

# Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Register Fact Sheet

27 February 2020



Part of Energy Queensland

## What are Distributed Energy Resources (DER)?

DER refers to small grid connected generating systems (e.g. solar PV, other renewable energy and fossil-fuelled) and battery storage systems up to 30MW. DER can also be known as embedded generation (EG) or local generation.

## What types of DER will be recorded in the DER Register?

The DER Register will record all generating systems up to 30MW that are not required to be formally registered as a generator with AEMO.

Some examples include:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, whether on the building or the ground
- Battery Energy Storage Systems
- Small wind turbines
- Small hydro-electric turbines
- Other renewable energy generating systems
- Gas turbines
- Diesel or petrol generators (grid-connected)

Please note: Generating systems connected to Ergon Energy Network's Isolated Networks will not be recorded in the DER Register; however, a Connect application must still be lodged.

## What is the goal of the DER Register?

The DER Register will give the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and electricity network businesses better visibility of where DER are connected and the attributes of those systems, to help in planning and operating the power grid. It will increase publicly available information on DER connections and the electricity generated in, and exported from, households and businesses, which will enhance power system reliability for Australia.

## Who owns the DER Register?

The national DER Register is owned by AEMO.

## Do I need to register for an AEMO DER Register account?

No, DER installers in Queensland connecting systems to our distribution networks are not required to register for an AEMO DER Register account.

## What are my obligations as a DER applicant/installer?

The new regulations mean applicants will be asked to provide the network business with additional information about what is being installed onsite. We are also asking applicants to be diligent in lodging a new Connect application if there's any change to the key features of the DER such as:

- Inverter brand, model, quantity, or export or other settings;
- Panel brand or quantity;
- Battery system; or
- Number of phases the inverter capacity is connected to.

This will mean that there can be no change from the connection agreement without a new Connect application being lodged and approved.

## When does Ergon Energy Network or Energex send the DER information to AEMO?

Within 20 days of the system commissioning or activation.

## Is personal information about me or other customers being collected for the DER Register?

It is a regulatory requirement ([AEMO DER Register Information Guidelines](#)) for your electricity network service provider to provide data, such as a National Metering Identifier (NMI) and valid Clean Energy Council (CEC) accreditation number. Any use and disclosure of your personal information by AEMO will occur in accordance with this regulatory requirement. Further information about the use of your information by AEMO can be found on [AEMO's website pages](#). All information collected via your Connect application will be done in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and our [Privacy Statement](#).

## ELECTRICAL PARTNERS PORTAL

We are making changes to our Connect application forms (online and hard copy) to collect the mandatory DER information, for both new installations and changes to existing installations. The new changes will come into effect from **1 March 2020**.

Some of the key changes include:

- Our EG Service Selection options have been updated to better reflect the Connect application requests we offer.
- You can now add devices (panels or batteries) to a specific inverter.
- Serial number/s can either be provided at the time of submitting a Connect application or once the inverters have been installed. The Dashboard will continue to display the record until the information is supplied.
- The Power Quality Response Mode is now volt-var and volt-watt response mode as per our grid connection standards.
- The Proposed Export Limitation options list has been expanded to include Full Export, Partial Export or Minimal Export.
- The inverters and panels included in the drop-down boxes are devices from the CEC approved lists and those that meet our grid connection standards.
- Where a NMI has an existing solar installation on site, the new Connect application will display this information. For some historical solar records, you may see the Manufacturer/Model of 'UNKNOWN' if this information was not initially provided. You are not required to update this information.
- Whenever replacing an existing inverter, you will be required to indicate which inverter is to be removed and provide details of the new/replacement system.
- Applicants will be shown an alert in the Portal to advise that the DER information provided as part of the application was submitted to the AEMO DER Register. This will disappear once acknowledged.

## What is not changing?

The collection of the additional DER data does not impact or change:

- Our EG application processes, associated fees or timelines.
- For Energex applications greater than 30kVA, you are still required to submit an Enquiry before the request for a connection can be made.
- Electrical Work Requests are still required, except in the following scenarios:
  - Ergon Energy Network – if adding panels or batteries to an existing solar PV installation (Connect application is still required).
  - Energex – if increasing inverter capacity, replacing an inverter, or adding panels or batteries to an existing solar PV installation (Connect application is still required).
- The requirement to submit an application to install a bi-directional charger for an electric vehicle with vehicle-to-grid capability.
- Contracts will continue to be granted after satisfactory assessment of your application, when relevant.
- The applicant's obligations to lodge a new Connect application if any feature of the proposed installation changes and await our approval before proceeding to install.

Our Electrical Partners Portal Guides will be updated and available from the support section on the Portal from 1 March 2020. You can always refer to them if you need more assistance.

Alternatively, you can contact us on our Electrical Contractors Hotlines:

Ergon Energy - 1800 237 466 (option 2, option 2)

Energex - 1300 762 397 (option 4)

