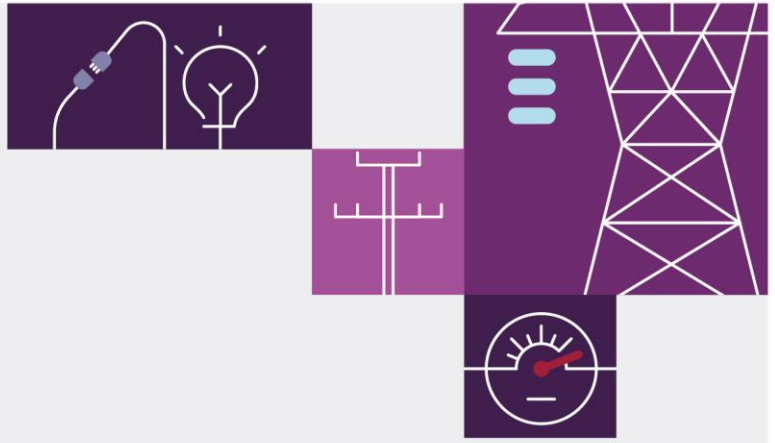


Basslink Conversion to Regulated Transmission Network Service Provider 1 July 2026

Industry Go-live Plan [Draft]





Important notice

Purpose

This paper describes the go-live approach with respect to the Basslink conversion from Market Network Service Provider (MNSP) to a regulated Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) scheduled to be undertaken Wednesday 01 July 2026.

Disclaimer

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Version control

Version	Release date	Changes
0.1	15 April 2026	Draft for Industry Review
1.0		Final version

1. Executive summary

Basslink is scheduled to transition from a Market Network Service Provider (MNSP) to a regulated Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) with effect from 1 July 2026. AEMO, in collaboration with APA, and Participants has developed a coordinated cutover and go live approach to support this transition. The approach is designed to ensure system security and reliability, minimise market disruption, and provide transparency to industry participants.

The transition will be implemented through a single, coordinated cutover event spanning 30 June to 1 July 2026, combining a planned physical outage of Basslink with associated system, application, and market facing changes. This will be followed by a controlled validation and ramp up period prior to the return to full service.

Two formal Go / No Go decision points govern progression of the cutover:

- a readiness decision relating to Settlement Residue Auction (SRA) arrangements in April 2026, and
- a final cutover decision immediately prior to the planned outage, informed by prevailing and forecast NEM system conditions.

The cutover approach incorporates clear contingency and deferral arrangements. Where system security or reliability conditions require, the physical outage and associated changes may be shortened or deferred, while maintaining continuity of Basslink operations until conditions permit a safe transition.

To support industry readiness, AEMO and APA will undertake a Market Pre Production (PPD) cutover trial, supplemented by targeted testing opportunities aligned with SRA and settlement processes. Where full end to end simulation is not feasible, AEMO will provide mock artefacts and data specifications to support participant validation activities.

AEMO will communicate with participants through the NEM Reform mailbox at key milestones, including confirmation of cutover commencement, successful return to service, or any required changes to the planned approach. This document provides a high-level overview of the cutover and go live approach and is intended to support participant awareness and preparedness. It does not replace obligations under the National Electricity Rules, market procedures, or formal AEMO notices.

What's changing

- Basslink will operate as a regulated TNSP from 1 July 2026.
- Dispatch, settlement, reporting and SRA treatment will align with regulated transmission arrangements.
- Market systems will reflect regulated constraints and standing data changes.

What's not changing

- Participant bidding and dispatch processes.

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2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose and Scope

This document provides electricity market participants with an overview of the planned cutover and go-live approach for the transition of Basslink from a Market Network Service Provider (MNSP) to a regulated Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP), effective 1 July 2026.

The purpose of this document is to:

- outline the regulatory and operational context for the change,
- describe the high-level cutover approach and timing,
- explain expected market and operational impacts, and
- provide transparency on governance, decision points, and contingency handling.

This document is intended to support participant awareness and preparedness. It does not replace existing obligations under the National Electricity Rules (NER), market procedures, or formal market notices issued by AEMO.

2.2 Regulatory Context and Background

On **27 February 2026**, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) made a final determination on APA Group's transmission revenue proposal for Basslink for the 2026–30 regulatory control period.

Basslink will be reclassified from an MNSP to a regulated TNSP, aligning its operational, settlement, and reporting arrangements with those applicable to regulated transmission services under the NER.

AEMO is working closely with APA, and Participants to support this transition and to ensure that the change is implemented in a coordinated, orderly, and transparent manner from 1 July 2026.

2.3 Overview of the Go-Live Approach

The transition of Basslink to regulated operation will occur through a single coordinated cutover event, spanning 30 June to 1 July 2026.

The cutover approach has been designed to:

- minimise disruption to market operations,
- maintain system security and reliability,
- provide clear decision points, and
- allow for deferral or adjustment if prevailing system conditions require.

The cutover combines:

- a planned physical outage of Basslink,

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- coordinated system and application changes by APA and AEMO, and
- a structured return-to-service and validation period prior to resumption of full operation.

Key Dates:

- **30 April 2026 – SRA readiness decision**
- **May 2026 – PPD cutover trial**
- **June 2026 – Pre-Production mirrors Production / SRA testing**
- **30 June - 1 July 2026 – Production cutover**
- **Early July 2026 – Post-cutover heightened support.**

3. Cutover Window and Activities

3.1 Planned Outage Window

Basslink is planned to be unavailable from:

- Late Tuesday 30 June 2026, to
- Mid-morning Wednesday 1 July 2026

This outage window enables the execution of required physical, system, and market-facing changes associated with the transition to regulated operation.

3.2 Validation and Ramp Up

Following completion of cutover activities:

- validation activities will commence from approximately 9:00 am on 1 July,
- low-power transfer is planned from mid-morning to early afternoon, and
- Basslink is expected to return to full service thereafter, subject to successful validation.

AEMO and APA will jointly monitor system performance during this period.

3.3 Market Impacts and Participant Considerations

Pre-Cutover Arrangements

Prior to the cutover:

- APA will submit a single Network Outage System (NoS) booking covering the planned outage and low-power transfer period.
- In advance, APA will submit MNSP bids aligned with the NoS booking and agreed capacity profile.

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- Pre-dispatch, PASA, and relevant reports will reflect these submissions in the lead-up to cutover.

During the Cutover

During the cutover window:

- Basslink will be unavailable in line with the approved NoS booking.
- Market outcomes will reflect the planned outage and capacity profile.
- No additional participant actions are expected beyond normal operational monitoring.

Post-Cutover

Following successful cutover:

- Basslink will operate as a regulated interconnector.
- Dispatch, settlements, reporting, and SRA arrangements will reflect regulated operation.
- AEMO and APA will operate under heightened support arrangements for approximately five days post-cutover to promptly identify and resolve any issues.

4. Governance and Decision Points

4.1 Go / No-Go decision points

Two formal Go / No-Go decision points govern progression of the cutover.

Decision 1 – SRA Readiness (30 April 2026)

APA confirms readiness for AEMO to proceed with Settlement Residue Auction (SRA) arrangements for the July–September 2026 quarter.

Decision 2 – Final Cutover Go / No-Go (30 June 2026)

A final decision confirming whether the planned physical cutover proceeds as scheduled, is shortened, or is deferred. This decision is informed by:

- forecast NEM system operating conditions, and
- system security and reliability considerations over the following 48-hour period.

4.2 Contingency and Deferral Approach

If system security or reliability conditions require an alternative approach:

- the physical outage and associated control system changes may be shortened or deferred,
- nonphysical cutover activities will proceed. By example, Basslink will transition to a regulated TNSP from 01 July 2026 regardless of a shortened or deferred physical cutover.

- Known technical discrepancies associated with deferred physical cutover scenarios have been assessed and can be temporarily tolerated without adverse impacts to system security or reliability.

AEMO will communicate the applicable approach and any changes to participants via market notices.

5. Industry Testing and Readiness Activities

5.1 Overview

AEMO has worked with APA and industry participants to provide targeted testing opportunities to support readiness for Basslink's transition to regulated TNSP operation from 1 July 2026.

The testing approach has been designed to:

- provide confidence in market-facing changes,
- reflect production-like conditions where practicable, and
- align with fixed regulatory and market timelines, including Settlement Residue Auction (SRA) processes.

Testing activities leverage the Market Pre-Production (PPD) environment and are complemented by the provision of mock settlement and SRA artefacts where full end-to-end simulation is not feasible.

5.2 Market Pre-Production (PPD) Cutover Trial

AEMO and APA will undertake a **trial physical cutover** in the Market Pre-Production (PPD) environment, mirroring the key physical and system activities planned for Production.

- The PPD trial will include:
 - a planned outage window,
 - execution of cutover activities by APA and AEMO, and
 - post-cutover validation and ramp-up activities.
- The trial is intended to validate:
 - coordination between APA and AEMO,
 - system and application changes,
 - operational readiness for the Production cutover.

The PPD cutover trial provides confidence in the execution approach, rather than replicating all downstream settlement outcomes.

5.3 Scope Limitations of the PPD Trial

Due to the nature of the change and fixed market timelines:

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- the PPD cutover trial will **not include**:
 - simulated SRA auctions involving Basslink, or
 - a simulated end-to-end settlements run for the May market trial period.

These exclusions reflect the limited value of such simulations outside the relevant auction and settlement windows, and the inability to meaningfully replicate Production conditions for those processes at that time.

5.4 Settlement Residue Auction (SRA) Testing

To support participant readiness for SRA processes:

- SRA testing involving Basslink will **not** be undertaken during the May PPD market trial.
- Instead, AEMO will enable participant testing in the Pre-Production environment during June, aligned with the June SRA auction window for a 1 July 2026 effective date.

During this period, participants will be able to:

- test SRA bids and offers,
- validate internal data ingestion and processing, and
- familiarise themselves with Basslink's inclusion in regulated SRA arrangements under production-like conditions.

This approach provides a more realistic and valuable testing opportunity than an earlier simulated auction.

5.5 Settlement and Reporting Readiness

While a simulated settlements run will not be undertaken as part of the May market trial:

- AEMO can provide (as requested) mock settlement and SRA statements, along with:
 - detailed data and field specifications, and
 - guidance to support participant validation activities.
- Pre-Production will mirror Production during June, enabling participants to:
 - test bids and offers,
 - validate reporting and data flows, and
 - confirm internal readiness ahead of go-live.

6. Industry Impact

Summary industry impact:

Area	Impact
Bidding	No change to participant bidding processes
Dispatch	Basslink treated as regulated interconnector post cutover
Settlements	Updated settlement treatment from 1 July
SRA	Inclusion aligned with July–September quarter onwards, with the first auction window open from 1 June - 15 June 2026
Participant action	No mandatory action beyond readiness and monitoring

7. Industry Readiness and Support

AEMO will continue to support industry readiness through:

- ongoing engagement with participants, and
- clear communications via market notices and supporting materials.

Participants are encouraged to:

- participate in available Pre-Production testing opportunities in May/June 2026, and
- ensure internal processes and systems are prepared for Basslink’s regulated operation from 1 July 2026.

8. Communications

Correspondence regarding the Basslink go-live will be released through AEMO Support Hub bulletins and the [NEM Reform mailbox](#). AEMO will provide the following forms of updates to participants during the AEMO cutover:

- **General updates** – provide participants with information about the status of implementation activities via the NEM Reform mailbox.
- **Support Hub Notices** – provides information to the market on Software releases including notifications of releases and outage completion.
- **Issues** – should any issues arise or deviations from the previously communicated processes, participants will be notified through the NEM Reform mailbox. If the issue or deviation is in relation to a notice previously sent through AEMO’s Support Hub Notices, participants will receive a communication through this channel in addition to the NEM Reform mailbox. Participants experiencing issues because of the go-live, should raise these incidents directly via the AEMO Support Hub.



8.1 Go-Live Schedule

AEMO's production deployments to support the Basslink July 2026 release will be progressively implemented, with system readiness activities occurring across the following periods:

- **April 2026** – Establishment of Basslink within the Network Outage System (NoS).
- **May 2026** – Configuration of Basslink for inclusion in the Settlement Residual Auction (SRA) process for the July–September 2026 quarter onwards, with the first auction window open from 1 June - 15 June 2026.
- **June 2026** – Application of pending Basslink registration changes to support conversion to a regulated Network Service Provider (NSP), effective 1 July 2026.
- **June 2026** – Annual Marginal Loss factor updates deployed inclusive of Basslink-as-regulated.
- **Tuesday, 30 June 2026** – Following Basslink becoming unavailable in the late afternoon, AEMO will implement final cutover activities, including:
 - SCADA remapping.
 - Deployment of Basslink as a regulated constraint.
 - System updates to include Basslink in Negative Residual Management.
 - Removal of Basslink from MT PASA reporting.

Throughout these deployment activities, participant market-facing applications will remain available, and no impacts to participants are expected.

AEMO conversion defined as:

- **Network Outage System:**
Support for Basslink in NoS.
- **Registration updates:**
Updates to interconnector and participant registration data, loss model updates, and retirement of two Basslink DUIDs.
- **Reporting changes:**
Updates to NEM reports, including exclusion of Basslink from MT PASA daily reporting and inclusion in negative residual reporting.
- **SRA inclusion:**
Inclusion of Basslink in Settlement Residual Auction applications and processes.
- **SCADA remapping:**
Remapping of Basslink SCADA measurement and calculation points to reflect regulated operation.
- **Constraints deployment:**
Deployment of Basslink-as-regulated constraint changes.
- **Negative residual management:**
Inclusion of Basslink in Negative Residual Management applications and processes.

Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
Pre-Production (PPD)				
	Friday 24 April 2026	Industry Test Kick-off meeting		Teams meeting
	Friday 01 May 2026	AEMO supported Basslink Pre-production market testing commences		NEM Reform Mailbox
	Friday 01 May 2026	AEMO assurance bids reflect in accordance with desired equipment capacity for the cutover period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNSP bids submitted that reflect trial PPD cutover 07 May. Cutover starts to reflect in pre-dispatch, PASA and reporting. 	
	Monday 04 May 2026	Application of pending Basslink registration changes to support conversion to a regulated Network Service Provider (NSP), effective 07 May 2026		
	Wednesday 06 May 2026 trail physical cutover commences	Following Basslink simulated becoming unavailable in the late afternoon, AEMO will implement final cutover activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCADA remapping. Deployment of Basslink as a regulated constraint. System updates to include Basslink in Negative Residual Management. Removal of Basslink from MT PASA reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basslink no longer features in MT PASA reporting. Basslink will appear in NRM reporting. General reporting will cease reflecting Basslink as a MNSP and commence reflecting Basslink as a regulated TNSP. 	NEM Reform Mailbox
	Thursday 07 May 2026 trail physical cutover concludes	Validation of cutover success activities undertaken.	Participants will be updated regarding any issues including remediation timings.	NEM Reform Mailbox
	Friday 08 May 2026 to Tuesday 12 May 2026	Heightened support of trial cutover.	Participants will be updated regarding any issues including remediation timings.	NEM Reform Mailbox
	Monday 18 May 2026	Basslink SRA units and supporting Markets Portal deployment deployed to PPD.		NEM Reform Mailbox
	Monday 25 May 2026	AEMO supported Basslink Pre-production market testing concludes.	Participants can continue testing beyond this date	NEM Reform Mailbox
	Monday 01 June 2026	Complete MLF update to PPD.	Basslink loss model update available to participants in PPD.	
	Monday 01 June to Monday 15 June		Interested traders can undertake preprod testing of SRA bids and offers.	

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Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
Production Go-live 01 July 2026				
	Monday 18 May 2026	Basslink SRA units and supporting Markets Portal deployment to Production.		
	Monday 18 May 2026	AEMO publish SRA auction report.		AEMO Website published
	Monday 01 June to Monday 15 June		Interested traders can undertake preprod testing of SRA bids and offers in PPD environment.	
	Monday 08 June 2026	AEMO create new Georgetown (Tasmania) NMI as greenfield.	Entitled participants receive notifications of creation.	MSATS change requests
	Monday 15 June 2026	Complete MLF update to Production.	Basslink loss model update available to participants in Production.	
	Monday 15 June 2026		Final SRA bids and offers for quarter July to September 2026 submission cutoff.	AEMO Settlements Mailbox
	Thursday 25 June 2026	AEMO assurance bids reflect in accordance with desired equipment capacity for the cutover period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNSP bids submitted that reflect trial PPD cutover 07 May. • Cutover starts to reflect in pre-dispatch, PASA and reporting. 	Market systems and reporting
	Friday 26 June 2026	Application of pending Basslink registration changes to support conversion to a regulated Network Service Provider (NSP), effective 01/07/2026.		
	Tuesday 30 June 2026	Determination if physical cutover is shortened or deferred based on system security or reliability conditions.	Participants notified inclusive of proposed new physical cutover timings if delayed.	NEM Reform Mailbox
	Tuesday 30 June 2026 cutover commences	Following Basslink becomes unavailable in the late afternoon, AEMO will implement final cutover activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCADA remapping. • Deployment of Basslink as a regulated constraint. • System updates to include Basslink in Negative Residual Management. • Removal of Basslink from MT PASA reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basslink no longer features in MT PASA reporting. • Basslink will appear in NRM reporting. • General reporting will cease reflecting Basslink as a MNSP and commence reflecting Basslink as a regulated TNSP. 	NEM Reform Mailbox

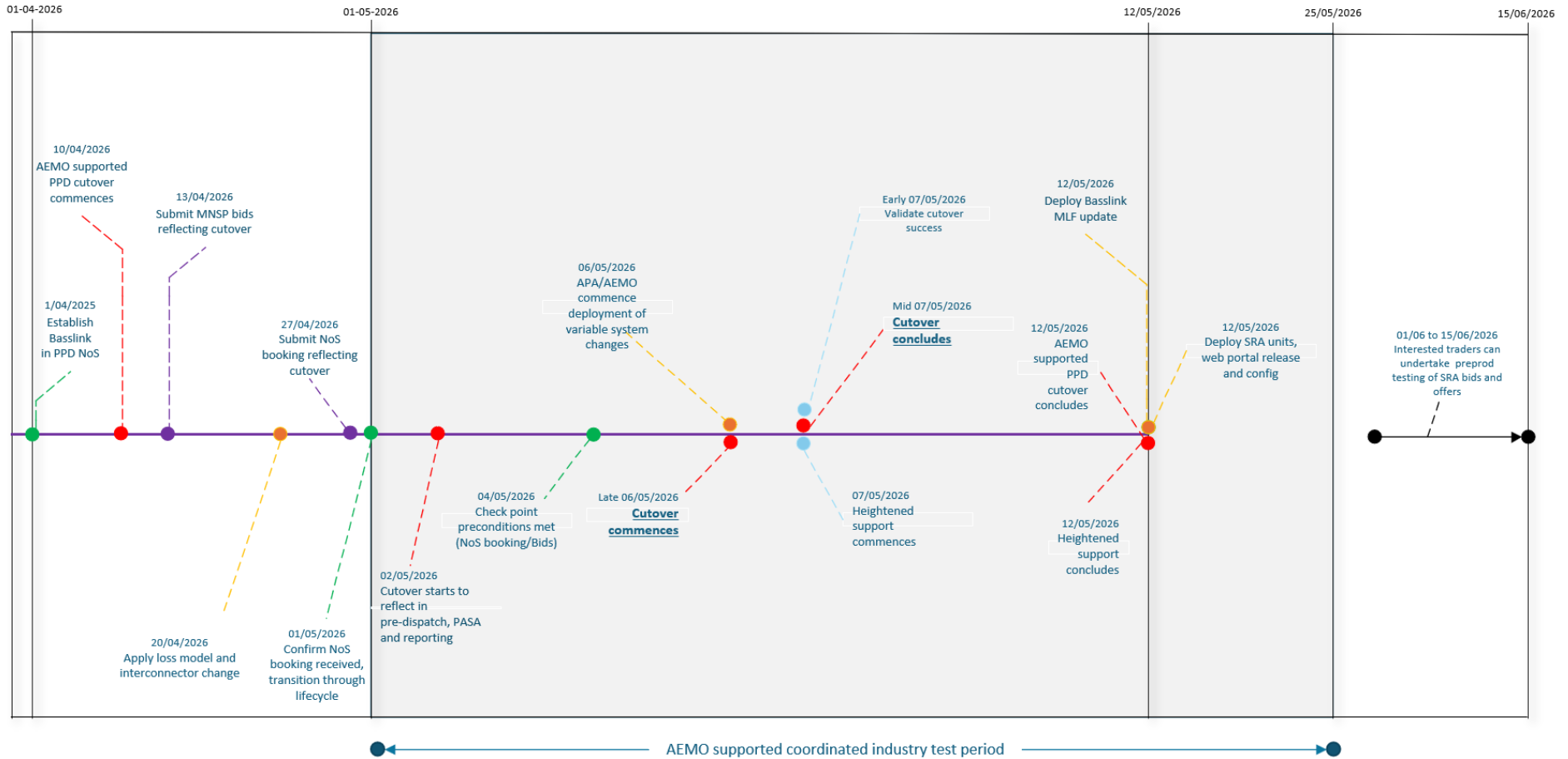
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Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
	Wednesday 01 July 2026 cutover concludes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation of cutover success activities undertaken 	Participants will be updated regarding any issues including remediation timings	NEM Reform Mailbox
	Wednesday 01 July 2026	Apply market system changes to 3 x Basslink related NMI in market systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make new Georgetown NMI active; make old NMI extinct. Convert existing Victorian NMI to a TUoS NMI 	Entitled participants receive notifications of changes	MSATS change requests
	Wednesday 01 July 2026	SRA for quarter commences		AEMO Settlements Mailbox
	Thursday 02 July 2026 to Monday 06 July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heightened support of cutover 	Participants will be updated regarding any issues including remediation timings	NEM Reform Mailbox

Figure 1 Basslink Pre-production cutover timeline

Basslink Pre-production (PPD) Cutover – Integrated Roadmap Timeline

- Milestone
- System Action
- AEMO Business Action
- APA Action
- Joint AEMO / APA

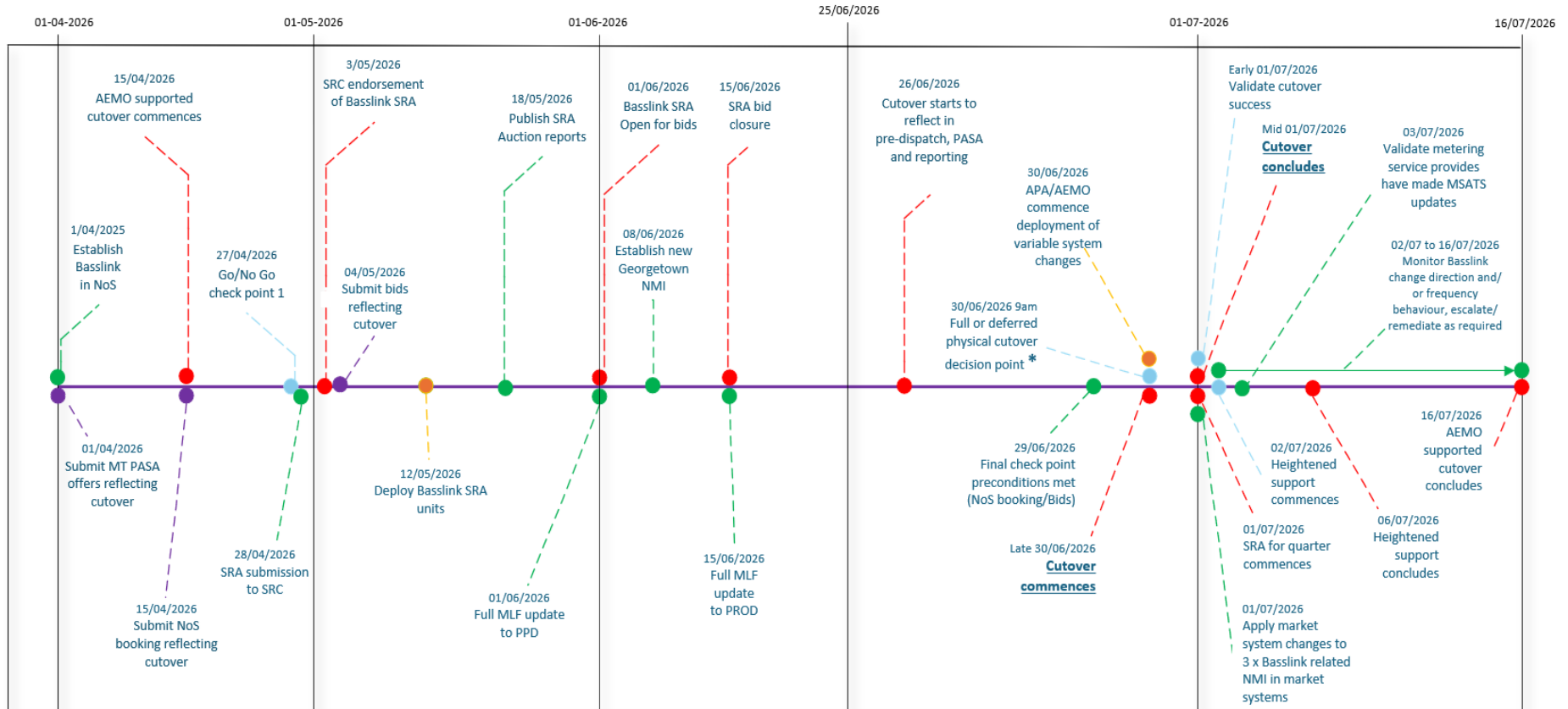


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Figure 2 Basslink Production Cutover timeline

Basslink Production Cutover – Integrated Roadmap Timeline

- Milestone
- System Action
- AEMO Business Action
- APA Action
- Joint AEMO / APA



* If system operational conditions require, the Basslink physical outage and cutover will be deferred or shortened, with all other cutover activities proceeding.

9. Participant Support Arrangements

All production issues should be raised via the Support Hub and managed through the current system support processes.

AEMO will run Hypercare for Basslink cutover until 07 July 2026. There will be heightened SME availability to support participants during this time along with:

- Daily Hypercare Teams sessions to be scheduled to provide direct support for Participants.
- Issue Tracking:
 - Publication of identified Issues Log.
 - Q&A Sessions as required.
 - Participants are requested to follow BAU process and log issues via the AEMO Support Hub.
- Communications:
 - Market communications will be used for the notification of any impacts to processing.

9.1 Support Arrangements for preparing for July 2026

AEMO will support participant preparations for Basslink conversion through:

- Planning and facilitation of the Industry Test approach.
- Progress and Issue management during Industry Test.
- Participant queries will be managed through the NEM Reform Mailbox.

9.2 Production Support

All production issues should be raised via the Support Hub and will be managed through the current Wholesale System support processes.

9.3 Participant Support Arrangements for July 2026

Support Hub will remain the main point of contact for issues, incidents, and queries post 01 July 2026. Industry Q&A sessions can be arranged following should there be questions from participants.

Glossary

Term	Definition
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
Cutover	System or process implementation event
IF	Implementation Forum
Industry testing	Informal, uncoordinated testing by participants in AEMO's IT environments. Self-testing of functionality such as connectivity, and/or coordinated multi-party testing of functional scenarios.
ITWG	Industry Testing Working Group
NEM	National Electricity Market
NER	National Electricity Rules
PDRMonitor	Participant Data Replication Monitor
Q&A	Question and Answer
SME	Subject Matter Expert