



Transmission Connection and Planning Arrangements

Extension of time for draft rule determination

The AEMC has extended the standard timeframe for publishing a draft rule determination on this rule change request. The extended timeframe will enable the AEMC to hold a series of workshops on aspects of the rule change request and publish a directions paper for stakeholder comment.

Background

The Transmission Connection and Planning Arrangements rule change request was submitted by the COAG Energy Council in July 2015. It seeks to amend aspects of the NER to improve the transparency, contestability and clarity of transmission connections, and promote a national approach to transmission planning. It largely reflects the recommendations made by the AEMC in its Transmission Frameworks Review (TFR).

Rationale for extension

On 3 March 2016 the AEMC extended the period of time for publishing a draft rule determination on the rule change request. The AEMC determined that an extension was necessary for the following reasons:

1. **Significant and complex changes.** The rule change request proposes significant changes to the rules that underpin transmission connection and planning arrangements in the NEM. These changes, particularly those relating to connections, were commented on extensively by stakeholders in submissions to the consultation paper.
2. **Expanded scope.** The scope of the rule change request has expanded from that originally contemplated in the TFR. For example, the TFR set out the Commission's recommended changes to the arrangements for connecting generation assets to the transmission network. The rule change request expands the scope of these proposed changes to cover all assets connecting to the transmission network, ie load, generation and distribution networks. A diagram of the scope of the rule change request is attached to this information sheet.
3. **Extensive legal drafting.** Sufficient time will be required to draft the potentially significant amendments to Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6A, 8 and 10 of the NER.

As well as working through the issues above, the AEMC plans to use the extended timeframe to hold a series of workshops and publish a directions paper for stakeholder comment. Further information is provided below.

Revised timeline

The revised timeline for the AEMC's consideration of this rule change request is set out in the table below.

Milestone	Planned date
Publication of consultation paper	26 November 2015
Close of submissions on consultation paper	28 January 2016
Stakeholder workshop 1 – connections	9 March 2016
Stakeholder workshop 2 – planning	21 April 2016
Publication of directions paper – connections	26 May 2016
Close of submissions on directions paper (5 weeks)	30 June 2016

The AEMC will hold a series of stakeholder workshops on aspects of the rule change request

Milestone	Planned date
Additional stakeholder workshops	July – September 2016
Publication of draft rule determination	24 November 2016
Close of submissions on draft rule determination (8 weeks)	19 January 2017
Publication of final rule determination	2 March 2017

Stakeholder consultation

Workshops

The AEMC has scheduled the following workshops to work through aspects of the rule change request with stakeholders.

Date	Workshop	Location
9 March 2016	<p><i>Workshop 1: Connection arrangements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundaries of contestability Implications of model supported by stakeholders Impact on other aspects of the rule change request 	Sydney
21 April 2016	<p><i>Workshop 2: Planning arrangements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of cross-regional options TNSP involvement in the NTNDP Consistency of APRs 	Melbourne

Registration for the second workshop is available [here](#). Information about subsequent workshops will be made available on the AEMC website and in the AEMC weekly updates closer to the date.

Directions paper

The AEMC will publish a directions paper for consultation on 26 May 2016. This paper will set out the Commission's preliminary policy position on the connections aspects of the rule change request, taking into account the issues raised by stakeholders in their submissions to the consultation paper and in the first stakeholder workshop.

The directions paper will also set out how the Commission's policy position might apply in declared network jurisdictions (ie Victoria).

For information contact:

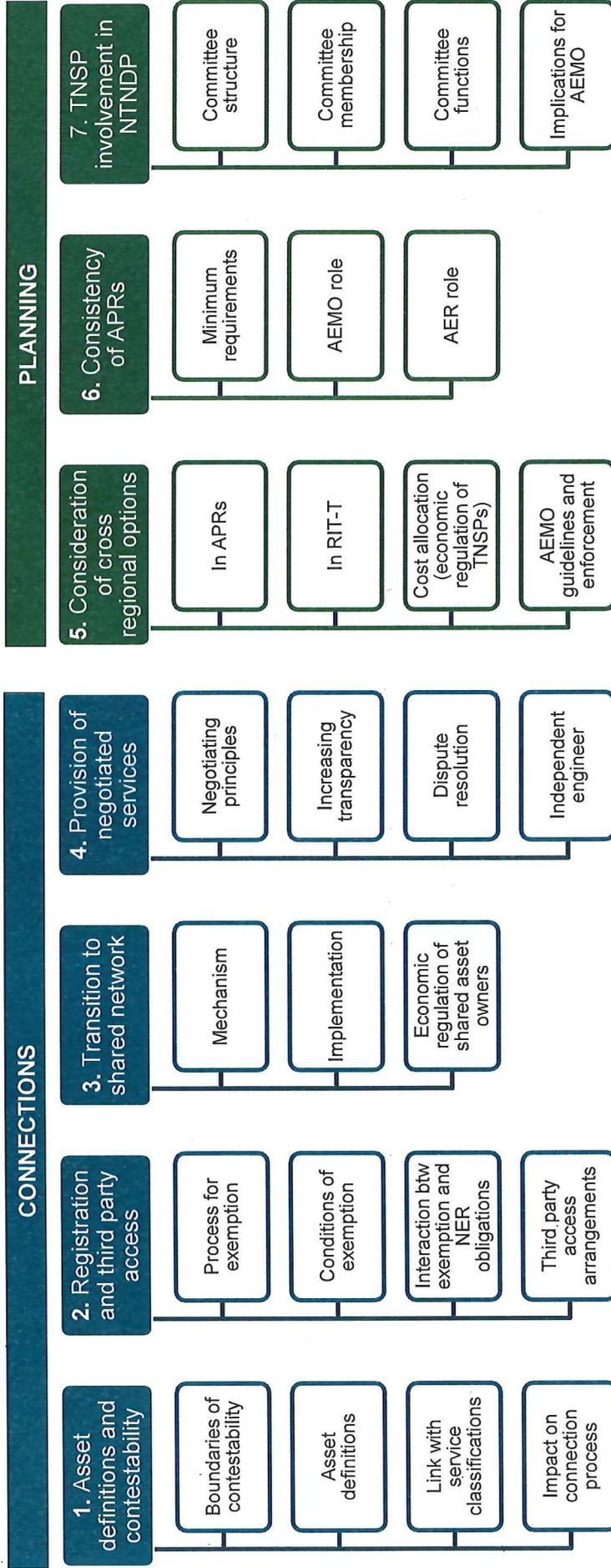
AEMC Director, **Victoria Mollard** (02) 8296 7872

AEMC Senior Director, **Suzanne Falvi** (02) 8296 7883

Media: Communication Manager, Prudence Anderson 0404 821 935 or (02) 8296 7817

31 March 2016

Transmission connection and planning arrangements – scope of rule change request



- Additional considerations**
- Application of the proposed rule changes in Victoria (where AEMO has declared network functions)
 - Links to Technical Standards Review