

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR UPDATE



Changes to Our Connection Policy

From Wednesday, 1 July 2020 there will be changes to the way we assess and manage requests to connect to our network. These changes are aligned with the commencement of the 2020-2025 regulatory control period and the Connection Policy approved by the Australian Energy Regulator.

From this date, connection applications that are received or updated will be assessed and managed in accordance with the new Energex or Ergon Energy Connection Policy for 2020-2025, as approved by the Australian Energy Regulator. The connection offers made to customers from 1 July 2020, including revised or lapsed offers will be made in accordance with the new Connection Policy for 2020-2025.

What do these changes mean for you?

Under the new Energex and Ergon Energy 2020-2025 Connection Policy, residential premises and small business connections (e.g. corner stores, small factories, stand-alone supermarkets and smaller logistics depots) will be classified as small customer connections, with basic connection services being offered where there is an available line supply and it meets the following criteria.

From 1 July, small customer connections for the period 2020-2025 will typically include the connection of:

- residential dwellings and small commercial premises coupled and connected at low voltage or coupled at high voltage and connected at low voltage where the installed capacity is less than 1,000 kVA (1 MVA),
- unmetered supply connections, and
- micro-embedded generating units (as defined in Australian Standard AS/NZS 4777 “Grid connection of energy systems via inverters”) with an installed capacity of less than or equal

to 30 kVA e.g. solar, thermal or wind powered systems, energy storage (e.g. batteries), or hybrid systems (e.g. solar PV plus batteries).

Most small customer connections will only require standard connection assets which we are obligated to provide. However, in some instances, there may need to be changes to the existing connection assets, or an extension to, or augmentation of, the shared distribution network. In these instances, the customer may be required to make a capital contribution towards the costs if they exceed the shared network augmentation charge threshold.

The following thresholds will be adopted based on geographical location:

Location	Maximum Demand
Urban (CBD and urban feeders)	100 amps per phase
Rural (short and long rural feeders)	80 amps per phase
Rural (SWER Lines)	10kVA (approx. 40 amps)

Basic Connections for 2020-2025

- Residential and small commercial premises where supply is available, there is minimal or no augmentation required and a maximum connection capacity as follows:
 - Urban residential or small commercial \leq 100 amps per phase
 - Rural residential or small commercial \leq 80 amps per phase or 10 kVA on SWER lines
 - Urban temporary supply \leq 100 amps per phase
 - Rural temporary supply \leq 80 amps per phase or 10 kVA on SWER lines
- Micro-embedded generation where the network assets in that area have sufficient rated capacity to support the connection, generation is balanced across phases (for multiple installations) and the micro-embedded generating units have a:
 - rated capacity of \leq 10 kVA per phase and an export limit of \leq 5 kW per phase; or
 - rated capacity of $>$ 30 kVA and \leq 100 kVA and an export limit of up to 15 kW; or
 - rated capacity of greater than 100 kVA and \leq 200 kVA and an export limit of up to 30 kW; or
 - rated capacity of \leq 10 kVA per phase and an export limit of up to 2 kW in total where the micro-embedded generating units are connected to a SWER line.
- Connection of certain unmetered supplies, including pre-approved unmetered devices and customer-owned and operated street lights.

Note:

- These alternative offerings align with the proposed Shared Network Augmentation Charge thresholds.
- While micro-embedded generators between 30kVA and 200kVA may be a basic connection this will still require a site-specific enquiry response to be undertaken so as to determine the safe operating parameters for those units (and will form part of the technical obligations under the Model Standing Offer).

For further information in relation to these changes please email assessmentse@energex.com.au

Portal Enhancements

To support the upcoming changes to our Connection Policy, you will see a few minor enhancements to the Electrical Partners Portal from Sunday 28 June 2020. The key changes include:

- Enhanced automation for Connect Applications that meet Model Standing Offer requirements to improve the connection process
- Improved validation for phase selection and inverter phases on embedded generation applications (i.e. the number of phases on-site must equal to or greater than inverter phases)

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