

12 March 2026

Lawson Ashburner
Senior Research Economist
Productivity Commission

Dear Lawson,

Re: The harmonisation of EVCI and Additional Points of Supply (APoS) connections

Thank you for your recent request for details from Energy Networks Australia (**ENA**) on the work we've led to harmonise Distribution Network Service Providers (**DNSPs**) connection policies for electric vehicle charging infrastructure (**EVCI**).

ENA represents Australia's electricity transmission and distribution and gas distribution networks. Our members, who provide more than 16 million connections across Australia, are committed to improving efficiencies, reducing costs for consumers, and providing a consistent approach to EVCI installations.

Progress on the National CER Roadmap

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (**DCCEEW**) have developed the [National Consumer Energy Resources \(CER\) Roadmap](#) to promote better coordination and optimisation of CER, which aims to put downward pressure on bills and overall system costs, reduce emissions and broaden access to CER across communities.

ENA is a participating member of DCCEEW's CER Taskforce, and we were pleased to report significant progress delivered throughout 2025 regarding Roadmap Actions P.2.1 and P.2.2.

Specifically, ENA has completed a comprehensive body of work aimed at streamlining and harmonising the connection processes, where safe and practicable, for Additional Points of Supply (**APoS**) across our membership. This framework directly addresses the challenges jurisdictions have highlighted regarding site connections for EV charging.

Strategic approach, expert engagement, and foundational work

To ensure this framework was both practicable and technically robust, ENA engaged **Riccardo Pagliarella**, a consultant with deep expertise in electrical engineering, electric vehicles, distribution networks, and distributed energy resources (**DER**).

Mr. Pagliarella led a rigorous process involving:

- a comprehensive review of all jurisdictional Service Installation Rules (**SIRs**) across Australia
- broad consultation with DNSPs building on inputs from surveys and interviews from external stakeholders such as the Electric Vehicle Council (**EVC**), and
- direct collaboration with the ENA EV Working Group (**EVWG**).

This detailed review identified that while jurisdictional terminologies and rules vary, the underlying safety principles are consistent. This critical finding allowed us to develop guidance for DNSPs to develop more harmonised frameworks going forward that respect local safety legislation while

delivering a more consistent experience for proponents including, but not limited to, charge point operators (**CPOs**).

Early and proactive industry collaboration

Work on APoS harmonisation for the CER Taskforce was able to build on earlier efforts. DNSPs had proactively been seeking to improve clarity around APoS processes for proponents before the National CER Roadmap was developed. This is demonstrated through both individual DNSP actions and effective cross-jurisdictional alignment:

- **Individual DNSP initiatives:** Networks like Ausgrid, Essential Energy, and Energy Queensland have updated connection materials, released dedicated guidelines, introduced fast-track connections for EVCI and integrated prescriptive EV supply equipment (**EVSE**) criteria into manuals to provide upfront transparency and reduce ambiguity for proponents.
- **Cross-jurisdictional alignment:** Working groups in NSW and VIC jurisdictions have actively collaborated to harmonise specific APoS provisions in their SIRs, mostly related to distance requirements.

National coordination and delivering on the CER Roadmap Actions

The consulting work resulted in three comprehensive internal guidance resources for ENA members. These outputs enable our members to construct aligned, consumer-facing processes without compromising local safety obligations and harmonise through future changes to the SIRs.

This body of work equips networks to deliver the following specific improvements:

1. Standardised assessment logic and triage

We developed a strategic framework that moves the industry toward more consistent processes for APoS. By establishing unified triage processes, DNSPs can now offer proponents (such as CPOs) more predictable workflows and clear eligibility criteria that are consistent across jurisdictional borders.

2. Streamlined application interfaces

To directly address the administrative burden on proponents, we have agreed upon a "minimum standard" data collection model. This internal template allows members to harmonise their technical and non-technical questionnaires and aims to ensure that a proponent applying for a connection in Victoria faces a substantially more similar information request to one in New South Wales than previously encountered.

3. Navigating jurisdictional complexity

While preserving the non-negotiable safety requirements of state-based SIRs, we have mapped a pathway to overlay a harmonised application process on top of local technical variations. This ensures that while the technical wiring standards, or SIRs, may differ by state to ensure safety, the customer experience of the approval process becomes increasingly uniform.

Ongoing engagement

By focussing on the increasing connection demand, and by capitalising on the consensus regarding safety principles, we have helped provide guidance to members, aimed at more consistent treatment of EVCI in the future.

ENA members are now reviewing these internal materials to integrate the templates and guidance into their business-as-usual operations. We believe this industry-led approach strikes the right balance between the operational flexibility required by networks and the connection experience



consistency valued by customers. It also progresses DCCEE's commitment to complete the National CER Roadmap Action P.2.3 Future work: implementation of harmonised and streamlined CER connection processes.

We look forward to maintaining this collaborative dialogue through the CER Taskforce but would also be pleased to keep the Productivity Commission informed as we progress.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Arnett, Networks Transition Manager with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Dor Son Tan
Director of Electricity Networks