost threshold determination*~~); and
- (c) the person who identifies the project considers is likely, if constructed, to relieve forecast constraints between *regional reference nodes*.

power system needs has the meaning given in clause 5.22.3(a).

preferred option has the meaning given in clause 5.15A.1(c) and 5.17.1(b).

preparatory activities means activities to design and to investigate the costs and benefits of *actionable ISP projects*, future *ISP projects* and *REZ stages* (as applicable), including:

- (a) detailed engineering design;
- (b) route selection and easement assessment work;
- (c) cost estimation based on engineering design and route selection;
- (d) preliminary assessment of environmental and planning approvals; and
- (e) engagement with stakeholders who are reasonably expected to be affected by the development of the *actionable ISP project*, *future ISP project*, or project within a *REZ stage* (including local *landowners*, local council, local community members, local environmental groups and traditional owners) in accordance with the *community engagement expectations*.

primary distribution feeder means a *distribution line* connecting a sub-transmission asset to either other *distribution lines* that are not ~~*sub-transmission lines*~~, or to *distribution assets* that are not ~~*sub-transmission*~~ assets.

project assessment conclusions report means the report prepared under clause 5.16.4(t), 5.16.4(u) or 5.16A.4(i) (as applicable).

project assessment draft report means the report prepared under clause 5.16.4(j) or 5.16A.4(c) (as applicable).

project specification consultation report means the report prepared under clause 5.16.4(b).

protected event EFCS investment means investment by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* or a *Distribution Network Service Provider* for the purposes of installing or modifying an *emergency frequency control scheme* applicable in respect of the *Network Service Provider's transmission system and distribution system* in accordance with a *protected event EFCS standard*.

reconfiguration investment has the meaning given to it in clause 5.16.3(a)(5).

regulatory investment test for distribution application guidelines means the guidelines developed and *published* by the *AER* in accordance with clause 5.17.2 as in force from time to time, and include amendments made in accordance with clause 5.17.2(e).

regulatory investment test for transmission application guidelines means the guidelines developed and *published* by the *AER* in accordance with clause 5.16.2 as in force from time to time, and include amendments made in accordance with clause 5.16.2(e).

reliability corrective action means investment by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* or a *Distribution Network Service Provider* in respect of its *transmission network* or *distribution network* for the purpose of meeting the service standards linked to the technical requirements of schedule 5.1 or in *applicable regulatory instruments* or *SAPS performance and supply standards* and which may consist of *network options* or *non-network options*.

REZ (renewable energy zone) means a geographic area in one or more *participating jurisdictions* that is the proposed location for the efficient development of renewable energy sources and associated electricity infrastructure.

REZ design parameters means the parameters specified in an *ISP* pursuant to clause 5.24.1(a)(4)(i) or as updated by *AEMO* under clause 5.24.2(b).

REZ stage means a stage of development of the *transmission network* for the purposes of a REZ.

RIT-D project means:

~~(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.~~

RIT-D proponent means the *Network Service Provider* applying the *regulatory investment test for distribution* to a RIT-D project to address an *identified need*. The RIT-D proponent may be:

- (a) if the *identified need* is identified during joint planning under clause 5.14.1(d)(3), a *Distribution Network Service Provider* or a *Transmission Network Service Provider*; or

(b) in any other case, a *Distribution Network Service Provider*.

RIT-T project means:

- (a) a project the purpose of which is to address an *identified need* identified by a *Transmission Network Service Provider*; or
- (b) a *joint planning project* if:
 - (1) at least one *potential credible option* to address the *identified need* includes investment in a *network* or *non-network option* on a *transmission network* (other than *dual function assets*) with an estimated capital cost greater than the *cost threshold* that applies under clause 5.16.3(a)(2); or
 - (2) the *Network Service Providers* affected by the *joint planning project* have agreed that the *regulatory investment test for transmission* should be applied to the project; or
- (c) an *actionable ISP project*.

RIT-T proponent means the *Network Service Provider* applying the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to a *RIT-T project* to address an *identified need*. The RIT-T proponent may be:

- (a) if the *identified need* is identified during joint planning under clause 5.14.1(d)(3), a *Distribution Network Service Provider* or a *Transmission Network Service Provider*; or
- (b) in any other case (including under clause 5.14.3(a)), a *Transmission Network Service Provider*.

SAPS customer engagement document means the document *published* by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13B.4(b).

SAPS customer engagement objectives means the following objectives:

- (a) providing relevant and timely information about *DNISP-led SAPS projects* and *SAPS customer engagement strategies* and processes; and
- (b) engaging in timely and effective communications and other engagement with *affected network users* and *landowners* during the planning, development, construction and commissioning of a *DNISP-led SAPS project*.

SAPS customer engagement strategy means the strategy developed by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13B.4(a) and described in its *SAPS customer engagement document*.

SAPS quality of supply principle means the principle that the quality and reliability of *supply* experienced by a *Distribution Customer* having a *connection point* with a *regulated SAPS* should be no worse than the quality and reliability of *supply* that the *Distribution Customer* would experience if the *connection point* were in a part of the *distribution network* forming part of the interconnected national electricity system.

sub-transmission means any part of the *power system* which operates to deliver electricity from the *transmission system* to the *distribution network* and which may form part of the *distribution network*, including zone substations.

sub-transmission line means a power line connecting a ~~sub-transmission-sub-transmission~~ asset to either the *transmission system* or another ~~sub-transmission-sub-transmission~~ asset.

~~**system limitation** means a limitation identified by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.1(d)(2).~~

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

TAPR Guidelines means the guidelines published by the *AER* under clause 5.14B.1.

~~**total capacity** means the theoretical maximum allowable output or load of a network or facility with all network components and equipment intact.~~

traditional owners in relation to an *actionable ISP project, future ISP project*, or project within a REZ stage (as applicable), means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have a spiritual affiliation to particular lands, waters or a site on or near the area the subject of the *actionable ISP project, future ISP project*, or project within a REZ stage (as applicable).

~~**transmission asset** means the apparatus, equipment and plant, including transmission lines and substations of a transmission system.~~

transmission-distribution connection point means:

- (a) subject to paragraph (b), the agreed point of supply established between a *transmission network* and a *distribution network*;
- (b) in relation to the *declared transmission system* of an *adoptive jurisdiction*, the agreed point of supply between the *transmission assets* of the *declared transmission system operator* and a *distribution network*.

zone substation means a *substation* for the purpose of connecting a *distribution network* to a ~~sub-transmission network-sub-transmission network~~.

5.12.2 Transmission Annual Planning Report

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b), by 31 October each year all *Transmission Network Service Providers* must publish a *Transmission Annual Planning Report* setting out the results of the annual planning review conducted in accordance with clause 5.12.1.
- (b) If a *Network Service Provider* 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 Annual Planning Report*~~ *Distribution Network Development Plan* or annual update under clause 5.13.2.
- (c) The *Transmission Annual Planning Report* must be consistent with the *TAPR Guidelines* and set out:
 - (1) the forecast *loads* submitted by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* in accordance with clause 5.11.1 or as modified in accordance with clause 5.11.1(d), including at least:

- (i) a description of the forecasting methodology, sources of input information, and the assumptions applied in respect of the forecast *loads*;
 - (ii) a description of high, most likely and low growth scenarios in respect of the forecast *loads*;
 - (iii) an analysis and explanation of any aspects of forecast *loads* provided in the *Transmission Annual Planning Report* that have changed significantly from forecasts provided in the *Transmission Annual Planning Report* from the previous year; and
 - (iv) an analysis and explanation of any aspects of forecast *loads* provided in the *Transmission Annual Planning Report* from the previous year which are significantly different from the actual outcome;
- (1A) for all *network* asset retirements, and for all *network* asset de-ratings that would result in a *network constraint*, that are planned over the minimum planning period specified in clause 5.12.1(c), the following information in sufficient detail relative to the size or significance of the asset:
- (i) a description of the *network* asset, including location;
 - (ii) the reasons, including methodologies and assumptions used by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* for deciding that it is necessary or prudent for the *network* asset to be retired or ~~de-rated~~ *de-rated*, taking into account factors such as the condition of the *network* asset;
 - (iii) the date from which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* proposes that the *network* asset will be retired or ~~de-rated~~ *de-rated*; and
 - (iv) if the date to retire or ~~de-rate~~ *de-rate* the *network* asset has changed since the previous *Transmission Annual Planning Report*, an explanation of why this has occurred;
- (1B) for the purposes of subparagraph (1A), where two or more *network* assets are:
- (i) of the same type;
 - (ii) to be retired or ~~de-rated~~ *de-rated* across more than one location;
 - (iii) to be retired or ~~de-rated~~ *de-rated* in the same calendar year; and
 - (iv) each expected to have a replacement cost less than \$200,000 (as varied by a ~~cost threshold determination~~ *cost threshold determination*),
- those assets can be reported together by setting out in the *Transmission Annual Planning Report*:
- (v) a description of the *network* assets, including a summarised description of their locations;

- (vi) the reasons, including methodologies and assumptions used by the *Transmission Network Service Provider*, for deciding that it is necessary or prudent for the *network* assets to be retired or ~~de-rated~~, taking into account factors such as the condition of the *network* assets;
 - (vii) the date from which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* proposes that the *network* assets will be retired or ~~de-rated~~; and
 - (viii) if the calendar year to retire or ~~de-rate~~ the *network* assets has changed since the previous *Transmission Annual Planning Report*, an explanation of why this has occurred;
- (2) planning proposals for future *connection points*;
 - (3) a forecast of *constraints* and inability to meet the *network* performance requirements set out in schedule 5.1 or relevant legislation or regulations of a *participating jurisdiction* over 1, 3 and 5 years, including at least:
 - (i) a description of the *constraints* and their causes;
 - (ii) the timing and likelihood of the *constraints*;
 - (iii) a brief discussion of the types of planned future projects that may address the *constraints* over the next 5 years, if such projects are required; and
 - (iv) sufficient information to enable an understanding of the *constraints* and how such forecasts were developed;
 - (4) in respect of information required by subparagraph (3), where an estimated reduction in forecast *load* would defer a forecast *constraint* for a period of 12 months, include:
 - (i) the year and months in which a *constraint* is forecast to occur;
 - (ii) the relevant *connection points* at which the estimated reduction in forecast *load* may occur;
 - (iii) the estimated reduction in forecast *load* in MW needed; and
 - (iv) a statement of whether the *Transmission Network Service Provider* plans to issue a request for proposals for *augmentation*, replacement of *network* assets, or a *non-network option* identified by the annual planning review conducted under clause 5.12.1(b) and if so, the expected date the request will be issued;
 - (5) for all proposed *augmentations* to the *network* and proposed replacements of *network* assets the following information, in sufficient detail relative to the size or significance of the project and the proposed operational date of the project:
 - (i) project/asset name and the month and year in which it is proposed that the asset will become operational;
 - (ii) the reason for the actual or potential *constraint*, if any, or inability, if any, to meet the *network* performance requirements

- set out in schedule 5.1 or relevant legislation or regulations of a *participating jurisdiction*, including *load* forecasts and all assumptions used;
- (iii) the proposed solution to the *constraint* or inability to meet the *network* performance requirements identified in subparagraph (ii), if any;
 - (iv) total cost of the proposed solution;
 - (v) whether the proposed solution will have a *material inter-network impact*. In assessing whether an *augmentation* to the *network* will have a *material inter-network impact* a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must have regard to the objective set of criteria published by AEMO in accordance with clause 5.21 (if any such criteria have been published by AEMO); and
 - (vi) other reasonable *network options* and *non-network options* considered to address the actual or potential *constraint* or inability to meet the *network* performance requirements identified in subparagraph (ii), if any. Other reasonable *network* and *non-network options* include, but are not limited to, *interconnectors*, *generation options*, *demand side options*, *market network service options* and options involving other *transmission* and *distribution networks*;
- (6) the manner in which the proposed *augmentations* and proposed replacements of *network* assets relate to the most recent *Integrated System Plan*;
- (6A) for proposed new or modified *emergency frequency control schemes*, the manner in which the project relates to the most recent *general power system risk review*;
- (6B) information about which parts of its *transmission network* are *designated network assets* and the identities of the owners of those *designated network assets*;
- (7) information on the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* ~~*asset management*~~*asset management* approach, including:
- (i) a summary of any ~~*asset management*~~*asset management* strategy employed by the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
 - (ii) a summary of any issues that may impact on the system *constraints* identified in the *Transmission Annual Planning Report* that has been identified through carrying out ~~*asset management*~~*asset management*; and
 - (iii) information about where further information on the ~~*asset management*~~*asset management* strategy and methodology adopted by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* may be obtained.
- (8) any information required to be included in a *Transmission Annual Planning Report* under:

- (i) clauses 5.16.3(c) and 5.16A.3 in relation to a *network* investment which is determined to be required to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue; or
 - (ii) clauses 5.20B.4(h) and (i) and clauses 5.20C.3(f) and (g) in relation to *network* investment and other activities to:
 - (A) provide *inertia network services* or *inertia support activities*; or
 - (B) meet the standard in clause S5.1.14 in relation to a *system strength node*;
 - (9) emergency controls in place under clause S5.1.8, including the *Network Service Provider's* assessment of the need for new or altered emergency controls under that clause;
 - (9A) the analysis of the operation of, and any known or potential interactions between:
 - (i) any *emergency frequency control schemes*, or emergency controls place under clause S5.1.8, on its *network*; and
 - (ii) *protection systems* or *control systems* of *plant connected* to its *network* (including consideration of whether the settings of those systems are fit for purpose for the future operation of its *network*), undertaken under clause 5.12.1(b)(7), including a description of proposed actions to be undertaken to revise those schemes, controls or systems, or to address any adverse interactions;
 - (10) *facilities* in place under clause S5.1.10;
 - (11) an analysis and explanation of any other aspects of the *Transmission Annual Planning Report* that have changed significantly from the preceding year's *Transmission Annual Planning Report*, including the reasons why the changes have occurred;
 - (12) the results of joint planning (if any) undertaken with a *Transmission Network Service Provider* under clause 5.14.3 in the preceding year, including a summary of the process and methodology used by the *Transmission Network Service Providers* to undertake joint planning and the outcomes of that joint planning; and
 - (13) 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*.
- (d) A *declared transmission system operator* for all or part of the *declared shared network* must provide to *AEMO* within a reasonable period of receiving a request, such information as reasonably requested by *AEMO* to enable it to comply with:
- (1) clause 5.12.1(b)(5);
 - (2) clause 5.12.1(b)(6);
 - (3) clause 5.12.2(c)(1A);

- (4) clauses 5.12.2(c)(4), (5) and (6) as they relate to the proposed replacement of *network* assets; and
- (5) clause 5.12.2(c)(7).

5.13 Distribution ~~annual~~ planning process

5.13.1 ~~Distribution annual planning review~~

~~Scope~~

~~(a) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must:~~

- ~~(1) subject to paragraph (b), determine an appropriate *forward planning period* for its *distribution assets*; and~~
- ~~(2) analyse the expected future operation of its *network* over the *forward planning period* in accordance with this clause 5.13.1.~~

~~Note~~

~~This subparagraph 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 minimum *forward planning period* for the purposes of the *distribution annual planning review* is 5 years.~~
- ~~(c) The *distribution annual planning review* must include all assets that would be expected to have a material impact on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's network* over the *forward planning period*.~~

~~Requirements~~

- ~~(d) Each *Distribution Network Service Provider* must, in respect of its *network*:~~
 - ~~(1) prepare forecasts covering the *forward planning period* of maximum demands for:~~
 - ~~(i) *sub transmission lines*;~~
 - ~~(ii) *zone substations*; and~~
 - ~~(iii) to the extent practicable, *primary distribution feeders*,~~
having regard to:
 - ~~(iv) the number of customer *connections*;~~
 - ~~(v) *energy consumption*; and~~
 - ~~(vi) estimated total output of known *distribution connected units*;~~
 - ~~(2) identify, based on the outcomes of the forecasts in subparagraph (1) and paragraph (d1), limitations on its *network*, including limitations caused by one or more of the following factors:~~
 - ~~(i) forecast *load* or forecast use of *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* exceeding total capacity;~~
 - ~~(ii) the requirement for asset refurbishment or replacement;~~
 - ~~(iii) the requirement for *power system security* or *reliability improvement*;~~

- ~~(iv) design fault levels being exceeded;~~
- ~~(v) the requirement for voltage regulation and other aspects of quality of supply to other *Network Users*; and~~
- ~~(vi) the requirement to meet any *regulatory obligation or requirement*;~~
- ~~(3) identify whether corrective action is required to address any system limitations identified in subparagraph (2) and, if so, identify whether the *Distribution Network Service Provider* is required to:~~
 - ~~(i) carry out the requirements of the *regulatory investment test for distribution*;~~
 - ~~(ii) carry out industry engagement obligations as required under paragraph (f); and~~
- ~~(4) take into account any *jurisdictional electricity legislation*;~~
- ~~(5) take into account the most recent *general power system risk review*; and~~
- ~~(6) consider the operation of, and any known or potential interactions between:~~
 - ~~(i) any *emergency frequency control schemes* or emergency controls in place under clause S5.1.8, on its *network*; and~~
 - ~~(ii) *protection systems* or *control systems* of plant connected to its *network* (including consideration of whether the settings of those systems are fit for purpose for the future operation of its *network*), where the *Distribution Network Service Provider* expects that such operation or interactions would be likely to lead to *cascading outages* or *major supply disruptions*.~~

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.)

- ~~(d1) Each *Distribution Network Service Provider* must, in respect of its *network*, prepare forecasts covering the *forward planning period* of demand for *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* at:~~
 - ~~(1) *sub-transmission lines*;~~
 - ~~(2) *zone substations*; and~~
 - ~~(3) to the extent practicable, *primary distribution feeders*,~~
- having regard to:
- ~~(4) the number of customer *connections*;~~
 - ~~(5) *energy consumption*; and~~
 - ~~(6) estimated total output of known *distribution connected units*.~~

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.)

Industry engagement obligations

- ~~(e) 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*.~~~~
- ~~(f) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must engage with *non-network providers* and consider *non-network options* and *SAPS options* for addressing system limitations in accordance with its *industry engagement strategy*.~~
- ~~(g) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must develop and publish an *industry engagement document* setting out its *industry engagement strategy*.~~
- ~~(h) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must include the information specified in schedule 5.9 in its *industry engagement document*.~~
- ~~(i) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must review and publish a revised *industry engagement document* at least once every three years.~~
- ~~(j) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must establish and maintain a facility by which parties can register their interest in being notified of developments relating to *distribution network* planning and expansion. A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must have in place a facility under this paragraph (j) no later than the date of publication of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's industry engagement document* under paragraph (g).~~

5.13.2 Distribution Annual Planning Report

- ~~(a) For the purposes of this clause 5.13.2:
 - DAPR date** means for a *Distribution Network Service Provider*:
 - ~~(1) the date by which it is required to publish a *Distribution Annual Planning Report* under *jurisdictional electricity legislation*; or~~
 - ~~(2) if no such date is specified in *jurisdictional electricity legislation*, 31 December.~~~~
- ~~(b) By the *DAPR date* each year, a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish the *Distribution Annual Planning Report* setting out the results of the *distribution annual planning review* for the *forward planning period*.~~

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 Annual Planning Report* under this clause 5.13.2.~~

- ~~(c) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must include the information specified in schedule 5.8 in its *Distribution Annual Planning Report*.~~
- ~~(d) Despite paragraph (c), a *Distribution Network Service Provider* is not required to include in its *Distribution Annual Planning Report* information required in relation to *transmission-distribution connection points* if it is required to do so under *jurisdictional electricity legislation*.~~

- ~~(c) As soon as practicable after it publishes a *Distribution Annual Planning Report* under paragraph (b), a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish on its website the contact details for a suitably qualified staff member of the *Distribution Network Service Provider* to whom queries on the report may be directed.~~

~~5.13.3 Distribution system limitation template~~

- ~~(a) The *AER* must develop and publish a *system limitation template* in accordance with paragraph (c) and having regard to paragraph (b). The *system limitation template* must be developed by the *AER* in consultation with *Distribution Network Service Providers* and any persons who have identified themselves to the *AER* as having an interest in the form or contents of the *system limitation template*.~~
- ~~(b) The purpose of the *system limitation template* is to facilitate the publication by *Distribution Network Service Providers* of information on *system limitations* referred to in their *Distribution Annual Planning Reports* in a useable, consistent, accessible format to assist third parties to propose alternative options to address *system limitations*.~~
- ~~(c) The *system limitation template* must:~~
- ~~(1) provide a template for the reporting of the following information:~~
 - ~~(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 *forward planning period* that has been identified in a *Distribution Network Service Provider's Distribution Annual Planning Report*;~~
 - ~~(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; and~~
 - ~~(2) include a statement that any information provided using the *system limitation template* must be read in conjunction with the reporting *Distribution Network Service Provider's Distribution Annual Planning Report*.~~
- ~~(d) At the same time as it publishes its *Distribution Annual Planning Report* each year, a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish a report which contains the information specified in paragraph (c) in the form required by the *system limitation template*.~~

5.13A — Distribution zone substation information

Definitions

(a) — In this rule:

~~**annual zone substation report** means a report containing historical zone substation information for a reporting year (other than a reporting year covered by the ten year zone substation report).~~

~~**reporting year** for a *Distribution Network Service Provider* means a period of one year that ends on the same date in each reporting year (e.g. a period of one year ending on 30 June).~~

~~**ten year zone substation report** means a report containing historical zone substation information that is available for the ten reporting years prior to the commencement of this rule 5.13A.~~

~~**zone substation information** means the information specified in paragraph (b).~~

Zone substation information

(b) — ~~Zone substation information means the following information for each *zone substation* on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* *distribution network*:~~

(1) — ~~the name or other identifier for the *zone substation* that corresponds to that used by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* in the regional development plan referred to in clause S5.8(n);~~

(2) — ~~if the *Distribution Network Service Provider* has determined under paragraph (g) that the *load* for the *zone substation* should not be disclosed, a statement to the effect that the information has not been provided for that *zone substation* for reasons of confidentiality;~~

(3) — ~~each date and time interval for which *load* data is available for the *zone substation*;~~

(4) — ~~for each date and time interval specified under subparagraph (b)(3), *load* (in kW or MW); and~~

(5) — ~~any additional information relating to *load* at the *zone substation* that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* wishes to provide.~~

Note

~~The following are examples of additional information that may be provided by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13A(b)(5):~~

(a) — ~~apparent power measured in kVA or MVA;~~

(b) — ~~reactive power measured in kVAr or MVAr; or~~

(c) — ~~power factor.~~

(c) — ~~The *Distribution Network Service Provider's* obligation to provide zone substation information under subparagraphs (b)(4) and (5) is to provide raw data. A *Distribution Network Service Provider* is not required to analyse, assess or validate the quality or accuracy of that data before it is provided to a person who requests it under this rule 5.13A.~~

Requests for zone substation information

- ~~(d) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must publish on its website:~~
- ~~(1) information on how a person may request a ten year zone substation report and/or annual zone substation reports;~~
 - ~~(2) the electronic format (and any other format) in which the *Distribution Network Service Provider* can make zone substation information available;~~
 - ~~(3) the end date of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* reporting year;~~
 - ~~(4) the start and end dates of the period to which the ten year zone substation report relates;~~
 - ~~(5) details of the annual zone substation reports that are available on request;~~
 - ~~(6) information on when the next annual zone substation report will be available on request; and~~
 - ~~(7) the amount of the fee payable to the *Distribution Network Service Provider* for provision of the ten year zone substation report and each annual zone substation report. Any fee specified must be no more than that required to meet the reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* in providing the relevant zone substation reports.~~
- ~~(e) Any person may request a *Distribution Network Service Provider* to provide zone substation information. A request for zone substation information must:~~
- ~~(1) specify whether the person requires:
 - ~~(i) a ten year zone substation report; and/or~~
 - ~~(ii) one or more annual zone substation reports;~~~~
 - ~~(2) specify the format in which the person wishes to receive the reports under subparagraph (e)(1), which must be a format specified by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under paragraph (d)(2);~~
 - ~~(3) include an acknowledgment that:
 - ~~(i) any zone substation information provided by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under subparagraphs (b)(4) and (5) is raw data and the *Distribution Network Service Provider* has not analysed, assessed or validated the quality or accuracy of that data; and~~
 - ~~(ii) the *Distribution Network Service Provider* makes no warranty or guarantee as to the quality, accuracy or suitability for any particular purpose of the zone substation information;~~~~
 - ~~(4) be accompanied by any applicable fees specified on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* website; and~~
 - ~~(5) otherwise be in the format reasonably required by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* and as specified on its website.~~

Obligations of Distribution Network Service Providers to provide zone substation information

- ~~(f) If a *Distribution Network Service Provider* receives a request in accordance with paragraph (e) it:~~
- ~~(1) must provide the report(s) requested as soon as practicable but, in any event, within 30 *business days* of the date of the request; and~~
 - ~~(2) must not require the person who requested the report(s) to meet any further conditions or make any further acknowledgments or undertakings to the *Distribution Network Service Provider* before providing the report(s).~~
- ~~(g) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* is not required to provide information under subparagraphs (b)(3) and (4) for a *zone substation* if, in the reasonable opinion of the *Distribution Network Service Provider*, that information is confidential or commercially sensitive to a third party.~~

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) 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;

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 to 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).

5.14.1 Joint planning obligations of Transmission Network Service Providers and Distribution Network Service Providers

- (a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c):
 - (1) each *Distribution Network Service Provider* must conduct joint planning with each *Transmission Network Service Provider* of the *transmission networks* to which the *Distribution Network Service Provider's networks* are connected; and

Note

This subparagraph 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.)

- (2) each *Transmission Network Service Provider* must conduct joint planning with each *Distribution Network Service Provider* of the *distribution networks* to which the *Transmission Network Service Provider's networks* are connected.

Note

This subparagraph 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) In the case of the *declared shared network* of an *adoptive jurisdiction*, the relevant *declared transmission system operator*, the relevant *Distribution Network Service Provider*, *AEMO* and any *interested party* that has informed *AEMO* of its interest in the relevant plans, shall conduct joint planning.

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.)

- (c) For the purposes of this clause 5.14.1, a *Transmission Network Service Provider* does not include a *Network Service Provider* that is a *Transmission Network Service Provider* only because it owns, controls or operates *dual function assets*.

- (d) The relevant *Distribution Network Service Provider* and *Transmission Network Service Provider* must:
- (1) assess the adequacy of existing *transmission* and *distribution networks* and the assets associated with transmission-distribution connection points ~~transmission-distribution connection points~~ over the next five years and to undertake joint planning of projects which relate to both *networks* (including, where relevant, *dual function assets*);
 - (2) use best endeavours to work together to ensure efficient planning outcomes and to identify the most efficient options to address the needs identified in accordance with subparagraph (4);
 - (3) identify any limitations or constraints:
 - (i) that will affect both the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* and *Distribution Network Service Provider's network*; or
 - (ii) which can only be addressed by corrective action that will require coordination by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* and the *Distribution Network Service Provider*;
 - (3A) assess the known or potential interactions between:
 - (i) any *emergency frequency control schemes*, or emergency controls in place under clause S5.1.8, on their *networks*; and
 - (ii) *protection systems* or *control systems* of *plant connected to their networks*,
as identified under clauses 5.12.1(b)(7) and ~~5.13.1(d)(6)~~S5.8(c) with a view to addressing any adverse impacts through joint planning; and
 - (4) where the need for a *joint planning project* is identified under subparagraphs (3) or (3A):
 - (i) jointly determine plans that can be considered by relevant *Registered Participants*, *AEMO*, *interested parties*, and parties registered on the ~~industry engagement register~~industry engagement register of each *Distribution Network Service Provider* involved in joint planning;
 - (ii) determine whether the *joint planning project* is a *RIT-T project* or a *RIT-D project*; and
 - (iii) may agree on a lead party to be responsible for carrying out the *regulatory investment test for transmission* or the *regulatory investment test for distribution* (as the case may be) in respect of the *joint planning project*.

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) If a *Network Service Provider*, as the lead party for one or more *Network Service Providers*, undertakes the *regulatory investment test for transmission* or the *regulatory investment test for distribution* (as the case may be) in respect of a *joint planning project*, the other *Network Service Providers* will

be taken to have discharged their obligation to undertake the relevant test in respect of that project.

5.15.3 Review of costs thresholds

Regulatory investment test for transmission thresholds

- (a) Every 3 years the *AER* must undertake a review of the changes in the input costs used to calculate the estimated capital costs in relation to *transmission* investment as referred to in paragraph (b), for the purposes of determining whether the *cost thresholds* specified in paragraph (b) need to be changed to maintain the appropriateness of the *cost thresholds* over time by adjusting those *cost thresholds* to reflect any increase or decrease in the input costs since:
- (1) July 2009 in respect of the first *cost threshold review*; and
 - (2) the date of the previous review in respect of every subsequent *cost threshold review*.

Note

The *cost thresholds* are regularly reviewed by the *AER* under paragraph (b). The current thresholds are specified in the latest cost threshold determination available on the *AER*'s website www.aer.gov.au.

- (b) For the purposes of paragraph (a), the *cost thresholds* for review are the following amounts:
- (1) **[Deleted]**
 - (1A) of less than \$200,000 referred to in clause 5.12.2(c)(1B)(iv);
 - (2) of less than \$5 million referred to in clause 5.16.3(a)(2);
 - (3) **[Deleted]**
 - (4) of less than \$5 million referred to in clause 5.16.3(a)(5);
 - (5) of less than \$35 million referred to in clause 5.16.4(z1)(1) and clause 5.16A.4(m)(1);
 - (6) in excess of \$5 million in relation to investment in *transmission assets* of the type referred to in the definition of *potential transmission project* in clause 5.10.2; and
 - (7) greater than \$100 million referred to in clause 5.16.4(k)(10) and clause 5.16A.4(d)(9).

Regulatory investment test for distribution costs thresholds

- (c) Subject to paragraph (f)(2), every 3 years, and at the same time as it undertakes its review of the *cost thresholds* for *regulatory investment test for transmission* under paragraph (a), the *AER* must undertake a review of the changes in the input costs used to calculate the estimated capital costs in relation to:
- (1) projects subject to the *regulatory investment test for distribution*; and
 - (2) the *cost threshold* for committed investments that are to address an urgent and unforeseen *network need* subject to the *Distribution Annual Planning Report* ~~*Distribution Network Development Plan*~~,

for the purposes of determining whether the *cost thresholds* specified in paragraph (d) need to be changed to maintain the appropriateness of the *cost thresholds* over time by adjusting those *cost thresholds* to reflect any increase or decrease in the input costs since:

- (3) 1 January 2013 in respect of the first *cost threshold* review; and
 - (4) the date of the previous review in respect of every subsequent *cost threshold* review.
- (d) For the purposes of paragraph (c), the *cost thresholds* for review are the following amounts:
- (1) \$5 million referred to in clause 5.17.3(a)(2);
 - (2) **[Deleted]**;
 - (3) \$10 million referred to in clause 5.17.4(n)(2);
 - (4) \$20 million referred to in clause 5.17.4(s); and
~~(4A) of less than \$200,000 referred to in S5.8(b2)(4);~~
 - (5) ~~\$2 million referred to in S5.8(g); and~~ **[Deleted]**
 - (6) greater than \$100 million referred to in clause 5.17.4(j)(13).

Note

The *cost thresholds* are regularly reviewed by the *AER* under paragraph (b). The current thresholds are specified in the latest ~~cost threshold determination~~ cost threshold determination available on the *AER*'s website www.aer.gov.au.

Cost threshold reviews

- (e) Each *cost threshold* review is to be commenced by the *AER* by 31 July of the relevant year.
- (f) The first review of the *cost thresholds* for:
 - (1) the *regulatory investment test for transmission* under paragraph (a) must be initiated in 2012; and
 - (2) the *regulatory investment test for distribution* under paragraph (c) must be initiated in 2015.
- (g) Within six weeks following the commencement of a *cost threshold* review, the *AER* must *publish* a draft determination outlining:
 - (1) whether the *AER* has formed the view that any of the *cost thresholds* need to be amended to reflect increases or decreases in the input costs to ensure that the appropriateness of the *cost thresholds* is maintained over time;
 - (2) its reasons for determining whether the *cost thresholds* need to be varied to reflect increases or decreases in the input costs;
 - (3) if there is to be a variation in a *cost threshold*, the amount of the new *cost threshold* and the date the new *cost threshold* will take effect; and
 - (4) its reasons for determining the amount of the new *cost threshold*.

- (h) At the same time as it *publishes* the draft determination under paragraph (f), the *AER* must *publish* a notice seeking submissions on the draft determination. The notice must specify the period within which written submissions can be made (the *cost threshold* consultation period) which must be no less than 5 weeks from the date of the notice.
- (i) The *AER* must consider any written submissions received during the *cost threshold* consultation period in making its final determination in respect of the matters outlined in paragraph (g).
- (j) The final determination on *cost thresholds* must be made and *published* by the *AER* within 5 weeks following the end of the *cost threshold* consultation period.
- (k) The *AER* may *publish* a draft determination under paragraph (g), a notice under paragraph (h), or a final determination under paragraph (j) for any *cost threshold reviews* under paragraphs (a) and (c) as a single document.

5.16.3 Investments subject to the regulatory investment test for transmission

- (a) A *RIT-T* proponent must apply the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to a *RIT-T* project except in circumstances where:
 - (1) the *RIT-T* project is required to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue that would otherwise put at risk the *reliability* of the *transmission network* as described in paragraph (b);
 - (2) the estimated capital cost of the most expensive option to address the *identified need* which is technically and economically feasible is less than \$5 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~cost threshold determination~~*cost threshold determination*);
 - (3) the proposed expenditure relates to maintenance and is not intended to *augment* the *transmission network* or replace *network* assets;
 - (4) **[Deleted]**;
 - (5) the proposed relevant *network* investment is an investment undertaken by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* which:
 - (i) re-routes one or more paths of a *network* for the long term; and
 - (ii) has a substantial primary purpose other than the need to *augment* a *network*,

(a *reconfiguration investment*) and which the *RIT-T* proponent reasonably estimates to have an estimated capital cost of less than \$5 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~cost threshold determination~~*cost threshold determination*) or which has, or is likely to have, no material impact on *network* users;
 - (6) the *identified need* can only be addressed by expenditure on a *connection asset* which provides services other than *prescribed transmission services* or *standard control services*;

- (7) the cost of addressing the *identified need* is to be fully recovered through charges other than charges in respect of *prescribed transmission services* or *standard control services*;
- (8) the proposed expenditure relates to *protected event EFCS investment* and is not intended to *augment* the *transmission network*;
- (9) the proposed expenditure is an *inertia service payment*; or
- (10) the proposed expenditure is for *network* investment undertaken by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* to address a *NSCAS gap* as part of the arrangements provided to *AEMO* under clause 3.11.3(b) in response to a request under clause 3.11.3(a) and either:
 - (i) the time by which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* (as the *Inertia Service Provider*) must address the *NSCAS gap* is less than 18 months from the date *AEMO* declared the *NSCAS gap* in accordance with clause 5.20.3; or
 - (ii) the time by which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* (as the *System Strength Service Provider*) must address the *NSCAS gap* is less than 18 months from the date *AEMO* has declared the *NSCAS gap* in accordance with clause 5.20.3,

and, in each case, the proposed expenditure must only relate to that part of the *NSCAS gap* for which there is insufficient *inertia network services* or insufficient *system strength services*.

Note

This paragraph is classified as a tier 3 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) For the purposes of paragraph (a)(1), a *RIT-T project* will be required to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue that would otherwise put at risk the *reliability* of the *transmission network* if:
 - (1) it is necessary that the assets or services to address the issue be operational within 6 months of the issue being identified;
 - (2) the event or circumstances causing the *identified need* was not reasonably foreseeable by, and was beyond the reasonable control of, the *Network Service Provider(s)* that identified the *identified need*;
 - (3) a failure to address the *identified need* is likely to materially adversely affect the *reliability* and *secure operating state* of the *transmission network*; and
 - (4) it is not a *contingent project*.
- (c) If a proposed relevant *network* investment is determined to be required to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue as described in paragraph (b), and the *Network Service Provider* making the investment is a *Transmission Network Service Provider*, then the *Transmission Network Service Provider* must provide the following information in its next *Transmission Annual Planning Report* following the identification of the need for the relevant *network* investment:

- (1) the date when the proposed relevant *network* investment became or will become operational;
 - (2) the purpose of the proposed relevant *network* investment; and
 - (3) the total cost of the proposed relevant *network* investment.
- (d) With the exception of *funded augmentations*, for each *RIT-T project* to which the *regulatory investment test for transmission* does not apply in accordance with paragraph (a), the *Network Service Providers* affected by the *RIT-T project* must ensure, acting reasonably, that the investment required to address the *identified need* is planned and developed at least cost over the life of the investment.
- (e) A *RIT-T proponent* must not treat different parts of an integrated solution to an *identified need* as distinct and separate options for the purposes of determining whether the *regulatory investment test for transmission* applies to each of those parts.

5.16.4 Regulatory investment test for transmission procedures

- (a) If a *RIT-T project* is subject to the *regulatory investment test for transmission* under clause 5.16.3, then the *RIT-T proponent* must consult all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* on the *RIT-T project* in accordance with this clause 5.16.4.

Note

This paragraph is classified as a tier 3 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

Project specification consultation report

- (b) A *RIT-T proponent* must prepare a report (the *project specification consultation report*), which must include:
- (1) a description of the *identified need*;
 - (2) the assumptions used in identifying the *identified need* (including, in the case of proposed *reliability corrective action*, why the *RIT-T proponent* considers *reliability corrective action* is necessary);
 - (3) the technical characteristics of the *identified need* that a *non-network option* would be required to deliver, such as:
 - (i) the size of *load* reduction or additional supply;
 - (ii) location; and
 - (iii) operating profile;
 - (4) if applicable, reference to any discussion on the description of the *identified need* or the credible options in respect of that *identified need* in the most recent *Integrated System Plan*;
 - (5) a description of all credible options of which the *RIT-T proponent* is aware that address the *identified need*, which may include, without limitation, alternative *transmission* options, *interconnectors*, *generation*, *system strength services*, demand side management, *market network services* or other *network options*;

- (6) for each credible option identified in accordance with subparagraph (5), information about:
 - (i) the technical characteristics of the credible option;
 - (ii) whether the credible option is reasonably likely to have a *material inter-network impact*;
 - (iii) the classes of market benefits that the *RIT-T proponent* considers are likely not to be material in accordance with clause 5.15A.2(b)(6), together with reasons of why the *RIT-T proponent* considers that these classes of market benefits are not likely to be material;
 - (iv) the estimated construction timetable and commissioning date; and
 - (v) to the extent practicable, the total indicative capital and operating and maintenance costs.
- (c) The *RIT-T proponent* must make the *project specification consultation report* available to all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and other *interested parties*.
- (d) The *RIT-T proponent* must:
 - (1) provide a summary of the *project specification consultation report* to *AEMO* within 5 *business days* of making the *project specification consultation report*; and
 - (2) upon request by an *interested party*, provide a copy of the *project specification consultation report* to that person within 3 *business days* of the request.
- (e) Within 3 *business days* of receipt of the summary, *AEMO* must *publish* the summary of the *project specification consultation report* on its website.
- (f) The *RIT-T proponent* must seek submissions from *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* on the credible options presented, and the issues addressed, in the *project specification consultation report*.
- (g) The period for consultation referred to in paragraph (f) must be not less than 12 weeks from the date that *AEMO publishes* the summary of the *project specification consultation report* on its website.
- (h) A *RIT-T proponent* that is a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (c) to make the *project specification consultation report* available by including the *project specification consultation report* as part of its *Transmission Annual Planning Report*.
- (i) ~~A *RIT-T proponent* that is a *Distribution Network Service Provider* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (c) to make the *project specification consultation report* available by including the *project specification consultation report* as part of its *Distribution Annual Planning Report*.~~ **[Deleted]**

Project assessment draft report

- (j) If one or more *Network Service Providers* wishes to proceed with a *RIT-T project*, within 12 months of the end date of the consultation period referred to in paragraph (g), or such longer time period as is agreed in writing by the

AER, the *RIT-T proponent* for the relevant *RIT-T project* must prepare a report (the *project assessment draft report*), having regard to the submissions received, if any, under paragraph (f) and make that report available to all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties*.

- (k) The *project assessment draft report* must include:
- (1) a description of each *credible option* assessed;
 - (2) a summary of, and commentary on, the submissions to the *project specification consultation report*;
 - (3) a quantification of the costs, including a breakdown of operating and capital expenditure, and classes of material market benefit for each *credible option*;
 - (4) a detailed description of the methodologies used in quantifying each class of material market benefit and cost;
 - (5) reasons why the *RIT-T proponent* has determined that a class or classes of market benefit are not material;
 - (6) the identification of any class of market benefit estimated to arise outside the *region* of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* affected by the *RIT-T project*, and quantification of the value of such market benefits (in aggregate across all regions);
 - (7) the results of a net present value analysis of each *credible option* and accompanying explanatory statements regarding the results;
 - (8) the identification of the proposed *preferred option*;
 - (9) for the proposed preferred option identified under subparagraph (8), the *RIT-T proponent* must provide:
 - (i) details of the technical characteristics;
 - (ii) the estimated construction timetable and commissioning date;
 - (iii) if the proposed *preferred option* is likely to have a *material inter-network impact* and if the *Transmission Network Service Provider* affected by the *RIT-T project* has received an *augmentation technical report*, that report; and
 - (iv) a statement and the accompanying detailed analysis that the *preferred option* satisfies the *regulatory investment test for transmission*; and
 - (10) if each of the following apply to the *RIT-T project*:
 - (i) the estimated capital cost of the proposed *preferred option* is greater than \$100 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~*cost threshold determination*~~*cost threshold determination*); and
 - (ii) *AEMO* is not the sole *RIT-T proponent*,
the *RIT reopening triggers* applying to the *RIT-T project*.
- (l) If a *Network Service Provider* affected by a *RIT-T project* elects to proceed with a project which is for *reliability corrective action*, it can only do so where

the proposed *preferred option* has a proponent. The *RIT-T proponent* must identify that proponent in the *project assessment draft report*.

- (m) A *RIT-T proponent* that is a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (j) to make the *project assessment draft report* available by including the *project assessment draft report* as part of its *Transmission Annual Planning Report* provided that report is *published* within 12 months of the end date of the consultation period required under paragraph (g) or within 12 months of the end of such longer time period as is agreed by the *AER* in writing under paragraph (j).
- (n) ~~A *RIT-T proponent* that is a *Distribution Network Service Provider* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (j) to make the *project assessment draft report* available by including the *project assessment draft report* as part of its *Distribution Annual Planning Report* provided that report is *published* within 12 months of the end date of the consultation period required under paragraph (g) or within 12 months of the end of such longer time period as is agreed by the *AER* in writing under paragraph (j).~~ **[Deleted]**
- (o) The *RIT-T proponent* must:
 - (1) provide a summary of the *project assessment draft report* to *AEMO* within 5 *business days* of making the *project assessment draft report*; and
 - (2) upon request by an *interested party*, provide a copy of the *project assessment draft report* to that person within 3 *business days* of the request.
- (p) Within 3 *business days* of receipt of the summary, *AEMO* must *publish* the summary of the *project assessment draft report* on its website.
- (q) The *RIT-T proponent* must seek submissions from *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* on the *preferred option* presented, and the issues addressed, in the *project assessment draft report*.
- (r) The period for consultation referred to in paragraph (q) must be not less than 6 weeks from the date that *AEMO publishes* the summary of the report on its website.
- (s) Within 4 weeks after the end of the consultation period required under paragraph (r), at the request of an *interested party*, a *Registered Participant* or *AEMO* (each being a relevant party for the purposes of this paragraph), the relevant *Network Service Provider* must meet with the relevant party if a meeting is requested by two or more relevant parties and may meet with a relevant party if after having considered all submissions, the relevant *Network Service Provider*, acting reasonably, considers that the meeting is necessary.

Project assessment conclusions report

- (t) As soon as practicable after the end of the consultation period on the *project assessment draft report* referred to in paragraph (r), the *RIT-T proponent* must, having regard to the submissions received, if any, under paragraph (q) and the matters discussed at any meetings held, if any, under paragraph (s), prepare and make available to all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and

interested parties and *publish* a report (the *project assessment conclusions report*).

- (u) If:
- (1) the *RIT-T proponent* is exempt from making a *project assessment draft report* under paragraph (z1); and
 - (2) a *Network Service Provider* affected by a *RIT-T project*, within 12 months of the end date of the period for consultation referred to in paragraph (g), or within 12 months of the end date of such longer time period as is agreed in writing by the *AER* elects to proceed with the proposed *transmission investment*,
- the relevant *Network Service Provider* must, having regard to the submissions received, if any, under paragraph (g) as soon as practicable prepare and make available to all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* and *publish* a report (the *project assessment conclusions report*).
- (v) The *project assessment conclusions report* must set out:
- (1) the matters detailed in the *project assessment draft report* as required under paragraph (k); and
 - (2) a summary of, and the *RIT-T proponent's* response to, submissions received, if any, from *interested parties* sought under paragraph (q).
- (w) The *RIT-T proponent* must:
- (1) provide a summary of the *project assessment conclusions report* to *AEMO* within 5 *business days* of making the *project assessment conclusions report*; and
 - (2) upon request by an *interested party*, provide a copy of the *project assessment conclusions report* to that person within 3 *business days* of the request.
- (x) Within 3 *business days* of receipt of the summary, *AEMO* must *publish* the summary of the *project assessment conclusions report* on its website.
- (y) A *RIT-T proponent* that is a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (t) and (u) to make the *project assessment conclusions report* available by including the *project assessment conclusions report* as part of its *Transmission Annual Planning Report* provided that the report is *published* within 4 weeks from the date of making available the *project assessment conclusions report* under paragraph (t) or (u), as the case may be.
- (z) ~~A *RIT-T proponent* that is a *Distribution Network Service Provider* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (t) and (u) to make the *project assessment conclusions report* available by including the *project assessment conclusions report* as part of its *Distribution Annual Planning Report* provided that the report is *published* within 4 weeks from the date of making available the *project assessment conclusions report* under paragraph (t) or (u), as the case may be.~~ **[Deleted]**

Exemption from drafting a project assessment draft report for RIT-T projects without material market benefits

- (z1) A *RIT-T proponent* is exempt from paragraphs (j) to (s) if:
- (1) the estimated capital cost of the proposed *preferred option* is less than \$35 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~*cost threshold determination*~~*cost threshold determination*);
 - (2) the relevant *Network Service Provider* has identified in its *project specification consultation report*:
 - (i) its proposed *preferred option*;
 - (ii) its reasons for the proposed *preferred option*; and
 - (iii) that its *RIT-T project* has the benefit of this exemption;
 - (3) the *RIT-T proponent* considers, in accordance with clause 5.15A.2(b)(6), that the proposed *preferred option* and any other credible option in respect of the *identified need* will not have a material market benefit for the classes of market benefit specified in clause 5.15A.2(b)(4) except those classes specified in clauses 5.15A.2(b)(4)(ii) and (iii), and has stated this in its *project specification consultation report*; and
 - (4) the *RIT-T proponent* forms the view that no submissions were received on the *project specification consultation report* which identified additional credible options that could deliver a material market benefit.
- (z2) The *RIT-T proponent* must address in the *project assessment conclusions report* any issues that were raised in relation to a proposed *preferred option* to which paragraph (z1) applies during the consultation on the *project specification consultation report*.

Reapplication of regulatory investment test for transmission

- (z3) If:
- (1) a *RIT-T proponent* has published a *project assessment conclusions report* in respect of a *RIT-T project*;
 - (2) a *Network Service Provider* still wishes to undertake the *RIT-T project* to address the *identified need*; and
 - (3) there has been any material change in circumstances,
- then the *RIT-T proponent* must:
- (4) notify the *AER* in writing of the material change in circumstances, which must also set out the nature of that material change in circumstances, any actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take as a result of that material change in circumstances and the timeframes within which it proposes to complete any such actions;
 - (5) provide any information necessary to support any actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take, including any information necessary to demonstrate that the *RIT-T proponent* has had regard to the matters in paragraph (z4A); and
 - (6) take the actions (if any) approved or required by the *AER* in a determination made under paragraph (z5A) within the timeframe specified by the *AER* in its determination.

- (z3A) For the purposes of paragraph (z3), a *RIT-T proponent* is only required to consider whether a material change in circumstances has occurred if more than six months has elapsed since the later of the *RIT-T proponent* completing:
- (1) the analysis required to apply the *regulatory investment test for transmission*; or
 - (2) the analysis required for any reapplication (in whole or in part) of the *regulatory investment test for transmission*.
- (z4) For the purposes of paragraph (z3), a material change in circumstances includes, but is not limited to:
- (1) a change to the key assumptions used in identifying the *identified need* described in the *project assessment conclusions report*;
 - (2) for a *RIT-T project* contemplated by clause 5.16.4(k)(10), one or more *RIT reopening triggers* applying to the project having been triggered; or
 - (3) a change in circumstances which, in the reasonable opinion of the *RIT-T proponent*, means that the *preferred option* identified in the *project assessment conclusions report* may no longer be the *preferred option*.
- (z4A) When proposing any actions to take and/or associated timeframes under subparagraph (z3)(4), the *RIT-T proponent* must have regard to:
- (1) whether, in the *RIT-T proponent's* reasonable opinion, the reapplication of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to the *RIT-T project* is justified in the circumstances;
 - (2) the costs and delay that may result from the actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take as a result of the material change in circumstances; and
 - (3) the costs and delay that may result from the reapplication (in whole or in part) of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to the *RIT-T project*.
- (z4B) The actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take under subparagraph (z3)(4) must at a minimum include:
- (1) *publishing* a statement that the *preferred option* identified remains the *preferred option*, as well as any supporting information necessary to demonstrate that the *preferred option* identified remains the *preferred option*; or
 - (2) *publishing* a statement that the *preferred option* is no longer the *preferred option* and identifying the new *preferred option*, as well as any supporting information necessary to demonstrate that the *preferred option* is no longer the *preferred option* and the reasons the new *preferred option* is the *preferred option*.
- (z5) When making a determination under paragraph (z5A), the *AER*:
- (1) must have regard to:
 - (i) the credible options (other than the *preferred option*) identified in the *project assessment conclusions report*;

- (ii) the material change in circumstances identified by the *RIT-T proponent*;
 - (iii) whether a failure to promptly undertake the *RIT-T project* is likely to materially affect the *reliability* and *secure operating state* of the *transmission network* or a significant part of that *network*; and
 - (iv) whether the *RIT-T proponent* has had regard to the matters required under paragraph (z4A); and
- (2) may request additional information or analysis from the *RIT-T proponent* that the *AER* considers reasonably necessary to assist it in making a determination under paragraph (z5A).
- (z5A) Subject to paragraph (z5C), within 40 days of receipt by the *AER* of a notice referred to in subparagraph (z3)(4), the *AER* must:
- (1) *publish* the notice referred to in subparagraph (z3)(4);
 - (2) make a determination whether to approve or reject any actions (and/or associated timeframes) notified by the *RIT-T proponent* under subparagraph (z3)(4) and, where the *AER* approves any such actions, specify a reasonable timeframe within which such actions must be completed;
 - (3) notify the *RIT-T proponent* of the determination;
 - (4) where the *AER* rejects the actions (and/or associated timeframes) notified by the *RIT-T proponent* under subparagraph (z3)(4), specify the actions (if any) the *AER* requires the *RIT-T proponent* to take, which may include the *RIT-T proponent* reapplying (in whole or in part) the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to the *RIT-T project*, as well as a reasonable timeframe within which any such actions must be completed; and
 - (5) *publish* the determination made under subparagraph (z5A)(2) or subparagraph (z5A)(4) (as applicable).
- (z5B) If the *AER* does not make the determination within the time required by paragraph (z5A), then the *AER* is taken to have approved the actions notified by the *RIT-T proponent* under subparagraph (z3)(4).
- (z5C) Where the *AER* requests additional information or analysis under subparagraph (z5)(2), the period of time for making a determination under paragraph (z5A) is automatically extended by the time it takes the *RIT-T proponent* to provide the additional information or analysis to the *AER* provided that the *AER* makes the request for additional information at least seven days prior to the expiry of the period of time for making a determination under paragraph (z5A).
- (z5D) At the same time that a *RIT-T proponent* submits an application under clause 6A.8.2(a), the *RIT-T proponent* must provide the *AER* with a statement containing confirmation:
- (1) on whether or not there has been a material change in circumstances contemplated under subparagraph (z3)(3) and any supporting analysis;

- (2) that the *RIT-T proponent* has complied with its obligations under paragraphs (z3), (z4A) and (z4B);
- (3) of the actions (if any) the *RIT-T proponent* was required to take pursuant to a determination by the *AER* under paragraph (z5A) and timeframe within which such actions were to be completed; and
- (4) of the actions (if any) the *RIT-T proponent* took as a result of the material change in circumstances and the date on which any such actions were completed.

(z5E) At the same time, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the *RIT-T proponent's* submission under paragraph (z5D), the *RIT-T proponent* must *publish* the statement referred to in paragraph (z5D).

Declared transmission system operator may request assistance from AEMO to conduct market benefits assessments for replacement RIT-T projects

- (z6) Where a *RIT-T proponent* is a *declared transmission system operator* within a *declared shared network*, it may in relation to *RIT-T projects* to address an *identified need* that arises from the retirement or de-rating of *network* assets, request assistance and information from *AEMO* as reasonably required for it to consider and conduct market benefits assessments as required by:
- (1) clause 5.16.4(b)(6)(iii);
 - (2) clause 5.16.4(k)(3) to (k)(6); and
 - (3) clause 5.16.4(v).
- (z7) *AEMO* must provide assistance and information requested under paragraph (z6) to the *declared transmission system operator* within a reasonable period of time.

5.16A.4 Regulatory investment test for transmission procedures

- (a) If a *Transmission Network Service Provider* is identified as a *RIT-T proponent* in an *Integrated System Plan* for an *actionable ISP project*, then that *Transmission Network Service Provider* is the *RIT-T proponent* for that *RIT-T project* and must apply the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to, and consult all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* on, that *RIT-T project* in accordance with this clause 5.16A.4.
- (b) A *Transmission Network Service Provider's* obligations under paragraphs (a) and (c) cease if *AEMO* publishes an *Integrated System Plan* or an *ISP update* that shows that the *actionable ISP project* no longer forms part of the *optimal development path*.
- (b1) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* may, but is not obliged to, undertake *early works*. If the *Transmission Network Service Provider* elects to undertake *early works*, it may commence the application of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* in parallel with any *early works contingent project application* or after the approval of that application (at its discretion).

Project assessment draft report

- (c) The *RIT-T proponent* must prepare a report in accordance with paragraphs (d) to (h) (*project assessment draft report*) and publish it by the date specified in

the *Integrated System Plan* for that *RIT-T project* or such longer time period as is agreed in writing by the *AER* and make that report available to all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties*.

- (d) The *project assessment draft report* must:
- (1) include the matters required by the *Cost Benefit Analysis Guidelines*;
 - (2) adopt the *identified need* set out in the *Integrated System Plan* (including, in the case of proposed *reliability corrective action*, why the *RIT-T proponent* considers *reliability corrective action* is necessary);
 - (3) describe each *credible option* assessed;
 - (4) include a quantification of the costs, including a breakdown of operating and capital expenditure for each *credible option* (subject to clause 5.16A.7(c));
 - (5) assess market benefits with and without each *credible option* and provide accompanying explanatory statements regarding the results;
 - (6) if the *RIT-T proponent* has varied the *ISP parameters*, provide demonstrable reasons in accordance with 5.15A.3(b)(7)(iv);
 - (7) identify the proposed *preferred option* that the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to adopt;
 - (8) for the proposed *preferred option* identified under subparagraph (7), the *RIT-T proponent* must provide:
 - (i) details of the technical characteristics; and
 - (ii) the estimated construction timetable and commissioning date;
 - (9) if each of the following apply to the *RIT-T project*:
 - (i) the estimated capital cost of the proposed *preferred option* is greater than \$100 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~cost threshold determination~~ cost threshold determination); and
 - (ii) *AEMO* is not the sole *RIT-T proponent*,
include the *RIT reopening triggers* applying to the *RIT-T project*; and
 - (10) if applicable, set out the costs of *early works* incurred but not included under clause 5.16A.7(c).
- (e) The *RIT-T proponent* must publish on its website the *project assessment draft report* within 5 *business days* of the *project assessment draft report* being made. The *RIT-T proponent* must promptly provide the *project assessment draft report* to *AEMO* after it is made and *AEMO* must publish on its website the report within 5 *business days* of receipt.
- (f) The *RIT-T proponent* must seek submissions from *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* on the proposed *preferred option* presented, and the issues addressed, in the *project assessment draft report*.
- (g) The period for consultation referred to in paragraph (f) must be not less than 6 weeks from the date that *AEMO* publishes the report on its website.
- (h) Within 4 weeks after the end of the consultation period required under paragraph (g), at the request of an *interested party*, a *Registered Participant*

or *AEMO* (each being a relevant party for the purposes of this paragraph), the *RIT-T proponent* must meet with the relevant party if a meeting is requested by two or more relevant parties and may meet with a relevant party if after having considered all submissions, the *RIT-T proponent*, acting reasonably, considers that the meeting is necessary.

Project assessment conclusions report

- (i) As soon as practicable after the end of the consultation period on the *project assessment draft report* referred to in paragraph (g), the *RIT-T proponent* must, having regard to the submissions received, if any, under paragraph (f) and the matters discussed at any meetings held, if any, under paragraph (h), prepare and make available to all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO* and *interested parties* and *publish* a report (the *project assessment conclusions report*).
- (j) The *project assessment conclusions report* must set out:
 - (1) the matters detailed in the *project assessment draft report* as required under paragraph (d); and
 - (2) a summary of, and the *RIT-T proponent's* response to, submissions received, if any, from *interested parties* sought under paragraph (f).
- (k) The *RIT-T proponent* must publish on its website the project conclusions report within 5 *business days* of the *project assessment conclusions report* being made. The *RIT-T proponent* must promptly provide the *project assessment conclusions report* to *AEMO* after it is made and *AEMO* must publish on its website the report within 5 *business days* of receipt.
- (l) A *RIT-T proponent* may discharge its obligation under paragraph (i) to make the *project assessment conclusions report* available by including the *project assessment conclusions report* as part of its *Transmission Annual Planning Report* provided that the report is *published* within 4 weeks from the date of publishing the *project assessment conclusions report* under paragraph (i).

Exemption from drafting a project assessment draft report for RIT-T projects

- (m) A *RIT-T proponent* is exempt from paragraphs (c) to (h) if:
 - (1) the estimated capital cost of all *credible options* is less than \$35 million (as varied in accordance with a cost threshold determination);
 - (2) *AEMO* has identified in the relevant draft *Integrated System Plan* that the *identified need* to be addressed relates to *reliability corrective action* and will have the benefit of this exemption; and
 - (3) *AEMO* confirms that no submissions were received on the draft *Integrated System Plan* which identified additional *credible options* that could deliver a material market benefit.

Reapplication of regulatory investment test for transmission

- (n) If:
 - (1) a *RIT-T proponent* has *published* on its website a *project assessment conclusions report* in respect of a *RIT-T project*; and

- (2) there has been either:
 - (i) any material change in circumstances; or
 - (ii) *AEMO* has published an *Integrated System Plan* or *ISP update* that shows a change to the *identified need* in relation to the *actionable ISP project* the subject of the *project assessment conclusions report*,then the *RIT-T proponent* must:
 - (3) notify the *AER* in writing that there has been either a material change in circumstances or a change to the *identified need* (as applicable and each as contemplated in subparagraph (2)), which must also set out the nature of that material change in circumstances or change to the *identified need*, any actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take as a result of that material change in circumstances or change to the *identified need* and the timeframes within which it proposes to complete any such actions;
 - (4) provide any information necessary to support any actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take, including any information necessary to demonstrate that the *RIT-T proponent* has had regard to the matters in paragraph (o1); and
 - (5) take the actions (if any) approved or required by the *AER* in a determination made under paragraph (q) within the timeframe specified by the *AER* in its determination.
- (o0) For the purposes of paragraph (n)(2), a *RIT-T proponent* is only required to consider whether a material change in circumstances or change to the *identified need* has occurred if more than six months has elapsed since the later of the *RIT-T proponent* completing:
 - (1) the analysis required to apply the *regulatory investment test for transmission*; or
 - (2) the analysis required for any reapplication (in whole or in part) of the *regulatory investment test for transmission*.
- (o) For the purposes of paragraph (n), a material change in circumstances includes, but is not limited to:
 - (1) a change to the key inputs and assumptions (including as a result of an *ISP update*) used in identifying the *identified need* described in the *project assessment conclusions report*;
 - (2) for a *RIT-T project* contemplated by clause 5.16A.4(d)(9), one or more *RIT reopening triggers* applying to the project having been triggered; or
 - (3) a change in circumstances which, in the reasonable opinion of the *RIT-T proponent*, means that the *preferred option* identified in the *project assessment conclusions report* may no longer be the *preferred option*.
- (o1) When proposing any actions to take and/or associated timeframes under subparagraph (n)(3), the *RIT-T proponent* must have regard to:

- (1) whether, in the *RIT-T proponent's* reasonable opinion, the reapplication of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to the *RIT-T project* is justified in the circumstances;
 - (2) the costs and delay that may result from the actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take as a result of the material change in circumstances or change to the *identified need* (as applicable and each as contemplated in subparagraph (n)(2)); and
 - (3) the costs and delay that may result from the reapplication (in whole or in part) of the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to the *RIT-T project*.
- (o2) The actions the *RIT-T proponent* proposes to take under subparagraph (n)(3) must at a minimum include:
- (1) *publishing* a statement that the *preferred option* identified remains the *preferred option*, as well as any supporting information necessary to demonstrate that the *preferred option* identified remains the *preferred option*; or
 - (2) *publishing* a statement that the *preferred option* is no longer the *preferred option* and identifying the new *preferred option*, as well as any supporting information necessary to demonstrate that the *preferred option* is no longer the *preferred option* and the reasons the new *preferred option* is the *preferred option*.
- (p) When making a determination under paragraph (q), the *AER*:
- (1) must have regard to:
 - (i) the *credible options* (other than the *preferred option*) identified in the *project assessment conclusions report*;
 - (ii) the material change in circumstances identified by the *RIT-T proponent* or *AEMO*;
 - (iii) whether a failure to promptly undertake the *RIT-T project* is likely to materially affect the *reliability* and *secure operating state* of the *transmission network* or a significant part of that *network*; and
 - (iv) whether the *RIT-T proponent* has had regard to the matters required under paragraph (o1); and
 - (2) may request additional information or analysis from the *RIT-T proponent* that the *AER* considers reasonably necessary to assist it in making a determination under paragraph (q).
- (q) Subject to paragraph (s), within 40 days of receipt by the *AER* of a notice referred to in subparagraph (n)(3), the *AER* must:
- (1) *publish* the notice referred to in subparagraph (n)(3);
 - (2) make a determination whether to approve or reject any actions (and/or associated timeframes) notified by the *RIT-T proponent* under subparagraph (n)(3) and, where the *AER* approves any such actions, specify a reasonable timeframe within which such actions must be completed;

- (3) notify the *RIT-T proponent* of the determination;
 - (4) where the *AER* rejects the actions (and/or associated timeframes) notified by the *RIT-T proponent* under subparagraph (n)(3), specify the actions (if any) the *AER* requires the *RIT-T proponent* to take, which may include the *RIT-T proponent* reapplying (in whole or in part) the *regulatory investment test for transmission* to the *RIT-T project*, as well as a reasonable timeframe within which any such actions must be completed; and
 - (5) *publish* the determination made under subparagraph (q)(2) or subparagraph (q)(4) (as applicable).
- (r) If the *AER* does not make the determination within the time required by paragraph (q), then the *AER* is taken to have approved the actions notified by the *RIT-T proponent* under subparagraph (n)(3).
 - (s) Where the *AER* requests additional information or analysis under subparagraph (p)(2), the period of time for making a determination under paragraph (q) is automatically extended by the time it takes the *RIT-T proponent* to provide the additional information or analysis to the *AER* provided that the *AER* makes the request for additional information at least seven days prior to the expiry of the period of time for making a determination under paragraph (q).
 - (t) At the same time that a *RIT-T proponent* submits an application under clause 6A.8.2(a), the *RIT-T proponent* must provide the *AER* with a statement containing confirmation:
 - (1) on whether or not there has been a material change in circumstances contemplated under subparagraph (n)(2)(i) and any supporting analysis;
 - (2) that the *RIT-T proponent* has complied with its obligations under paragraphs (n), (o1) and (o2);
 - (3) of the actions (if any) the *RIT-T proponent* was required to take pursuant to a determination by the *AER* under paragraph (q) and timeframe within which any such actions were to be completed; and
 - (4) of the actions (if any) the *RIT-T proponent* took as a result of the material change in circumstances and the date on which any such actions were completed.
 - (u) At the same time, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the *RIT-T proponent's* submission under paragraph (t), the *RIT-T proponent* must *publish* the statement referred to in paragraph (t).

Consultation with communities

- (v) To the extent that consultation under paragraphs (a) and (f) include engagement with *interested parties* as defined in clause 5.15.1(b), that engagement must be undertaken in accordance with the *community engagement expectations*.

5.17.3 Projects subject to the regulatory investment test for distribution

- (a) A *RIT-D proponent* must apply the *regulatory investment test for distribution* to a *RIT-D project* except in circumstances where:

- (1) the *RIT-D project* is required to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue that would otherwise put at risk the reliability of the *distribution network* or a significant part of that *network* as described in paragraph (c);
- (2) the estimated capital cost to the *Network Service Providers* affected by the *RIT-D project* of the most expensive *potential credible option* to address the *identified need* is less than \$5 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~*cost threshold determination*~~ *cost threshold determination*);
- (3) the cost of addressing the *identified need* is to be fully recovered through charges other than charges in respect of *standard control services* or *prescribed transmission services*;
- (4) the *identified need* can only be addressed by expenditure on a *connection asset* which provides services other than *standard control services* or *prescribed transmission services*;
- (5) the *RIT-D project* is related to the maintenance of existing assets and is not intended to *augment a network* or replace *network* assets;
- (6) **[Deleted]**; or
- (7) the proposed expenditure relates to *protected event EFCS investment* and is not intended to *augment a network*.

Note

This paragraph is classified as a tier 3 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) If a *potential credible option* to address an *identified need* includes expenditure on a *dual function asset*, the project must be assessed under the *regulatory investment test for distribution* unless the *identified need* was identified through joint planning under rule 5.14 and the project to address the *identified need* is a *RIT-T project*.
- (c) For the purposes of paragraph (a)(1), a *RIT-D project* will be required to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue that would otherwise put at risk the *reliability* of the *distribution network* or a significant part of that *network* if:
 - (1) it is necessary that the assets or services to address the issue be operational within six months of the issue being identified;
 - (2) the event or circumstances causing the *identified need* was not reasonably foreseeable by, and was beyond the reasonable control of, the *Network Service Provider(s)* that identified the *identified need*;
 - (3) a failure to address the *identified need* is likely to materially adversely affect the *reliability* and *secure operating state* of the *distribution network* or a significant part of that *network*; and
 - (4) it is not a *contingent project*.
- (d) With the exception of *negotiated distribution services* and *negotiated transmission services*, for each *RIT-D project* to which the *regulatory*

investment test for distribution does not apply in accordance with paragraph (a)(1)-(6), the *Network Service Providers* affected by the *RIT-D project* must ensure, acting reasonably, that the investment required to address the *identified need* is planned and developed at least cost over the life of the investment.

- (e) A *RIT-D proponent* must not treat different parts of an integrated solution to an *identified need* as distinct and separate options for the purposes of determining whether the *regulatory investment test for distribution* applies to each of those parts.

5.17.4 Regulatory investment test for distribution procedures

- (a) If a *RIT-D project* is subject to the *regulatory investment test for distribution* under clause 5.17.3, then the *RIT-D proponent* must consult with the following persons on the *RIT-D project* in accordance with this clause 5.17.4:
 - (1) all *Registered Participants*, *AEMO*, *interested parties* and non-network providers~~non-network providers~~; and
 - (2) if the *RIT-D proponent* is a *Distribution Network Service Provider*, persons registered on its ~~industry engagement register~~industry engagement register.

Note

This paragraph is classified as a tier 3 civil penalty provision under the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations. (See clause 6(1) and Schedule 1 of the National Electricity (South Australia) Regulations.)

Screening for options

- (b) Subject to paragraph (c), a *RIT-D proponent* must prepare and *publish* a an *options screening report* under paragraph (e) if a *RIT-D project* is subject to the *regulatory investment test for distribution* under clause 5.17.3.
- (c) A *RIT-D proponent* is not required to comply with paragraph (b) if it determines on reasonable grounds that there will not be a *non-network option* or a *SAPS option* that is a *potential credible option*, or that forms a significant part of a *potential credible option*, for the *RIT-D project* to address the identified need.
- (d) If a *RIT-D proponent* makes a determination under paragraph (c), then as soon as possible after making the determination it must *publish* a notice setting out the reasons for its determination, including any methodologies and assumptions it used in making its determination.

Options screening report

- (e) An *options screening report* must include:
 - (1) a description of the *identified need*;
 - (2) the assumptions used in identifying the *identified need* (including, in the case of proposed *reliability corrective action*, why the *RIT-D proponent* considers *reliability corrective action* is necessary);
 - (3) if available, the relevant annual deferred *augmentation* charge associated with the *identified need*;

- (4) the technical characteristics of the *identified need* that a *non-network option* or (in relation to a *SAPS enabled network*) a *SAPS option* would be required to deliver, such as:
 - (i) the size of *load* reduction or additional *supply*;
 - (ii) location;
 - (iii) contribution to *power system security* or *reliability*;
 - (iv) contribution to *power system* fault levels as determined under clause 4.6.1; and
 - (v) the operating profile;
 - (5) a summary of *potential credible options* to address the *identified need*, as identified by the *RIT-D proponent*, including *network options*, *non-network options* and (in relation to a *SAPS enabled network*) *SAPS options*.
 - (6) for each *potential credible option*, the *RIT-D proponent* must provide information, to the extent practicable, on:
 - (i) a technical definition or characteristics of the option;
 - (ii) the estimated construction timetable and commissioning date (where relevant); and
 - (iii) the total indicative cost (including capital and operating costs); and
 - (7) information to assist ~~non-network providers~~ *non-network providers* wishing to present alternative *potential credible options* including details of how to submit a proposal for consideration by the *RIT-D proponent*.
- (f) The *options screening report* must be *published* in a timely manner having regard to the ability of parties to identify the scope for, and develop, alternative *potential credible options* or variants to the *potential credible options*.
- (g) At the same time as *publishing* the *options screening report*, the *RIT-D proponent*, if it is a *Distribution Network Service Provider*, must notify persons registered on its ~~industry engagement register~~ *industry engagement register* of the report's *publication*.
- (h) *Registered Participants*, *AEMO*, *interested parties*, ~~non-network providers~~ *non-network providers* and (if relevant) persons registered on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* ~~industry engagement register~~ *industry engagement register* must be provided with not less than three months in which to make submissions on the *options screening report* from the date that the *RIT-D proponent publishes* the report.

Draft project assessment report

- (i) If one or more *Network Service Providers* wishes to proceed with a *RIT-D project* following a determination under paragraph (c) or the *publication* of an *options screening report* then the *RIT-D proponent*, having regard, where

relevant, to any submissions received on the *options screening report*, must prepare and *publish* a *draft project assessment report* within:

- (1) 12 months of:
 - (i) the end of the consultation period on an *options screening report*;
or
 - (ii) where an *options screening report* is not required, the publication of a notice under paragraph (d); or
 - (2) any longer time period as agreed to in writing by the *AER*.
- (j) The *draft project assessment report* must include the following:
- (1) a description of the *identified need* for the investment;
 - (2) the assumptions used in identifying the *identified need* (including, in the case of proposed *reliability corrective action*, reasons that the *RIT-D proponent* considers *reliability corrective action* is necessary);
 - (3) if applicable, a summary of, and commentary on, the submissions on the *options screening report*;
 - (4) a description of each *credible option* assessed;
 - (5) where a *Distribution Network Service Provider* has quantified market benefits in accordance with clause 5.17.1(d), a quantification of each applicable market benefit for each *credible option*;
 - (6) a quantification of each applicable cost for each *credible option*, including a breakdown of operating and capital expenditure;
 - (7) a detailed description of the methodologies used in quantifying each class of cost and market benefit;
 - (8) where relevant, the reasons why the *RIT-D proponent* has determined that a class or classes of market benefits or costs do not apply to a *credible option*;
 - (9) the results of a net present value analysis of each *credible option* and accompanying explanatory statements regarding the results;
 - (10) the identification of the proposed *preferred option*;
 - (11) for the proposed *preferred option*, the *RIT-D proponent* must provide:
 - (i) details of the technical characteristics;
 - (ii) the estimated construction timetable and commissioning date (where relevant);
 - (iii) the indicative capital and operating cost (where relevant);
 - (iv) a statement and accompanying detailed analysis that the proposed *preferred option* satisfies the *regulatory investment test for distribution*; and
 - (v) if the proposed *preferred option* is for *reliability corrective action* and that option has a proponent, the name of the proponent;
 - (12) contact details for a suitably qualified staff member of the *RIT-D proponent* to whom queries on the draft report may be directed; and

- (13) if the estimated capital cost of the proposed *preferred option* is greater than \$100 million (as varied in accordance with a ~~*cost threshold determination*~~*cost threshold determination*), include the *RIT reopening triggers* applying to the *RIT-D project*.
- (k) The *RIT-D proponent* must *publish* a request for submissions on the matters set out in the *draft project assessment report*, including the proposed *preferred option*, from:
- (1) *Registered Participants, AEMO, ~~non-network providers~~ non-network providers* and *interested parties*; and
 - (2) if the *RIT-D proponent* is a *Distribution Network Service Provider*, persons on its ~~*industry engagement register*~~*industry engagement register*.
- (l) If the proposed *preferred option* has the potential to, or is likely to, have an adverse impact on the quality of service experienced by consumers of electricity, including:
- (1) anticipated changes in voluntary *load* curtailment by consumers of electricity; or
 - (2) anticipated changes in involuntary *load shedding* and customer interruptions caused by *network* outages,
- then the *RIT-D proponent* must consult directly with those affected customers in accordance with a process reasonably determined by the *RIT-D proponent*.
- (m) The consultation period on the *draft project assessment report* must not be less than six weeks from the *publication* of the report.

Exemption from the draft project assessment report

- (n) A *RIT-D proponent* is not required to prepare and *publish* a *draft project assessment report* under paragraph (i) if:
- (1) the *RIT-D proponent* made a determination under paragraph (c) and has *published* a notice under paragraph (d); and
 - (2) the estimated capital cost to the *Network Service Providers* affected by the *RIT-D project* of the proposed *preferred option* is less than \$10 million (varied in accordance with a ~~*cost threshold determination*~~*cost threshold determination*).

Final project assessment report

- (o) As soon as practicable after the end of the consultation period on the *draft project assessment report*, the *RIT-D proponent* must, having regard to any submissions received on the *draft project assessment report*, *publish* a *final project assessment report*.
- (p) If the *RIT-D project* is exempt from the draft project assessment report stage under paragraph (n), the *RIT-D proponent* must *publish* the *final project assessment report* as soon as practicable after the publication of the notice under paragraph (d).
- (q) At the same time as *publishing* the *final project assessment report*, a *RIT-D proponent* that is a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must notify

persons on its ~~industry engagement register~~ industry engagement register of the report's *publication*.

- (r) The *final project assessment report* must set out:
- (1) if a *draft project assessment report* was prepared:
 - (i) the matters detailed in that report as required under paragraph (j); and
 - (ii) a summary of any submissions received on the *draft project assessment report* and the *RIT-D proponent's* response to each such submission; and
 - (2) if no *draft project assessment report* was prepared, the matters specified in paragraph (j).
- (s) If the *preferred option* outlined in the *final project assessment report* has an estimated capital cost to the *Network Service Providers* affected by the *RIT-D project* of less than \$20 million (varied in accordance with a ~~cost threshold determination~~ cost threshold determination), the *RIT-D proponent* may discharge its obligations to *publish* its *final project assessment report* under paragraphs (o) and (p) by including the *final project assessment report* as part of ~~its *Distribution Annual Planning Report* (where the *RIT-D proponent* is a *Distribution Network Service Provider*)~~ or its *Transmission Annual Planning Report* (where the *RIT-D proponent* is a *Transmission Network Service Provider*).

Reapplication of regulatory investment test for distribution

- (t) If:
- (1) a *RIT-D proponent* has *published* a *final project assessment report* in respect of a *RIT-D project*;
 - (2) a *Network Service Provider* still wishes to undertake the *RIT-D project* to address the *identified need*; and
 - (3) there has been a material change in circumstances,
- then the *RIT-D proponent* must:
- (4) notify the *AER* in writing of the material change in circumstances, which must also set out the nature of that material change in circumstances, any actions the *RIT-D proponent* proposes to take as a result of that material change in circumstances and the timeframes within which it proposes to complete any such actions;
 - (5) provide any information necessary to support any actions the *RIT-D proponent* proposes to take, including any information necessary to demonstrate that the *RIT-D proponent* has had regard to the matters in paragraph (u1); and
 - (6) take the actions (if any) approved or required by the *AER* in a determination made under paragraph (w) within the timeframe specified by the *AER* in its determination.
- (t1) For the purposes of subparagraph (t)(3), a *RIT-D proponent* is only required to consider whether a material change in circumstances has occurred if more

than six months has elapsed since the later of the *RIT-D proponent* completing:

- (1) the analysis required to apply the *regulatory investment test for distribution*; or
 - (2) the analysis required for any reapplication (in whole or in part) of the *regulatory investment test for distribution*.
- (u) For the purposes of paragraph (t), a material change in circumstances includes, but is not limited to:
- (1) a change to the key assumptions used in identifying the *identified need* described in the *final project assessment report*;
 - (2) for a *RIT-D project* contemplated by clause 5.17.4(j)(13), one or more *RIT reopening triggers* applying to the project having been triggered; or
 - (3) a change in circumstances which, in the reasonable opinion of the *RIT-D proponent*, means that the *preferred option* identified in the *final project assessment report* may no longer be the *preferred option*.
- (u1) When proposing any actions to take and/or associated timeframes under subparagraph (t)(4), the *RIT-D proponent* must have regard to:
- (1) whether, in the *RIT-D proponent's* reasonable opinion, the reapplication of the *regulatory investment test for distribution* to the *RIT-D project* is justified in the circumstances;
 - (2) the costs and delay that may result from the actions the *RIT-D proponent* proposes to take as a result of the material change in circumstances; and
 - (3) the costs and delay that may result from the reapplication (in whole or in part) of the *regulatory investment test for distribution* to the *RIT-D project*.
- (u2) The actions the *RIT-D proponent* proposes to take under subparagraph (t)(4) must at a minimum include:
- (1) *publishing* a statement that the *preferred option* identified remains the *preferred option*, as well as any supporting information necessary to demonstrate that the *preferred option* identified remains the *preferred option*; or
 - (2) *publishing* a statement that the *preferred option* is no longer the *preferred option* and identifying the new *preferred option*, as well as any supporting information necessary to demonstrate that the *preferred option* is no longer the *preferred option* and the reasons the new *preferred option* is the *preferred option*.
- (v) When making a determination under paragraph (w), the *AER*:
- (1) must have regard to:
 - (i) the *credible options* (other than the *preferred option*) identified in the *final project assessment report*;

- (ii) the material change in circumstances identified by the *RIT-D proponent*;
 - (iii) whether a failure to promptly undertake the *RIT-D project* is likely to materially affect the *reliability* and *secure operating state* of the *distribution network* or a significant part of that *network*; and
 - (iv) whether the *RIT-D proponent* has had regard to the matters required under paragraph (u1); and
- (2) may request additional information or analysis from the *RIT-D proponent* that the *AER* considers reasonably necessary to assist it in making a determination under paragraph (w).
- (w) Subject to paragraph (y), within 40 days of receipt by the *AER* of a notice referred to in subparagraph (t)(4), the *AER* must:
 - (1) *publish* the notice referred to in subparagraph (t)(4);
 - (2) make a determination whether to approve or reject any actions (and/or associated timeframes) notified by the *RIT-D proponent* under subparagraph (t)(4) and, where the *AER* approves any such actions, specify a reasonable timeframe within which such actions must be completed;
 - (3) notify the *RIT-D proponent* of the determination;
 - (4) where the *AER* rejects the actions (and/or associated timeframes) notified by the *RIT-D proponent* under subparagraph (t)(4), specify the actions (if any) the *AER* requires the *RIT-D proponent* to take, which may include the *RIT-D proponent* reapplying (in whole or in part) the *regulatory investment test for distribution* to the *RIT-D project*, as well as a reasonable timeframe within which any such actions must be completed; and
 - (5) *publish* the determination made under subparagraph (w)(2) or subparagraph (w)(4) (as applicable).
- (x) If the *AER* does not make the determination within the time required by paragraph (w), then the *AER* is taken to have approved the actions notified by the *RIT-D proponent* under paragraph (t)(4).
- (y) Where the *AER* requests additional information or analysis under subparagraph (v)(2), the period of time for making a determination under paragraph (w) is automatically extended by the time it takes the *RIT-T proponent* to provide the additional information or analysis to the *AER* provided that the *AER* makes the request for additional information at least seven days prior to the expiry of the period of time for making a determination under paragraph (w).
- (z) At the same time that a *RIT-D proponent* submits an application under clause 6.6A.2(a), the *RIT-D proponent* must provide the *AER* with a statement containing confirmation:
 - (1) on whether or not there has been a material change in circumstances contemplated under subparagraph (t)(3) and any supporting analysis;

- (2) that the *RIT-D proponent* has complied with its obligations under paragraphs (t), (u1) and (u2);
 - (3) of the actions (if any) the *RIT-D proponent* was required to take pursuant to a determination by the *AER* under paragraph (w) and timeframe within which any such actions were to be completed; and
 - (4) of the actions (if any) the *RIT-D proponent* took as a result of the material change in circumstances and the date on which any such actions were completed.
- (z1) At the same time, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the *RIT-D proponent's* submission under paragraph (z), the *RIT-D proponent* must *publish* the statement referred to in paragraph (z).

5.17.5 Disputes in relation to application of regulatory investment test for distribution

- (a) *Registered Participants*, the *AEMC*, *Connection Applicants*, *Intending Participants*, *AEMO*, *interested parties*, and ~~*non-network providers*~~ ~~*non-network providers*~~ may, by notice to the *AER*, dispute conclusions made by the *RIT-D proponent* in the *final project assessment report* on the grounds that:
 - (1) the *RIT-D proponent* has not applied the *regulatory investment test for distribution* in accordance with the *Rules*; or
 - (2) there was a manifest error in the calculations performed by the *RIT-D proponent* in applying the *regulatory investment test for distribution*.
- (b) A dispute under this clause 5.17.5 may not be raised in relation to any matters set out in the *final project assessment report* which:
 - (1) are treated as externalities by the *regulatory investment test for distribution*; or
 - (2) relate to an individual's personal detriment or property rights.
- (c) Within 30 days of the date of *publication* of the *final project assessment report* under clause 5.17.4(o), (p) or (s) (as the case may be), the party disputing matters in the *final project assessment report* (a *disputing party*) must:
 - (1) give notice of the dispute in writing setting out the grounds for the dispute (the *dispute notice*) to the *AER*; and
 - (2) at the same time, give a copy of the *dispute notice* to the *RIT-D proponent*.
- (d) Subject to paragraph (h), within 40 days of receipt of the *dispute notice* or within an additional period of up to 60 days where the *AER* notifies a relevant party that the additional time is required to make a determination because of the complexity or difficulty of the issues involved, the *AER* must either:
 - (1) reject any dispute by written notice to the person who initiated the dispute if the *AER* considers that the grounds for the dispute are invalid, misconceived or lacking in substance; and
 - (2) notify the *RIT-D proponent* that the dispute has been rejected; or

- (3) subject to paragraph (f) and (g), make and *publish* a determination:
 - (i) directing the *RIT-D proponent* to amend the matters set out in the *final project assessment report*; or
 - (ii) stating that, based on the grounds of the dispute, the *RIT-D proponent* will not be required to amend the *final project assessment report*.
- (e) A *RIT-D proponent* must comply with an *AER* determination made under subparagraph (d)(3)(i) within a timeframe specified by the *AER* in its determination.
- (f) In making a determination under paragraph (d)(3), the *AER*:
 - (1) must only take into account information and analysis that the *RIT-D proponent* could reasonably be expected to have considered or undertaken at the time that it performed the *regulatory investment test for distribution*;
 - (2) must *publish* its reasons for making a determination;
 - (3) may disregard any matter raised by the *disputing party* or the *RIT-D proponent* that is misconceived or lacking in substance; and
 - (4) where making a determination under subparagraph (d)(3)(i), must specify a reasonable timeframe for the *RIT-D proponent* to comply with the *AER's* direction to amend the matters set out in the *final project assessment report*.
- (g) The *AER* may only make a determination under subparagraph (d)(3)(i) if it determines that:
 - (1) the *RIT-D proponent* has not correctly applied the *regulatory investment test for distribution* in accordance with the *Rules*; or
 - (2) there was a manifest error in the calculations performed by the *RIT-D proponent* in applying the *regulatory investment test for distribution*.
- (h) The *AER* may request additional information regarding the dispute from the *disputing party* or the *RIT-D proponent* in which case the period of time for rejecting a dispute under paragraph (d)(1) or making a determination under paragraph (d)(3) is automatically extended by the time it takes the relevant party to provide the additional information to the *AER* provided:
 - (1) the *AER* makes the request for additional information at least seven days prior to the expiry of the relevant period; and
 - (2) the *RIT-D proponent* or *disputing party* provides the additional information within 14 days of receipt of the request under subparagraph (1).
- (i) A *disputing party* or the *RIT-D proponent* (as the case may be) must as soon as reasonably practicable provide any information requested under paragraph (h) to the *AER*.

5.18B.1 Definitions

- (a) For the purposes of this rule 5.18B:

completed distribution connected resource projects means a *generating system* or *integrated resource system* connected to a *distribution network* and owned, operated or controlled by:

- (1) a *Distribution Connected Resource Provider*; or
- (2) a person who was required to apply to *AEMO* for an exemption from the requirement to register as a *Generator* or *Integrated Resource Provider* in respect of the system,

and are connected to the *Distributor Network Service Provider's network* or form part of a *regulated SAPS* forming part of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's network*.

~~DAPR date has the same meaning as in clause 5.13.2.~~

5.18B.2 Register of completed distribution connection resource projects

- (a) In relation to completed distribution connected resource projects, a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must establish and *publish*, on its website, a register of the *plant*, including but not limited to:
 - (1) technology of each *distribution connected unit* comprised in the project (e.g. *synchronous generating unit*, induction generator, photovoltaic array, etc) and its make and model;
 - (2) maximum power *generation* capacity of all *distribution connected units* comprised in the system;
 - (3) contribution to fault levels;
 - (4) the size and rating of the relevant *transformer*;
 - (5) a single line diagram of the *connection* arrangement;
 - (6) *protection systems* and communication systems;
 - (7) voltage control and *reactive power capability*; and
 - (8) details specific to the location of a *facility connected* to the *network* that are relevant to any of the details in subparagraphs (1)-(7).
- (b) Subject to satisfying any relevant exemptions contained in clause 8.6.2, the *Distribution Network Service Provider* must not *publish confidential information* as part of, or in connection with, the register.
- (c) The *Distribution Network Service Provider* must:
 - (1) include in the register the details contained in paragraph (b) for all completed distribution connected resource projects ~~projects~~ within the 5 year period preceding the establishment of the register; and
 - (2) update the register ~~by the DAPR date each year thereafter~~ each year, by the date that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* is required to publish its annual update under clause 5.13.2, with details of all completed distribution connected resource projects in the 5 year period preceding ~~that date~~ the *DAPR date*.

5.20A.2 General power system risk review process

- (a) *AEMO* must undertake a *general power system risk review* no less than annually.
- (b) For the purposes of *AEMO* identifying the priority risks to be assessed in a *general power system risk review* under clause 5.20A.1(a):
 - (1) *AEMO* must put in place arrangements it considers appropriate to consult with and take into account the views of relevant *Transmission Network Service Providers* and relevant *Distribution Network Service Providers*;
 - (2) relevant *Transmission Network Service Providers* and relevant *Distribution Network Service Providers* must, on request from *AEMO* and taking into account any analysis conducted as part of their ~~annual~~ ~~planning~~ ~~review~~ under clause 5.12.1 or 5.13.1 respectively, provide to *AEMO* all information and assistance reasonably required by *AEMO*; and
 - (3) *AEMO* may consult with any other parties it considers appropriate, including without limitation, *Jurisdictional System Security Coordinators*.
- (c) When undertaking a *general power system risk review*:
 - (1) *AEMO* must consult with and take into account the views of relevant *Network Service Providers*;
 - (2) *AEMO* may consult with any other parties it considers appropriate, including without limitation, *Jurisdictional System Security Coordinators*; and
 - (3) *AEMO* must, on commencement of the *general power system risk review*, publish an approach paper setting out:
 - (i) the priority risks to be assessed by *AEMO* in the *general power system risk review* including:
 - (A) the *non-credible contingency events* identified by *AEMO* under clause 5.20A.1(a)(1); and
 - (B) the events and conditions identified by *AEMO* under clause 5.20A.1(a)(2),and an explanation for why *AEMO* considers those priority risks should be priorities for assessment;
 - (ii) the approach and methodologies used in assessing each priority risk;
 - (iii) information inputs and assumptions used by *AEMO* in assessing each priority risk; and
 - (iv) *AEMO's* approach to consulting with relevant parties for the purposes of the *general power system risk review*,
and invite submissions within a period of at least 20 *business days* of the publication date of the approach paper.

- (d) A *Network Service Provider* must co-operate with *AEMO* in the conduct of a *general power system risk review* and provide to *AEMO* all information and assistance reasonably requested by *AEMO* in connection with a *general power system risk review* to enable *AEMO* to undertake the review expeditiously, including by providing *AEMO* with:
 - (1) any options the *Network Service Provider* has identified for mitigating the priority risks to be assessed by *AEMO* in the *general power system risk review*; and
 - (2) any information and computer models (including models of *emergency frequency control schemes* or emergency controls on its network) that *AEMO* reasonably requires.
- (e) Where *AEMO* is considering a new or modified *emergency frequency control scheme*, as part of a *general power system risk review*, *AEMO* must consult with *Distribution Network Service Providers* whose *distribution systems* are likely to be directly affected by the scheme.

Schedule 5.4A Preliminary Response

For the purposes of clause 5.3A.7(a), the following information must be included in the preliminary response:

- (a) relevant technical information about the *Distribution Network Service Provider's distribution network*, including guidance on how the *Connection Applicant* may meet the following requirements if it were to proceed to prepare an *application to connect*:
 - (1) primary protection and backup protection;
 - (2) other protection and control requirements applicable to *distribution connected units* and associated *plant*;
 - (3) *remote monitoring equipment* and control communications *facilities*;
 - (4) insulation co-ordination and lightning protection;
 - (5) existing maximum and minimum fault levels and *fault clearance times* of relevant local ~~zone substations~~ *zone substations*";
 - (6) switching and *isolation* facilities;
 - (7) interlocking and *synchronising* arrangements;
 - (8) *metering installations*; and
 - (9) remedy or avoid a *general system strength impact* caused by the *connection*;
- (b) if not otherwise provided in accordance with paragraph (a), to the extent the *Distribution Network Service Provider* holds technical information necessary to prepare an *application to connect*, that information;
- (c) information relevant to each technical requirement of the proposed *plant* as relevant to:
 - (1) the *automatic access standards*;
 - (2) any relevant *minimum access standards*; and

- (3) any applicable *plant standards*;
- (4) **[Deleted]**
- (d) the identity of other parties that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* considers:
 - (1) will need to be involved in planning to make the *connection* or must be involved under clause 5.3A.10(c); and
 - (2) must be paid for *transmission services* or *distribution services*;
- (e) whether it will be necessary for any of the parties identified in subparagraph (d) to enter into an agreement with the *Connection Applicant* in respect of the provision of *connection services* or other *transmission services* or *distribution services* or both, to the *Connection Applicant*;
- (f) where relevant the *Distribution Network Service Provider* is to identify whether any service required to *establish a connection* is *contestable* in the relevant *participating jurisdiction*;
- (g) worked examples of *connection service* charges relevant to the enquiry and an explanation of the factors on which the charges depend;
- (h) information regarding the *Distribution Network Service Provider* and its *network*, system limitations for sub-transmission lines and zone substations ~~sub-transmission lines and zone substations~~ and other information relevant to constraints on the *network* as such information is relevant to the *application to connect*;
- (i) an indication of whether *network augmentation* may be required and if required, what work the *network augmentation* may involve;
- (il) an indication of whether the new *connection* is expected in the reasonable opinion of a *Network Service Provider* to have a *general system strength impact* and whether a *system strength locational factor* can be calculated in relation to the new *connection*;
- (j) a hyperlink to the *Distribution Network Service Provider's information pack*;
- (k) the contact details for the relevant point of contact within the *Distribution Network Service Provider* managing the *connection* enquiry;
- (l) the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* response to the objectives of the *connection* sought as included by the *Connection Applicant* in its enquiry under clause 5.3A.5(c)(1);
- (m) a description of the process for the provision of the *detailed response*, including the further information to be provided by the *Connection Applicant* and analysis to be undertaken by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* as part of the preparation of the *detailed response*;
- (n) an overview of any available options for *connection* to the *Distribution Network Service Provider's network*, as relevant to an enquiry lodged, at more than one *connection point* in a *network*, including:
 - (1) example single line diagram and relevant *protection systems* and *control systems* used by existing *connection* arrangements;
 - (2) a description of the characteristics of supply; and

- (3) an indication of the likely impact on terms and conditions of *connection*,
as relevant to each optional differing *connection point*;
- (o) a statement of further information required from the *Connection Applicant* for the preparation of the *detailed response*, including:
 - (1) details of the *Connection Applicant's connection* requirements, and the *Connection Applicant's* specifications of the *facility* to be *connected*, consistent with the requirements advised in accordance with paragraphs (a) to (c); and
 - (2) details of the *Connection Applicant's* reasonable expectations of the level and standard of service of *power transfer capability* that the *network* should provide;
 - (3) the *Connection Applicant's* proposal for any *system strength remediation scheme*;
- (p) an estimate of the enquiry fee payable by the *Connection Applicant* for the *detailed response*, including details of how components of the fee were calculated;
- (q) the component of the estimate of the enquiry fee payable by the *Connection Applicant* to request the *detailed response*;
- (r) an estimate of the application fee which is payable on submitting an *application to connect*; and
- (s) any additional information relevant to the enquiry.

Schedule 5.8 — Distribution Annual Planning Report

~~For the purposes of clause 5.13.2(c), the following information must be included in a *Distribution Annual Planning Report*:~~

- ~~(a) information regarding the *Distribution Network Service Provider* and its *network*, including:
 - ~~(1) a description of its *network*;~~
 - ~~(2) a description of its operating environment;~~
 - ~~(3) the number and types of its *distribution assets*;~~
 - ~~(4) methodologies used in preparing the *Distribution Annual Planning Report*, 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 *Distribution Annual Planning Report* that have changed significantly from previous forecasts and information provided in the preceding year;~~~~
- ~~(b) forecasts for the *forward planning period*, including at least:
 - ~~(1) a description of the forecasting methodology used, sources of input information, and the assumptions applied;~~
 - ~~(2) *load forecasts*;~~~~

- ~~(i) at the transmission-distribution connection points;~~
- ~~(ii) for sub-transmission lines; and~~
- ~~(iii) for zone substations;~~
- ~~including, where applicable, for each item specified above:~~
- ~~(iv) total capacity;~~
- ~~(v) firm delivery capacity for summer periods and winter periods;~~
- ~~(vi) peak load (summer or winter and an estimate of the number of hours per year that 95% of peak load is expected to be reached);~~
- ~~(vii) power factor at time of peak load;~~
- ~~(viii) load transfer capacities; and~~
- ~~(ix) generation capacity of known distribution connected units;~~
- ~~(2A) forecast use of distribution services by distribution connected units:~~
 - ~~(i) at the transmission-distribution connection points;~~
 - ~~(ii) for sub-transmission lines; and~~
 - ~~(iii) for zone substations;~~
 - ~~including, where applicable, for each item specified above:~~
 - ~~(iv) total capacity to accept supply from distribution connected units;~~
 - ~~(v) firm delivery capacity for each period during the year;~~
 - ~~(vi) peak supply into the distribution network from distribution connected units (at any time during the year) and an estimate of the number of hours per year that 95% of the peak is expected to be reached; and~~
 - ~~(vii) power factor at time of peak supply into the distribution network;~~
- ~~(3) forecasts of future transmission-distribution connection points (and any associated connection assets), sub-transmission lines and zone substations, including for each future transmission-distribution connection point and zone substation:~~
 - ~~(i) location;~~
 - ~~(ii) future loading level; and~~
 - ~~(iii) proposed commissioning time (estimate of month and year);~~
- ~~(4) forecasts of the Distribution Network Service Provider's performance against any applicable performance targets in a service target performance incentive scheme; and~~
- ~~(5) a description of any factors that may have a material impact on its network, including 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;~~
- ~~(b1) — for all *network* asset retirements, and for all *network* asset de-ratings that would result in a system limitation, that are planned over the *forward planning period*, the following information in sufficient detail relative to the size or significance of the asset:~~
 - ~~(1) — a description of the *network* asset, including location;~~
 - ~~(2) — the reasons, including methodologies and assumptions used by the *Distribution Network Service Provider*, for deciding that it is necessary or prudent for the *network* asset to be retired or *de-rated*, taking into account factors such as the condition of the *network* asset;~~
 - ~~(3) — the date from which the *Distribution Network Service Provider* proposes that the *network* asset will be retired or *de-rated*; and~~
 - ~~(4) — if the date to retire or *de-rate* the *network* asset has changed since the previous *Distribution Annual Planning Report*, an explanation of why this has occurred;~~
- ~~(b2) — for the purposes of subparagraph (b1), where two or more *network* assets are:~~
 - ~~(1) — of the same type;~~
 - ~~(2) — to be retired or *de-rated* across more than one location;~~
 - ~~(3) — to be retired or *de-rated* in the same calendar year; and~~
 - ~~(4) — each expected to have a replacement cost less than \$200,000 (as varied by a *cost threshold determination*);~~

those assets can be reported together by setting out in the *Distribution Annual Planning Report*:

 - ~~(5) — a description of the *network* assets, including a summarised description of their locations;~~
 - ~~(6) — the reasons, including methodologies and assumptions used by the *Distribution Network Service Provider*, for deciding that it is necessary or prudent for the *network* assets to be retired or *de-rated*, taking into account factors such as the condition of the *network* assets;~~
 - ~~(7) — the date from which the *Distribution Network Service Provider* proposes that the *network* assets will be retired or *de-rated*; and~~
 - ~~(8) — if the calendar year to retire or *de-rate* the *network* assets has changed since the previous *Distribution Annual Planning Report*, an explanation of why this has occurred;~~
- ~~(c) — information on *system limitations* for *sub-transmission lines* and *zone substations*, including at least:~~
 - ~~(1) — estimates of the location and timing (month(s) and year) of the system limitation;~~
 - ~~(2) — analysis of any potential for *load transfer capacity* between *supply* points that may decrease the impact of the *system limitation* or defer the requirement for investment;~~

- ~~(3) — impact of the *system limitation*, if any, on the capacity at *transmission-distribution connection points*;~~
- ~~(4) — a brief discussion of the types of potential solutions that may address the *system limitation* in the *forward planning period*, if a solution is required; and~~
- ~~(5) — where an estimated change in forecast *load* or forecast *generation* from *distribution connected units* would defer a forecast *system limitation* for a period of at least 12 months, include:~~
 - ~~(i) — an estimate of the month and year in which a *system limitation* is forecast to occur as required under subparagraph (1);~~
 - ~~(ii) — the relevant *connection points* at which the estimated change in forecast *load* or forecast *generation* may occur; and~~
 - ~~(iii) — the estimated change in forecast *load* or forecast *generation* in MW or improvements in *power factor* needed to defer the forecast *system limitation*;~~
- ~~(d) — for any *primary distribution feeders* for which a *Distribution Network Service Provider* has prepared forecasts of *maximum demands* under clause 5.13.1(d)(1)(iii) and which are currently experiencing an overload, or are forecast to experience an overload in the next two years the *Distribution Network Service Provider* must set out:~~
 - ~~(1) — the location of the *primary distribution feeder*;~~
 - ~~(2) — the extent to which load exceeds, or is forecast to exceed, 100% (or lower utilisation factor, as appropriate) of the *normal cyclic rating* under normal conditions (in summer periods or winter periods);~~
 - ~~(3) — the types of potential solutions that may address the overload or forecast overload; and~~
 - ~~(4) — where an estimated reduction in forecast *load* would defer a forecast overload for a period of 12 months, include:~~
 - ~~(i) — estimate of the month and year in which the overload is forecast to occur;~~
 - ~~(ii) — a summary of the location of relevant *connection points* at which the estimated reduction in forecast *load* would defer the overload;~~
 - ~~(iii) — the estimated reduction in forecast *load* in MW needed to defer the forecast *system limitation*;~~
- ~~(d1) — for any *primary distribution feeders* for which a *Distribution Network Service Provider* has prepared forecasts of demand for *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* under clause 5.13.1(d1)(3) and which are currently experiencing a *system limitation*, or are forecast to experience a *system limitation* in the next two years, the *Distribution Network Service Provider* must set out:~~
 - ~~(1) — the location of the *primary distribution feeder*;~~
 - ~~(2) — the extent to which demand for *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* exceeds, or is forecast to exceed, 100% (or lower~~

- utilisation factor, as appropriate) of the normal capacity to provide those *distribution services* under normal conditions;
- ~~(3) the types of potential solutions that may address the *system limitation* or *forecast system limitation*;~~
- ~~(4) where an estimated reduction in demand for *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* would defer a *forecast system limitation* for a period of 12 months, include:~~
- ~~(i) an estimate of the month and year in which the *system limitation* is forecast to occur;~~
- ~~(ii) a summary of the location of relevant *connection points* at which the estimated reduction in demand for *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* would defer the *system limitation*; and~~
- ~~(iii) the estimated reduction in demand for *distribution services* by *distribution connected units* in MW needed to defer the *forecast system limitation*;~~
- ~~(d2) for a *SAPS enabled network*, information on *system limitations* in the *forward planning period* for which a potential solution is a *regulated SAPS*, including at least:~~
- ~~(1) estimates of the location and timing (month(s) and year) of the *system limitation*; and~~
- ~~(2) a brief discussion of the types of potential *stand-alone power systems* that may address the *system limitation*;~~
- ~~(e) a high-level summary of each *RIT-D project* for which the *regulatory investment test for distribution* has been completed in the preceding year or is in progress, including:~~
- ~~(1) if the *regulatory investment test for distribution* is in progress, the current stage in the process;~~
- ~~(2) a brief description of the *identified need*;~~
- ~~(3) a list of the *credible options* assessed or being assessed (to the extent reasonably practicable);~~
- ~~(4) if the *regulatory investment test for distribution* has been completed a brief description of the conclusion, including:~~
- ~~(i) the *net economic benefit* of each *credible option*;~~
- ~~(ii) the estimated capital cost of the *preferred option*; and~~
- ~~(iii) the estimated construction timetable and commissioning date (where relevant) of the *preferred option*; and~~
- ~~(5) any impacts on *Network Users*, including any potential material impacts on *connection charges* and *distribution use of system charges* that have been estimated;~~
- ~~(f) for each identified *system limitation* which a *Distribution Network Service Provider* has determined will require a *regulatory investment test for*~~

~~*distribution, provide an estimate of the month and year when the test is expected to commence;*~~

- ~~(g) a summary of all committed investments to be carried out within the *forward planning period* with an estimated capital cost of \$2 million or more (as varied by a *cost threshold determination*) that are to address an urgent and unforeseen *network* issue as described in clause 5.17.3(a)(1), including:
 - ~~(1) a brief description of the investment, including its purpose, its location, the estimated capital cost of the investment and an estimate of the date (month and year) the investment is expected to become operational;~~
 - ~~(2) a brief description of the alternative options considered by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* in deciding on the preferred investment, including an explanation of the ranking of these options to the committed project. Alternative options could include, but are not limited to, *generation* options, *demand side* options, and options involving other *distribution or transmission networks*;~~~~
- ~~(h) the results of any joint planning undertaken with a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in the preceding year, including:
 - ~~(1) a summary of the process and methodology used by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* and relevant *Transmission Network Service Providers* to undertake joint planning;~~
 - ~~(2) a brief description of any investments that have been planned through this process, including the estimated capital costs of the investment and an estimate of the timing (month and year) of the investment; and~~
 - ~~(3) where additional information on the investments may be obtained;~~~~
- ~~(i) the results of any joint planning undertaken with other *Distribution Network Service Providers* in the preceding year, including:
 - ~~(1) a summary of the process and methodology used by the *Distribution Network Service Providers* to undertake joint planning;~~
 - ~~(2) a brief description of any investments that have been planned through this process, including the estimated capital cost of the investment and an estimate of the timing (month and year) of the investment; and~~
 - ~~(3) where additional information on the investments may be obtained;~~~~
- ~~(j) information on the performance of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's network*, including:
 - ~~(1) a summary description of reliability measures and standards in *applicable regulatory instruments*;~~
 - ~~(2) a summary description of the quality of *supply* standards that apply, including the relevant codes, standards and guidelines;~~
 - ~~(3) a summary description of the performance of the *distribution network* against the measures and standards described under subparagraphs (1) and (2) for the preceding year;~~~~

- ~~(4) where the measures and standards described under subparagraphs (1) and (2) were not met in the preceding year, information on the corrective action taken or planned;~~
- ~~(5) a summary description of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* processes to ensure compliance with the measures and standards described under subparagraphs (1) and (2); and~~
- ~~(6) an outline of the information contained in the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* most recent submission to the *AER* under the *service target performance incentive scheme*;~~
- ~~(k) information on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* *asset management* approach, including:~~
 - ~~(1) a summary of any *asset management* strategy employed by the *Distribution Network Service Provider*;~~
 - ~~(1A) an explanation of how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* takes into account the cost of *distribution losses* when developing and implementing its *asset management* and investment strategy;~~
 - ~~(2) a summary of any issues that may impact on the *system limitations* identified in the *Distribution Annual Planning Report* that has been identified through carrying out *asset management*; and~~
 - ~~(3) information about where further information on the *asset management* strategy and methodology adopted by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* may be obtained;~~
- ~~(l) information on the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* demand management activities and activities relating to *distribution connected units*, including:~~
 - ~~(1) a qualitative summary of:~~
 - ~~(i) *non network options* that have been considered in the past year, including *generation from distribution connected units*;~~
 - ~~(ii) key issues arising from *applications to connect distribution connected units* received in the past year;~~
 - ~~(iii) actions taken to promote *non network* proposals or (for a *SAPS enabled network*) *SAPS* proposals in the preceding year, including *generation from distribution connected units*; and~~
 - ~~(iv) the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* plans for demand management and *generation from distribution connected units* over the *forward planning period*;~~
 - ~~(2) a quantitative summary of:~~
 - ~~(i) *connection* enquiries received under clause 5.3A.5 and of the total, the number for *non-registered DER providers*;~~
 - ~~(ii) *applications to connect* received under clause 5.3A.9 and of the total, the number for *non-registered DER providers*; and~~
 - ~~(iii) the average time taken to complete *applications to connect*; and~~

- ~~(3) a quantitative summary of:
 - ~~(i) enquiries under clause 5A.D.2 in relation to the connection of micro resource operators or non-registered DER providers; and~~
 - ~~(ii) applications for a connection service under clause 5A.D.3 in relation to the connection of micro resource operators or non-registered DER providers;~~~~
- ~~(m) information on the Distribution Network Service Provider's investments in information technology and communication systems which occurred in the preceding year, and planned investments in information technology and communication systems related to management of network assets in the forward planning period; and~~
- ~~(n) a regional development plan consisting of a map of the Distribution Network Service Provider's 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:
 - ~~(1) sub transmission lines, zone substations and transmission distribution connection points; and~~
 - ~~(2) any system limitations that have been forecast to occur in the forward planning period, including, where they have been identified, overloaded primary distribution feeders;~~~~
- ~~(o) the analysis of the known and potential interactions between:
 - ~~(1) any emergency frequency control schemes, or emergency controls in place under clause S5.1.8, on its network; and~~
 - ~~(2) protection systems or control systems of plant connected to its network (including consideration of whether the settings of those systems are fit for purpose for the future operation of its network);~~undertaken under clause 5.13.1(d)(6), including a description of proposed actions to be undertaken to address any adverse interactions;~~
- ~~(p) for a SAPS enabled network, information on the Distribution Network Service Provider's activities in relation to DNSP-led SAPS projects including:
 - ~~(1) opportunities to develop DNSP-led SAPS projects that have been considered in the past year;~~
 - ~~(2) committed projects to implement a regulated SAPS over the forward planning period; and~~
 - ~~(3) a quantitative summary of:
 - ~~(i) the total number of regulated SAPS in the network; and~~
 - ~~(ii) the total number of premises of retail customers supplied by means of those regulated SAPS; and~~~~~~
- ~~(q) 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.~~

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;

Schedule 5.9 Industry engagement document (clause ~~5.13.1(h)~~5.13.4(d))

For the purposes of clause ~~5.13.4(d)~~5.13.1(h), the following information must be included in a *Distribution Network Service Provider's industry engagement document*:

- (a) a description of how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* will investigate, develop, assess and report on potential *non-network options* and (in relation to a *SAPS enabled network*) potential *SAPS options*;
- (b) a description of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* process to engage and consult with potential ~~non-network providers~~ *non-network providers* to determine their level of interest and ability to participate in the development process for potential *non-network options* or where applicable, potential *SAPS options*;
- (c) an outline of the process followed by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* when negotiating with ~~non-network providers~~ *non-network providers* to further develop a potential *non-network option* or *SAPS option*;
- (d) an outline of the information a ~~non-network provider~~ *non-network providers* is to include in a *non-network* or *DNISP-led SAPS project* proposal, including, where possible, an example of a best practice proposal;
- (e) an outline of the criteria that will be applied by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* in evaluating *non-network* or *DNISP-led SAPS project* proposals;
- (f) an outline of the principles that the *Distribution Network Service Provider* considers in developing the payment levels for *non-network options* or (where applicable) *SAPS options*;
- (g) a reference to any applicable incentive payment schemes for the implementation of *non-network options* or *SAPS options* and whether any specific criteria is applied by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* in its application and assessment of the scheme;
- (h) the methodology to be used for determining *avoided Customer TUOS charges*, in accordance with clauses 5.4AA and 5.5;
- (i) a summary of the factors the *Distribution Network Service Provider* takes into account when negotiating *connection agreements* with *Distribution Connected Resource Providers*;
- (j) the process used, and a summary of any specific regulatory requirements, for setting charges and the terms and conditions of *connection agreements* for *distribution connected units*;
- (k) the process for lodging an *application to connect* for ~~aan~~ *distribution connected unit* and the factors taken into account by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* when assessing such applications;
- (l) worked examples to support the description of how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* will assess potential or *SAPS options* in accordance with paragraph (a);

- (m) a hyperlink to any relevant, publicly available information produced by the *Distribution Network Service Provider*;
- (n) a description of how parties may be listed on the [industry engagement register](#)~~industry engagement register~~; and
- (o) the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* contact details.

5A.D.1A Register of completed non-registered DER

- (a) For the purposes of this clause 5A.D.1A:
completed non-registered DER projects means all *distribution connected units*, operated or controlled by a *non-registered DER provider* that are connected to the *Distribution Network Service Provider's network*.
~~DAPR date has the same meaning as in clause 5.13.2.~~
- (b) In relation to completed non-registered DER projects, a *Distribution Network Service Provider* must establish and *publish*, on its website, a register of the *plant*, including but not limited to:
 - (1) technology of *distribution connected unit* (e.g. *synchronous production unit*, induction generator, photovoltaic array, etc) and its make and model;
 - (2) maximum power *generation* capacity of all *distribution connected units* comprised in the relevant *generating system* or *integrated resource system*;
 - (3) contribution to fault levels;
 - (4) the size and rating of the relevant *transformer*;
 - (5) a single line diagram of the *connection* arrangement;
 - (6) *protection systems* and communication systems;
 - (7) voltage control, *power factor* control and/or *reactive power capability* (where relevant); and
 - (8) details specific to the location of a *facility connected* to the *network* that are relevant to any of the details in subparagraphs (1)-(7).
- (c) The *Distribution Network Service Provider* must not *publish confidential information* as part of, or in connection with, the register, unless disclosure of the information is authorised:
 - (1) by the party to whom the duty of confidentiality is owed; or
 - (2) under:
 - (i) the *NEL* or the *Rules*; or
 - (ii) any other law.
- (d) The *Distribution Network Service Provider* must:
 - (1) ~~by the DAPR date~~ each year, [by the date that it is required to publish its annual update under clause 5.13.2](#), include in the register the details contained in paragraph (b) for all completed non-registered DER

- projects since the date the register referred to in paragraph (b) is established; and
- (2) in the fifth year after the establishment of the register, and in each year thereafter, update the register by ~~the DAPR date~~the date that it is required to publish its annual update under clause 5.13.2 with details of all completed non-registered DER projects in the 5 year period preceding ~~that date~~the DAPR date.
- (e) To the extent a *Distribution Network Service Provider* includes the information required under paragraphs (b) and (d) in its register established under rule 5.18B, it will be taken to have complied with paragraphs (b) and (d).

6.4.6 Network Resilience Guidelines

- (a) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *Rules consultation procedures*, develop, maintain and *publish* guidelines (the *Network Resilience Guidelines*) that:
- (1) provide examples of *resilience expenditure*, which may include expenditure to assist *Distribution Network Service Providers* to:
- (i) continue to safely provide adequate *network services* despite severe weather events;
- (ii) communicate effectively with consumers, emergency services personnel and other relevant bodies before, during and after a severe weather event; and
- (iii) promptly provide a level of *supply* to support consumers' essential needs while the *Distribution Network Service Provider* works to restore full *supply* through its *network*, if a power outage occurred as a result of a severe weather event;
- (2) provide examples of the types of information *Distribution Network Service Providers* could include in their *regulatory proposals* to support forecasts of *resilience expenditure*, including information on climate change impacts;
- (3) specify the information *Distribution Network Service Providers* must include in their ~~*Distribution Annual Planning Reports*~~annual updates under clause 5.13.2(a)(1)(viii);
- (4) explain how *resilience expenditure* will be addressed in incentive schemes provided for in this Chapter; and
- (5) include any other matters the *AER* considers relevant.
- (b) Nothing prevents the *AER* from publishing the *Network Resilience Guidelines* in the same document as another guideline published under this Chapter.
- (c) There must be *Network Resilience Guidelines* in force at all times after the date on which the *AER* first *publishes* the *Network Resilience Guidelines* under the *Rules*.

- (d) The *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *Rules consultation procedures*, amend or replace the *Network Resilience Guidelines*.
- (e) Clauses 6.2.8(e) and (f) do not apply to the *Network Resilience Guidelines*.

6.8.2 Submission of regulatory proposal, tariff structure statement and exemption application

- (a) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must, whenever required to do so under paragraph (b), submit to the *AER* a *regulatory proposal* and a proposed *tariff structure statement* related to the *distribution services* provided by means of, or in connection with, the *Distribution Network Service Provider's distribution system*.
- (a1) A *Distribution Network Service Provider* must submit to the *AER* any *exemption application* for an *asset exemption* under clause 6.4B.1(a)(1) or 6.4B.1(a)(2) for the *regulatory control period* at the same time as submitting the relevant *regulatory proposal* under paragraph (a).
- (b) A *regulatory proposal*, a proposed *tariff structure statement* and, if required under paragraph (a1), an *exemption application* must be submitted:
 - (1) at least 17 months before the expiry of a distribution determination that applies to the *Distribution Network Service Provider*; or
 - (2) if no distribution determination applies to the *Distribution Network Service Provider*, within 3 months after being required to do so by the *AER*.
- (c) A *regulatory proposal* must include (but need not be limited to) the following elements:
 - (1) a classification proposal:
 - (i) showing how the *distribution services* to be provided by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* should, in the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* opinion, be classified under this Chapter; and
 - (ii) if the proposed classification differs from the classification suggested in the relevant *framework and approach paper* – including the reasons for the difference;
 - (2) for *direct control services* classified under the proposal as *standard control services* – a *building block proposal*;
 - (3) for *direct control services* classified under the proposal as *alternative control services* – a demonstration of the application of the control mechanism, as set out in the *framework and approach paper*, and the necessary supporting information;
 - (4) **[Deleted]**.
 - (5) for services classified under the proposal as *negotiated distribution services* – the proposed *negotiating framework*;
 - (5A) the proposed *connection policy*;

- (6) an identification of any parts of the *regulatory proposal* the *Distribution Network Service Provider* claims to be confidential and wants suppressed from publication on that ground in accordance with the *Distribution Confidentiality Guidelines*; and

Note:

Additional information that must be included in a *regulatory proposal* is referred to in clause 6.3.1(c) and Schedule 6.1.

- (7) a description (with supporting materials) of how the proposed *tariff structure statement* complies with the *pricing principles for direct control services* including:
- (i) a description of where there has been any departure from the pricing principles set out in paragraphs 6.18.5(e) to (g); and
 - (ii) an explanation of how that departure complies with clause 6.18.5(c).
- (c1) The *regulatory proposal* must be accompanied by an overview paper in reasonably plain language which includes each of the following matters:
- (1) a summary to explain:
 - (i) the *regulatory proposal*;
 - (ii) the proposed *tariff structure statement* including the *export tariff transition strategy*;
 - (iii) the interrelationship between the elements of the *regulatory proposal*;
 - (iv) the interrelationship between the *regulatory proposal* and performance; and
 - (v) the interrelationship between the proposed *tariff structure statement* and relevant elements of the *regulatory proposal* (including the proposed *connection policy* and capital expenditure or operating expenditure);
 - (2) a description of:
 - (i) how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* has engaged with relevant stakeholders including *distribution service end users* or groups representing them and (in relation to the *tariff structure statement*) *retailers* and *Small Resource Aggregators* in developing the *regulatory proposal* and the proposed *tariff structure statement* including the *export tariff transition strategy*;
 - (ii) the relevant concerns identified as a result of that engagement; and
 - (iii) how the *Distribution Network Service Provider* has sought to address those concerns;
 - (3) a summary to explain the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* approach to identifying demand for, and where relevant providing for, *distribution services* for *supply* into the *distribution*

- network from micro resource operators and non-registered DER providers;*
- (4) a summary of other approaches considered by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* in deciding on the approach referred to in subparagraph (3), including relevant proposals from *distribution service end users*, and how they compare to the approach referred to in subparagraph (3);
 - (5) a description of the key risks and benefits for *distribution service end users* of the *regulatory proposal* and the proposed *tariff structure statement* including the *export tariff transition strategy*;
 - (6) a comparison of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* proposed *total revenue requirement* with its *total revenue requirement* for the current *regulatory control period* and an explanation for any material differences between the two amounts; and
 - (7) a comparison of the *Distribution Network Service Provider's* proposed capital expenditure to support the provision of *distribution services* for supply into the *distribution network* from *micro resource operators* and *non-registered DER providers* for the current *regulatory control period* and its actual or committed capital expenditure in the current *regulatory control period* for that purpose and an explanation for any material differences between the two amounts.
- (c2) The *regulatory proposal* must be accompanied by information required by the *Expenditure Forecast Assessment Guidelines* as set out in the *framework and approach paper*.
- (c3) Where clause 6.2.9(f) applies, the *regulatory proposal* must be accompanied by a copy of the relevant *concessional finance agreement*.
- (c4) The *regulatory proposal* must be accompanied by a *Distribution Network Development Plan*.
- (d) The *regulatory proposal* must comply with the requirements of, and must contain or be accompanied by the information required by any relevant *regulatory information instrument*.
- (d1) The proposed *tariff structure statement* must be accompanied by an *indicative pricing schedule*.
- (d2) The proposed *tariff structure statement* must comply with the *pricing principles for direct control services*.
- (e) If more than one *distribution system* is owned, controlled or operated by a *Distribution Network Service Provider*, then, unless the *AER* otherwise determines, a separate *regulatory proposal* and a separate *tariff structure statement* are to be submitted for each *distribution system*.
- (f) If, at the commencement of this Chapter, different parts of the same *distribution system* were separately regulated, then, unless the *AER* otherwise determines, a separate *regulatory proposal* and a separate *tariff structure statement* are to be submitted for each part as if it were a separate *distribution system*.

10. Glossary

~~*asset management*~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

considered project

- (a) In respect of a *transmission network augmentation*, a project that meets the following criteria:
- (1) the *Network Service Provider* has acquired the necessary land and easements;
 - (2) the *Network Service Provider* has obtained all necessary planning and development approvals;
 - (3) as applicable:
 - (i) the *augmentation* project has passed the *regulatory investment test for transmission*;
 - (ii) the *augmentation* has passed the *regulatory investment test for distribution*; or
 - (iii) in respect of a *transmission investment* which has not been subject to a *regulatory investment test for transmission* or the *regulatory investment test for distribution*, an intention to proceed with the project has been published in the *Network Service Provider's Transmission Annual Planning Report*–, *Distribution Network Development Plan* or annual update under clause 5.13.2~~or~~ *Distribution Annual Planning Report* (as the case may be); and
 - (4) construction has either commenced or the *Network Service Provider* has set a firm date for it to commence.
- (b) In respect of a *distribution network augmentation*, a project that meets the following criteria:
- (1) the *Network Service Provider* has acquired the necessary land and easements;
 - (2) the *Network Service Provider* has obtained all necessary planning and development approvals; and
 - (3) construction has either commenced or the *Network Service Provider* has set a firm date for it to commence.

~~*cost threshold determination*~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~*DAPR date*~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.13.2.~~

~~*de-rate*~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~Distribution Annual Planning Report~~

~~A report prepared by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.2.~~

distribution asset

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2. 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*.~~

distribution network connection point

~~A connection point on a *distribution network*.~~

Distribution Network Development Plan

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

firm-delivery capacity

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

forward planning period

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

industry engagement document

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2. The document published by the *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.4(c).~~

industry engagement register

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

industry engagement strategy

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2. The strategy developed by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause 5.13.4(a) and described in its *industry engagement document*.~~

network option

~~A means by which an *identified need* can be fully or partly addressed by expenditure on a *transmission asset* or a *distribution asset* which is undertaken by a *Network Service Provider*, but excluding a *SAPS option*.~~

~~For the purposes of this definition, **transmission asset** and **distribution asset** has the same meaning as in clause 5.10.2.~~

non-network provider

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

normal cyclic rating

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

primary distribution feeder

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

RIT-D project

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2. 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*.~~

~~***sub-transmission***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~***sub-transmission line***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~***system limitation***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2. A limitation identified by a *Distribution Network Service Provider* under clause S5.8(a)(1).~~

~~***system limitation template***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~***total capacity***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~***transmission asset***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2. The apparatus, equipment and plant, including *transmission lines* and *substations* of a *transmission system*.~~

~~***transmission-distribution connection point***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

~~***zone substation***~~

~~Has the meaning given to it in clause 5.10.2.~~

Part ZZZZZJ 2025 Savings and Transitional Rules

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.