



## Transmission Connection and Planning Arrangements

### Commencement of consultation on rule change request

**The AEMC has commenced consultation on a rule change request submitted by the COAG Energy Council that seeks to amend those aspects of the National Electricity Rules (NER) that relate to the arrangements for transmission connection and planning.**

#### The rule change request

The COAG Energy Council has submitted a rule change request that seeks to amend those aspects of the NER that relate to the arrangements for transmission connection and planning.

The rule change request is largely based on the connection and planning recommendations made by the AEMC in its Transmission Frameworks Review (TFR), which was completed in 2013. The objective of the recommendations made by the AEMC was to improve transparency, contestability and clarity in the connections framework, as well as to enhance the transmission businesses planning and decision making frameworks.

Specifically, the rule change request proposes that the NER be amended to:

- clarify the definitions for connection assets, connection services and classifications;
- enhance contestability in the connection arrangements;
- improve the transparency of information for negotiated transmission services;
- establish a framework for the nomination of appropriate independent engineering experts who may provide independent advice around the appropriateness of the technical specifications for a particular connection asset;
- support a nationally coordinated planning approach that ensures that both intra-regional and inter-regional options would be considered in determining the optimal investment;
- establish a process of formal consultation in the development of the National Transmission Network Development Plan (NTNDP); and
- introduce a uniform approach to Annual Planning Reports (APRs).

#### Purpose of the consultation paper

A consultation paper has been prepared to facilitate stakeholder comment on the issues raised by the rule change request. In particular, the AEMC seeks stakeholder views on the proposed policy, and the proposed solutions to give effect to the proposed policy. More detailed questions on the proposed policy, and proposed solution are contained within the Consultation Paper.

The AEMC would also welcome stakeholder views on how issues with the connection and planning frameworks may have changed since they were last articulated at the time of the Transmission Frameworks Review.

#### Timing of the rule change request

Given the complexity and broad scope of issues covered by the rule change request, affecting many areas of the NER, the six month standard rule making process may need to be extended. Stakeholder views received in response to this paper will inform the timeline and process for this rule change.

Once submissions are received and considered, the Commission will notify stakeholders of the timeframes and process that will be adopted for this rule change request.

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**Submissions on  
the Consultation  
Paper close on 28  
January 2016.**

## **Submissions**

The Commission welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders on the Consultation Paper and rule change request. An extended consultation period has been allowed for the Christmas and New Year period.

Submissions must be received by **28 January 2016**.

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