

# Connections Reform Initiative Webinar Series



# Pre-Application Support Services Guideline

Industry Webinar  
24 February 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.

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RAP



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# Agenda

1. Welcome & objectives
2. Pre-Application background and objectives
3. Guideline and process overview
4. Optional package details
5. Q&A

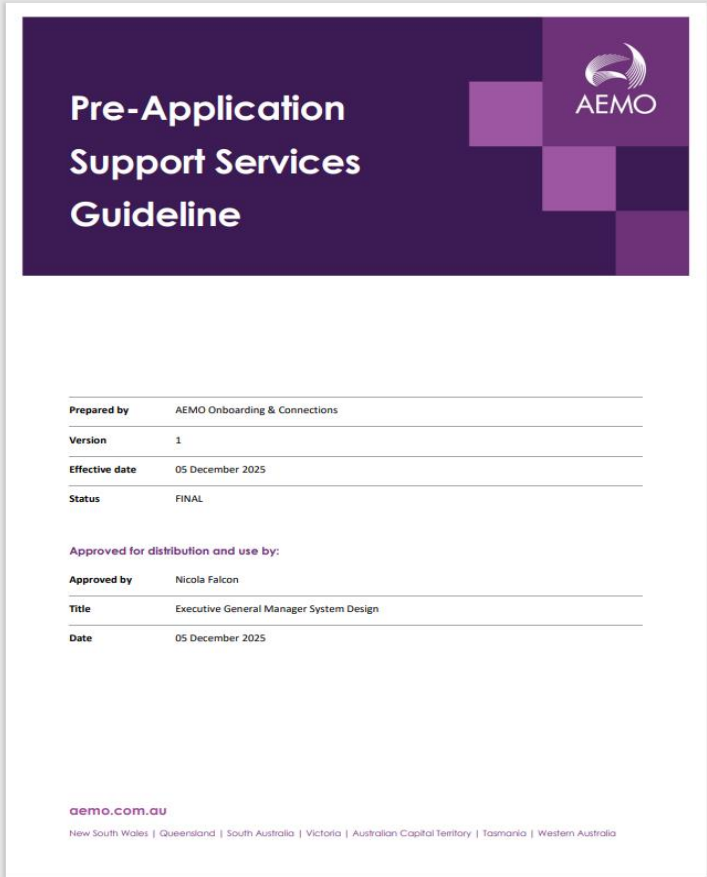
# Today's objectives



Present overview of the *Pre-Application Support Services Guideline*



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



**Pre-Application Support Services Guideline**

**AEMO**

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**Prepared by** AEMO Onboarding & Connections

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**Version** 1

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**Effective date** 05 December 2025

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**Status** FINAL

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**Approved for distribution and use by:**

**Approved by** Nicola Falcon

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**Title** Executive General Manager System Design

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**Date** 05 December 2025

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New South Wales | Queensland | South Australia | Victoria | Australian Capital Territory | Tasmania | Western Australia

Read the Guideline [here](#)



# Pre-Application background and objectives

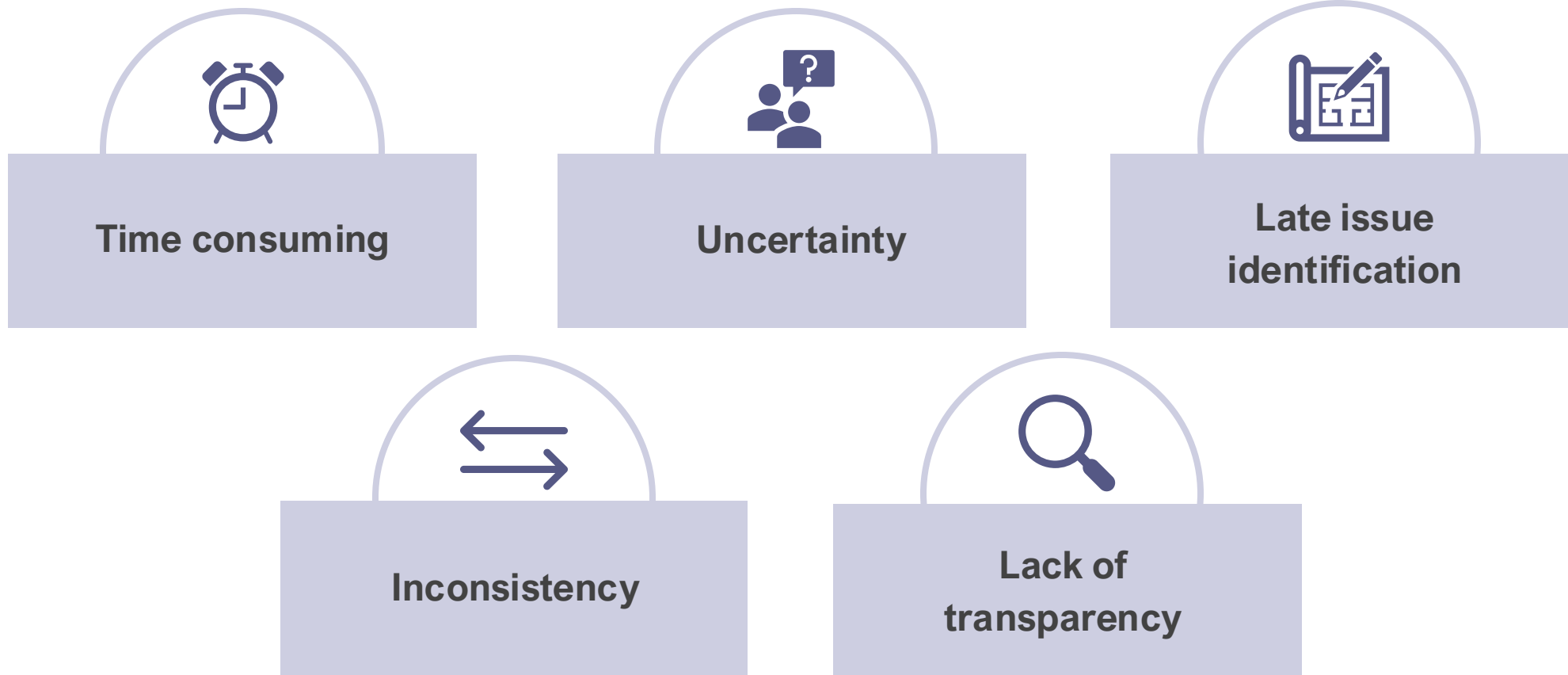
Erika Twining

Connections Reform Manager

# Pre-Application background

*Growing volumes and emerging technologies in the connections pipeline demand a connections process that is fit for purpose.*

Industry feedback highlighted several challenges with the current application process:



# Purpose and objectives of Pre-Application

**Purpose** – To provide industry with a structured opportunity and framework to engage and collaborate early with AEMO and the NSP.

## Pre-application Support Services objectives:



Incorporate system security considerations into plant design.



Reduce uncertainty and risk to the Connection Applicant.



Early identification and resolution of technical issues reducing later rework.



Facilitate procurement of long lead time plant.



Confirm model usability and robustness.



In principle agreement on key performance standard clauses

# Consultation phases

*An iterative consult was taken to ensure the pre-application process is fit-for-purpose and reflective of industry's needs.*



## Phase 1: Concept

**2023 - 2024**

- Workshops explored the concept of pre-application
- Potential optional pre-application packages



## Phase 2: Co-design

**2024 - 2025**

- Pre-application Focus Group
- Development of the process flow diagram
- Draft guideline



## Phase 3: Implementation

**2025 - 2026**

- AEMO reviews
- NSP engagement
- Final Guideline published **11 December 2025**
- Industry webinar 24 February 2026



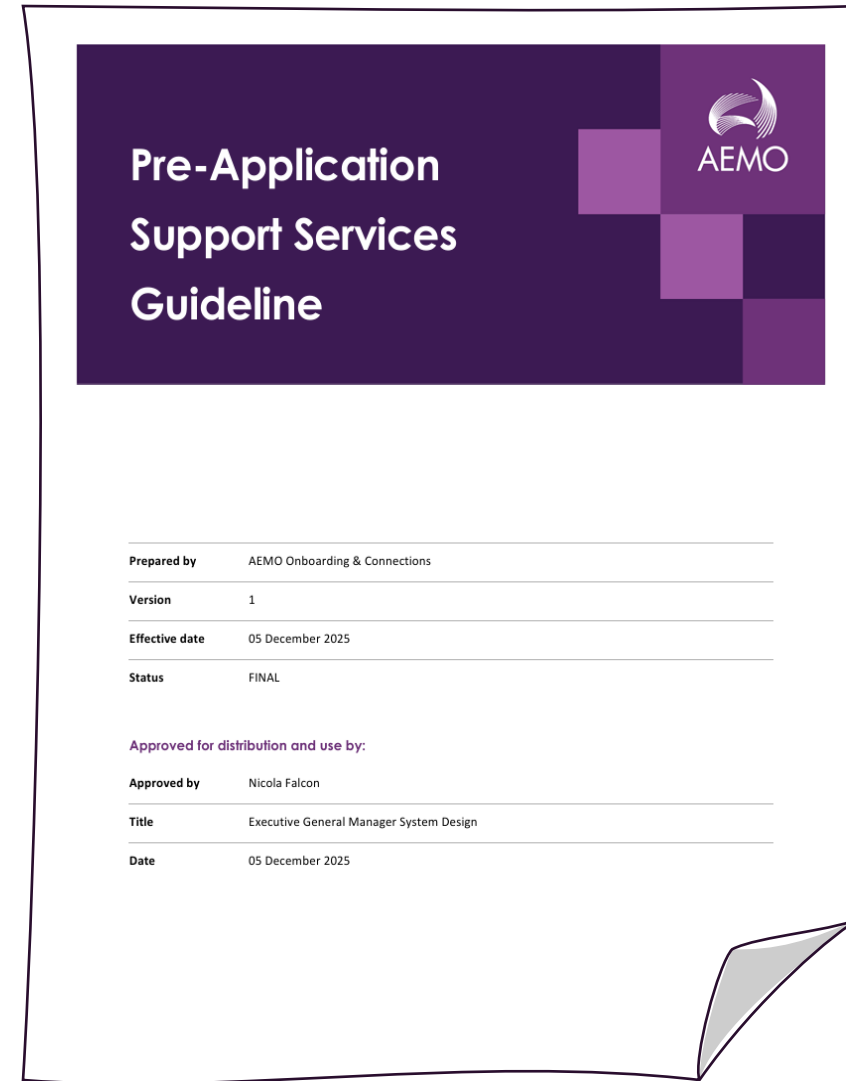
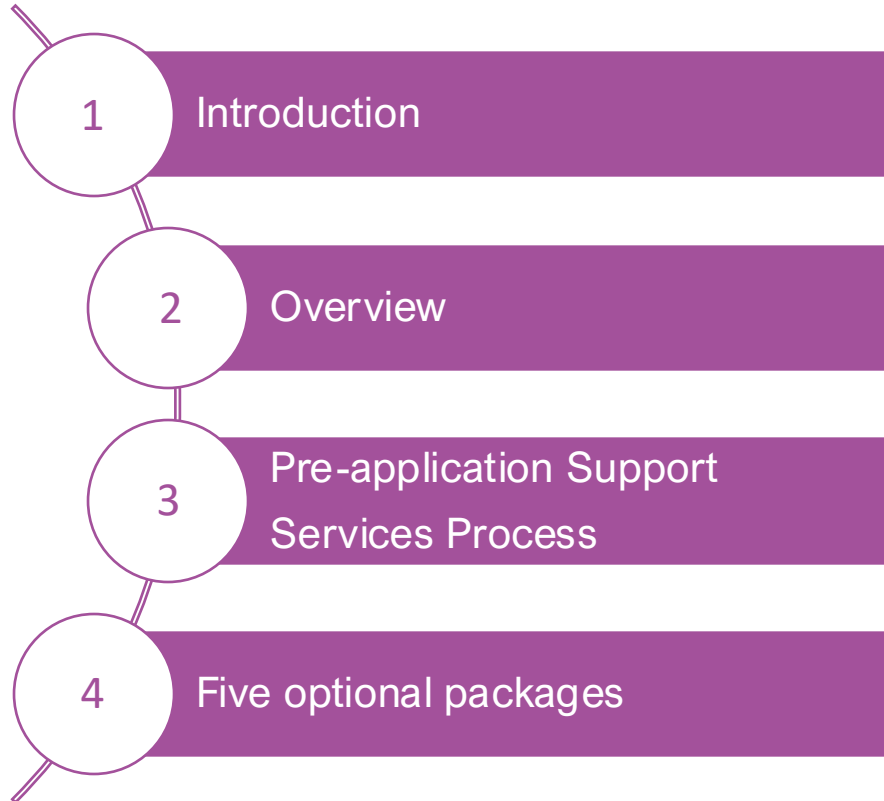
# Guideline and process overview

Erika Twining

Connections Reform Manager

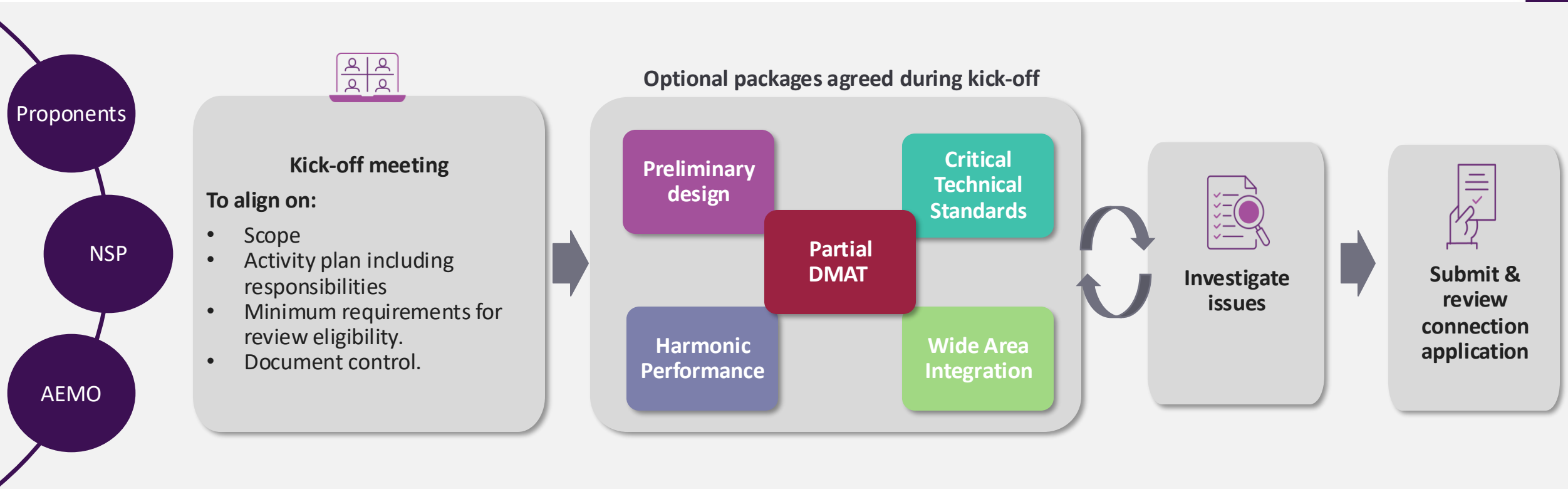
# Pre-Application Support Services Guideline

The Pre-Application Support Services Guideline outlines the process and different types of support services packages.



# Pre-application process

A project will progress through several phases during the pre-application process:



# Cost Recovery

AEMO costs for providing pre-application services will be recovered using a **fee-for-service arrangement** under:

- a standard contract between the Connection Applicant and AEMO (direct); or
- the NSP connection services agreement (via NSP)



## Fees

- Calculate using connections charge-out rates



## Standard Contract

- Scope
- Fee schedule
- Obligation to pay agreed fees



# Optional package details

Danushka Sooriyadasa  
Connections Engineering Manager

# Pre-Application Packages



## Preliminary Design Review



### Objectives

Preliminary feedback from NSP and AEMO on:

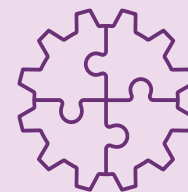
- Voltage control strategy
- Reactive power capability
- Network congestion impact
- Operational requirements
- Market registration requirements

In principle agreement on:

- Basis of design
- S5.2.5.1 performance standard
- Approach to system strength mitigation

### Connection applicant input

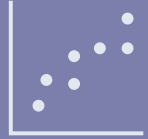
- Input data assumptions
- Plant configuration
- Preliminary control strategy
- System strength mitigation strategy
- Load flow model
- PQ capability curve



### Target Technical Requirements

- S5.2.5.1
- S5.2.5.2
- S5.2.5.12
- S5.2.5.15

# Pre-Application Packages



## Harmonic Performance Review



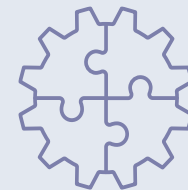
### Objectives

In principle agreement on:

- Whether harmonic filter is needed
- S5.2.5.2 performance standard

### Connection Applicant input:

- Input data assumptions
- Detailed load flow model
- Plant emissions information
- Harmonic studies
- Preliminary design of filter



### Target Technical Requirements

- S5.2.5.2
- (impacts) S5.2.5.1

# Pre-Application Packages



## Partial DMAT Review

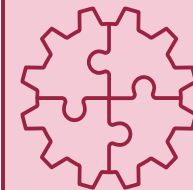


### Objectives

- Confirm suitability of models and preliminary tuning based on DMAT results.
- Confirm satisfactory benchmarking between models.

### Connection applicant input

- PSS®E model and RUG
- PSCAD™/EMTDC™ model and RUG
- DMAT reports
- Benchmarking of models



### Target Technical Requirements

- DMAT Guideline
- PSMG
- S5.2.5.4, S5.2.5.5, S5.2.5.5A, S5.2.5.13

# Pre-Application Packages



## Critical Technical Standards Review

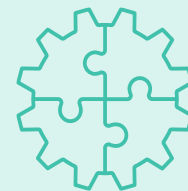


### Objectives

- Agree study approach and scope
- Confirm suitability of model tuning and performance for **critical technical standards**.

### Connection Applicant input

- Voltage control strategy
- Explanation of tuning approach
- PSCAD™/EMTDC™ model and RUG
- SMIB studies for critical technical standards



### Target Technical Requirements

- S5.2.5.3, S5.2.5.4, S5.2.5.5
- S5.2.5.5A, S5.2.5.13, S5.2.5.15

# Pre-Application Packages



## Wide Area Integration & Assessment

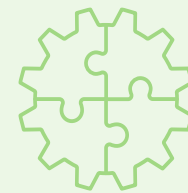


### Objectives

- Confirm models can be integrated into:
  - NEM wide area models used by AEMO and NSP
  - AEMO Modelling Platform
- Confirm plant is stable and can operate in the NEM

### Connection applicant input

- PSS®E model and RUG
- PSCAD™/EMTDC™ model and RUG



### Target Technical Requirements

- PSMG
- S5.2.5.5 (PSCAD™ only)
- S5.2.5.13

# Pre-application outcome

- **In-principle agreement** on plant design and critical performance standards.
- Agreements reached in pre-application stage should be captured in the **solution register** to maintain continuity in application stage.
- Consideration will be given to works completed in pre-application when scoping the **Connection Application assessment**.

Scenarios where performance may need to be re-negotiated:



If material changes to plant design is made.



If network changes or augmentations are occurred.



Another project close to proposed connection becomes committed.



If there is a rule change which impacts performance requirements.

# Next steps

This presentation has been a high-level summary of the **Pre-Application Support Services 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.



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



If you have any further questions we were unable to address today, please contact us on [contact.connections@aemo.com.au](mailto:contact.connections@aemo.com.au)

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