

# Connections Reform Initiative Webinar Series



# Early Assessment Framework (EAF) Services Guideline

Industry Webinar  
26 May 2026

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**We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, seas and waters across Australia. We honour the wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present and embrace future generations.**

We acknowledge that, wherever we work, we do so on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. We pay respect to the world's oldest continuing culture and First Nations peoples' deep and continuing connection to Country; and hope that our work can benefit both people and Country.

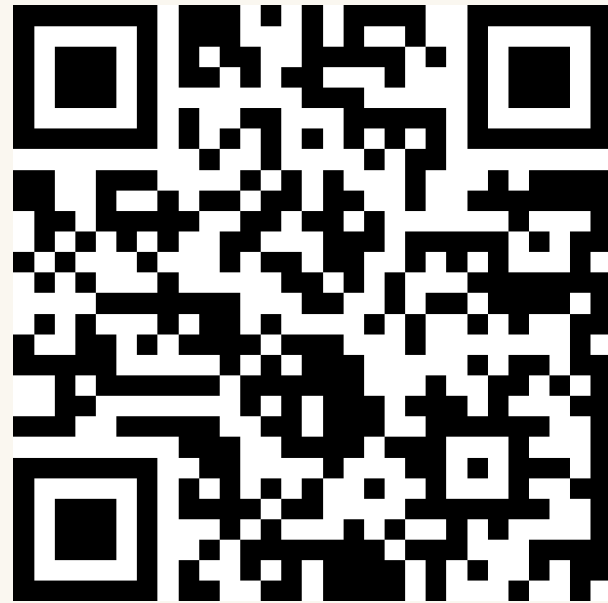
**'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' by Lani Balzan**

AEMO Group is proud to have delivered its first Reconciliation Action Plan in May 2024. 'Journey of unity: AEMO's Reconciliation Path' was created by Wiradjuri artist Lani Balzan to visually narrate our ongoing journey towards reconciliation - a collaborative endeavour that honours First Nations cultures, fosters mutual understanding, and paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Read our  
RAP



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# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Background and objectives
3. Guideline and process overview
4. Optional package details
5. Q&A



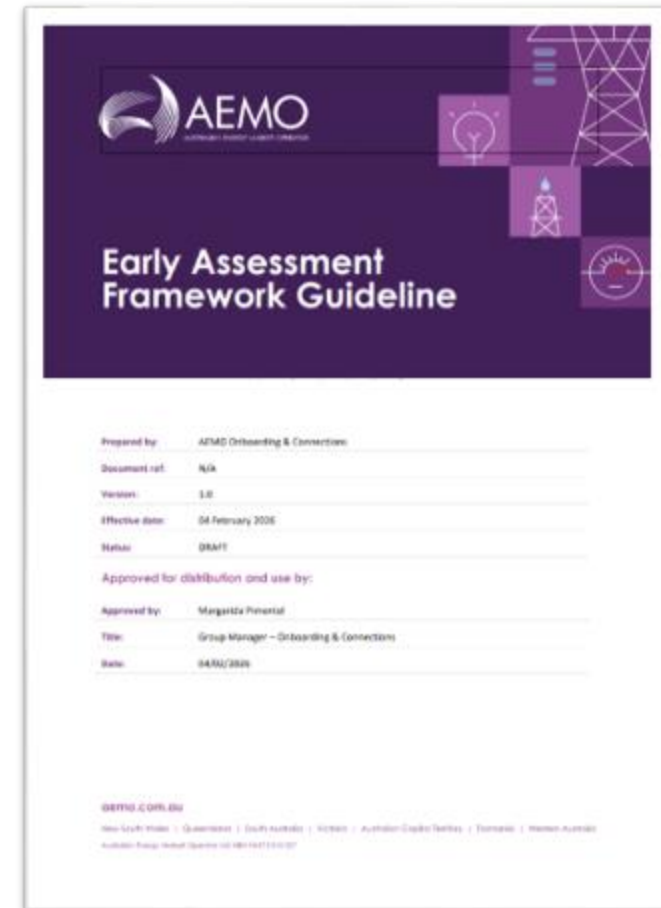
# Today's objectives



Present overview of the *Early Assessment Framework Guideline*



After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to ask AEMO questions.



Read the Guideline [here](#)



# Background and objectives

Ryan Beurle

Principal Project Manager – Connection Reform

# Background

*Growing volumes and emerging technologies in the connections pipeline demand a connections process which supports earlier engagement.*

Industry feedback highlighted the following key challenges with the current application process:



**Duplication of effort  
across projects**



**Uncertainty in model  
acceptance outcomes**



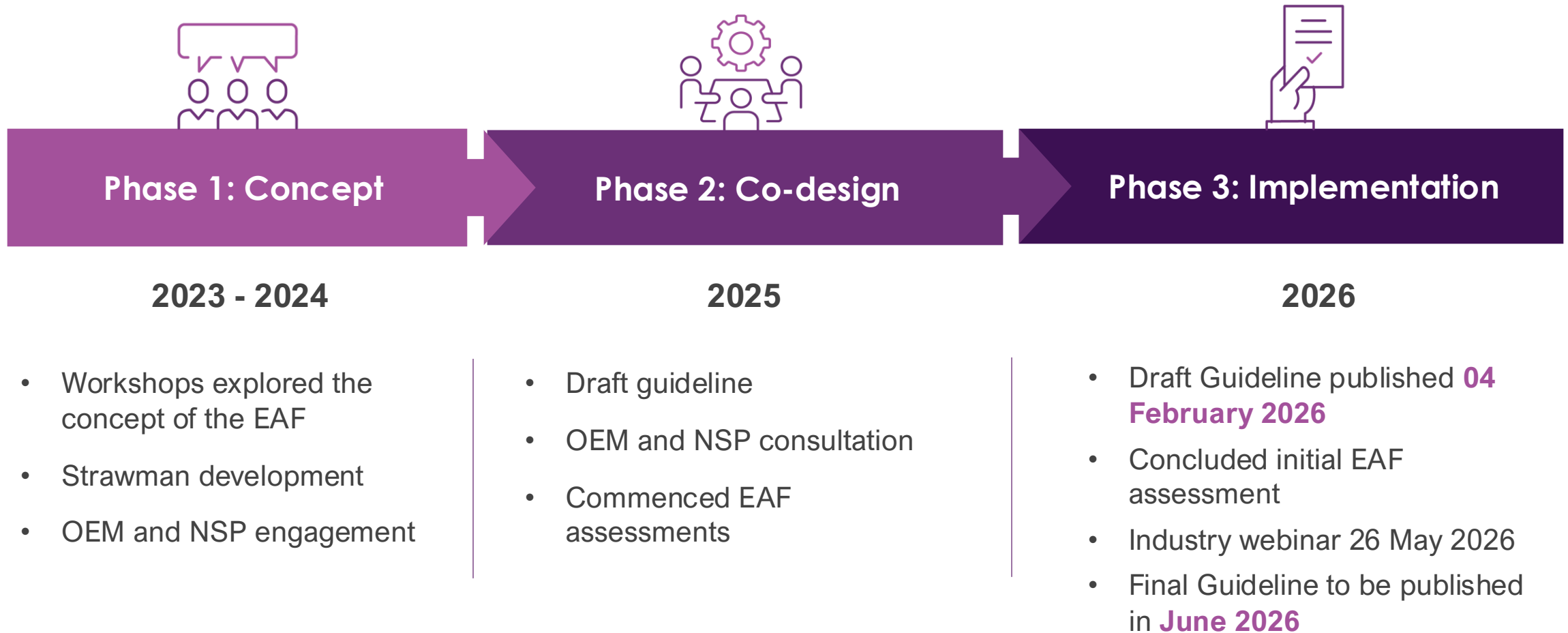
**Uncertainty for developers  
when selecting OEMs**



**Solution:** Establish a pathway for OEMs to engage with AEMO early to identify and resolve model related issues before a project submission

# Consultation phases

*A collaborative approach was taken to ensure the EAF process is fit-for-purpose and reflective of industry's needs.*



# Early Assessment Framework

*A structured opportunity and framework for OEMs to engage and collaborate early with AEMO*

## Undertaking an early assessment will:



Confirm model usability and robustness.



Certify models have met a certain standard.

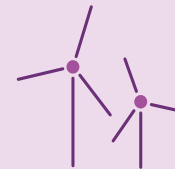
## Benefits for OEMs



Early, direct engagement to identify model issues.



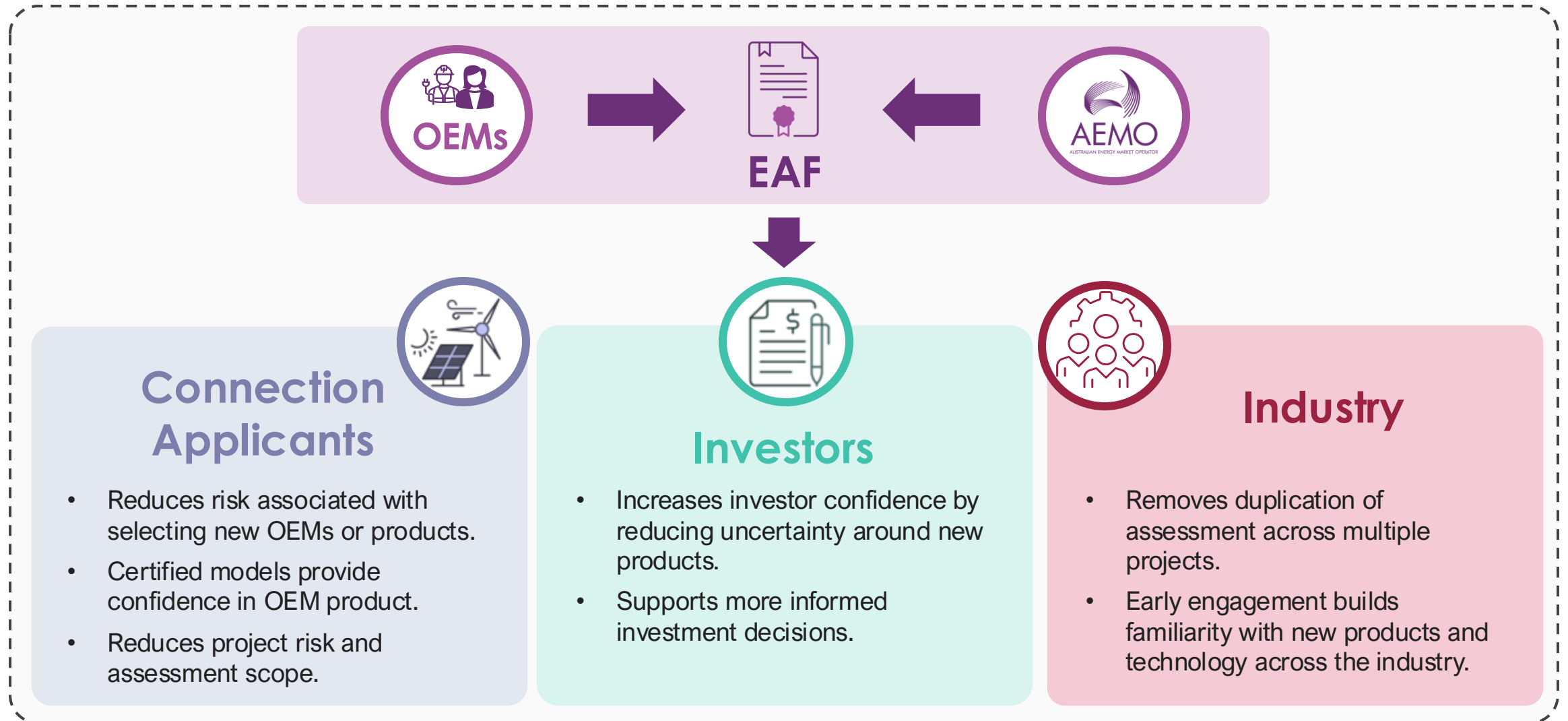
Reduce barriers and uncertainty for new OEMs and technology.



Opportunity to brief AEMO and NSPs on new products.

# How can the EAF benefit industry?

*Benefits from the early assessment flow through to connection applicants and broader industry*



OEMs



EAF



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## Connection Applicants

- Reduces risk associated with selecting new OEMs or products.
- Certified models provide confidence in OEM product.
- Reduces project risk and assessment scope.



## Investors

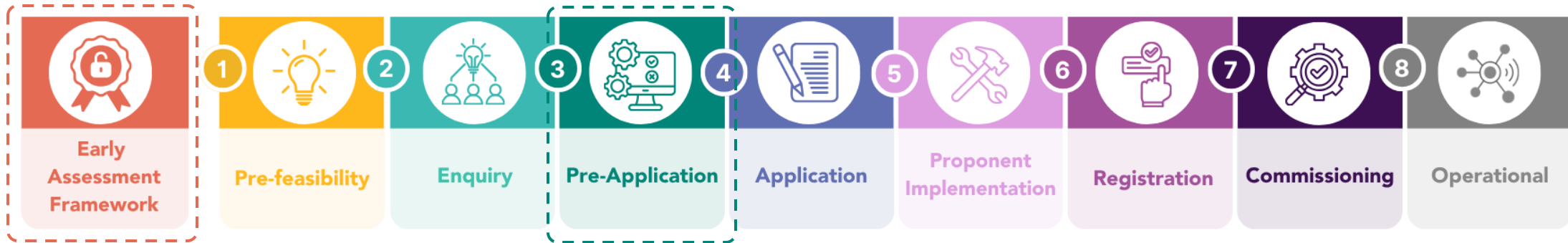
- Increases investor confidence by reducing uncertainty around new products.
- Supports more informed investment decisions.



## Industry

- Removes duplication of assessment across multiple projects.
- Early engagement builds familiarity with new products and technology across the industry.

# How is the EAF different from Pre-Application?



	<b>EAF</b>	<b>Pre-Application</b>
<b>Audience</b>	OEMs	Connection Applicants
<b>Balance of plant</b>	Generic (OEM defined)	Project-specific
<b>Assessment focus</b>	Model robustness	Whole of plant compliance
<b>Assessing party</b>	AEMO	AEMO and NSP



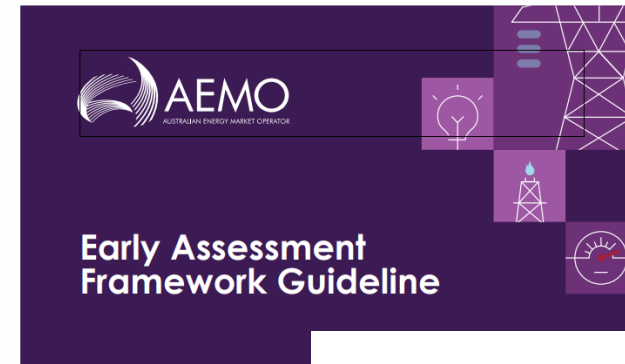
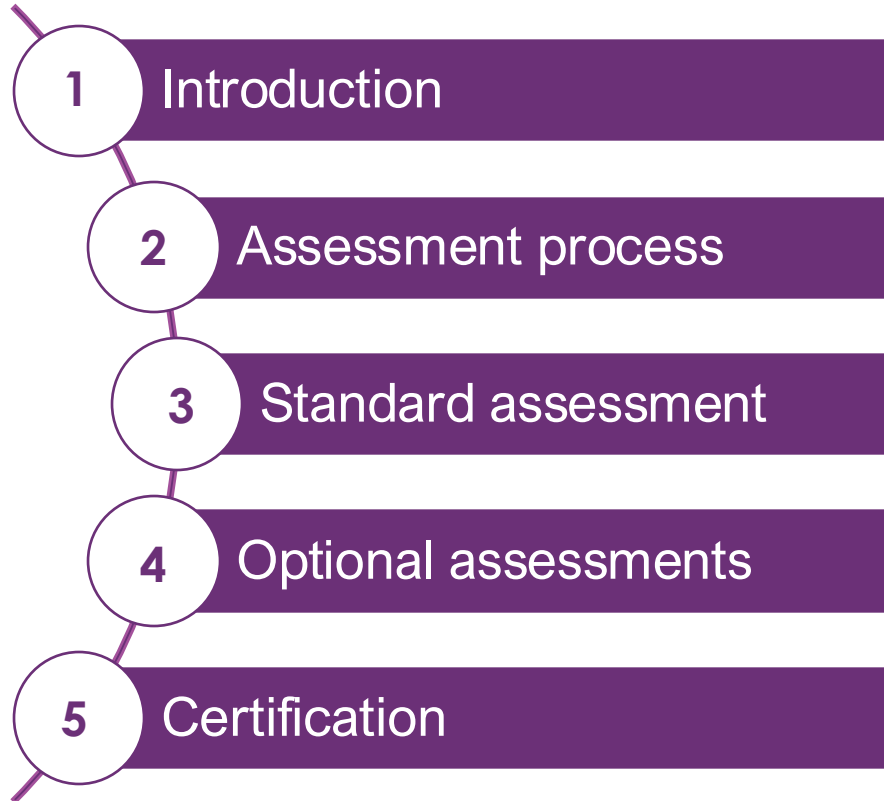
# Guideline and process overview

Ryan Beurle

Principal Project Manager – Connection Reform

# Early Assessment Framework Guideline

The Early Assessment Framework Guideline outlines the process, assessment methodology and support services packages.



Prepared by:	AEMO Onboarding & Connect
Document ref:	N/A
Version:	1.0
Effective date:	04 February 2026
Status:	DRAFT
Approved for distribution and use by:	
Approved by:	Margarida Pimentel
Title:	Group Manager – Onboarding
Date:	04/02/2026

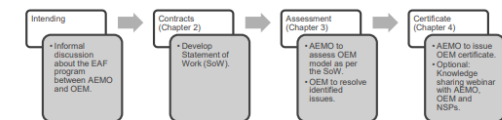
## 2. Assessment process

This chapter outlines the EAF assessment process, including an overview of the contract development stage.

The EAF process will require OEMs to develop and agree a Statement of Work (SoW) with AEMO. The OEM will then submit an assessment package (for example, models and documentation) to AEMO so AEMO can assess and conduct studies as per the agreed SoW. OEMs will be given the opportunity to address any feedback or issues identified by AEMO. If and when the assessment criteria have been met, AEMO will certify the model. The EAF assessment stages are shown in Figure 1 and in a detailed process map in Appendix A.

OEM models which incorporate new technologies or new combinations of technologies, such as hybrid systems<sup>2</sup> (for example, multi-OEM Solar/BESS and offshore wind), may require modified system configuration and assessment criteria beyond those proposed in this document. This will be determined and agreed in the SoW.

Figure 1 EAF assessment process stages



AEMO will provide detailed assessment criteria and DMAT scripts to OEMs prior to EAF implementation. This provides OEMs with the option to self-assess and resolve issues before submission to AEMO, except for optional wide area model integration checks. As described in Section 4.2, AEMO will leverage studies conducted by the OEM to ensure EAF costs are minimised.

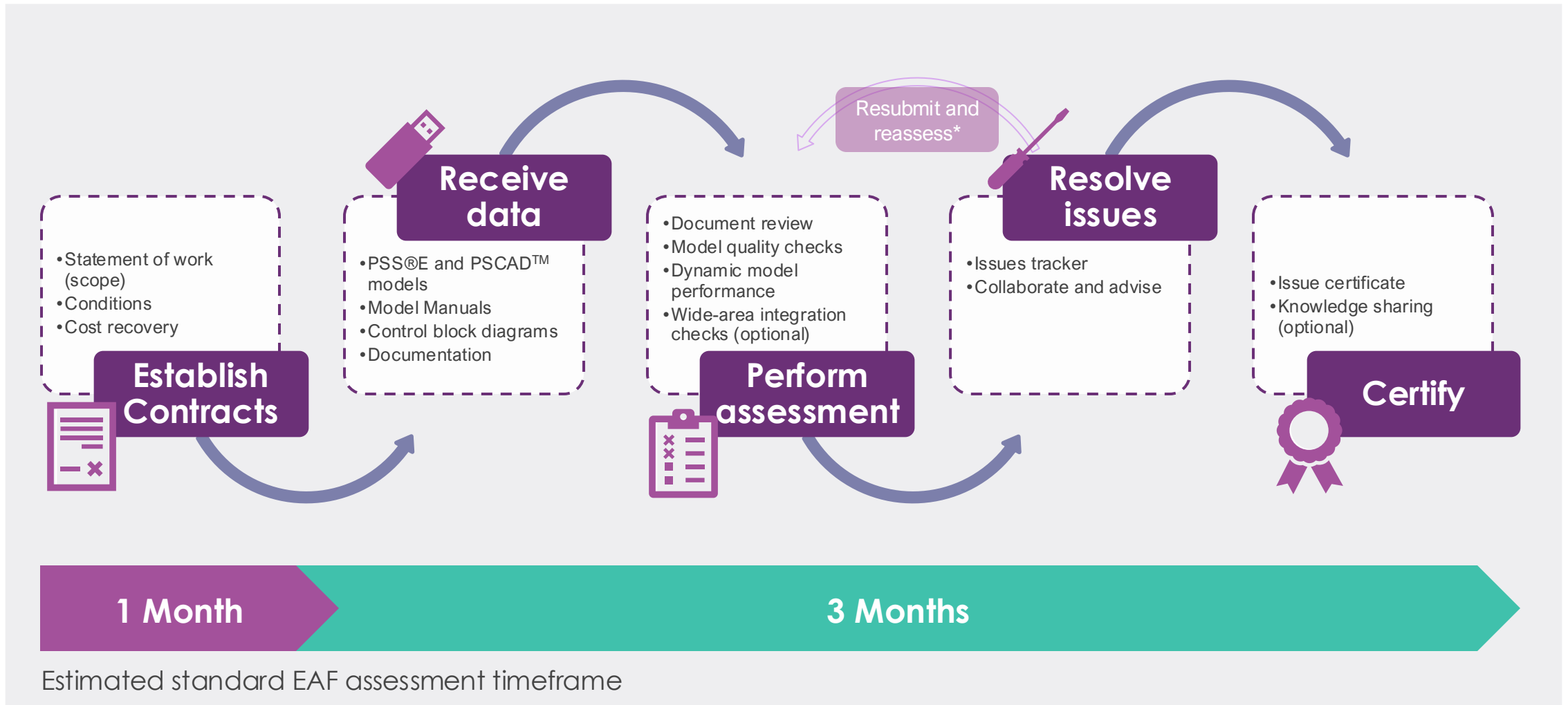
### 2.1. Contracts

The EAF assessment services are not part of AEMO's statutory functions and AEMO is not funded to provide this support under the NEM participant fee structures. As such, these services will be conducted under standard terms developed by AEMO. Costs will be recovered directly from the OEM under a fee-for-service arrangement. Fees will be calculated based on AEMO Connections' charge out rates for the relevant financial year<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.2. Statement of work (SoW)

AEMO will provide a SoW template to be completed in collaboration with the OEM. The agreed SoW will document the EAF assessment services that AEMO will provide to the OEM. Indicative timing and

# Assessment process



*\*If critical issues are identified, reassessment may be required, extending the estimated assessment timeframe.*

# Assessment Process



## Optional Service

The EAF is an **optional service** provided to OEMs. It will not be a mandatory part of the connections process.



## Specialist Team

The assessments are performed by a **dedicated specialist team** with extensive experience in power system modelling.



## Cost Recovery

EAF service costs will be recovered using a **fee-for-service arrangement** under a standard contract between the OEM and AEMO (direct).



## Information Collection

**Information** (i.e. models, documents) provided for the assessment **is not shared outside the specialist team** without prior OEM permission.



# Standard EAF assessment details

Bryan Li

Principal Engineer - Technical Solutions

# Standard EAF assessment



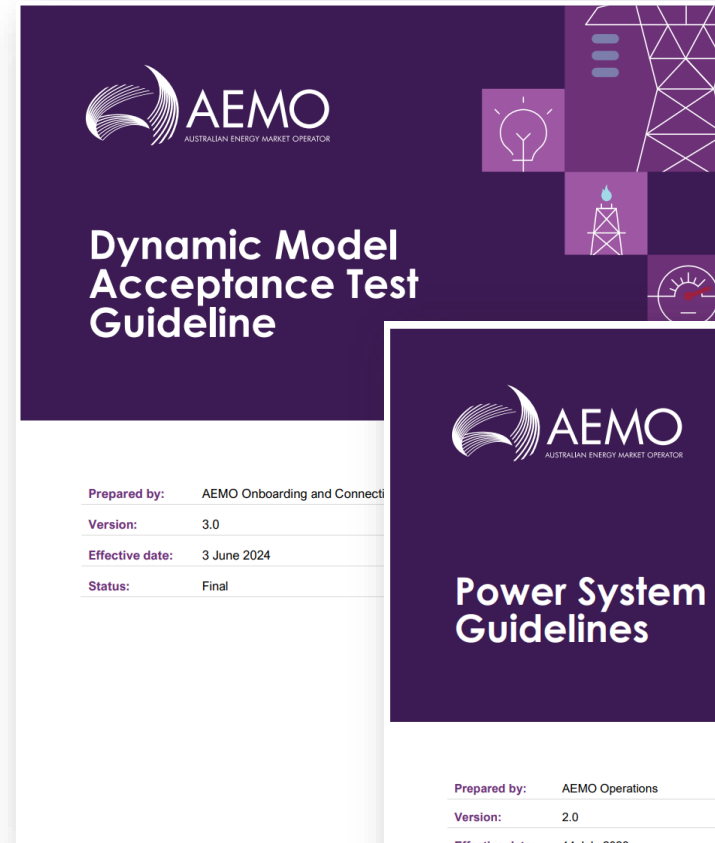
Documentation checks



Model quality checks



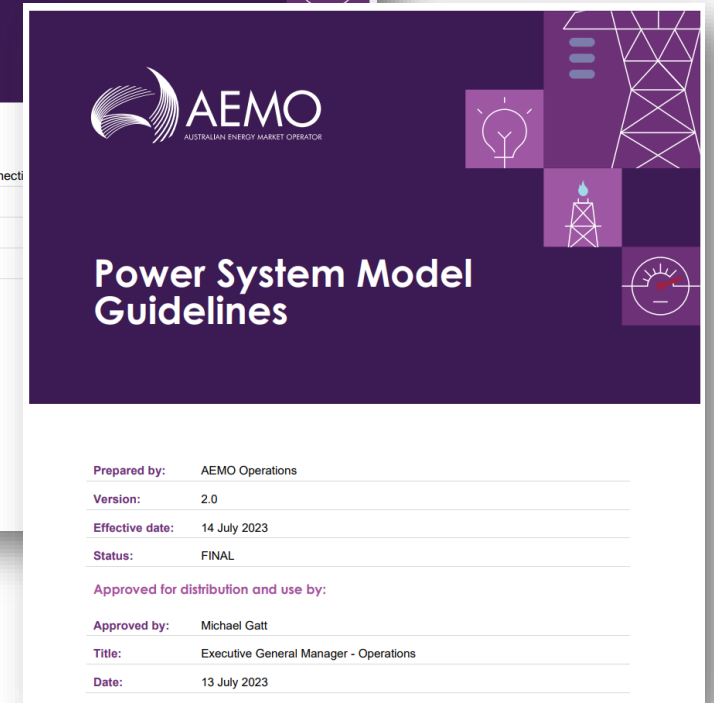
Model performance checks



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## Dynamic Model Acceptance Test Guideline

Prepared by: AEMO Onboarding and Connect  
Version: 3.0  
Effective date: 3 June 2024  
Status: Final



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## Power System Model Guidelines

Prepared by: AEMO Operations  
Version: 2.0  
Effective date: 14 July 2023  
Status: FINAL

Approved for distribution and use by:

Approved by: Michael Gatt  
Title: Executive General Manager - Operations  
Date: 13 July 2023

# Standard EAF assessment



## Documentation checks

### Document assessment includes:



Product specifications and data sheet alignment with model capability



Transfer Function (TF) Block Diagrams and model manuals include complete and transparent control representation



Detailed modelling description provided in manuals



Documentation is consistent across manuals, PSS®E / PSCAD™ parameter settings and mapping, and is aligned with the models



Validation reports demonstrate model accuracy



SCR confirmation letter confirms low SCR operation

# Standard EAF assessment



## Model quality checks

### Assessment of PSS®E and PSCAD™ model:



Model aggregation methodology is compliant against the PSMG



PSS®E and PSCAD™ model structures are correctly configured



Executable models are uniquely defined and portable



Parameters and monitoring signals are accessible and configurable



Simulation parameter ranges aligned with DMAT requirements



Critical components are explicitly modelled

## Standard EAF assessment



# Model performance checks

Simulation of PSS®E and PSCAD™ models to validate:



Stable and robust dynamic response across various operating conditions



Compliance with key access standard performance requirements



Consistent EMT and RMS model behaviour



Capability of stable operation under very low SCR condition

**AEMO will work with OEMs to define plant configuration and test conditions (i.e. Pmax, SCR, X/R) to ensure the assessments are representative of the OEM's typical project conditions.**



# Optional scope details

Bryan Li

Principal Engineer - Technical Solutions

# Optional Scope

*OEMs can request optional value add services, additional to the standard EAF assessment*



## Wide Area Integration & Assessment

Confirm models can be successfully integrated into:

- PSS®E OPDMS snapshots
- PSCAD™ wide area model



## Benchmarking Studies

Confirm model performance between versions:

- Documentation review
- A subset of the standard EAF assessments



## Knowledge sharing webinar

Share outcomes and learnings of the assessment with selected industry participants, including AEMO, NSPs and connection applicants.



# Certificate

Bryan Li

Principal Engineer - Technical Solutions

# Certificate

- Demonstrated the model **meets certain performance and robustness criteria**.
- The certificate will be considered to reduce the scope associated with **connection assessments**.

The certificate will include:



Model product name and version



Plant configuration and network conditions



Scope and services performed



Identification and explanation of non-critical issues



Assessment outcomes

# Certificate validity

The certificate is only valid for the model version, plant configuration and network conditions assessed.

Re-assessment scope will be:

- Pragmatic and fit-for-purpose,
- Developed in collaboration with OEMs,
- Minimised by leveraging previous assessment.

Scenarios where models will need to be re-assessed:



If material changes to the model are made to address bugs or performance.



If additional functionality or features are added to the model.



If the model is to be recognised under different operating modes, plant configurations or network conditions.

# Next steps

This presentation has been a high-level summary of the Early Assessment Framework Guideline.



AEMO encourages you to review the [guideline](#) in more detail.



An email will be sent following this webinar with a link to the guideline document, presentation and webinar recording.

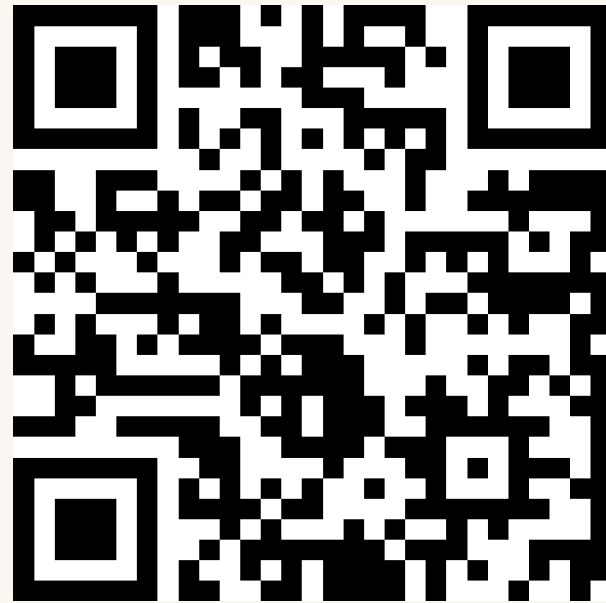


A [webinar feedback survey](#) is available in the chat and will also be sent in the email.



If you have any further questions, or would like to engage with AEMO on an EAF assessment, please reach out at [contact.connections@aemo.com.au](mailto:contact.connections@aemo.com.au)

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