

Pre-Application Webinar - Question and Answer (Q&A)

This Q&A document has been prepared following the [pre-application webinar](#) and brings together responses to questions raised by participants during the session which we were unable to address in the available time. The questions and answers are intended to provide additional clarity on the topics discussed during the webinar and to support stakeholders in their understanding of the [Pre-Application Support Services Guideline](#).

If you have any further questions regarding pre-application, we encourage you to contact AEMO on contact.connections@aemo.com.au.

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- 1. It is unlikely that a proponent will have site specific models tuned pre-application. Once models are tuned, the full package might as well be submitted (similar to PLQ's pre-FIA approach). What is the intended role of the pre-application process in this context?**

Pre-application packages can be staged and completed when required models are available. For example, the connection applicant may choose to only submit a PSCAD model for pre-application assessment and then provide the PSSE model (and documentation) once tuning has been confirmed. This will reduce rework if the model needs to be retuned to meet performance requirements.

- 2. Why would the scope split between AEMO and the NSP change across projects?**

Pre-application scope will vary across projects so work to be undertaken by each party will be dependent on scope. In addition, scope split may change depending on resource availability.

- 3. Can we agree envelopes (SCR/X/R, fault levels, impedance range, operating modes) are stable enough for early decisions?**

By the time a project is ready for pre-application, the expectation is that site specific details are available. If the project is to be assessed across a range of network conditions, such as SCRs, the scope of work will significantly increase.

4. Which items can you confidently support early (HF, transformers) and what reliance level do you expect?

To receive an in-principle agreement, the design submitted during the pre-application stage should be an accurate reflection of the plant. If there are significant changes in the data as the project progresses from pre-application to application stage, this may require performance standards to be re-negotiated. Ideally, to achieve an efficient outcome from the pre-application service, a reasonable level of confidence in design data is required.

5. There has been several examples of 'optional' items becoming a mandatory part of the connection process; how will this be different? What improvements in connection timeframes and certainty are being targeted as outcomes?

The pre-application stage is not mandated under the National Electricity Rules and has been developed in response to industry feedback to facilitate early engagement with the NSP and AEMO.

The optional pre-application process aims to improve timeframes and certainty by identifying and resolving key technical issues earlier, reducing rework during the application stage. Agreements reached will be captured in the solution register, supporting continuity during the Application phase.

6. Can this separate submission to AEMO delay the process, requiring additional negotiation and tuning exercises on the concept design, which may still change at the R1 stage?

The purpose of pre-application phase is for the connection applicant to engage and collaborate early with AEMO and the NSP, to identify and resolve technical issues, reducing later rework. Once the pre-application scope of work has been completed, the performance agreements will be captured in the solution register. This will maintain continuity during the application phase and consideration will be provided to works already completed to minimise time impacts.