

CHAPTER 6A

6A. Economic Regulation of Transmission Services

Part A - Introduction

6A.1 Introduction to Chapter 6A

6A.1.1 Economic regulation of transmission services generally

- (a) Part B of this Chapter 6A states the general obligation of the AER to make *transmission determinations* for *Transmission Network Service Providers* in respect of:
 - (1) *prescribed transmission services*; and
 - (2) *negotiated transmission services*.
- (b) This Chapter 6A regulates:
 - (1) the revenues that may be earned by *Transmission Network Service Providers* from; and
 - (2) the prices that may be charged by *Transmission Network Service Providers* for,the provision by them of the *transmission services* that are the subject of *transmission determinations*.
- (c) Other *transmission services* provided by *Transmission Network Services Providers*, are not subject to regulation under this Chapter 6A.

6A.1.2 Prescribed transmission services - revenue regulation

Part C of this Chapter 6A regulates the revenues that may be earned by *Transmission Network Service Providers* from the provision by them of *prescribed transmission services*.

6A.1.3 Prescribed transmission services - pricing regulation

Deleted

Note: The draft National Electricity Amendment (Pricing of Prescribed Transmission Services) 2006, when made, will add a new Part J - Regulation of Pricing – Prescribed Transmission Services - in the new Chapter 6A, and this clause will be amended at that time. The provisions of the old Part C including schedules 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7 and 6.8, are dealt with in savings and transitional rules in rule 11.6.

6A.1.4 Negotiated transmission services - pricing regulation

Part D of this Chapter 6A regulates the prices that may be charged by *Transmission Network Service Providers* for the provision by them of *negotiated transmission services*.

6A.1.5 National regulatory arrangements

- (a) The AER is, in accordance with this Chapter 6A, responsible for the economic regulation of services provided by *Transmission Network Service Providers* by means of, or in connection with, *transmission systems* that form part of the *national grid*.

- (b) Subject to the agreement of the *AER* and the relevant *Jurisdictional Regulator*, those parts of a *transmission network* operating at nominal *voltages* between 66kV and 220kV that:
 - (1) do not operate in parallel to; and
 - (2) do not provide support to,
 the higher *voltage transmission network* may be deemed by the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* to be subject to the regulatory arrangements for *distribution service* pricing set out in Parts A and B of Chapter 6.

6A.1.6 Contents of Parts E - I of Chapter 6A

- (a) Part E sets out the procedure that applies for the purposes of the *AER* making a *transmission determination*.
- (b) Part F contains provisions regarding the disclosure of information.
- (c) Part G contains provisions regarding cost allocation.
- (d) Part H contains provisions regarding the *transmission consultation procedures*.
- (e) Part I contains provisions regarding *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines*

6A.1.7 Application of Chapter 6A to Market Network Service Providers

- (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter 6A:
 - (1) Parts B, C and D do not regulate the revenues that may be earned by *Market Network Service Providers* from, or the prices that may be charged by *Market Network Service Providers* for, the provision by them of *market network services*; and
 - (2) Part E does not apply to *Market Network Service Providers*.
- (b) Part D of this Chapter 6A does not regulate the prices that may be charged by *Transmission Network Service Providers* for *network services* provided to:
 - (1) a *Market Network Service Provider*; or
 - (2) another *Network Service Provider* for electricity delivered to a *Market Network Service Provider* through the *network* of the other *Network Service Provider* (except for any such electricity which is ultimately consumed within the other *Network Service Provider's network*).
- (c) Charges for the *network services* referred to in paragraph (b) are governed by the applicable provisions of rule 5.4A and Part D only.

Part B - Transmission Determinations Generally

6A.2 Transmission determinations

6A.2.1 Duty of *AER* to make transmission determinations

The *AER* must make *transmission determinations* for *Transmission Network Service Providers* in accordance with this Chapter 6A in respect of:

- (1) *prescribed transmission services*; and
- (2) *negotiated transmission services*.

6A.2.2 Components of transmission determinations

A *transmission determination* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* consists of:

- (1) a *revenue determination* for the provider in respect of the provision by the provider of *prescribed transmission services*;
- (2) a determination relating to the provider's *negotiating framework*; and
- (3) a determination that specifies the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* that apply to the provider.

Part C - Regulation of Revenue - Prescribed Transmission Services

6A.3 Allowed revenue from prescribed transmission services

6A.3.1 Allowed revenue for regulatory year

The revenue that a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may earn in any *regulatory year* of a *regulatory control period* from the provision of *prescribed transmission services* is the *maximum allowed revenue* subject to any adjustments referred to in clause 6A.3.2, and is to be determined in accordance with:

- (1) the *revenue determination* forming part of the applicable *transmission determination*; and
- (2) the provisions of this Part C.

6A.3.2 Adjustment of maximum allowed revenue

The *maximum allowed revenue* that a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may earn in any *regulatory year* of a *regulatory control period* from the provision of *prescribed transmission services* is subject to adjustment in accordance with rules 6A.7, 6A.8 or 6A.15.

6A.4 Revenue determinations

6A.4.1 Introduction

- (a) The procedure for making a *revenue determination* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* is contained in Part E of this Chapter 6A, and involves the submission to the AER of a *Revenue Proposal* by the provider.
- (b) Such a *Revenue Proposal* must comply with the requirements of this Chapter 6A, and in particular must:
 - (1) be prepared using the *post-tax revenue model* referred to in rule 6A.5; and
 - (2) comply with the requirements of the *submission guidelines* referred to in clause 6A.10.2.

6A.4.2 Contents of revenue determination

- (a) A *revenue determination* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* is to specify, for a *regulatory control period*, the following matters:
 - (1) the amount of the estimated *total revenue cap* for the *regulatory control period* or the method of calculating that amount;

- (2) the *annual building block revenue requirement* for each *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (3) the amount of the *maximum allowed revenue* for each *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period* or the method of calculating that amount;
 - (4) appropriate methodologies for the indexation of the regulatory asset base;
 - (5) the values that are to be attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters* for the purposes of the application to the provider of any *service target performance incentive scheme* that applies in respect of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (6) the values that are to be attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters* for the purposes of the application to the provider of any *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* that applies in respect of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (7) the commencement and length of the *regulatory control period*; and
 - (8) such amounts, values or inputs as have been used by the AER in place of those referred to in clause 6A.10.2(b)(9).
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the AER:
- (1) the *total revenue cap* may not relate to more than one *transmission system* that is owned, controlled or operated by a *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
 - (2) there is to be a separate *total revenue cap* for each such *transmission system*.
- (c) A *regulatory control period* in respect of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must be not less than 5 *regulatory years*.

6A.5 Post-tax revenue model

6A.5.1 Introduction

- (a) The process of preparing a *revenue determination* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* involves the submission of a *Revenue Proposal* to the AER by the provider under clause 6A.10.1. The provider is required to prepare the *Revenue Proposal* using a *post-tax revenue model* in relation to that proposal, in accordance with the requirements of this Chapter 6A.
- (b) The principal purpose of the *post-tax revenue model* is to calculate the *maximum allowed revenue* under the *revenue determination*.
- (c) The *post-tax revenue model*, together with the *Revenue Proposal*, form the basis on which the AER assesses a *Revenue Proposal* and makes a *revenue determination*.

6A.5.2 Preparation, publication and amendment of post-tax revenue model

- (a) The AER must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, prepare and *publish* a *post-tax revenue model*.
- (b) The AER may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace the *post-tax revenue model*.

- (c) The *AER* must develop and *publish* the first *post-tax revenue model* by 28 September 2007² and there must be such a model in force at all times after that date.

6A.5.3 Contents of post-tax revenue model

- (a) The *post-tax revenue model* must set out the manner in which the following matters, referable only to the provision of *prescribed transmission services*, are to be calculated in respect of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for a *regulatory control period*:
 - (1) the *total revenue cap* for the provider for the period;
 - (2) the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year* of the period; and
 - (3) the *annual building block revenue requirement* for the provider for each *regulatory year*, determined in accordance with clause 6A.5.4.
- (b) The *post-tax revenue model* must specify:
 - (1) a methodology that the *AER* determines is likely to result in the best estimates of expected inflation;
 - (2) the timing assumptions and associated discount rates that are to apply in relation to the calculation of the building blocks referred to in clause 6A.5.4;
 - (3) the manner (if any) in which working capital is to be treated;
 - (4) the manner in which the estimated cost of corporate income tax is to be calculated; and
 - (5) the CPI - X methodology that is to be applied in escalating the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year* (other than the first *regulatory year*) of a *regulatory control period*.
- (c) The *post-tax revenue model* must be such that:
 - (1) the net present value of the expected *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period* is equal to the net present value of the *annual building block revenue requirement* for the provider for each *regulatory year*;
 - (2) the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for the first *regulatory year* is expressed as a dollar amount;
 - (3) the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year* (other than the first *regulatory year*) is calculated by escalating the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for the previous *regulatory year* using a CPI - X methodology; and
 - (4) the *total revenue cap* for the provider for a *regulatory control period* is calculated as the sum of the *maximum allowed revenues* for the provider for each *regulatory year*.
- (d) For the purposes of this clause 6A.5.3, the X factor is that determined in accordance with clause 6A.6.8.

6A.5.4 Building blocks approach

- (a) **Building blocks generally**

The *annual building block revenue requirement* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for each *regulatory year* of a *regulatory control period* must be determined using a building blocks approach, under which the building blocks are:

- (1) indexation of the regulatory asset base - see paragraph (b)(1);
- (2) a return on capital for that year - see paragraph (b)(2);
- (3) the depreciation for that year - see paragraph (b)(3);
- (4) the estimated cost of corporate income tax of the provider for that year - see paragraph (b)(4);
- (5) certain revenue increments or decrements for that year arising from the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* - see paragraph (b)(5);
- (6) the forecast operating expenditure accepted or substituted by the *AER* for that year – see paragraph (b)(6); and
- (7) compensation for other risks - see paragraph (b)(7).

(b) Details about the building blocks

For the purposes of paragraph (a):

- (1) for indexation of the regulatory asset base:
 - (i) the regulatory asset base is calculated in accordance with clause 6A.6.1 and schedule 6A.2; and
 - (ii) the building block comprises a negative adjustment equal to the amount referred to in clause S6A.2.4(c)(4) for that year;
- (2) the return on capital is calculated in accordance with clause 6A.6.2;
- (3) the depreciation is calculated in accordance with clause 6A.6.3;
- (4) the estimated cost of corporate income tax is determined in accordance with clause 6A.6.4;
- (5) the revenue increments or decrements are those that arise as a result of the operation of the applicable *efficiency benefit sharing scheme*, as referred to in clause 6A.6.5;
- (6) the forecast operating expenditure is accepted or substituted by the *AER* in accordance with clause 6A.6.6(c) or clause 6A.13.2(b)(3) and (5) (as the case may be); and
- (7) the compensation for other risks is such amounts as the *AER* determines are necessary for that year to compensate a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for risks that are not otherwise compensated for in the return on capital, including the risk referred to in clause S6A.2.3(b) of schedule 6A.2.

6A.6 Matters relevant to the making of revenue determinations

6A.6.1 Regulatory asset base

Nature of regulatory asset base

- (a) The regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* owned, controlled or operated by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* is the value of those

assets that are used by the provider to provide *prescribed transmission services*, but only to the extent that they are used to provide such services.

Preparation, publication and amendment of model for rolling forward regulatory asset base

- (b) The AER must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, develop and *publish* a model for the roll forward of the regulatory asset base for *transmission systems*, referred to as the *roll forward model*.
- (c) The AER may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace the *roll forward model*.
- (d) The AER must develop and *publish* the first *roll forward model* by 28 September 2007, and there must be such a model available at all times after that date.

Contents of roll forward model

- (e) The *roll forward model* must set out the method for determining the roll forward of the regulatory asset base for *transmission systems*:
 - (1) from the immediately preceding *regulatory control period* to the beginning of the first year of the subsequent *regulatory control period*, so as to establish the value of the regulatory asset base as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of that subsequent *regulatory control period*; and
 - (2) from one *regulatory year* in a *regulatory control period* to a subsequent *regulatory year* in that same *regulatory control period*, so as to establish the value of the regulatory asset base as at the beginning of the subsequent *regulatory year* of that *regulatory control period*;

under which:

- (3) the roll forward of the regulatory asset base from the immediately preceding *regulatory control period* to the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of a subsequent *regulatory control period* entails the value of the first mentioned regulatory asset base being adjusted for outturn inflation, consistent with the methodology that was used in the *transmission determination* (if any) for the first mentioned *regulatory control period* for the indexation of the *maximum allowed revenue* during that *regulatory control period*.

Other provisions relating to regulatory asset base

- (f) Other provisions relating to regulatory asset bases are set out in schedule 6A.2.

6A.6.2 Return on capital

Calculation of return on capital

- (a) The return on capital for each *regulatory year* must be calculated by applying a rate of return for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* for that *regulatory control period* (calculated in accordance with this clause 6A.6.2) to the value of the regulatory asset base for the relevant *transmission system* as at the beginning of that *regulatory year* (as established in accordance with clause 6A.6.1 and schedule 6A.2).

Weighted average cost of capital

- (b) The rate of return for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for a *regulatory control period* is the cost of capital as measured by the return required by investors in a commercial enterprise with a similar nature and degree of non-diversifiable risk as that faced by the *transmission* business of the provider and, subject to any revised values, methodologies and levels arising from a review under paragraphs (f)-(j), must be calculated as a nominal post-tax *weighted average cost of capital* ("WACC") in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{WACC} = k_e \frac{E}{V} + k_d \frac{D}{V}$$

where:

k_e is the return on equity (determined using the Capital Asset Pricing Model) and is calculated as:

$$r_f + \beta_e \times \text{MRP}$$

where:

r_f is the nominal risk free rate for the *regulatory control period* determined in accordance with paragraph (c);

β_e is the equity beta, which is deemed to be 1.0; and

MRP is the market risk premium, which is deemed to be 6.0%;

k_d is the return on debt and is calculated as:

$$r_f + \text{DRP}$$

where:

DRP is the debt risk premium for the *regulatory control period* determined in accordance with paragraph (e);

E/V is the market value of equity as a proportion of the market value of equity and debt, which is $1 - D/V$; and

D/V is the market value of debt as a proportion of the market value of equity and debt, which is deemed to be 0.6.

Meaning of nominal risk free rate

- (c) The nominal risk free rate for a *regulatory control period* is the rate determined for that *regulatory control period* by the AER on a moving average basis from the annualised yield on Commonwealth Government bonds with a maturity of 10 years using:
- (1) the indicative mid rates published by the Reserve Bank of Australia; and
 - (2) a period of time which is either:
 - (i) a period ('the **agreed period**') proposed by the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider*, and agreed by the AER (such agreement is not to be unreasonably withheld); or
 - (ii) a period specified by the AER, and notified to the provider prior to the commencement of that period, if the period proposed by the provider is not agreed by the AER under subparagraph (i),
- and, for the purposes of subparagraph (i):

- (iii) the start date and end date for the agreed period may be kept confidential, but only until the expiration of the agreed period; and
 - (iv) the *AER* must notify the *Transmission Network Service Provider* whether or not it agrees with the proposed period within 30 *business days* of the date of submission of the *Revenue Proposal* under clause 6A.10.1(a).
- (d) If there are no Commonwealth Government bonds with a maturity of 10 years on any day in the period referred to in paragraph (c)(2), the *AER* must determine the nominal risk free rate for the *regulatory control period* by interpolating on a straight line basis from the two Commonwealth Government bonds closest to the 10 year term and which also straddle the 10 year expiry date.

Meaning of debt risk premium

- (e) The debt risk premium for a *regulatory control period* is the premium determined for that *regulatory control period* by the *AER* as the margin between the 10 year Commonwealth annualised bond rate and the observed annualised Australian benchmark corporate bond rate for corporate bonds which have a BBB+ credit rating from Standard and Poors and a maturity of 10 years.

Review of rate of return parameters

- (f) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures* and paragraphs (g)-(j), carry out reviews of the matters referred to in paragraph (i).
- (g) The *AER* must initiate the first review on 1 July 2009 and every five years thereafter.
- (h) The *AER* may, as a consequence of a review, adopt revised values, methodologies or credit rating levels, and, if it does so, it must use those revised values, methodologies and levels, but only for the purposes of a *Revenue Proposal* that is submitted to the *AER* under clause 6A.10.1(a) after the completion of the first review or after completion of the five yearly reviews (as the case may be).
- (i) The *AER* may only review:
 - (1) the values of and methodologies used to calculate:
 - (i) the nominal risk free rate;
 - (ii) the equity beta;
 - (iii) the market risk premium;
 - (iv) the maturity period and bond rates referred to in paragraph (d); and
 - (v) the ratio of the market value of debt to the market value of equity and debt,as set out in this clause 6A.6.2 or as subsequently revised under paragraph (h); and
 - (2) the credit rating level as referred to in paragraph (e) or as subsequently revised under paragraph (h).

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- (j) In undertaking a review under this clause 6A.6.2 and under clause 6A.6.4(b), the *AER* must have regard to:
 - (1) the need for the rate of return calculated for the purposes of paragraph (b) to be a forward looking rate of return that is commensurate with prevailing conditions in the market for funds and the risk involved in providing *prescribed transmission services*;
 - (2) the need for the market value of debt to reflect the current cost of borrowings for comparable debt;
 - (3) the need for the values attributable to the parameters referred to in paragraphs (i)(1)(ii), (iv), (v) and (i)(2) to be based on a benchmark efficient *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
 - (4) where the values that are attributable to parameters referred to in paragraph (i) cannot be determined with certainty:
 - (i) the need to achieve an outcome that is consistent with the *market objective*; and
 - (ii) the need for persuasive evidence before adopting a value for that parameter that differs from the value that has previously been adopted for it.

6A.6.3 Depreciation

- (a) The depreciation for each *regulatory year*:
 - (1) must be calculated on the value of the assets as included in the regulatory asset base, as at the beginning of that *regulatory year*, for the relevant *transmission system*; and
 - (2) must be calculated:
 - (i) providing such depreciation schedules conform with the requirements set out in paragraph (b), using the depreciation schedules for each asset or category of assets that are nominated in the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider's Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (ii) to the extent the depreciation schedules nominated in the provider's Revenue Proposal do not so conform, using the depreciation schedules determined for that purpose by the *AER* in its final decision on the provider's Revenue Proposal.
- (b) The depreciation schedules referred to in paragraph (a) must conform to the following requirements:
 - (1) except as provided in paragraph (c), the schedules must depreciate using a profile that reflects the nature of the assets or category of assets over the economic life of that asset or category of assets;
 - (2) the sum of the real value of the depreciation that is attributable to any asset or category of assets over the economic life of that asset or category of assets (such real value being calculated as at the time the value of that asset or category of assets was first included in the regulatory asset base for the relevant *transmission system*) must be equivalent to the value at which that asset or category of assets was first included in the regulatory asset base for the relevant *transmission system*; and

- (3) the economic life of the relevant assets and the depreciation methodologies and rates underpinning the calculation of actual depreciation for a given *regulatory control period* must be consistent with those determined for the same assets on a prospective basis in the *transmission determination* for that period.
- (c) To the extent that:
- (1) an asset (or group of assets) the value of which forms part of the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* is dedicated to one *Transmission Network User* (not being a *Distribution Network Service Provider*) or a small group of *Transmission Network Users*; and
 - (2) the value of the assets (or group of assets), as included in the value of that regulatory asset base as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the current *regulatory control period*, exceeds the *indexed amount*, as at the commencement of that *regulatory control period*, of \$20 million,
- that asset (or group of assets) must be depreciated on a straight line basis over the life at which that asset (or group of assets) was first included in the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system*.

6A.6.4 Estimated cost of corporate income tax

- (a) The estimated cost of corporate income tax of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for each *regulatory year* (ETC_t) must be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$ETC_t = (ETI_t \times r_t) (1 - \gamma)$$

where:

ETI_t is an estimate of the taxable income for that *regulatory year* that would be earned by a benchmark efficient entity as a result of the provision of *prescribed transmission services* if such an entity, rather than the *Transmission Network Service Provider*, operated the business of the *Transmission Network Service Provider*, such estimate being determined in accordance with the *post-tax revenue model*;

r_t is the expected statutory income tax rate for that *regulatory year* as determined by the *AER*; and

γ is the assumed utilisation of imputation credits, which is deemed to be 0.5.

For these purposes:

- (1) the cost of debt must be based on that of a benchmark efficient *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
 - (2) the estimate must take into account the estimated depreciation for that *regulatory year* for *tax purposes*, for a benchmark efficient *Transmission Network Service Provider*, of assets where the value of those assets is included in the regulatory asset base for the relevant *transmission system* for that *regulatory year*.
- (b) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures* and clause 6A.6.2(j), carry out reviews of the matters referred to in paragraph (d).

- (c) The *AER* must initiate the first review on 1 July 2011 and every five years thereafter.
- (d) The *AER* may only review the value of and methodology used to calculate the assumed utilisation of imputation credits as referred to in paragraph (a) (or as subsequently revised under this clause 6A.6.4).
- (e) Where the value of the assumed utilisation of imputation credits referred to in paragraph (d) cannot be determined with certainty, the *AER* must have regard to:
 - (1) the need to achieve an outcome that is consistent with the *market objective*; and
 - (2) the need for persuasive evidence before adopting a value that differs from the value that has previously been adopted for it.
- (f) If, as a consequence of a review, the *AER* decides to adopt a revised value or methodology, it must use that revised value or methodology, but only for the purposes of a *Revenue Proposal* that is submitted to the *AER* under clause 6A.10.1(a) after the completion of the first review or after completion of the five yearly reviews (as the case may be).

6A.6.5 Efficiency benefit sharing scheme

- (a) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, develop and *publish* a scheme (an *efficiency benefit sharing scheme*) that provides for a fair sharing between *Transmission Network Service Providers* and *Transmission Network Users* of:
 - (1) the efficiency gains derived from the operating expenditure of *Transmission Network Service Providers* for a *regulatory control period* being less than; and
 - (2) the efficiency losses derived from the operating expenditure of *Transmission Network Service Providers* for a *regulatory control period* being more than,

the forecast operating expenditure accepted or substituted by the *AER* for that *regulatory control period* in accordance with clause 6A.6.6(c) or clause 6A.13.2(b)(3) and (5) (as the case may be).
- (b) In developing and implementing an *efficiency benefit sharing scheme*, the *AER* must have regard to:
 - (1) the need to provide *Transmission Network Service Providers* with a continuous incentive (that is equal in each year of any *regulatory control period*) to reduce operating expenditure;
 - (2) the desirability of both rewarding *Transmission Network Service Providers* for efficiency gains and penalising *Transmission Network Service Providers* for efficiency losses; and
 - (3) any incentives that *Transmission Network Service Providers* may have to inappropriately capitalise operating expenditure.
- (c) At the same time as it *publishes* an *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* under this clause 6A.6.5, the *AER* must also *publish* parameters ('the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters*') for the scheme. For the avoidance of doubt,

unless the *AER* provides otherwise in that scheme, such values may differ as between *Transmission Network Service Providers* and over time.

- (d) The *AER* must set out in each *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* any requirements with which the values attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters* must comply, but such requirements must not be inconsistent with those factors to which the *AER* must have regard under paragraph (b).
- (e) The *AER* must develop and *publish* the first *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* by 28 September 2007, and there must be an *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* in force at all times after that date.
- (f) The *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace an *efficiency benefit sharing scheme*, except that no such amendment or replacement may change the application of the scheme to a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in respect of a *regulatory control period* that has commenced before, or that will commence within 15 months of, the amendment or replacement coming into operation.
- (g) Subject to paragraph (h) the *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace the values to be attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters*.
- (h) An amendment or replacement referred to in paragraph (g) must not change the values to be attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters* where:
 - (1) those values must be included in information accompanying a *Revenue Proposal*; and
 - (2) the *Revenue Proposal* is required to be submitted under clause 6A.10.1(a) at a time that is within 2 months of the *publication* of the amended or replaced *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters*.

6A.6.6 Forecast operating expenditure

- (a) A *Revenue Proposal* must include the total forecast operating expenditure for the relevant *regulatory control period* which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* considers is required in order to achieve each of the following ('the *operating expenditure objectives*'):
 - (1) meet the expected demand for *prescribed transmission services* over that period;
 - (2) comply with all applicable *regulatory obligations* associated with the provision of *prescribed transmission services*;
 - (3) maintain the quality, reliability and security of supply of *prescribed transmission services*; and
 - (4) maintain the reliability, safety and security of the *transmission system* through the supply of *prescribed transmission services*.
- (b) The forecast of required operating expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* that is included in a *Revenue Proposal* must:
 - (1) comply with the requirements of the *submission guidelines*;

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- (2) be for expenditure that is properly allocated to *prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the principles and policies set out in the *Cost Allocation Methodology* for the *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
 - (3) include both:
 - (i) the total of the forecast operating expenditure for the relevant *regulatory control period*; and
 - (ii) the forecast of the operating expenditure for each *regulatory year* of the relevant *regulatory control period*.
 - (c) The *AER* must accept the forecast of required operating expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* that is included in a *Revenue Proposal* if the *AER* is satisfied that the total of the forecast operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* reasonably reflects:
 - (1) the efficient costs of achieving the *operating expenditure objectives*;
 - (2) the costs that a prudent operator in the circumstances of the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* would require to achieve the *operating expenditure objectives*; and
 - (3) a realistic expectation of the demand forecast and cost inputs required to achieve the *operating expenditure objectives*.

(‘the *operating expenditure criteria*’).
 - (d) If the *AER* is not satisfied as referred to in paragraph (c), it must not accept the forecast of required operating expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* that is included in a *Revenue Proposal*.
 - (e) In deciding whether or not the *AER* is satisfied as referred to in paragraph (c), the *AER* must have regard to the following (‘the *operating expenditure factors*’):
 - (1) the information included in or accompanying the *Revenue Proposal*;
 - (2) submissions received in the course of consulting on the *Revenue Proposal*;
 - (3) such analysis as is undertaken by or for the *AER* and is *published* prior to or as part of the draft decision of the *AER* on the *Revenue Proposal* under rule 6A.12 or the final decision of the *AER* on the *Revenue Proposal* under rule 6A.13 (as the case may be);
 - (4) benchmark operating expenditure that would be incurred by an efficient *Transmission Network Service Provider* over the *regulatory control period*;
 - (5) the actual and expected operating expenditure of the provider during any preceding *regulatory control periods*;
 - (6) the relative prices of operating and capital inputs;
 - (7) the substitution possibilities between operating and capital expenditure;
 - (8) whether the total labour costs included in the capital and operating expenditure forecasts for the *regulatory control period* are consistent with the incentives provided by the applicable *service target performance incentive scheme* in respect of the *regulatory control period*;
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- (9) the extent to which the forecast of required operating expenditure of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* is referable to arrangements with a person other than the provider that, in the opinion of the *AER*, do not reflect arm's length terms; and
 - (10) whether the forecast of required operating expenditure includes amounts relating to a project that should more appropriately be included as a *contingent project* under clause 6A.8.1(b).
- (f) If, in its final decision on the *Revenue Proposal* under rule 6A.13, the *AER* does not accept the total of the forecast required operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* under paragraph (d), then the *AER* must, in accordance with clause 6A.13.2(b), use a substituted forecast of required operating expenditure.

6A.6.7 Forecast capital expenditure

- (a) A *Revenue Proposal* must include the total forecast capital expenditure for the relevant *regulatory control period* which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* considers is required in order to achieve each of the following ('the *capital expenditure objectives*'):
 - (1) meet the expected demand for *prescribed transmission services* over that period;
 - (2) comply with all applicable *regulatory obligations* associated with the provision of *prescribed transmission services*;
 - (3) maintain the quality, reliability and security of supply of *prescribed transmission services*; and
 - (4) maintain the reliability, safety and security of the *transmission system* through the supply of *prescribed transmission services*.
- (b) The forecast of required capital expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* that is included in a *Revenue Proposal* must:
 - (1) comply with the requirements of the *submission guidelines*;
 - (2) be for expenditure that is properly allocated to *prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the principles and policies set out in the *Cost Allocation Methodology* for the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
 - (3) include both:
 - (i) the total of the forecast capital expenditure for the relevant *regulatory control period*; and
 - (ii) the forecast of the capital expenditure for each *regulatory year* of the relevant *regulatory control period*; and
 - (4) identify any forecast capital expenditure:
 - (i) that is for a *reliability augmentation*; or
 - (ii) that is for an option that has satisfied the *regulatory test*.
- (c) The *AER* must accept the forecast of required capital expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* that is included in a *Revenue Proposal* if the *AER* is satisfied that the total of the forecast capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* reasonably reflects:

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- (1) the efficient costs of achieving the *capital expenditure objectives*;
 - (2) the costs that a prudent operator in the circumstances of the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* would require to achieve the capital expenditure objectives; and
 - (3) a realistic expectation of the demand forecast and cost inputs required to achieve the capital expenditure objectives.
- (‘the *capital expenditure criteria*’).
- (d) If the *AER* is not satisfied as referred to in paragraph (c), it must not accept the forecast of required capital expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider*.
 - (e) In deciding whether or not the *AER* is satisfied as referred to in paragraph (c), the *AER* must have regard to the following (‘the *capital expenditure factors*’):
 - (1) the information included in or accompanying the *Revenue Proposal*;
 - (2) submissions received in the course of consulting on the *Revenue Proposal*;
 - (3) such analysis as is undertaken by or for the *AER* and is *published* prior to or as part of the draft decision of the *AER* on the *Revenue Proposal* under rule 6A.12 or the final decision of the *AER* on the *Revenue Proposal* under rule 6A.13 (as the case may be);
 - (4) benchmark capital expenditure that would be incurred by an efficient *Transmission Network Service Provider* over the *regulatory control period*;
 - (5) the actual and expected capital expenditure of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* during any preceding *regulatory control periods*;
 - (6) the relative prices of operating and capital inputs;
 - (7) the substitution possibilities between operating and capital expenditure;
 - (8) whether the total labour costs included in the capital and operating expenditure forecasts for the *regulatory control period* are consistent with the incentives provided by the applicable *service target performance incentive scheme* in respect of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (9) the extent to which the forecast of required capital expenditure of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* is referable to arrangements with a person other than the provider that, in the opinion of the *AER*, do not reflect arm’s length terms; and
 - (10) whether the forecast of required capital expenditure includes amounts relating to a project that should more appropriately be included as a *contingent project* under clause 6A.8.1(b).
 - (f) If, in its final decision on the *Revenue Proposal* made under rule 6A.13, the *AER* does not accept the total of the forecast of required capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* under paragraph (d), then the *AER* must, in accordance with clause 6A.13.2(b), use a substitute forecast of required capital expenditure.

Forecast capital expenditure and contingent projects

- (g) Paragraphs (h) - (k) apply where:

- (1) in a *regulatory control period* (the **first regulatory control period**) the *AER* determines under clause 6A.8.2(e)(1)(iii) that the likely completion date for a *contingent project* is a date which occurs in the immediately following *regulatory control period* (the **second regulatory control period**); and
 - (2) there is an unspent amount of capital expenditure for that *contingent project* under paragraph (h).
- (h) A *Transmission Network Service Provider's Revenue Proposal* for the second *regulatory control period*, must include in the forecast of required capital expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) an amount of any unspent capital expenditure for each *contingent project* as described in paragraph (g)(2), that equals the difference (if any) between:
 - (1) the total capital expenditure for that *contingent project*, as determined by the *AER* in the first *regulatory control period* under clause 6A.8.2(e)(1)(ii); and
 - (2) the total of the capital expenditure actually incurred (or estimated capital expenditure for any part of the first *regulatory control period* for which actual capital expenditure is not available) in the first *regulatory control period* for that *contingent project*.
- (i) The *AER* must include in any forecast capital expenditure for the second *regulatory control period* which is accepted in accordance with paragraph (c), estimated in accordance with clause 6A.14.1(2)(ii) or substituted in accordance with clause 6A.13.2(b)(4) and (5) (as the case may be), the amount of any unspent capital expenditure calculated in accordance with paragraph (h).
- (j) Without limiting the requirement in paragraph (i), in deciding whether or not to accept the forecast of required capital expenditure of a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for the second *regulatory control period* in accordance with this clause 6A.6.7, the *AER* must not:
 - (1) assess the reasonableness of the amount of unspent capital expenditure for a *contingent project* referred to in paragraph (h) or the remaining period to which the *contingent project* applies;
 - (2) assess the reasonableness of the timing of the unspent capital expenditure within the remaining period for a *contingent project* referred to in paragraph (h) except as part of the assessment of the total forecast capital expenditure under paragraph (c); or
 - (3) take into account any amount which represents for a *contingent project* referred to in paragraph (h) the difference between:
 - (i) the amount representing the sum of the forecast capital expenditure for that *contingent project* for each year of the immediately preceding *regulatory control period* referred to in clause 6A.8.2(e)(1)(i); and
 - (ii) the total capital expenditure actually incurred (or estimated capital expenditure for any part of the preceding *regulatory control period* for which actual capital expenditure is not available) in the immediately preceding *regulatory control period* for that *contingent project*.

- (k) A *Revenue Proposal* in respect of the second *regulatory control period* must not include in the forecast of required capital expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) any capital expenditure for a *contingent project* for the first *regulatory control period*:
 - (1) to the extent that the capital expenditure was included in the amount of capital expenditure for that *contingent project* as determined in the first *regulatory control period* under clause 6A.8.2(e)(1)(i); and
 - (2) the capital expenditure actually incurred (or estimated capital expenditure for any part of the first *regulatory control period* for which actual capital expenditure is not available) in the first *regulatory control period* for that *contingent project* exceeded the capital expenditure referred to in subparagraph (1).

6A.6.8 The X factor

- (a) A *revenue determination* is to include the X factor for each *regulatory year* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider*.
- (b) The X factors for each *regulatory year* must be:
 - (1) providing they comply with the requirements set out in paragraph (c), the X factors for those *regulatory years* that are nominated in the *Transmission Network Service Provider's Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (2) to the extent that the X factors nominated in the *Transmission Network Service Provider's Revenue Proposal* do not so comply, the X factors determined for that purpose by the AER in its final decision on the *Transmission Network Service Provider's Revenue Proposal*.
- (c) The X factor for each *regulatory year* must be such that:
 - (1) the net present value of the expected *maximum allowed revenue* for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* for each *regulatory year* (as calculated in accordance with the *post-tax revenue model*) is equal to the net present value of the *annual building block revenue requirement* for the provider for each *regulatory year* (as calculated in accordance with the *post-tax revenue model*); and
 - (2) the expected *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for the last *regulatory year* (as calculated in accordance with the *post-tax revenue model*) is as close as reasonably possible to the *annual building block revenue requirement* for the provider for that *regulatory year* (as calculated in accordance with the *post-tax revenue model*).
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, there may be a different X factor that applies for different *regulatory years* of the *regulatory control period*.

6A.7 Matters relevant to the adjustment of revenue cap after making of revenue determination

6A.7.1 Reopening of revenue determination for capital expenditure

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b), a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may, during a *regulatory control period*, apply to the AER to revoke and substitute a *revenue determination* that applies to it where:

- (1) an event that is beyond the reasonable control of the provider has occurred during that *regulatory control period* and the occurrence of that event during that period (or of an event of a similar kind) could not reasonably have been foreseen by the provider at the time of the making of the *revenue determination* ('the **event**');
- (2) no forecast capital expenditure was accepted or substituted by the *AER* for that period under clause 6A.6.7(c) or clause 6A.13.2(b)(4) and (5) (as the case may be) in relation to the event that has occurred;
- (3) the provider proposes to undertake capital expenditure to rectify the adverse consequences of the event;
- (4) the total of the capital expenditure required during the *regulatory control period* to rectify the adverse consequences of the event:
 - (i) exceeds 5% of the value of the regulatory asset base for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* for the first year of the relevant *regulatory control period*;
 - (ii) is such that, if undertaken, it is reasonably likely (in the absence of any other reduction in capital expenditure) to result in the total actual capital expenditure for that *regulatory control period* exceeding the total of the forecast capital expenditure for that *regulatory control period* as accepted or substituted by the *AER* in accordance with clause 6A.6.7(c) or clauses 6A.13.2(b)(4) and (5) (as the case may be); and
- (5) the provider can demonstrate that it is not able to reduce capital expenditure in other areas to avoid the consequence referred to in paragraph (a)(4)(ii) without materially adversely affecting the *reliability* and security of the relevant *transmission system*;
- (6) a failure to rectify the adverse consequences of the event would be likely to materially adversely affect the *reliability* and security of the relevant *transmission system*; and
- (7) the event is not a *pass through event* or a *contingent project*.

In this paragraph (a), a reference to an event includes a series of events or a state of affairs, which may include a greater than anticipated increase in demand.

- (b) An application referred to in paragraph (a) must not be made within 90 *business days* prior to the end of a *regulatory year*.
- (c) Following its receipt of an application made in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), the *AER* must:
 - (1) consult with the *Transmission Network Service Provider* and such other persons as it considers appropriate in relation to the application; and
 - (2) make its decision on the application within 60 *business days* of that application being made.
- (d) The *AER* must, and must only, revoke a *revenue determination* following an application made in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) if the *AER* is satisfied of each of the matters referred to in paragraph (a).

- (e) If the *AER* revokes a *revenue determination* under paragraph (d), the *AER* must make a new *revenue determination* in substitution for the revoked determination to apply for the remainder of the *regulatory control period* for which the revoked determination was to apply.
- (f) The substituted *revenue determination* must only vary from the revoked *revenue determination* to the extent necessary:
 - (1) to adjust the forecast capital expenditure for that *regulatory control period* to accommodate the amount of such additional capital expenditure as the *AER* determines is appropriate (in which case the amount of that adjustment will be taken to be accepted by the *AER* under clause 6A.6.7(c)); and
 - (2) to reflect the effect of any resultant increase in forecast capital expenditure on:
 - (i) the forecast operating expenditure for the remainder of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (ii) the *maximum allowed revenue* for each *regulatory year* in the remainder of the *regulatory control period*; and
 - (iii) the X factor for each of the remaining *regulatory years* of the *regulatory control period*.
- (g) If the *AER* revokes and substitutes a *revenue determination* under paragraph (e), that revocation and substitution must take effect from the commencement of the next *regulatory year*.

6A.7.2 Network support pass through

- (a) This clause applies where a *network support event* occurs with respect to a *regulatory year* ('the **previous regulatory year**').
- (b) If a *network support event* occurs, a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must seek a determination by the *AER* to pass through to *Transmission Network Users* a *network support pass through amount*.
- (c) Where a *Transmission Network Service Provider* seeks a determination as referred to in paragraph (b), the provider must, within 60 *business days* of the end of the previous *regulatory year*, submit to the *AER* a written statement which specifies:
 - (1) the details of the *network support event* including whether the event was a *negative network support event* or a *positive network support event*;
 - (2) the amount that the provider proposes should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* in the *regulatory year* following the previous *regulatory year* as a result of the *network support event*;
 - (3) evidence:
 - (i) of the actual increase in the amount of *network support payments*, including certification by an independent and appropriately qualified expert; and
 - (ii) that such amounts occur solely as a consequence of the positive *network support event*; and

- (4) such other information as may be required pursuant to the *information guidelines* in force under clause 6A.17.2.
- (d) If the *AER* determines that a *positive network support event* has occurred in respect of a statement under paragraph (c), the *AER* must determine the *network support pass through amount*, taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph (i).
- (e) If the *AER* does not make the determination referred to in paragraph (d) within 60 *business days* from the date it receives the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* statement and accompanying evidence under paragraph (c), then, on the expiry of that period, the *AER* is taken to have determined that the amount as proposed in the provider's statement under paragraph (c) is the *network support pass through amount*.
- (f) If a *negative network support event* occurs (whether or not the occurrence of that event is notified by the provider to the *AER* under paragraph (c)) and the *AER* determines to impose a requirement on the *Transmission Network Service Provider* in relation to that *negative network support event*, the *AER* must determine the *network support pass through amount* taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph (i).
- (g) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must provide the *AER* with such information as the *AER* requires for the purpose of making a determination under paragraph (f) within the time specified by the *AER* in a notice provided to the provider by the *AER* for that purpose.

Consultation

- (h) Before making a determination under paragraph (d) or (f), the *AER* may consult with the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* and such other persons as the *AER* considers appropriate, on any matters arising out of the relevant *network support event* as the *AER* considers appropriate.

Relevant factors

- (i) In making a determination under paragraph (d) or (f), the *AER* must take into account:
 - (1) the matters and proposals set out in any statement given to the *AER* by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* under paragraph (c);
 - (2) in the case of a *positive network support event*, the increase in costs in the provision of *prescribed transmission services* that the provider has incurred in the preceding *regulatory year* as a result of the *positive network support event*;
 - (3) in the case of a *positive network support event*, the efficiency of the provider's decisions and actions in relation to the risk of the event, including whether the provider has failed to take any action that could reasonably be taken to reduce the magnitude of the *positive network support event* and whether the provider has taken or omitted to take any action where such action or omission has increased the magnitude of the amount in respect of that event;
 - (4) the time cost of money based on the *weighted average cost of capital* for the provider for the relevant *regulatory control period*;

- (5) the need to ensure that the provider only recovers any actual increment in costs under this paragraph (i) to the extent that such increment is solely as a consequence of a *network support event*; and
- (6) any other factors the *AER* considers relevant.

6A.7.3 Cost pass through

- (a) If a *positive change event* occurs, a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may seek the approval of the *AER* to pass through to *Transmission Network Users* a *positive pass through amount*.
- (b) If a *negative change event* occurs, the *AER* may require the *Transmission Network Service Provider* to pass through to *Transmission Network Users* a *negative pass through amount* as determined by the *AER* under paragraph (g).

Positive pass through

- (c) To seek the approval of the *AER* to pass through a *positive pass through amount*, a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must submit to the *AER*, within 90 *business days* of the relevant *positive change event* occurring, a written statement which specifies:
 - (1) the details of the *positive change event*;
 - (2) the date on which the *positive change event* occurred;
 - (3) the *eligible pass through amount* in respect of that *positive change event*;
 - (4) the *positive pass through amount* the provider proposes in relation to the *positive change event*;
 - (5) the amount of the *positive pass through amount* that the provider proposes should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* in each *regulatory year* during the *regulatory control period*;
 - (6) evidence:
 - (i) of the actual and likely increase in costs referred to in subparagraph (3); and
 - (ii) that such costs occur solely as a consequence of the *positive change event*; and
 - (7) such other information as may be required pursuant to *information guidelines* in force under clause 6A.17.2.
- (d) If the *AER* determines that a *positive change event* has occurred in respect of a statement under paragraph (c), the *AER* must determine:
 - (1) the *approved pass through amount*; and
 - (2) the amount of that *approved pass through amount* that should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* in each *regulatory year* during the *regulatory control period*,
 taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph (j).
- (e) If the *AER* does not make the determinations referred to in paragraph (d) within 60 *business days* from the date it receives the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* statement and accompanying evidence under paragraph (c), then, on the expiry of that period, the *AER* is taken to have determined that:

- (1) the *positive pass through amount* as proposed in the provider's statement under paragraph (c) is the *approved pass through amount* in respect of that *positive change event*; and
- (2) the amount of that *positive pass through amount* that the provider proposes in its statement under paragraph (c) should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* in each *regulatory year* during the *regulatory control period*, is the amount that should be so passed through in each such *regulatory year*.

Negative pass through

- (f) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must submit to the AER, within 60 *business days* of becoming aware of the occurrence of a *negative change event* for the provider, a written statement which specifies:
 - (1) the details of the *negative change event* concerned;
 - (2) the date the *negative change event* occurred;
 - (3) the costs in the provision of *prescribed transmission services* that the provider has saved and is likely to save until the end of the *regulatory control period* as a result of the *negative change event*;
 - (4) the aggregate amount of those saved costs that the provider proposes should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users*;
 - (5) the amount of the costs referred to in subparagraph (4) the provider proposes should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* in each *regulatory year* during the *regulatory control period*; and
 - (6) such other information as may be required pursuant to *information guidelines* in force under clause 6A.17.2.
- (g) If a *negative change event* occurs (whether or not the occurrence of that *negative change event* is notified by the provider to the AER under paragraph (f)) and the AER determines to impose a requirement on the provider in relation to that *negative change event* as described in paragraph (b), the AER must determine:
 - (1) the *required pass through amount*; and
 - (2) taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph (j):
 - (i) how much of that *required pass through amount* should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* ('the *negative pass through amount*'); and
 - (ii) the amount of that *negative pass through amount* that should be passed through to *Transmission Network Users* in each *regulatory year* during the *regulatory control period*.
- (h) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must provide the AER with such information as the AER requires for the purpose of making a determination under paragraph (g) within the time specified by the AER in a notice provided to the provider by the AER for that purpose.

Consultation

- (i) Before making a determination under paragraph (d) or (g), the AER may consult with the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* and such

other persons as the *AER* considers appropriate, on any matters arising out of the relevant *pass through event* as the *AER* considers appropriate.

Relevant factors

- (j) In making a determination under paragraph (d) or (g) in respect of a *Transmission Network Service Provider*, the *AER* must take into account:
 - (1) the matters and proposals set out in any statement given to the *AER* by the provider under paragraphs (c) or (f) (as the case may be);
 - (2) in the case of a *positive change event*, the increase in costs in the provision of *prescribed transmission services* that the provider has incurred and is likely to incur until the end of the *regulatory control period* as a result of the *positive change event*;
 - (3) in the case of a *positive change event*, the efficiency of the provider's decisions and actions in relation to the risk of the *positive change event*, including whether the provider has failed to take any action that could reasonably be taken to reduce the magnitude of the *eligible pass through amount* in respect of that *positive change event* and whether the provider has taken or omitted to take any action where such action or omission has increased the magnitude of the amount in respect of that *positive change event*;
 - (4) the time cost of money based on the *weighted average cost of capital* for the provider for the relevant *regulatory control period*;
 - (5) the need to ensure that the provider only recovers any actual or likely increment in costs under this paragraph (j) to the extent that such increment is solely as a consequence of a *pass through event*;
 - (6) in the case of a *tax change event*, any change in the way another *tax* is calculated, or the removal or imposition of another *tax*, which, in the *AER's* opinion, is complementary to the *tax change event* concerned; and
 - (7) any other factors the *AER* considers relevant.

6A.7.4 Service target performance incentive scheme

- (a) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, develop and *publish* an incentive scheme ('a *service target performance incentive scheme*') that complies with the principles in paragraph (b).
- (b) The principles are that the *service target performance incentive scheme* should:
 - (1) provide incentives for each *Transmission Network Service Provider* to:
 - (i) provide greater *reliability* of the *transmission system* that is owned, controlled or operated by it at all times when *Transmission Network Users* place greatest value on the *reliability* of the *transmission system*; and
 - (ii) improve and maintain the *reliability* of those elements of the *transmission system* that are most important to determining *spot prices*;
 - (2) result in a potential adjustment to the revenue that the *Transmission Network Service Provider* may earn, from the provision of *prescribed*

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- transmission services*, in each *regulatory year* in respect of which the *service target performance incentive scheme* applies;
- (3) ensure that the maximum revenue increment or decrement as a result of the operation of the *service target performance incentive scheme* will fall within a range that is between 1% and 5% of the *maximum allowed revenue* for the relevant *regulatory year*;
 - (4) take into account the *regulatory obligations* with which *Transmission Network Service Providers* must comply;
 - (5) take into account any other incentives provided for in the *Rules* that *Transmission Network Service Providers* have to minimise capital or operating expenditure; and
 - (6) take into account the age and ratings of the assets comprising the relevant *transmission system*.
- (c) At the same time as it *publishes* a *service target performance incentive scheme*, the *AER* must also *publish* parameters (the *performance incentive scheme parameters*) for the scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, the parameters may differ as between *Transmission Network Service Providers* and over time.
 - (d) The *AER* must set out in each *service target performance incentive scheme* any requirements with which the values attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters* must comply, and those requirements must be consistent with the principles set out in paragraph (b).
 - (e) The *AER* must develop and *publish* the first *service target performance incentive scheme* under the *Rules* by 28 September 2007 and there must be a *service target performance incentive scheme* in force at all times after that date.
 - (f) The *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace any scheme that is developed and *published* under this clause, except that no such amendment or replacement may change the application of the scheme to a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in respect of a *regulatory control period* that has commenced before, or that will commence within 15 months of, the amendment or replacement coming into operation.
 - (g) Subject to paragraph (h) the *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace the values to be attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters*.
 - (h) An amendment or replacement referred to in paragraph (g) must not change the values to be attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters* where:
 - (1) those values must be included in information accompanying a *Revenue Proposal*; and
 - (2) the *Revenue Proposal* is required to be submitted under clause 6A.10.1(a) at a time that is within 2 months of the *publication* of the amended or replaced *performance incentive scheme parameters*.
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6A.8 Contingent Projects

6A.8.1 Acceptance of a Contingent Project in a revenue determination

- (a) A *Revenue Proposal* may include *proposed contingent capital expenditure*, which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* considers is reasonably required for the purpose of undertaking a *proposed contingent project*.
- (b) The *AER* must determine that a *proposed contingent project* is a *contingent project* if the *AER* is satisfied that:
 - (1) the *proposed contingent project* is reasonably required to be undertaken in order to achieve any of the *capital expenditure objectives*;
 - (2) the *proposed contingent capital expenditure*:
 - (i) is not otherwise provided for (either in part or in whole) in the total of the forecast capital expenditure for the relevant *regulatory control period* which is accepted in accordance with clause 6A.6.7(c) or substituted in accordance with clauses 6A.13.2(b)(4) and (5) (as the case may be);
 - (ii) reasonably reflects the *capital expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *capital expenditure factors*, in the context of the *proposed contingent project* as described in the *Revenue Proposal*; and
 - (iii) exceeds either \$10 million or 5% of the value of the *maximum allowed revenue* for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* for the first year of the relevant *regulatory control period* whichever is the larger amount;
 - (3) the *proposed contingent project* and the *proposed contingent capital expenditure*, as described or set out in the *Revenue Proposal*, and the information provided in relation to these matters, complies with the requirements of *submission guidelines* made under clause 6A.10.2; and
 - (4) the *trigger events* in relation to the *proposed contingent project* which are proposed by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* in its *Revenue Proposal* are appropriate.
- (c) In determining whether a *trigger event* in relation to a *proposed contingent project* is appropriate for the purposes of paragraph (b)(5), the *AER* must have regard to the need for:
 - (1) a *trigger event* to be reasonably specific and capable of objective verification;
 - (2) a *trigger event* to be a condition or event, which, if it occurs, makes the undertaking of the *proposed contingent project* reasonably necessary in order to achieve any of the *capital expenditure objectives*;
 - (3) a *trigger event* to be a condition or event that generates increased costs or categories of costs that relate to a specific location rather than a condition or event that affects the *transmission network* as a whole;
 - (4) a *trigger event* to be described in such terms that the occurrence of that event or condition is all that is required for the *revenue determination* to be amended under clause 6A.8.2; and

- (5) a *trigger event* to be an event or condition, the occurrence of which is probable during the *regulatory control period*, but the inclusion of capital expenditure in relation to it under clause 6A.6.7 is not appropriate because:
 - (i) it is not sufficiently certain that the event or condition will occur during the *regulatory control period* or if it may occur after that *regulatory control period* or not at all; or
 - (ii) subject to the requirement to satisfy paragraph (b)(2)(iii), the costs associated with the event or condition are not sufficiently certain.

6A.8.2 Amendment of revenue determination for contingent project

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b), a *Transmission Network Service Provider* may, during a *regulatory control period*, apply to the AER to amend a *revenue determination* that applies to that provider where a *trigger event* for a *contingent project* in relation to that *revenue determination* has occurred.
- (b) An application referred to in paragraph (a):
 - (1) must not be made within 90 *business days* prior to the end of a *regulatory year*;
 - (2) subject to subparagraph (1), must be made as soon as practicable after the occurrence of the *trigger event*;
 - (3) must contain the following information:
 - (i) an explanation that substantiates the occurrence of the *trigger event*;
 - (ii) a forecast of the total capital expenditure for the *contingent project*;
 - (iii) a forecast of the capital and incremental operating expenditure, for each remaining *regulatory year* which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* considers is reasonably required for the purpose of undertaking the *contingent project*;
 - (iv) how the forecast of the total capital expenditure for the *contingent project* meets the threshold as referred to in clause 6A.8.1(b)(2)(iii);
 - (v) the intended date for commencing the *contingent project* (which must be during the *regulatory control period*);
 - (vi) the anticipated date for completing the *contingent project* (which may be after the end of the *regulatory control period*); and
 - (vii) an estimate of the incremental revenue which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* considers is likely to be required to be earned in each remaining *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period* as a result of the *contingent project* being undertaken as described in subparagraph (iii); and
 - (4) the estimate referred to in subparagraph (3)(vii) must be calculated:
 - (i) on the basis of the capital expenditure referred to in subparagraph (3)(iii);

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- (ii) on the basis of the rate of return for that *Transmission Network Service Provider* for the *regulatory control period* as determined pursuant to clause 6A.6.2;
 - (iii) consistently with the manner in which depreciation is calculated under clause 6A.6.3;
 - (iv) to include the incremental operating expenditure referred to in subparagraph (3)(iii); and
 - (v) in accordance with the requirements for roll forward in the *roll-forward model* and revenue calculation in the *post-tax revenue model*.
 - (c) As soon as practicable after its receipt of an application made in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), the *AER* must *publish* the application, together with an invitation for written submissions on the application.
 - (d) The *AER* must consider any written submissions made under paragraph (c) and must make its decision on the application within 30 *business days* of its receipt of that application. In doing so the *AER* may also take into account such other information as it considers appropriate, including any analysis (such as benchmarking) that is undertaken by it for that purpose.
 - (e) If the *AER* is satisfied that the *trigger event* has occurred, and that the forecast of the total capital expenditure for the *contingent project* meets the threshold as referred to in clause 6A.8.1(b)(2)(iii), it must:
 - (1) determine:
 - (i) the amount of capital and incremental operating expenditure, for each remaining *regulatory year* which the *AER* considers is reasonably required for the purpose of undertaking the *contingent project*;
 - (ii) the total capital expenditure which the *AER* considers is reasonably required for the purpose of undertaking the *contingent project*;
 - (iii) the likely commencement and completion dates for the *contingent project*; and
 - (iv) the incremental revenue which is likely to be required by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* in each remaining *regulatory year* as a result of the *contingent project* being undertaken as described in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), such estimate being calculated in accordance with subparagraph (2);
 - (2) calculate the estimate referred to in subparagraph (1)(iv):
 - (i) on the basis of the capital expenditure referred to in subparagraph (1)(i);
 - (ii) to include the incremental operating expenditure referred to in subparagraph (1)(i); and
 - (iii) otherwise in accordance with paragraph (b)(4); and
 - (3) amend the *revenue determination* in accordance with paragraph (h).
 - (f) In making the determinations referred to in paragraph (e)(1), the *AER* must accept the relevant amounts and dates, contained in the *Transmission Network*
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Service Provider's application, as referred to in paragraphs (b)(3)(ii) - (vii), if the *AER* is satisfied that:

- (1) the forecast of the total capital expenditure for the *contingent project* meets the threshold as referred to in clause 6A.8.1(b)(2)(iii);
 - (2) the amounts of forecast capital expenditure and incremental operating expenditure reasonably reflect the *capital expenditure criteria* and the *operating expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *capital expenditure factors* and the *operating expenditure factors* respectively, in the context of the *contingent project*;
 - (3) the estimates of incremental revenue are reasonable; and
 - (4) the dates are reasonable.
- (g) In making the determinations referred to in paragraphs (e)(1) and (f), the *AER* must take into account:
- (1) the information included in or accompanying the application;
 - (2) submissions received in the course of consulting on the application;
 - (3) such analysis as is undertaken by or for the *AER*;
 - (4) the expenditure that would be incurred in respect of a *contingent project* by an efficient and prudent operator in the circumstances of the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
 - (5) the actual and expected capital expenditure of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* for *contingent projects* during any preceding *regulatory control periods*;
 - (6) the extent to which the forecast capital expenditure for the *contingent project* is referable to arrangements with a person other than the *Transmission Network Service Provider* that, in the opinion of the *AER*, do not reflect arm's length terms;
 - (7) the relative prices of operating and capital inputs in relation to the *contingent project*;
 - (8) efficient substitution possibilities between operating and capital expenditure in relation to the *contingent project*; and
 - (9) whether the total labour costs included in the capital and operating expenditure forecasts for the *regulatory control period* are consistent with the incentives provided by the *service target performance incentive scheme* that is to apply to the provider in respect of the *regulatory control period*.
- (h) Amendments to a *revenue determination* referred to in paragraph (e)(3) must only vary the determination to the extent necessary:
- (1) to adjust the forecast capital expenditure for that *regulatory control period* to accommodate the amount of capital expenditure determined under paragraph (e)(1)(i) (in which case the amount of that adjustment will be taken to be accepted by the *AER* under clause 6A.6.7(c));
 - (2) to adjust the forecast operating expenditure for that *regulatory control period* to accommodate the amount of incremental operating expenditure determined under paragraph (e)(1)(i) (in which case the amount of that

- adjustment will be taken to be accepted by the *AER* under clause 6A.6.6(c));
- (3) to reflect the effect of any resultant increase in forecast capital and operating expenditure on:
 - (i) the *maximum allowed revenue* for each *regulatory year* in the remainder of the *regulatory control period*; and
 - (ii) the X factor for each of the remaining *regulatory years* of the *regulatory control period*.
 - (i) Amendments to a *revenue determination* take effect from the commencement of the next *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period*.

Part D - Negotiated Transmission Services - Regulation of Pricing

6A.9 Regulation of pricing

6A.9.1 Pricing principles for negotiated transmission services

The following principles constitute the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Principles*:

- (1) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be based on the costs incurred in providing that service, determined in accordance with the principles and policies set out in the *Cost Allocation Methodology* for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
- (2) subject to subparagraphs (3) and (4), the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be at least equal to the avoided cost of providing it but no more than the cost of providing it on a stand alone basis;
- (3) if the *negotiated transmission service* is the provision of a *shared transmission service* that:
 - (i) exceeds the network performance requirements (if any) which that *shared transmission service* is required to meet under any *jurisdictional electricity legislation*; or
 - (ii) exceeds the *network* performance requirements set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1,

then the differential between the price for that service and the price for the *shared transmission service* which meets (but does not exceed) the *network* performance requirements under any *jurisdictional electricity legislation* or as set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1 (as the case may be) should reflect the increase in the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* incremental cost of providing that service;

- (4) if the *negotiated transmission service* is the provision of a *shared transmission service* that does not meet (and does not exceed) the *network* performance requirements set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1, the differential between the price for that service and the price for the *shared transmission service* which meets (but does not exceed) the *network* performance requirements set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1 should reflect

- the amount of the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* avoided cost of providing that service;
- (5) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* must be the same for all *Transmission Network Users* unless there is a material difference in the costs of providing the *negotiated transmission service* to different *Transmission Network Users* or classes of *Transmission Network Users*;
 - (6) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be subject to adjustment over time to the extent that the assets used to provide that service are subsequently used to provide services to another person, in which case such adjustment should reflect the extent to which the costs of that asset is being recovered through charges to that other person;
 - (7) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be based on terms and conditions which are consistent with the safe and reliable operation of the *power system* in accordance with the *Rules*;
 - (8) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be such as to enable the *Transmission Network Service Provider* to recover the efficient costs of complying with all *regulatory obligations* associated with the provision of the *negotiated transmission service*; and
 - (9) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should take into account the need for the service to be provided in a manner that does not adversely affect the safe and *reliable* operation of the *power system* in accordance with the *Rules*.

6A.9.2 Determination of prices for negotiated transmission services

- (a) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must comply with:
 - (1) the provider's *negotiating framework*; and
 - (2) the provider's *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria*,
 - (3) when the provider is negotiating the charges for *negotiated transmission services* to be provided to a person.
- (b) The *Transmission Network Service Provider* must also comply with any other applicable requirements of the *Rules*, including the requirements of:
 - (1) rules 5.3 and 5.4A, when negotiating for the provision of *connection services* and the associated *connection service charges*; and
 - (2) rule 5.4A when negotiating the *use of system services charges* and *access charges* to be paid to or by a *Transmission Network User*.

6A.9.3 Negotiating framework determination

The determination specifying requirements relating to the *negotiating framework* forming part of a *transmission determination* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* is to set out requirements that are to be complied with in respect of the preparation, replacement, application or operation of its *negotiating framework*.

6A.9.4 Negotiated transmission pricing criteria determination

- (a) The determination by the AER specifying the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* forming part of a *transmission determination* for a

Transmission Network Service Provider is to set out the criteria that are to be applied:

- (1) by the provider in negotiating:
 - (i) the prices that are to be charged for the provision of *negotiated transmission services* by the provider for the relevant *regulatory control period*; and
 - (ii) any *access charges* which are negotiated by the provider during that *regulatory control period*; and
- (2) by a *commercial arbitrator* in resolving any dispute, between the *Transmission Network Service Provider* and a person who wishes to receive a *negotiated transmission service*, in relation to:
 - (i) the price that is to be charged for the provision of that service by the provider; and
 - (ii) any *access charges* that are to be paid to or by the provider.
- (b) The *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* must give effect to and be consistent with the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Principles* set out in clause 6A.9.1.

6A.9.5 Preparation of and requirements for negotiating framework

- (a) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must prepare a document (the *negotiating framework*) setting out the procedure to be followed during negotiations between that provider and any person (the *Service Applicant* or applicant) who wishes to receive a *negotiated transmission service* from the provider, as to the price at which the service is to be provided.
- (b) The *negotiating framework* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must comply with and be consistent with:
 - (1) the applicable requirements of a *transmission determination* applying to the provider; and
 - (2) paragraph (c), which sets out the minimum requirements for a *negotiating framework*.
- (c) The *negotiating framework* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must specify:
 - (1) a requirement for the provider and a *Service Applicant* to negotiate in good faith the price at which the *negotiated transmission service* is to be provided;
 - (2) a requirement for the provider to provide all such commercial information as a *Service Applicant* may reasonably require to enable that applicant to engage in effective negotiation with the provider as to the price at which the *negotiated transmission service* is to be provided, including the cost information described in subparagraph (3);
 - (3) a requirement for the provider to:
 - (i) identify and inform a *Service Applicant* of the reasonable costs and/or the increase or decrease in costs (as appropriate) of providing the *negotiated transmission service*; and

- (ii) demonstrate to a *Service Applicant* that the charges for providing the *negotiated transmission service* reflect those costs and/or the cost increment or decrement (as appropriate);
- (4) a requirement for a *Service Applicant* to provide all such commercial information as the provider may reasonably require to enable the provider to engage in effective negotiation with that applicant as to the price at which the *negotiated transmission service* is to be provided;
- (5) a reasonable period of time for commencing, progressing and finalising negotiations with a *Service Applicant* as to the price at which the *negotiated transmission service* is to be provided, and a requirement that each party to the negotiation must use its reasonable endeavours to adhere to those time periods during the negotiation;
- (6) a process for dispute resolution which provides that all disputes as to the price at which *negotiated transmission services* are to be provided are to be dealt with in accordance with schedule 6A.3; and
- (7) the arrangements for payment by a *Service Applicant* of the provider's reasonable direct expenses incurred in processing the application to provide the *negotiated transmission service*.
- (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the *negotiating framework* must not be inconsistent with any of the requirements of rules 5.3, 5.4A and Part C of this Chapter 6A and, in the event of any inconsistency, those requirements prevail.
- (e) Each *Transmission Network Service Provider* and *Service Applicant* who is negotiating for the provision of a *negotiated transmission service* by the provider must comply with the requirements of the *negotiating framework* in accordance with its terms.
- (f) A reference in paragraph (c) to the price at which a service is to be provided includes a reference to an *access charge*.

6A.9.6 Confidential information

- (a) Commercial information which is required to be provided to a *Service Applicant* in accordance with clause 6A.9.5(c)(2):
 - (1) does not include confidential information provided to the *Transmission Network Service Provider* by another person; and
 - (2) may be provided subject to a condition that a *Service Applicant* must not provide any part of that commercial information to any other person without the consent of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* which provided the information to that applicant.
- (b) Commercial information which is required to be provided to a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in accordance with clause 6A.9.5(c)(4):
 - (1) does not include confidential information provided to a *Service Applicant* by another person; and
 - (2) may be provided subject to a condition that the provider must not provide any part of that commercial information to any other person without the consent of the *Service Applicant* which provided the information to the provider.

6A.9.7 No requirement to provide services

Nothing in this rule 6A.9 is to be taken as imposing an obligation on a *Transmission Network Service Provider* to provide any service to the *Service Applicant*.

6A.9.8 Commercial arbitration for negotiated transmission services

Schedule 6A.3 applies to any dispute which may arise between a *Transmission Network Service Provider* and a *Service Applicant* as to the price which the provider proposes to charge the *Service Applicant* for a *negotiated transmission service* or as to the amount of any *access charge*.

Part E - Procedure – Revenue determinations and negotiating frameworks

6A.10 Revenue Proposal and proposed negotiating framework

6A.10.1 Submission of proposal, framework and information

- (a) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must submit to the AER a *Revenue Proposal* relating to the *prescribed transmission services* that are provided by means of, or in connection with, a *transmission system* that is owned, controlled or operated by that provider:
 - (1) if any of those *prescribed transmission services* are subject to a *transmission determination*, 13 months before the expiry of the period in respect of which that *transmission determination* applies; or
 - (2) if any of those *prescribed transmission services* are not subject to a *transmission determination*, 3 months after being required to do so by the AER.
- (b) At the same time as it submits a *Revenue Proposal* under paragraph (a), the provider must also submit to the AER a proposed *negotiating framework*.
- (c) The *Revenue Proposal* and the proposed *negotiating framework* must comply with the requirements of, and must contain or be accompanied by such information as is required by, the *submission guidelines* made for that purpose under this rule 6A.10.
- (d) The proposed *negotiating framework* must also comply with the requirements of clause 6A.9.5.

6A.10.2 Submission guidelines

- (a) The AER must make guidelines, referred to as '*submission guidelines*', for the purposes of this Part E.
- (b) The *submission guidelines* must specify:
 - (1) the form of a *Revenue Proposal* and *negotiating framework*;
 - (2) the requirements for any information contained in or accompanying the *Revenue Proposal* to be audited or otherwise verified;
 - (3) what parts (if any) of the *Revenue Proposal* or the information accompanying it will not be publicly disclosed without the consent of the *Transmission Network Service Provider*, with the presumption being that at least the matters or information referred to in the following clauses will be publicly disclosed:

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- (i) clause S6A.1.1;
 - (ii) clause S6A.1.2;
 - (iii) clauses S6A.1.3(1)-(3), (4)(i) and (ii), (6), (8) and (9); and
 - (iv) clauses 6A.10.2(b)(7) and (8);
 - (4) that the *Revenue Proposal* must contain at least the information and matters relating to capital expenditure set out in clause S6A.1.1;
 - (5) that the *Revenue Proposal* must contain at least the information and matters relating to operating expenditure set out in clause S6A.1.2;
 - (6) that the *Revenue Proposal* must contain at least the additional information and matters set out in clause S6A.1.3;
 - (7) that the *Revenue Proposal* must be accompanied by such information as is necessary to enable the AER and other interested parties to understand the manner in which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* proposes that negotiations as to the price of *negotiated transmission services* or the amount of *access charges* will be conducted in accordance with the provider's proposed *negotiating framework*;
 - (8) such other information as the AER considers should be contained in, or should accompany, a *Revenue Proposal* on the basis that such information is necessary to enable the AER and other interested parties to:
 - (i) understand how the *Transmission Network Service Provider* derived the elements of its *Revenue Proposal*; and
 - (ii) form an opinion as to whether the *Revenue Proposal* complies with the requirements of Parts B and E of this Chapter 6A; and
 - (9) in the case of amounts, values or inputs that:
 - (i) cannot be determined before the submission of the *Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (ii) are required to be estimated, approved or otherwise determined by the AER but are not so estimated, approved or otherwise determined before the submission of the *Revenue Proposal*,

what amounts, values or inputs are to be used in their place for the purposes of the *Revenue Proposal* or revised *Revenue Proposal* (as the case may be).
 - (c) Without limiting any other provision of this rule 6A.10, the *submission guidelines* must provide that:
 - (1) the information accompanying the *Revenue Proposal* must include:
 - (i) the *post-tax revenue model*, completed in such a way as to show its application to the *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
 - (ii) the completed *roll forward model*; and
 - (2) the completed *post-tax revenue model* and proposed *roll forward model*, and the information in those models, will not be publicly disclosed without the consent of the provider, except to the extent that the information is aggregated or otherwise available apart from it being contained in those models.
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- (d) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, develop and make the *submission guidelines* by 28 September 2007, and there must be *submission guidelines* available at all times after that date.
- (e) The *submission guidelines* may be amended or replaced by the *AER* from time to time, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*.

6A.11 Preliminary examination and consultation

6A.11.1 Preliminary examination and determination of non-compliance with submission guidelines

- (a) If the *AER* determines that:
 - (1) a *Revenue Proposal* submitted by a *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
 - (2) a proposed *negotiating framework* submitted by the provider; or
 - (3) information contained in or accompanying such a *Revenue Proposal* or proposed *negotiating framework*,under clause 6A.10.1 does not comply with the requirements of the *submission guidelines*, or clause 6A.9.5 (in respect of the proposed *negotiating framework*) the *AER* must notify the provider of that determination as soon as practicable after receiving that *Revenue Proposal*, proposed *negotiating framework* or information (as the case may be).
- (b) A determination referred to in paragraph (a) must be accompanied by written reasons that set out:
 - (1) the respects in which the *Revenue Proposal*, proposed *negotiating framework* or information does not comply with the relevant requirements of the *submission guidelines* or clause 6A.9.5 (as the case may be) and the requirements that have not been complied with; and
 - (2) in the case of information which does not comply with those requirements, the reason that the submission of information in accordance with those requirements would assist the *AER* in assessing the *Revenue Proposal* or proposed *negotiating framework*.

6A.11.2 Resubmission of proposal, framework or information

- (a) If the *AER* notifies a *Transmission Network Service Provider* of a determination under clause 6A.11.1, the provider must, within 1 month of that notice, resubmit its *Revenue Proposal*, proposed *negotiating framework* or the required information (as the case may be) in a form that complies with the relevant requirements set out in that determination.
- (b) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* may only make changes to its *Revenue Proposal* for the purposes of paragraph (a) to address the matters raised in the determination under clause 6A.11.1.

6A.11.3 Consultation

- (a) Except to the extent that the *submission guidelines* provide it will not be publicly disclosed (and, in that case, the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* has not otherwise consented), the *AER* must *publish*:

- (1) the *Revenue Proposal*;
- (2) the proposed *negotiating framework*; and
- (3) the information,
submitted or resubmitted to it by the provider under rules 6A.9, 6A.10 or 6A.11, together with:
- (4) the AER's proposed *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* for the provider; and
- (5) an invitation for written submissions on the documents and information referred to in subparagraphs (1) - (4),

as soon as practicable after the AER determines that the *Revenue Proposal*, proposed *negotiating framework* and information comply with the requirements of the *submission guidelines* or clause 6A.9.5.

- (b) The AER may *publish* an issues paper examining the issues raised in connection with the *Revenue Proposal*, the proposed *negotiating framework* and the proposed *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria*, at the same time as, or subsequent to, *publication* of the invitation to make submissions referred to in paragraph (a)(5).
- (c) Any person may make a written submission to the AER on the *Revenue Proposal*, the proposed *negotiating framework* or the proposed *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* for the provider within the time specified in the invitation referred to in paragraph (a)(5), which must be not earlier than 30 *business days* after the invitation for submissions is *published* under that paragraph.

6A.12 Draft decision and further consultation

6A.12.1 Making of draft decision

- (a) Subject to rule 6A.16(a), the AER must consider any written submissions made under rule 6A.11 and must make a draft decision in relation to the *Transmission Network Service Provider*.
- (b) The AER's draft decision must be made in accordance with, and must comply with, the relevant requirements of rule 6A.14.
- (c) If the AER refuses to approve any of the amounts or values referred to in clause 6A.14.1(1), the AER's draft decision must include details of the changes required or matters to be addressed before the AER will approve those amounts or values.
- (d) If the AER refuses to approve the proposed *negotiating framework*, the AER's draft decision must include details of the changes required or matters to be addressed before the AER will approve the framework.

6A.12.2 Publication of draft decision and consultation

- (a) The AER must, as soon as practicable but not later than 6 months after the relevant date referred to in clause 6A.10.1(a), *publish*:
 - (1) its draft decision and reasons under clause 6A.12.1 and rule 6A.14;
 - (2) notice of the making of the draft decision;

- (3) notice of a predetermination conference; and
- (4) an invitation for written submissions on its draft decision.
- (b) The *AER* must hold a predetermination conference at the time, date and place specified in the notice under paragraph (a)(3) for the purpose of explaining its draft decision and receiving oral submissions from interested parties. Any person may attend such a predetermination conference but the procedure to be adopted at the conference will be at the discretion of the senior *AER* representative in attendance.
- (c) Any person may make a written submission to the *AER* on the draft decision within the time specified in the invitation referred to in paragraph (a)(4), which must be not earlier than 45 *business days* after the holding of a predetermination conference.

6A.12.3 Submission of revised proposal or framework

- (a) In addition to making such other written submissions as it considers appropriate, the *Transmission Network Service Provider* may, not more than 30 *business days* after the publication of the draft decision, submit to the *AER*:
 - (1) a revised *Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (2) a revised proposed *negotiating framework*.
- (b) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* may only make the revisions referred to in paragraph (a) so as to incorporate the substance of any changes required by, or to address matters raised in, the draft decision.
- (c) A revised *Revenue Proposal* or revised proposed *negotiating framework* must comply with the requirements of, and must contain or be accompanied by such information as is required by, the *submission guidelines*.
- (d) The revised proposed *negotiating framework* must also comply with the requirements of clause 6A.9.5.
- (e) Except to the extent that the *submission guidelines* provide it will not be publicly disclosed (and, in that case, the *Transmission Network Service Provider* has not otherwise consented), the *AER* must *publish*:
 - (1) any revised *Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (2) any revised proposed *negotiating framework*,
(as the case may be), that is submitted by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* under paragraph (a), together with the accompanying information, as soon as practicable after receipt by the *AER*.

6A.13 Final decision

6A.13.1 Making of final decision

- (a) Subject to rule 6A.16(a), the *AER* must consider any submissions made on the draft decision, or on any revised *Revenue Proposal* or revised proposed *negotiating framework* submitted to it under clause 6A.12.3, and must make a final decision in relation to the *Transmission Network Service Provider*.
- (b) The *AER*'s final decision must be made in accordance with, and must comply with, the relevant requirements of rule 6A.14.

6A.13.2 Refusal to approve amounts, values or framework

- (a) If the *AER*'s final decision is to refuse to approve an amount or value referred to in clause 6A.14.1(1), the *AER* must include in its final decision a substitute amount or value which, except as provided in paragraph (b), is:
 - (1) determined on the basis of the current *Revenue Proposal*; and
 - (2) amended from that basis only to the extent necessary to enable it to be approved in accordance with the *Rules*.
- (b) If the *AER*'s final decision is to refuse to approve an amount or value referred to in clause 6A.14.1(1) for the reason that, or a reason which includes the reason that, the *AER* is not satisfied that:
 - (1) the total of the forecast operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* reasonably reflects the *operating expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *operating expenditure factors*; or
 - (2) the total of the forecast capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* reasonably reflects the *capital expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *capital expenditure factors*,the *AER* must:
 - (3) where subparagraph (1) applies, include in its final decision (in addition to the estimate referred to in clause 6A.14.1(3)(ii)) the forecast operating expenditure for each *regulatory year* which the *AER* is satisfied reasonably reflects the *operating expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *operating expenditure factors*, subject only to the requirement that the total of such forecasts must equate to the estimate referred to in clause 6A.14.1(3)(ii);
 - (4) where subparagraph (2) applies, include in its final decision (in addition to the estimate referred to in clause 6A.14.1(2)(ii)) the forecast capital expenditure for each *regulatory year* which the *AER* is satisfied reasonably reflects the *capital expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *capital expenditure factors*, subject only to the requirement that the total of such forecasts must equate to the estimate referred to in clause 6A.14.1(2)(ii); and
 - (5) use each such amount (and its components) in place of the forecast of required operating or capital expenditure that is included in the current *Revenue Proposal* for the purposes of calculating the amount or value that it has refused to approve in its final decision.
- (c) If the *AER*'s final decision is to refuse to approve the proposed *negotiating framework* referred to in clause 6A.14.1(6), the *AER* must include in its final decision an amended *negotiating framework* which is:
 - (1) determined on the basis of the current proposed *negotiating framework*; and
 - (2) amended from that basis only to the extent necessary to enable it to be approved in accordance with the *Rules*.

6A.13.3 Notice of final decision

The *AER* must as soon as practicable, but not later than 2 months before the commencement of the relevant *regulatory control period*, publish:

- (1) notice of the making of the final decision; and
- (2) the final decision, including the reasons required to be included in it.

6A.13.4 Making of transmission determination

The *AER* must, as soon as practicable after making its final decision, make the *transmission determination* to which the final decision relates.

6A.14 Requirements relating to draft and final decisions

6A.14.1 Contents of decisions

A draft decision under rule 6A.12 or a final decision under rule 6A.13 is a decision by the *AER*:

- (1) on the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* current *Revenue Proposal* in which the *AER* either approves or refuses to approve:
 - (i) the *total revenue cap* for the provider for the *regulatory control period*;
 - (ii) the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (iii) the values that are to be attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters* for the *service target performance incentive scheme* that is to apply to the provider in respect of the *regulatory control period*;
 - (iv) the values that are to be attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters* for the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* that is to apply to the provider in respect of the *regulatory control period*; and
 - (v) the commencement and length of the *regulatory control period* that has been proposed by the provider,
 as set out in the *Revenue Proposal*, setting out the reasons for the decision;
- (2) in which the *AER* either:
 - (i) acting in accordance with clause 6A.6.7(c), accepts the total of the forecast capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that is included in the current *Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (ii) acting in accordance with clause 6A.6.7(d), does not accept the total of the forecast capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that is included in the current *Revenue Proposal*, in which case the *AER* must set out its reasons for that decision and an estimate of the total of the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* required capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that the *AER* is satisfied reasonably reflects the *capital expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *capital expenditure factors*;

- (3) in which the *AER* either:

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- (i) acting in accordance with clause 6A.6.6(c), accepts the total of the forecast operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that is included in the current *Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (ii) acting in accordance with clause 6A.6.6(d), does not accept the total of the forecast operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that is included in the current *Revenue Proposal*, in which case the *AER* must set out its reasons for that decision and an estimate of the total of the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* required operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that the *AER* is satisfied reasonably reflects the *operating expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *operating expenditure factors*;
- (4) in which the *AER* determines:
- (i) whether each of the *proposed contingent projects* (if any) described in the current *Revenue Proposal* are *contingent projects* for the purposes of the *revenue determination* in which case the decision must clearly identify each of those *contingent projects*;
 - (ii) the capital expenditure that it is satisfied reasonably reflects the *capital expenditure criteria*, taking into account the *capital expenditure factors*, in the context of each *contingent project* as described in the current *Revenue Proposal*;
 - (iii) the *trigger events* in relation to each *contingent project* (in which case the decision must clearly specify those *trigger events*); and
 - (iv) if the *AER* determines that such a *proposed contingent project* is not a *contingent project* for the purposes of the *revenue determination*, its reasons for that conclusion, having regard to the requirements of clause 6A.8.1(b);
- (5) in which the *AER* sets out the amounts, values or inputs that it has used in place of those referred to in clause 6A.10.2(b)(9);
- (6) on the provider's current proposed *negotiating framework*, in which the *AER* either approves or refuses to approve the proposed *negotiating framework*, setting out reasons for its decision; and
- (7) in which the *AER* specifies the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* for the *Transmission Network Service Provider*, setting out the reasons for the decision.

6A.14.2 Reasons for decisions

The reasons given by the *AER* for a draft decision under rule 6A.12 or a final decision under rule 6A.13 must set out the basis and rationale of the decision, including:

- (1) details of the qualitative and quantitative methodologies applied in any calculations and formulae made or used by the *AER* for the purposes of its decision;
- (2) the values adopted by the *AER* for each of the input variables in any calculations and formulae, including:
 - (i) whether those values have been taken or derived from the provider's current *Revenue Proposal*; and

- (ii) if not, the rationale for the adoption of those values;
- (3) details of any assumptions made by the *AER* in undertaking any material qualitative and quantitative analyses for the purposes of the decision; and
- (4) reasons for the making of any decisions, the giving or withholding of any approvals, and the exercise of any discretions, as referred to in Part C of this Chapter 6A, for the purposes of the decision.

6A.14.3 Circumstances in which matters must be approved or accepted

- (a) This clause set out the circumstances in which the *AER* must approve or accept certain matters for the purposes of a draft decision under rule 6A.12 or a final decision under rule 6A.13. Subject to any provision of this Chapter 6A, if the *AER* is not required to approve or accept such a matter in accordance with this clause, it may, but is not required to, refuse to approve or accept that matter.
- (b) The *AER* must approve:
 - (1) the *total revenue cap* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for a *regulatory control period*; and
 - (2) the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year* of the *regulatory control period*,
 as set out in the current *Revenue Proposal*, if the *AER* is satisfied that:
 - (3) those amounts have been properly calculated using the *post-tax revenue model*; and
 - (4) those amounts, and any amount required to be calculated, determined or forecast for the purposes of calculating those amounts, have otherwise been calculated, determined or forecast in accordance with the requirements of Part C of this Chapter 6A, (for these purposes, the *AER* is taken to be so satisfied in respect of a particular amount if another provision of this Chapter 6A requires the *AER* to approve or accept that amount).
- (c) If a *Transmission Network Service Provider's* revised *Revenue Proposal* submitted under clause 6A.12.3(a) includes:
 - (1) an amount of total forecast capital expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that is the same as that accepted or estimated (as the case may be) by the *AER* in a draft decision under rule 6A.12; or
 - (2) an amount of total forecast operating expenditure for the *regulatory control period* that is the same as that accepted or estimated (as the case may be) by the *AER* in a draft decision under rule 6A.12,
 then, except to the extent that:
 - (3) either or both of the following apply:
 - (i) other changes have been made in the revised *Revenue Proposal*; or
 - (ii) the information contained in or accompanying the revised *Revenue Proposal* differs from that contained in or accompanying the previous *Revenue Proposal*; and
 - (4) the changes are such that the *AER* is not satisfied as referred to in clauses 6A.6.6(c) or 6A.6.7(c) (as the case may be),

the *AER*, in its final decision, must accept the forecast of required operating expenditure or of required capital expenditure (as the case may be) that is included in the revised *Revenue Proposal*.

(d) The *AER* must approve:

- (1) the values that are to be attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters* for the *service target performance incentive scheme* that is to apply to a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in respect of a *regulatory control period*; and
- (2) the values that are to be attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters* for the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* that is to apply to a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in respect of a *regulatory control period*,

as set out in the current *Revenue Proposal*, if the *AER* is satisfied that those values comply with the requirements relating to them set out in the *service target performance incentive scheme* or the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* (as the case may be).

(e) The *AER* must approve the commencement and length of the *regulatory control period* as proposed by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in the provider's current *Revenue Proposal* if the length of the *regulatory control period* as so proposed is 5 *regulatory years*.

(f) The *AER* must approve a *Transmission Network Service Provider's* current proposed *negotiating framework* if the *AER* is satisfied that the relevant proposed *negotiating framework* meets the requirements set out in clause 6A.9.5(c).

(g) If a *Transmission Network Service Provider's* revised *Revenue Proposal* or revised proposed *negotiating framework* (as the case may be) submitted under clause 6A.12.3(a):

- (1) contains the changes required under clause 6A.12.1(c); or
- (2) does not contain those changes but otherwise (in the *AER's* view), adequately addresses the matters which prompted the *AER* to require those changes,

then, except to the extent that:

(3) either or both of the following apply:

- (i) other changes have been made in the revised *Revenue Proposal* or the revised proposed *negotiating framework*, by the provider; or
 - (ii) the information contained in or accompanying the revised *Revenue Proposal* or revised proposed *negotiating framework* differs from that contained in or accompanying the previous *Revenue Proposal* or proposed *negotiating framework* submitted or resubmitted; and
- (4) the changes would justify the *AER*, in its final decision, in refusing to approve the amounts or values referred to in clause 6A.14.1(5) or the proposed *negotiating framework* referred to in clause 6A.13.2(c),

the *AER's* final decision must be to approve those amounts or values or that proposed *negotiating framework*.

- (h) The *AER* must only specify criteria as *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* in a draft or final decision under rule 6A.12 or 6A.13 if those criteria give effect to and are consistent with the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Principles*.

6A.15 *Revocation and substitution of revenue determination for wrong information or error*

- (a) Except as provided in clause 6A.7.1(d), the *AER* may only revoke a *revenue determination* during a *regulatory control period* where it appears to the *AER* that:
 - (1) the *total revenue cap* was set on the basis of information provided by or on behalf of the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* to the *AER* that was false or misleading in a material particular; or
 - (2) there was a material error in the setting of the *total revenue cap*.
- (b) If the *AER* revokes a *revenue determination* under paragraph (a), the *AER* must make a new *revenue determination* in substitution for the revoked *revenue determination* to apply for the remainder of the *regulatory control period* for which the revoked *revenue determination* was to apply.
- (c) If the *AER* revokes a *revenue determination* under paragraph (a)(2), the substituted *revenue determination* must only vary from the revoked *revenue determination* to the extent necessary to correct the relevant error.
- (d) The *AER* may only revoke and substitute a *revenue determination* under this rule 6A.15, if it has first consulted with the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* and such other persons as it considers appropriate.

6A.16 *Miscellaneous*

- (a) The *AER* may, but is not required to, consider any submission made pursuant to an invitation for submissions after the time for making the submission has expired.
- (b) Nothing in this Part E is to be construed as precluding the *AER* from *publishing* any issues, consultation and discussion papers, or holding any conferences and information sessions, that the *AER* considers appropriate.
- (c) Subject to paragraph (d), as soon as practicable after the *AER* receives a submission in response to an invitation referred to in clause 6A.11.3(a)(5) or 6A.12.2(a)(4) (whether or not the submission was made before the time for making it has expired), the *AER* must *publish* that submission.
- (d) The *AER* must not *publish* a submission referred to in paragraph (c) to the extent it contains information which has been clearly identified as confidential by the person making the submission.
- (e) The *AER* may give such weight to confidential information identified in accordance with paragraph (d) in a submission as it considers appropriate, having regard to the fact that such information has not been made publicly available.
- (f) Paragraph (d) does not apply to the extent that any other provision of the *Rules* permits or requires such information to be publicly released by the *AER*.

Part F - Information Disclosure

6A.17 Information disclosure by Transmission Network Service Providers

6A.17.1 Information to be provided to AER

- (a) In this rule 6A.17, ‘**certified annual statement**’ means an annual statement provided by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* under this rule 6A.17 and certified in accordance with the *information guidelines*.
- (b) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must submit to the *AER*, in the manner and form set out in the *information guidelines*, annual statements that:
 - (1) provide a true and fair statement of the financial and operating performance of the provider;
 - (2) are certified in accordance with the *information guidelines*; and
 - (3) otherwise comply with the requirements of this clause and the *information guidelines*.
- (c) In addition to the certified annual statements, the *AER* may require a *Transmission Network Service Provider* to provide, by a date and in the form and manner specified by the *AER*, any additional information the *AER* reasonably requires for a purpose set out in paragraph (d).
- (d) The certified annual statements and additional information provided by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* to the *AER* under this rule 6A.17 may be used by the *AER* only for the following purposes:
 - (1) to monitor, report on and enforce the compliance of the provider with the *total revenue cap* for the provider for a *regulatory control period*, the *maximum allowed revenue* for the provider for each *regulatory year*, and any requirements that are imposed on the provider under a *transmission determination*;
 - (2) to monitor, report on and enforce compliance with the provider’s *Cost Allocation Methodology*;
 - (3) as an input regarding the financial, economic and operational performance of the provider, to inform the *AER*’s decision-making for the making of *revenue determinations* or other regulatory controls to apply in future *regulatory control periods*; and
 - (4) to monitor and report on the performance of the provider under any *service target performance incentive scheme* that applies to it.
- (e) The *AER* may request or undertake verification or independent audit of any information sought by it, or provided to it, under this rule 6A.17.

6A.17.2 Information Guidelines

Preparation, publication and amendment of Information Guidelines

- (a) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, prepare and *publish information guidelines*.
- (b) The *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace the *information guidelines*.

- (c) The *AER* must develop and publish the first *information guidelines* by 28 September 2007 and there must be *information guidelines* available at all times after that date.

Contents of information guidelines

- (d) The *information guidelines* must provide for the manner and form in which *Transmission Network Service Providers* must submit certified annual statements to the *AER*, including the date each year by which those statements must be submitted to the *AER*.
- (e) The *information guidelines* may only require the inclusion in the certified annual statements of such information as the *AER* reasonably requires for a purpose set out in clause 6A.17.1(d).

Note: The draft National Electricity Amendment (Pricing of Prescribed Transmission Services) 2006, when made, will amend Chapter 6A, and clause 6A.17.2(e) will be amended to include additional pricing related information content for the information guidelines. Clause 11.6.22 makes interim provision for these requirements to be included in the initial guidelines.

- (f) The *information guidelines* may provide for the information that must accompany a written statement seeking approval of the *AER* to pass through a *positive pass through amount* or a *negative pass through amount* under clause 6A.7.3.

6A.18 Information disclosure by the AER

6A.18.1 Introduction

- (a) In this rule 6A.18, '**protected information**' means information in certified annual statements, or additional information, provided by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* to the *AER*, under rule 6A.17, and includes documents and information contained in documents provided under rule 6A.17, but does not include:
 - (1) information referred to in clause 6A.17.1(d)(4); and
 - (2) information that is required to be provided in accordance with the *submission guidelines* referred to in clause 6A.10.2 where those guidelines permit the information to be publicly disclosed.
- (b) The *AER* may publicly release protected information if and only to the extent it is permitted to do so under this rule 6A.18.
- (c) Protected information must be treated as confidential by the *AER* and must not be publicly released unless:
 - (1) the provider has given its prior written consent to the public release of the information; or
 - (2) the procedures set out in clause 6A.18.3 have been followed.

6A.18.2 Release of protected information with consent

The *AER* may publicly release protected information with the prior written consent of the *Transmission Network Service Provider* that provided the information to the *AER*.

6A.18.3 Release of protected information in other circumstances

- (a) The *AER* may publicly release protected information in circumstances where the *Transmission Network Service Provider* that provided the information to the *AER* has declined to give written consent to its release if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for a purpose set out in clause 6A.17.1(d) and the applicable procedures set out in paragraphs (c) and (d) have been followed and either:
 - (1) the protected information is published in a form that aggregates the information in so far as it relates to a *Transmission Network Service Provider*; or
 - (2) the *AER* is of the view that:
 - (i) the disclosure of the protected information would not cause detriment to the provider; or
 - (ii) although the disclosure of the protected information would cause detriment to the provider that provided it, the public benefit in disclosing it outweighs that detriment.
- (b) The *AER* must not publicly release any protected information in a non-aggregated form, if that information relates to a person that is unrelated to the *Transmission Network Service Provider*, and that person has not provided consent to the release of the protected information.
- (c) The *AER* must not publicly release any protected information under paragraph (a)(2) until the expiration of 28 *business days* from the date on which a written notice of the *AER*'s intention to disclose is served on:
 - (1) the *Transmission Network Service Provider* that provided the information or documents containing the information; or
 - (2) any person whom the *AER* is aware provided the *Transmission Network Service Provider* with the information or documents containing information provided to the *AER* by the provider.
- (d) The notice referred to in paragraph (c) must:
 - (1) state that the *AER* wishes to disclose the protected information, specifying the nature of the intended disclosure and setting out detailed reasons why the *AER* wishes to make the disclosure;
 - (2) specify the form of the intended disclosure of the protected information;
 - (3) in the case of a disclosure under paragraph (a)(2), state that the *AER* has formed the views required by paragraph (a)(2) and set out detailed reasons why it has formed those views; and
 - (4) state that the *AER*'s decision to disclose the information or contents of the document can be reviewed under the *ADJR Act*.
- (e) Where as a result of a review, under the *ADJR Act*, of its decision to publicly release protected information, the *AER* is not allowed to publicly release particular protected information provided to it for a purpose set out in clause 6A.17.1(d), the *AER* may nonetheless use the information for that purpose (except to the extent that the purpose would require the public release of the information or document).

- (f) Nothing in paragraphs (c) and (d) affects a *Registered Participant's* rights to seek a review under general principles of administrative law of the AER's decision to publicly release any information or the contents of any documents under paragraph (a).

Part G - Cost Allocation

6A.19 Cost allocation

6A.19.1 Duty to comply with Cost Allocation Methodology

A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must comply with the *Cost Allocation Methodology* that has been approved in respect of that provider from time to time by the AER under this rule 6A.19.

6A.19.2 Cost Allocation Principles

The following principles constitute the *Cost Allocation Principles*:

- (1) the detailed principles and policies used by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* to allocate costs between different categories of *transmission services* must be described in sufficient detail to enable the AER to replicate reported outcomes through the application of those principles and policies;
- (2) the allocation of costs must be determined according to the substance of a transaction or event rather than its legal form;
- (3) only the following costs may be allocated to a particular category of *transmission services*:
 - (i) costs which are directly attributable to the provision of those services; and
 - (ii) costs which are not directly attributable to the provision of those services but which are incurred in providing those services, in which case such costs must be allocated to the provision of those services using an appropriate allocator which should:
 - (A) except to the extent the cost is immaterial or a causal based method of allocation cannot be established without undue cost and effort, be causation based; and
 - (B) to the extent the cost is immaterial or a causal based method of allocation cannot be established without undue cost and effort, be an allocator that accords with a well accepted *Cost Allocation Methodology*;
- (4) any *Cost Allocation Methodology* which is used, the reasons for using that methodology and the numeric quantity (if any) of the chosen allocator must be clearly described;
- (5) the same cost must not be allocated more than once;
- (6) the principles, policies and approach used to allocate costs must be consistent with the *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines*;
- (7) costs which have been allocated to *prescribed transmission services* must not be reallocated to *negotiated transmission services*; and

- (8) costs which have been allocated to *negotiated transmission services* may be reallocated to *prescribed transmission services* to the extent they satisfy the principle referred to in subparagraph (3).

Note. The Cost Allocation Guidelines are required by clause 6A.19.3 to give effect to and be consistent with, the Cost Allocation Principles.

6A.19.3 Cost Allocation Guidelines

- (a) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, make guidelines (the *Cost Allocation Guidelines*) relating to the preparation by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* of its *Cost Allocation Methodology*.
- (b) The *Cost Allocation Guidelines*:
 - (1) must give effect to and be consistent with the *Cost Allocation Principles*; and
 - (2) may be amended by the *AER* from time to time in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*.
- (c) Without limiting the generality of paragraph (b), the *Cost Allocation Guidelines* may specify:
 - (1) the format of a *Cost Allocation Methodology*;
 - (2) the detailed information that is to be included in a *Cost Allocation Methodology*;
 - (3) the categories of *transmission services* which are to be separately addressed in a *Cost Allocation Methodology*, such categories being determined by reference to the nature of those services, the persons to whom those services are provided or such other factors as the *AER* considers appropriate; and
 - (4) the allocation methodologies which are acceptable and the supporting information that is to be included in relation to such methodologies in a *Cost Allocation Methodology*.
- (d) The *AER* may, from time to time and in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, amend or replace the *Cost Allocation Guidelines*.
- (e) The *AER* must, in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*, develop and publish the first *Cost Allocation Guidelines* by 28 September 2007 and there must be *Cost Allocation Guidelines* available at all times after that date.

6A.19.4 Cost Allocation Methodology

- (a) Each *Transmission Network Service Provider* must submit to the *AER* for its approval a document setting out its proposed *Cost Allocation Methodology*:
 - (1) by no later than 28 March 2008; or
 - (2) in the case of an entity that is not a *Transmission Network Service Provider* as at 28 September 2007, within 6 months of being required to do so by the *AER*.
- (b) The *Cost Allocation Methodology* proposed by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must give effect to and be consistent with the *Cost Allocation Guidelines*.

- (c) The *AER* may approve or refuse to approve a *Cost Allocation Methodology* submitted under paragraph (a).
- (d) The *AER* must notify the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* of its decision to approve or refuse to approve the *Cost Allocation Methodology* submitted to it under paragraph (a) within 6 months of its submission, failing which the *AER* will be taken to have approved it.
- (e) As part of giving any approval referred to in paragraph (c), the *AER* may, after consulting with the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider*, amend the *Cost Allocation Methodology* submitted to it, in which case the *Cost Allocation Methodology* as so amended will be taken to be approved by the *AER*.
- (f) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* may amend its *Cost Allocation Methodology* from time to time but the amendment only comes into effect:
 - (1) 6 months after the submission of the amendment, together with detailed reasons for the amendment, to the *AER* (unless the *AER* approves that amendment earlier, in which case it will come into effect when that earlier approval is given); and
 - (2) subject to such changes to the *Cost Allocation Methodology* (including the proposed amendment) as the *AER* notifies to the *Transmission Network Service Provider* within that period, being changes that the *AER* reasonably considers are necessary or desirable as a result of that amendment.
- (g) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must amend its *Cost Allocation Methodology* where the amendment is required by the *AER* to take into account any change to the *Cost Allocation Guidelines*, but the amendment only comes into effect:
 - (1) on the date that the *AER* approves that amendment, or 3 months after the submission of the amendment, whichever is the earlier; and
 - (2) subject to such changes to the *Cost Allocation Methodology* (including the proposed amendment) as the *AER* notifies to the *Transmission Network Service Provider* within that period, being changes that the *AER* reasonably considers are necessary or desirable as a result of that amendment.
- (h) A *Transmission Network Service Provider* must maintain a current copy of its *Cost Allocation Methodology* on its website.

Part H - Transmission Consultation Procedures

6A.20 *Transmission consultation procedures*

- (a) This rule 6A.20 applies wherever the *AER* is required to comply with the *transmission consultation procedures*. For the avoidance of doubt, the *transmission consultation procedures*:
 - (1) are separate from, and do not apply to, the process for changing the *Rules* under Part 7 of the *National Electricity Law*; and
 - (2) are separate from, and (where they are required to be complied with) apply to the exclusion of, the *Rules consultation procedures* under rule 8.9.

- (b) If the *AER* is required to comply with the *transmission consultation procedures* in making, developing or amending any guidelines, models or schemes, or in reviewing any values or methodologies, it must *publish*:
 - (1) the proposed guideline, model, scheme, amendment or revised value or methodology;
 - (2) an explanatory statement that sets out the provision of the *Rules* under or for the purposes of which the guideline, model, scheme or amendment is proposed to be made or developed or the value or methodology is required to be reviewed, and the reasons for the proposed guideline, model, scheme, amendment or revised value or methodology; and
 - (3) an invitation for written submissions on the proposed guideline, model, scheme, amendment or revised value or methodology.
- (c) The invitation must allow no less than 30 *business days* for the making of submissions, and the *AER* is not required to consider any submission made pursuant to that invitation after this time period has expired.
- (d) The *AER* may publish such issues, consultation and discussion papers, and hold such conferences and information sessions, in relation to the proposed guideline, model, scheme, amendment or revised value or methodology as it considers appropriate.
- (e) Within 80 *business days* of *publishing* the documents referred to in paragraph (b), the *AER* must *publish*:
 - (1) its final decision on the guideline, model, scheme, amendment, value or methodology that sets out:
 - (i) the guideline, model, scheme, amendment or revised value or methodology (if any);
 - (ii) the provision of the *Rules* under which or for the purposes of which the guideline, model, scheme or amendment is being made or developed or the value or methodology is being reviewed; and
 - (iii) the reasons for the guideline, model, scheme, amendment value or methodology; and
 - (2) notice of the making of the final decision on the guideline, model, scheme, amendment, value or methodology.
- (f) Subject to paragraph (c), the *AER* must, in making its final decision referred to in paragraph (e)(1), consider any submissions made pursuant to the invitation for submissions referred to in paragraph (b)(3), and the reasons referred to in paragraph (e)(1)(iii) must include:
 - (1) a summary of each issue raised in those submissions that the *AER* reasonably considers to be material; and
 - (2) the *AER*'s response to each such issue.

Part I - Ring-Fencing Arrangements for Transmission Network Service Providers

6A.21 Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines

6A.21.1 Compliance with Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines

All *Transmission Network Service Providers* including *Market Network Service Providers*, must comply with the *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines* prepared in accordance with clause 6A.21.2 as from the time that any *jurisdictional derogation* from this rule 6A.21 ceases to apply in respect of the *participating jurisdiction* in which the *Transmission Network Service Provider* is located.

6A.21.2 Development of Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines

- (a) *Transmission Ring-fencing guidelines* must be developed by the AER in consultation with the *Jurisdictional Regulators* and each *participating jurisdiction* for the accounting and functional separation of the provision of *prescribed transmission services* by *Transmission Network Service Providers* from the provision of other services by *Transmission Network Service Providers* (the '*Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines*').
- (b) The *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines* may include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) provisions defining the need for and extent of:
 - (i) legal separation of the entity through which a *Transmission Network Service Provider* provides *network services* from any other entity through which it conducts business;
 - (ii) the establishment and maintenance of consolidated and separate accounts for *prescribed transmission services* and other services provided by the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
 - (iii) allocation of costs between *prescribed transmission services* and other services provided by the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
 - (iv) limitations on the flow of information between the *Transmission Network Service Provider* and any other person; and
 - (v) limitations on the flow of information where there is the potential for a competitive disadvantage between those parts of the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* business which provide *prescribed transmission services* and parts of the provider's business which provide any other services; and
 - (2) provisions allowing the AER to add to or to waive a *Transmission Network Service Provider's* obligations under the *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines*.
- (c) In developing the *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines* the AER must consider, without limitation, the following matters:
 - (1) the need, so far as practicable, for consistency with Federal and State regulation in each *participating jurisdiction* of ring-fencing requirements of other utility businesses; and
 - (2) the need, so far as practicable, for consistency between the *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines* and *Distribution Ring-Fencing Guidelines*.
- (d) In developing or amending the *Transmission Ring-Fencing Guidelines*, the AER must consult with *participating jurisdictions*, *Registered Participants*,

NEMMCO and other *interested parties*, and such consultation must be otherwise in accordance with the *transmission consultation procedures*.

Schedule 6A.1 - Contents of Revenue Proposals

S6A.1.1 Information and matters relating to capital expenditure

A *Revenue Proposal* must contain at least the following information and matters relating to capital expenditure:

- (1) a forecast of the required capital expenditure that complies with the requirements of clause 6A.6.7 of the *Rules* and identifies the forecast capital expenditure by reference to well accepted categories such as:
 - (i) asset class (eg. *transmission lines*, *substations* etc); or
 - (ii) category driver (eg. *regulatory obligation*, replacement, *reliability*, net market benefit, business support etc),and identifies, in respect of proposed material assets:
 - (iii) the location of the proposed asset;
 - (iv) the anticipated or known cost of the proposed asset; and
 - (v) the categories of *transmission services* which are to be provided by the proposed asset;
- (2) the methodology used for developing the capital expenditure forecast;
- (3) the forecasts of load growth relied upon to derive the capital expenditure forecasts and the methodology used for developing those forecasts of load growth;
- (4) the key assumptions that underlie the capital expenditure forecast;
- (5) a certification of the reasonableness of the key assumptions by the directors of the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
- (6) capital expenditure for each of the first three *regulatory years* of the current *regulatory control period*, and the expected capital expenditure for each of the last two *regulatory years* of that *regulatory control period*, categorised in the same way as for the capital expenditure forecast; and
- (7) an explanation of any significant variations in the forecast capital expenditure from historical capital expenditure.

S6A.1.2 Information and matters relating to operating expenditure

A *Revenue Proposal* must contain at least the following information and matters relating to operating expenditure:

- (1) a forecast of the required operating expenditure that complies with the requirements of clause 6A.6.6 of the *Rules* and identifies the forecast operating expenditure by reference to well accepted categories such as:
 - (i) particular programs; or
 - (ii) types of operating expenditure (eg. maintenance, payroll, materials etc),

and identifies in respect of each such category:

- (iii) to what extent that forecast expenditure is on costs that are fixed and to what extent it is on costs that are variable; and
- (iv) the categories of *transmission services* to which that forecast expenditure relates;
- (2) the methodology used for developing the operating expenditure forecast;
- (3) the forecasts of key variables relied upon to derive the operating expenditure forecast and the methodology used for developing those forecasts of key variables;
- (4) the methodology used for determining the cost associated with planned maintenance programs designed to improve the performance of the relevant *transmission system* for the purposes of any *service target performance incentive scheme* that is to apply to the *Transmission Network Service Provider* in respect of the relevant *regulatory control period*;
- (5) the key assumptions that underlie the operating expenditure forecast;
- (6) a certification of the reasonableness of the key assumptions by the directors of the *Transmission Network Service Provider*;
- (7) operating expenditure for each of the first three *regulatory years* of the current *regulatory control period*, and the expected operating expenditure for each of the last two *regulatory years* of that *regulatory control period*, categorised in the same way as for the operating expenditure forecast; and
- (8) an explanation of any significant variations in the forecast operating expenditure from historical operating expenditure.

S6A.1.3 Additional information and matters

A *Revenue Proposal* must contain at least the following additional information and matters:

- (1) an identification and explanation of any significant interactions between the forecast capital expenditure and forecast operating expenditure programs;
- (2) the values that the *Transmission Network Service Provider* proposes are to be attributed to the *performance incentive scheme parameters* for the purposes of the application to the provider of the *service target performance incentive scheme* that applies in respect of the relevant *regulatory control period*, and an explanation of how the values proposed to be attributed to those parameters comply with any requirements relating to them set out in that scheme;
- (3) the values that the provider proposes are to be attributed to the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme parameters* for the purposes of the application to the provider of the *efficiency benefit sharing scheme* that applies in respect of the relevant *regulatory control period*, and an explanation of how the values proposed to be attributed to those parameters comply with any relevant requirements set out in that scheme;
- (4) the provider's calculation of:

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- (i) the estimated *total revenue cap* for it for the relevant *regulatory control period*; and
 - (ii) the *maximum allowed revenue* for it for each *regulatory year* of the relevant *regulatory control period*,
- using the *post-tax revenue model* referred to in rule 6A.5 of the *Rules*, together with:
- (iii) details of all amounts, values and other inputs used by the provider for that purpose;
 - (iv) a demonstration that any such amounts, values and other inputs comply with the relevant requirements of Part C of Chapter 6A of the *Rules*; and
 - (v) an explanation of the calculation of the amounts referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) and of the amounts, values and inputs referred to in subparagraph (iii);
- (5) the provider's calculation of the regulatory asset base for the relevant *transmission system* for each *regulatory year* of the relevant *regulatory control period* using the *roll forward model* referred to in clause 6A.6.1 of the *Rules*, together with:
- (i) details of all amounts, values and other inputs used by the provider for that purpose;
 - (ii) a demonstration that any such amounts, values and other inputs comply with the relevant requirements of Part C of Chapter 6A of the *Rules*; and
 - (iii) an explanation of the calculation of the regulatory asset base for each *regulatory year* of the relevant *regulatory control period* and of the amounts, values and inputs referred to in subparagraph (i);
- (6) the commencement and length of the period nominated by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* for the purposes of clause 6A.6.2(c)(2) of the *Rules*;
- (7) the depreciation schedules nominated by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* for the purposes of clause 6A.6.3 of the *Rules*, which categorise the relevant assets for these purposes by reference to well accepted categories such as:
- (i) asset class (eg *transmission lines* and *substations*); or
 - (ii) category driver (eg *regulatory obligation*, replacement, *reliability*, net market benefit, and business support),
- and also by location, together with:
- (iii) details of all amounts, values and other inputs used by the provider to compile those depreciation schedules;
 - (iv) a demonstration that those depreciation schedules conform with the requirements set out in clause 6A.6.3(b) of the *Rules*; and
 - (v) an explanation of the calculation of the amounts, values and inputs referred to in subparagraph (iii);
-

- (8) the X factors nominated by the provider for each *regulatory year* of the relevant *regulatory control period* for the purposes of clause 6A.6.8(a) of the *Rules*, together with a demonstration that those X factors comply with the requirements set out in clause 6A.6.8(b) of the *Rules*;
- (9) the commencement and length of the *regulatory control period* proposed by the *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
- (10) if the *Transmission Network Service Provider* is seeking a determination by the AER that a *proposed contingent project* is a *contingent project* for the purposes of the relevant *revenue determination*:
 - (i) a description of the *proposed contingent project*, including reasons why the provider considers the project should be accepted as a *contingent project* for the *regulatory control period*;
 - (ii) a forecast of the capital expenditure which the provider considers is reasonably required for the purpose of undertaking the *proposed contingent project*;
 - (iii) the methodology used for developing that forecast and the key assumptions that underlie it;
 - (iv) information that demonstrates that the undertaking of the *proposed contingent project* is reasonably required in order to achieve one or more of the *capital expenditure objectives*;
 - (v) information that demonstrates that the *proposed contingent capital expenditure* for the *proposed contingent project* complies with the requirements set out in clause 6A.8.1(b)(2) of the *Rules*; and
 - (vi) the *trigger events* which are proposed in relation to the *proposed contingent project* and an explanation of how each of those conditions or events addresses the matters referred to in clause 6A.8.1(c) of the *Rules*.

Schedule 6A.2 - Regulatory Asset Base

S6A.2.1 Establishment of opening regulatory asset base for a regulatory control period

(a) Application of this clause

This clause S6A.2.1:

- (1) applies to the establishment of the value of the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* as at the beginning of a *regulatory control period* on the roll forward of the regulatory asset base to that *regulatory control period* from the previous *regulatory control period*; and
- (2) also applies to the establishment of the value of the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* as at the beginning of a *regulatory control period* where the *transmission system* was not immediately before that time the subject of a *revenue determination*.

(b) Roll forward model to comply with this clause

The *roll forward model* referred to in clause 6A.6.1 of the *Rules* must provide for those values to be established in accordance with the requirements of clauses S6A.2.1, S6A.2.2 and S6A.2.3.

(c) Transmission systems of specific providers

- (1) In the case of a *transmission system* owned, controlled or operated by one of the following *Transmission Network Service Providers* as at 16 February 2006, the value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of that first *regulatory year* must be determined by rolling forward the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system*, as set out in the table below, in accordance with this schedule:

Transmission Network Service Provider	Regulatory Asset Base (\$m)
EnergyAustralia	635.6 (as at 1 July 2004)
TransGrid	3,012.76 (as at 1 July 2004)
Powerlink	As per transitional revenue determination in accordance with clause 11.6.12
ElectraNet	823.75 (as at 1 January 2003)
Transend	603.6 (as at 31 December 2003)
SP AusNet	1,835.60 (as at 1 January 2003)
Murraylink Transmission Company	102.96 (as at 1 October 2003)
Directlink	116.68 (as at 1 July 2005)

- (2) The values in the table above are to be adjusted for the difference between:
- any estimated capital expenditure that is included in those values for any part of a previous *regulatory control period*; and
 - the actual capital expenditure for that part of the previous *regulatory control period*.

This adjustment must also remove any benefit or penalty associated with any difference between the estimated and actual capital expenditure.

(d) Other transmission systems

- (1) This paragraph (d) applies to a *transmission system* not referred to in paragraphs (c) or (e), when *prescribed transmission services* that are provided by means of, or in connection with, that system are to be regulated under a *revenue determination*.
- (2) The value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the first *regulatory control period* for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* is the prudent and efficient value of the assets that are used by the provider to provide those *prescribed transmission services* (but only to the extent that they are used to provide such services), as determined by the *AER*. In determining this value, the *AER* must have regard to the matters referred to in clause S6A.2.2.
- (3) The value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of any subsequent *regulatory control period* must be determined by rolling forward the value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the first *regulatory control period* in accordance with this schedule.

(e) **Former Market Network Services**

- (1) This paragraph (e) applies to a *transmission system* where any services provided by means of, or in connection with, that *transmission system* are determined to be *prescribed transmission services* under clause 2.5.2(c).
- (2) The value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system*, as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the first *regulatory control period* for which those services are to be regulated under a *revenue determination*, is the amount that is determined by the *AER* as the lesser of:
 - (i) the prudent and efficient value of the assets that are used by the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* to provide those prescribed services (but only to the extent they are used to provide such services), such value being determined by the *AER* having regard to the matters referred to in clause S6A.2.2; and
 - (ii) the sum of:
 - (A) the net present value of the revenue that it is expected would be earned by the provider from the provision of those services, over the remaining life of the assets that are used by the provider to provide those services, if those services had not been determined to be *prescribed transmission services*; and
 - (B) to the extent that such market benefit is not included in the expected revenue referred to in subparagraph (A), the net present value of the market benefit to *Registered Participants* of the services being determined to be *prescribed transmission services* compared to being continued to be treated as services that are not *prescribed transmission services*,

reduced by the net present value of the total operating expenditure over the remaining life of the *transmission system* which the *AER* considers to be reasonably required in order to achieve the *operating expenditure objectives*.

For the purposes of subparagraph (ii)(B), the net present value of the market benefit is the present value of the market benefit less the present value of costs, as those terms are defined for the purposes of the *regulatory test*.

- (3) The value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of any subsequent *regulatory control period* must be determined by rolling forward the value of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the first *regulatory control period* in accordance with this schedule.

(f) **Method of adjustment of value of regulatory asset base**

Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), (d) or (e), the value of the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of a *regulatory control period* must be calculated by adjusting the value (the '**previous value**') of the regulatory asset base for that

transmission system as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the immediately preceding *regulatory control period* (the ‘**previous control period**’) as follows:

- (1) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be increased by the amount of all capital expenditure incurred during the previous control period, including any capital expenditure determined for that period under clause 6A.8.2(e)(1)(i) in relation to *contingent projects* where the *revenue determination* has been amended by the *AER* in accordance with clause 6A.8.2(h) (regardless of whether such capital expenditure is above or below the forecast capital expenditure for the period that is adopted for the purposes of the *transmission determination* (if any) for that period).
- (2) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be increased by the amount of the estimated capital expenditure approved by the *AER* for any part of the previous control period for which actual capital expenditure is not available, including any capital expenditure in relation to *contingent projects* where the *total revenue cap* has been amended by the *AER* in accordance with clause 6A.8.2(h).
- (3) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be adjusted for the difference between:
 - (i) the estimated capital expenditure for any part of a previous *regulatory control period* where that estimated capital expenditure has been included in that value; and
 - (ii) the actual capital expenditure for that part of the previous *regulatory control period*.

This adjustment must also remove any benefit or penalty associated with any difference between the estimated and actual capital expenditure.

- (4) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must only be increased by actual or estimated capital expenditure to the extent that all such capital expenditure is properly allocated to the provision of *prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the *Cost Allocation Methodology* for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider*.
- (5) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be reduced by the amount of actual depreciation of the regulatory asset base during the previous control period, calculated in accordance with the rates and methodologies allowed in the *transmission determination* (if any) for that period.
- (6) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be reduced by the disposal value of any asset where that asset has been disposed of during the previous control period.
- (7) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be reduced by the value of any asset where the *AER* determines that the value of that asset should be removed in accordance with clause S6A.2.3.
- (8) Without prejudice to the application of any other provision of this paragraph (f), the previous value of the regulatory asset base may be increased by the inclusion of:
 - (i) past capital expenditure that has not been included in that value because that capital expenditure was incurred in connection with

the provision of services that are not *prescribed transmission services*, and in these circumstances, such capital expenditure must only be included to the extent the asset in respect of which that capital expenditure was incurred is subsequently used for the provision of *prescribed transmission services*; and

- (ii) past capital expenditure that has not been included in that value, but only to the extent that such past capital expenditure:
 - (A) relates to an asset that is used for the provision of *prescribed transmission services*;
 - (B) is considered by the *AER* to be reasonably required in order to achieve one or more of the *capital expenditure objectives*;
 - (C) is properly allocated to *prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the principles and policies set out in the *Cost Allocation Methodology* for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider*; and
 - (D) has not otherwise been recovered.

S6A.2.2 Prudency and efficiency of capital expenditure

In determining the prudency or efficiency of capital expenditure under clause S6A.2.1(d)(2) or S6A.2.1(e)(2), the *AER* must have regard to:

- (1) the need to provide a reasonable opportunity for the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* to recover the efficient costs of complying with all applicable *regulatory obligations* associated with the provision of *prescribed transmission services*;
- (2) the need to provide effective incentives to the provider to promote economic efficiency in the provision of *prescribed transmission services*;
- (3) whether the relevant project in respect of which capital expenditure was made was evaluated against, and satisfied, the *regulatory test*;
- (4) whether the provider undertook the capital expenditure in a manner consistent with good business practice and so as to practicably achieve the lowest sustainable cost of delivering the *prescribed transmission services* to be provided as a consequence of that capital expenditure;
- (5) the desirability of minimising investment uncertainty for the provider; and
- (6) the need to provide incentives to the provider to avoid undertaking inefficient capital expenditure.

In determining the prudency or efficiency of capital expenditure the *AER* must only take into account information and analysis that the provider could reasonably be expected to have considered or undertaken at the time that it undertook the relevant capital expenditure.

S6A.2.3 Removal of assets from regulatory asset base

- (a) For the purposes of rolling forward the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* as described in clause 6A.6.1 of the *Rules* and this schedule, the *AER* may only determine to remove, from the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system*, the value of an asset (or group of assets):

- (1) to the extent that:
 - (i) the asset (or group of assets) is dedicated to one *Transmission Network User* (not being a *Distribution Network Service Provider*) or a small group of *Transmission Network Users*; and
 - (ii) the value of the asset (or group of assets), as included in the value of that regulatory asset base as at the beginning of the first *regulatory year* of the current *regulatory control period*, exceeds the *indexed amount*, as at the time of the AER's determination, of \$20 million;
- (2) if the AER determines that the asset (or group of assets) is no longer contributing to the provision of *prescribed transmission services*; and
- (3) if the AER determines that the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* has not adequately sought to manage the risk of that asset (or that group of assets) no longer contributing to the provision of *prescribed transmission services* by:
 - (i) seeking to negotiate the payment of a lower price by the relevant *Transmission Network Users* for those *prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the *Rules*; or
 - (ii) in the case of assets committed to be constructed on or after 16 February 2006, seeking to enter into arrangements which provide for a reasonable allocation of the risks of the value of that asset (or that group of assets) no longer contributing to the provision of *prescribed transmission services*.

For the purposes of subparagraph (ii), an asset is, and is only, to be taken to be committed to be constructed if it satisfies the criteria which a project needs to satisfy to be a "committed project" for the purposes of the *regulatory test*.

- (b) The AER may determine a separate amount which is to be included in the *annual building block revenue requirement* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* for each *regulatory year* of a *regulatory control period* so as to compensate the provider for the risk of the value of assets being removed from the regulatory asset base for the relevant *transmission system*, but only if it is satisfied that:
 - (1) the risk is not otherwise addressed through another provision of the *Rules*;
 - (2) the provider has taken all the steps that a prudent *Transmission Network Service Provider* would take to manage the risk; and
 - (3) the *total revenue cap* for the provider for that *regulatory control period* does not adequately reflect risks that cannot be reasonably managed.

S6A.2.4 Roll forward of regulatory asset base within the same regulatory control period

(a) Application of this clause

This clause S6A.2.4 applies to the establishment of the value of the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* as at the beginning of one *regulatory year* in a *regulatory control period* on the roll forward of the regulatory asset base to

that *regulatory year* from the immediately preceding *regulatory year* (if any) in that *regulatory control period*.

(b) **Roll forward model to comply with this clause**

The *roll forward model* referred to in clause 6A.6.1 of the *Rules* must provide for that value to be established in accordance with the requirements of this clause S6A.2.4.

(c) **Method of adjustment of value of regulatory asset base**

The value of the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* as at the beginning of the second or a subsequent year ('the **later year**') in a *regulatory control period* must be calculated by adjusting the value ('the **previous value**') of the regulatory asset base for that *transmission system* as at the beginning of the immediately preceding *regulatory year* ('the **previous year**') in that *regulatory control period* as follows:

- (1) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be increased by the amount of forecast capital expenditure accepted or substituted by the *AER* for the previous year in accordance with clause 6A.6.7(c) or clauses 6A.13.2(b)(4) and (5) (as the case may be).
- (2) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be reduced by the amount of depreciation included in the *annual building block revenue requirement* for the previous year.
- (3) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be reduced by the disposal value of any asset included in that value where the asset is forecast to be disposed of during the previous year.
- (4) The previous value of the regulatory asset base must be increased by an amount necessary to maintain the real value of the regulatory asset base as at the beginning of the later year by adjusting that value for inflation.

(d) **Allowance for working capital**

If the *AER* determines that it is appropriate to do so, it may include an allowance for working capital in the regulatory asset base for a *transmission system* which is rolled forward in accordance with this clause S6A.2.4.

Schedule 6A.3 Commercial arbitration of disputes for negotiated transmission services

S6A.3.1 Commercial arbitration for negotiated transmission services

This schedule applies to any dispute which may arise between a *Transmission Network Service Provider* (a provider) and a *Service Applicant* (an applicant) as to the price which the provider proposes to charge the applicant for a *negotiated transmission service* or as to the amount of any *access charge*.

S6A.3.2 Notification of dispute

- (a) A provider or an applicant may notify the *AER* in writing that a dispute exists.
- (b) On receiving a notification under paragraph (a), the *AER* must give notice in writing of the dispute to the other party to the dispute.

- (c) A provider or an applicant who has given notice of a dispute under paragraph (b) may withdraw notification of the dispute at any time by written notice to the *AER* and the other party to the dispute.
- (d) If the notification of a dispute is withdrawn under paragraph (c), it is taken for the purposes of this clause S6A.3.2 to never have been given.

S6A.3.3 Appointment of commercial arbitrator

- (a) On receiving a notification under clause S6A.3.2(a), the *AER* must request the provider and the applicant, by a time specified by the *AER*, to nominate to the *AER* two persons each for appointment as the *commercial arbitrator* to determine the dispute. The provider and applicant may make the nominations.
- (b) As soon as practicable after the expiry of the time specified by the *AER* under paragraph (a), the *AER* must appoint:
 - (1) one of the persons (if any) nominated to the *AER* by the provider or the applicant under paragraph (a); or
 - (2) if neither the provider or the applicant nominate any such person within the time specified by the *AER* under paragraph (a) or all of the persons so nominated do not qualify for appointment under paragraph (c) or are not eligible for appointment under paragraph (d), a person determined by the *AER*,

as the *commercial arbitrator* to determine the dispute, and must refer the dispute to that *commercial arbitrator*. A decision of the *AER* as to the appointment of the *commercial arbitrator* is final and binding on the provider and the applicant.

- (c) The *AER* may only appoint a person as the *commercial arbitrator* if that person is experienced or trained in dispute resolution techniques.
- (d) A person is not eligible for appointment as the *commercial arbitrator* if that person has any interest that may conflict with, or which may be seen to conflict with, the impartial resolution of the dispute. Where the person who is appointed as the *commercial arbitrator* becomes aware of such conflict after that person commences the hearing of the dispute, the person must advise the parties to that effect.
- (e) Where:
 - (1) the provider or the applicant believes that the person appointed as the *commercial arbitrator* has an interest which may conflict with the impartial resolution of the dispute; or
 - (2) the person appointed as the *commercial arbitrator* discloses the existence of such an interest,

the person must not continue to hear and determine the dispute, except with the written consent of the provider and the applicant.

S6A.3.4 Procedures of commercial arbitrator

- (a) The *commercial arbitrator* may give to the parties such directions as it considers necessary:

- (1) for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including in relation to the provision of documents and information to the other party and the making of oral and written submissions;
 - (2) relating to the use and disclosure of information obtained from the other party to the dispute (including a direction to keep information confidential); and
 - (3) in relation to the participation (if any) of legal representatives of the parties in the proceedings.
- (b) The *commercial arbitrator* must observe the rules of procedural fairness, but is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself in any manner it thinks fit.

S6A.3.5 Determination of dispute

- (a) In determining the dispute, the *commercial arbitrator* must apply the *Negotiated Transmission Service Pricing Criteria* that are applicable to that dispute in accordance with the relevant *transmission determination*, but this does not limit the other matters to which the *commercial arbitrator* may have regard.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (d), the *commercial arbitrator* must determine the dispute as quickly as possible, and in any case it must do so within 30 *business days* after the dispute is referred to the *commercial arbitrator*. The determination of the *commercial arbitrator*:
 - (1) must specify:
 - (i) the price at which the *negotiated transmission service* is to be provided or the amount of the *access charge* (as the case may be); and
 - (ii) the terms and conditions that the *commercial arbitrator* has assumed, for the purposes of determining the dispute, as being the terms and conditions on which the *negotiated transmission service* will be provided or the *access charge* that will be payable (as the case may be), to the extent that such terms and conditions have not been agreed for the purposes of the dispute between the provider and the applicant; and
 - (2) may specify the price or charge as referred to in subparagraph (1)(i) in such a way that it is or is to be adjusted over time.

Note: An adjustment as referred to in paragraph (b)(2) may, for example, be appropriate where the cost of providing the negotiated transmission service to a Service Applicant changes because the assets used to provide that service are subsequently used to provide a service to another person and the payment for the service by that other person enables the Transmission Network Service Provider to recoup some of those costs from that other person.

- (c) The *commercial arbitrator* does not have the power to require the provider to provide any service to the applicant.
- (d) The *commercial arbitrator* may extend the period referred to in paragraph (b) if the provider and the applicant so agree in writing.
- (e) The *commercial arbitrator* may at any time terminate the proceedings without making a decision if it considers that:

- (1) the dispute is misconceived or lacking in substance;
 - (2) the notification of the dispute to the *AER* under S6A.3.2(a) was vexatious; or
 - (3) the party who notified the dispute to the *AER* under S6A.3.2(a) has not negotiated in good faith or has notified the dispute prematurely or unreasonably.
- (f) The *commercial arbitrator* must terminate the proceedings without making a decision if at any time, whether on application by the provider or the applicant or otherwise, the arbitrator determines that the *negotiated transmission service* is capable of being provided on a genuinely competitive basis by a person other than the *Transmission Network Service Provider* or an entity which is associated with the provider.

S6A.3.6 Costs of dispute

- (a) The fees and costs of the *commercial arbitrator* must be borne equally by the provider and the applicant unless:
- (1) paragraph (b) applies; or
 - (2) otherwise agreed between the provider and the applicant.
- (b) The costs of determining the dispute (including the legal costs of either of the parties) may be allocated by the *commercial arbitrator* for payment as between the parties as part of any determination. In deciding to allocate costs against one of the parties to the dispute, the *commercial arbitrator* may have regard to any relevant matters including (but not limited to) whether the conduct of that party unreasonably prolonged or escalated the dispute or otherwise increased the costs of resolving the dispute.

S6A.3.7 Enforcement of agreement or determination and requirement for reasons

- (a) Where the provider and the applicant reach agreement (whether or not the matter is before a *commercial arbitrator*), the parties may execute a written agreement recording their resolution of that dispute.
- (b) The *commercial arbitrator* must give its decision determining the dispute, together with its reasons for that decision, in writing and must provide a copy of its determination:
- (1) to the provider and to the applicant;
 - (2) (except to the extent that it contains confidential information) to the *AER* for publication.
- (c) An agreement that is executed under paragraph (a) and a determination of the *commercial arbitrator* are binding on the provider and the applicant, and any failure to comply with such an agreement or determination is a breach of the *Rules* in respect of which the *AER* may take action in accordance with the *National Electricity Law*.

S6A.3.8 Miscellaneous

- (a) To the extent permitted by law, a person who is appointed as a *commercial arbitrator* is not liable for any loss, damage or liability suffered or incurred by

any person as a consequence of any act or omission of that person which was done in good faith in connection with the dispute.

- (b) A person who is appointed as a *commercial arbitrator* may, before acting in relation to the dispute, require the parties to the dispute (or any one of them) to execute a release and indemnity in relation to any loss, damage or liability that that person would, but for the release or indemnity, suffer or incur as a consequence of any act or omission done in good faith in connection with the dispute.