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Australian Energy Regulator
Contribution Determination for 2025–26

1. On 12 November 2021, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) was appointed as a Regulator under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (NSW)* (the EII Act).
2. Under section 56 of the EII Act, the AER is required to make an annual contribution determination in which it determines the amount that is required for the Scheme Financial Vehicle to be able to make payments from the Electricity Infrastructure Fund (the Fund) that are required under the EII Act, including an amount for the Scheme Financial Vehicle to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

AER’s Contribution Determination

3. On 7 February 2025, the AER made the following contribution determination under section 56(1) of the EII Act.
 - a. The total contribution amount for 2025–26 is \$493.18 million.¹
 - b. The minimum prudent cash balance target for 2025–26 is \$269.10 million. As the Fund will recover a minimum prudent cash balance of \$213.98 million in 2024–25, the Scheme Financial Vehicle must recover an adjustment of \$55.12 million in 2025–26 to reach the target level.
 - c. The amounts required to be paid by each NSW Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) are:
 - i. Ausgrid \$212.77 million.
 - ii. Endeavour Energy \$184.71 million.
 - iii. Essential Energy \$95.70 million.

Details of how the contribution determination was made

4. The AER made this contribution determination in accordance with the process and methodology set out in its Contribution Determination Guideline (Guideline).²
5. The methodology the AER applied in making this contribution determination is set out in its Contribution Determination Model (Model).³
6. Schedule 1 shows a public version of the completed Model and contains the underlying data inputs provided by the NSW scheme entities. The AER used these data inputs to calculate the contribution determination amounts.⁴ In line with the process set out in the Guideline, the AER undertook a quality assurance check of all data provided.

¹ This number is rounded to two decimal places, but please note that the unrounded number will be implemented.

² <https://www.aer.gov.au/industry/registers/resources/guidelines/nsw-contribution-determination-guideline>

³ As above.

⁴ The public version of the contribution determination model contains limited data. This is because much of the data underlying the AER’s contribution determination relates to ongoing competitive tender processes. These processes could be compromised if the data were published. However, we intend for this data to be published once it becomes historical and no longer relevant to ongoing tender processes.

Matters taken into account

7. In making a contribution determination, the AER must take into account the matters listed in clause 35 of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021 (NSW)* (EII Regulation). Table 1 summarises how the AER took these matters into account.

Table 1

Matters listed in regulation 35	How the AER has taken the matter into account
35(1)...(a) the need to limit variability in contribution determinations from year to year, ...	The AER's methodology, as set out in the Guideline, ⁵ manages variability by applying a 3-year rolling average of net costs. ⁶
<p>...(b) the equitable allocation of the contribution determination between distribution network service providers based on each provider's—</p> <p>(i) volumetric energy delivery in the previous financial year, and</p> <p>(ii) peak demand in the previous financial year, ...</p>	The AER's methodology for apportioning costs across NSW DNSPs is set out in the Guideline and is based on volumetric energy and peak demand metrics. ⁷ This methodology apportions the costs of long-term energy service agreements on an energy delivered metric basis, and all remaining costs elements on a peak demand metric basis.
... (c) the need for the scheme financial vehicle to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due, ...	<p>The AER's methodology, set out in the Guideline,⁸ addresses this issue in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contribution determination reflects the Scheme Financial Vehicle's forthcoming liabilities in that it is based on a 3-year rolling average of forecast net costs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each scheme entity provided the AER with estimates of costs under its responsibility for 2 leading years and 1 lagging year. ○ This captures the costs of long-term energy service agreements, payments to network operators and the administration costs of scheme entities.⁹ • The contribution determination includes a minimum prudent cash balance allowance, which is required under section 56(3)(a) of the EII Act.

⁵ AER, [Contribution Determination Guideline](#), August 2024, chapter 3.

⁶ AER, [Contribution Determination Guideline](#), August 2024, chapter 5.2.

⁷ AER, [Contribution Determination Guideline](#), August 2024, chapter 5.4 and 5.5.

⁸ AER, [Contribution Determination Guideline](#), August 2024, chapter 3.

⁹ AER, [Contribution Determination Guideline](#), August 2024, figure 1.

Matters listed in regulation 35	How the AER has taken the matter into account
...(d) information provided to the regulator by the consumer trustee, the financial trustee, the infrastructure planner or the Tribunal. ...	The AER made its contribution determination using data provided by the NSW scheme entities and NSW DNSPs.

Consultations with the Financial Trustee

8. In making its contribution determination, the AER consulted with the Financial Trustee as required by section 56(6)(a) of the EII Act.

Schedule 1 – Public version of contribution determination model

AER contribution determination model
2025–26

Legend		
Key:	Annual SFV input	
	Calculation	
	N/A	
Each worksheet includes space for commentary and notes (in column W)		
Contents		
Link to Guideline		
https://www.aer.gov.au/networks-pipelines/guidelines-schemes-models-reviews/nsw-contribution-determination-guideline		
End		

Version Record	Date	Description
0	May-22	Draft contribution determination model for public consultation
0.1	Jun-22	Draft contribution determination model for public consultation revised
1.0	Oct-22	Contribution determination model for AER use after minor revisions
1.1	Jun-23	Draft contribution determination model for public consultation
1.2	Aug-23	Final contribution determination model following public consultation
2.0	Jul-24	Draft contribution determination model for public consultation
2.1	Aug-24	Final contribution determination model following public consultation

AER contribution determination model - 2025–26

Table 1 Contribution determination for target year (t)	Unit	2025–26	Notes
Ausgrid	\$millions	212.77	
Endeavour Energy	\$millions	194.71	
Essential Energy	\$millions	95.70	
Contribution determination amount	\$millions	493.18	
Minimum prudent balance allowance	\$millions	269.10	
End			

AER contribution determination model - 2025-26

financial

Table 1 Interest rate	Source	Unit	Confidentiality claimed re actuals data (2023-24)	Confidentiality claimed re forecast data (2024-25 and beyond)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Notes
Interest rate	SPV	Per cent	No	No				3.10%	4.35%	4.35%						

Table 2 Revenues	Source	Unit	Confidentiality claimed re actuals data (2023-24)	Confidentiality claimed re forecast data (2024-25 and beyond)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Notes
Contribution determinations																
Contribution determination actual revenue	SPV	\$millions	No	No			138.14	341.24								Historical amounts prior to forecast year only
Revenue (excluding contribution determinations)																
LTESA - Generation	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
LTESA - LDS & Firming	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Risk management contracts	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Access fees	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Payments for shortfall in carbon offsets (LTESA for firming infrastructure)	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Revenues from investment activities	SPV	\$millions	No	No		1.57	4.26	9.70	11.18	11.20						
Other revenue	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Total	Calculation	\$millions	No	No		0.00	1.57	4.26	9.70	11.18	11.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 3 Expenditure	Source	Unit	Confidentiality claimed re actuals data (2023-24)	Confidentiality claimed re forecast data (2024-25 and beyond)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Notes
LTESA expenditure																
LTESA - Generation	SPV	\$millions	No	Yes												
LTESA - LDS & Firming	SPV	\$millions	No	Yes			0.00									
Risk management contracts	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Total	Calculation	\$millions	No	Yes		0.00	0.00	0.00								
Payments to network operators																
Payments to network operators	NSW EnCo	\$millions	No	Yes												
Total	Calculation	\$millions	No	Yes		0.00	0.00	0.00								
Administration expenditure																
AER administration costs	AER	\$millions	No	No		0.95	2.87	4.04	4.16	4.29						
Consumer Trustee administration costs	Consumer Trustee	\$millions	No	No		16.00	19.79	24.73	24.74	24.83						
Financial Trustee administration costs	Financial Trustee	\$millions	No	No		0.43	1.44	2.17	1.88	1.95						
SPV administration costs	SPV	\$millions	No	No		1.31	6.32	17.35	20.43	22.37						
IPART administration costs	IPART	\$millions	No	No		0.00	0.24	1.01	1.28	0.63						
EPA administration costs	EPA	\$millions	No	No		0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01						
EnCo administration costs	SPV/NSW EnCo	\$millions	No	No		0.84	0.00	17.60	31.52	24.13						
Total	Calculation	\$millions	No	No		0.00	19.57	30.67	66.91	84.01	78.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other costs																
Access scheme costs (excluding administration costs and community payments)	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Community payments	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
EPA invoices for shortfall in carbon offsets (LTESA for firming infrastructure)	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Interest and finance cost of loans (including additional loans and liquidity facilities)	SPV	\$millions	No	No			0.39	0.39	0.39	0.34						
Other costs	SPV	\$millions	No	No												
Total	Calculation	\$millions	No	No		0.00	0.00	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	Calculation	\$millions	No	Yes		0.00	19.57	31.05								

Table 4 Repayable grant and other loans	Source	Unit	Confidentiality claimed re actuals data (2023-24)	Confidentiality claimed re forecast data (2024-25 and beyond)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Notes
Establishment of NSW grant	SPV	\$millions	Yes	Yes												
Repayment of grant	SPV	\$millions	Yes	Yes												
Need to use grant money (to cover negative liquidity or grant repayments)	Calculation	\$millions	Yes	Yes												
Use of grant to cover under-recovery (and subsequent recovery of funds)	Calculation	\$millions	Yes	Yes												
Use of an additional loan (and subsequent recovery of funds)	SPV	\$millions	Yes	Yes												
Total	Calculation	\$millions	Yes	Yes												

Table 5 Minimum prudent balance	Source	Unit	Confidentiality claimed re actuals data (2023-24)	Confidentiality claimed re forecast data (2024-25 and beyond)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Notes
Adjustment to reach updated minimum prudent balance	SPV	\$millions	No	No			59.92	154.06	55.12							
Minimum prudent balance	Calculation	\$millions	No	No		0.00	0.00	59.92	213.98	269.10						

Table 6 Data on Commonwealth Capacity Investment Scheme (for information)	Source	Unit	Confidentiality claimed re actuals data (2023-24)	Confidentiality claimed re forecast data (2024-25 and beyond)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Notes
Commonwealth Capacity Investment Scheme	SPV	\$millions	Yes	Yes												This data is included for information purposes only and does not form an expense to the NSW electricity consumer.
LTESA - funded by Commonwealth Capacity Investment Scheme	SPV	\$millions	Yes	Yes												

End