



# TIM JAMES MP

## MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY



Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building  
Shadow Minister for Local Government  
Shadow Minister for Veterans

24 June 2026

Our Ref: 26-1034DJ

The Hon Chris Bowen MP  
Minister for Climate Change and Energy  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
minister.bowen@dcceew.gov.au  
cc: submissions@aemc.gov.au

Dear Minister *Chris*

I write to express concern about the increasing involvement of Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP) in the ownership, installation and operation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in contestable markets.

These concerns have been raised with me by industry participants, electrical contractors and private investors who are seeking certainty as Australia continues its transition to cleaner transport technologies.

While DNSPs play an essential role in maintaining reliable electricity networks and facilitating efficient grid connections, there is concern that expanded DNSP involvement in competitive EV charging markets could distort investment signals, weaken private sector confidence and undermine competitive neutrality.

Stakeholders have also raised concerns that existing ring-fencing arrangements may not be sufficient to prevent monopoly advantages being used in contestable markets. These concerns include access to network information, infrastructure advantages, potential cross-subsidisation and the impact on small and medium electrical contracting businesses.

I am particularly concerned by the prospect that commercial EV charging infrastructure costs could be socialised through regulated network charges, increasing power bills for households and businesses, including those without EVs. Constituents would reasonably question why consumers should subsidise commercial charging infrastructure where private, user-pays models are already operating.

I am also concerned that monopoly-backed investment structures could create incentives for inefficient or excessive deployment of charging infrastructure in locations that do not align with genuine market demand or community need.

In this context, I am concerned that rule change proposals advanced by the Energy Networks Association and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water may further expand DNSP involvement in contestable EV charging markets without sufficient safeguards for competition, consumers and private sector investment.

By contrast, I understand the rule change proposal advanced by NEXA Advisory seeks to strengthen competitive neutrality protections, improve ring-fencing arrangements and preserve a competitive private sector framework for EV charging infrastructure.

Given the importance of private investment, innovation and workforce participation in the energy transition, I would appreciate your advice on how the Government is considering these concerns, including the potential impacts on consumers, electrical contractors and Australian-based EV charging suppliers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim James'.

**Tim James MP**

**Member for Willoughby**

**Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building**

**Shadow Minister for Local Government**

**Shadow Minister for Veterans**