

# Energex Waiver Register

Ver 10, 06/02/2026



This register is maintained and made publicly available in accordance with clause 5.7 of the Australian Energy Regulator Ring-fencing Guideline Electricity Distribution, Version 3, November 2021

## 5.7 Waiver register

(a) A DNSP must establish, maintain and keep a register of all waivers (including any variation of a waiver) granted to the DNSP by the AER under clause 5 of this Guideline, and must make the register publicly available on its website.

(b) The register established under clause 5.7(a) must include:

i. the description of the conduct to which the waiver or interim waiver applies; and

ii. the terms and conditions of the waiver or interim waiver;

as set out in the AER's written decision, provided by the AER to the DNSP, to grant (or vary) the waiver or interim waiver.

Waiver Description and Conditions	Effective Dates
<p>Waiver from clause 3.1 of the Guideline enable Energex to lease capacity of install six BESS (with a combination of 30kW/60kWh, and 60kW/120kWh systems) mounted on poles under Stage 3 of Energy Queensland's Local Network Battery Plan in Caloundra.</p> <p>The waiver is granted with the following conditions:</p> <p>Provide the AER with information on the contractual relationship between Energex and its retail partners. This information includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the contractual terms and conditions and payments</li><li>2. details of any priority access that the DNSP has to the BESS (such as in the event of a network contingency) and any requirements on the retail partner to maintain minimum charging of the BESS</li><li>3. details of any revenue sharing arrangements in relation to the BESS.</li></ol> <p>Provide the AER with an estimated date of energisation of the BESS. This information should be provided to <a href="mailto:AERringfencing@aer.gov.au">AERringfencing@aer.gov.au</a> within 20 business days of the contract being finalised. Where there are changes in this estimated date, Energex should note this as part of their ring-fencing compliance reporting.</p> <p>Ex-post public sharing of information about the BESS (e.g., location(s), size, status of the project (trial or full scale roll out), intended purposes and uses, a key contact for external stakeholders if they wish to discuss the project further) and any useful learnings that will support the battery market.</p> <p>Provide, on an annual basis, a year-to-year comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the BESS and an explanation of significant differences if observed from one year to another. The independent assessor, as part of annual ring-fencing compliance assessment under clause 6.2 of the guideline, to confirm the annual usage and comparison values are accurate. This includes:</p>	<p>Start Date: 12/01/2025</p> <p>End Date: 31/12/2042</p>

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- The total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the BESS from all services.
- The total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the BESS from direct control services.
- The total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the BESS from other distribution services and other services; and
- A comparison of uses (volume and frequency) of the BESS that confirms the usage by Energex and by its contracted third party, including the initial proposed allocation as a baseline against which the actual usage of the BESS can be compared.

In addition, staff may request that Energex makes available to the AER, information on the performance of the BESS participating in this trial, such as the split between network and market benefits, when this is sought by the AER staff at any time during the tenure of the waiver.

Energex must apply a tariff structure to its retail partners that are leasing BESS unit capacity that is no more favourable in aggregate than the tariff structure it applies to other distribution connected battery operators for a BESS of similar unit capacity having regard to the voltage and location of the connection. This includes, but is not limited to, storage tariffs and other charges for use of the distribution network. Where applicable, an identical tariff structure should be applied.

Energex must include in its ring-fencing compliance reporting, information on any high voltage third-party BESS connection application requests received, and the connection timeframes for those connections. This must include a brief description of the project, whether the request is for a new connection or for the modification of a connection, the location of the connection, and the dates (if any) of the connection enquiry, connection application, connection offer, and commissioning of the final connection. Where a new connection request or a request to modify an existing connection is denied or is only agreed to by Energex in a substantially modified form (i.e. >20% reduction in nominal capacity), an explanation of the grounds for denial or modification must be included.

Waiver from clause 3.1 of the Guideline to lease six energy storage devices under Stage 3 of Energy Queensland's Local Network Battery Plan.

The waiver is granted with the following conditions:

Provide the AER with information on the contractual relationship between Energex and its retail partners. This information includes:

- 1. the contractual terms and conditions and payment
- 2. details of any priority access that the DNSP has to the BESS (such as in the event of a network contingency) and any requirements on the retail partner to maintain minimum charging of the BESS

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- 3. details of any revenue sharing arrangements in relation to the BESS.

Ex-post public sharing of information about the battery (e.g., location(s), size, status of the project (trial or full scale roll out), intended purposes and uses, a key contact for external stakeholders if they wish to discuss the project further) and any useful learnings that will support the battery market. Provide on a calendar basis of a year-to-year comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the battery and an explanation of significant differences if observed from one year to another. The independent assessor, as part of annual ring-fencing compliance assessment under clause 6.2 of the Guideline, to confirm the annual usage and comparison values are accurate. This includes:

- the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the battery from all services.
- the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the battery from direct control services.
- the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the battery from other distribution services and other services; and
- a comparison of uses (volume and frequency) of the battery that confirms the usage by Energex and by its contracted third party, including the initial proposed allocation as a baseline against which the actual usage of the battery can be compared.

Energex must apply a tariff structure to its retail partners that are leasing BESS unit capacity that is no more favourable in aggregate than the tariff structure it applies to other distribution connected battery operators for a BESS of similar unit capacity having regard to the voltage and location of the connection. This includes, but is not limited to, storage tariffs and other charges for use of the distribution network. Where applicable, an identical tariff structure should be applied.

Energex must include in its ring-fencing compliance reporting, information on any high voltage third-party BESS connection application requests received, and the connection timeframes for those connections. This must include a brief description of the project, whether the request is for a new connection or for the modification of a connection, the location of the connection, and the dates (if any) of the connection enquiry, connection application, connection offer, and commissioning of the final connection. Where a new connection request or a request to modify an existing connection is denied or is only agreed to by Energex in a substantially modified form (i.e. >20% reduction in nominal capacity), an explanation of the grounds for denial or modification must be included.

Waiver from clause 3.1 of the Guideline in respect of three battery energy storage systems.

The waiver is granted on the basis that the assets remain excluded from the Regulatory Asset Base, entirely funded from unregulated project funding. However, the AER may monitor the use of the battery for network services and

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expects that data on battery use will inform future cost allocation approaches to energy storage devices.

## Conditions:

- Providing the AER with information on the contractual relationship between Energex and its retail partner. This information includes the contractual terms, conditions and payments. This information should be provided to [AERringfencing@aer.gov.au](mailto:AERringfencing@aer.gov.au) within 20 business days of the contract being finalised. Where there are changes in this contractual arrangement, the AER should be notified within 20 business days. We acknowledge the commercially sensitive nature of this information and will treat this information accordingly, noting our policies regarding information privacy and disclosure of information.
- Ex-post public sharing of information about the battery (e.g., location(s), size, intended purposes and uses, approved cost allocation method, and a key contact for external stakeholders if they wish to discuss the project further) and any useful learnings from the battery usage that will support the battery market.
- Provision on an annual basis of a year-to-year comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the battery and an explanation of significant differences if observed from one year to another. The independent assessor, as part of annual ring-fencing compliance assessment to confirm the annual usage volumes are accurate.

Waiver from clauses 3.1 and 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of the Guideline for DNSP-led projects that meet the classes and criteria of this waiver.

The scope of this class waiver is limited to DNSP-led projects where the battery asset is funded under the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar Program (administered by the Business Grants Hub or ARENA), where:

- a) the asset is wholly excluded from the DNSP's RAB; or
- b) what is allocated to the DNSP's RAB is only the part of the total cost of the asset that reflects the proportionate share (that relates to direct control services) of the total quantified benefit that is forecast at the time the investment decision is made, where:
  - i. prior to the RAB allocation at the DNSP's next regulatory proposal, the DNSP includes in its regulatory proposal evidence, and a report from an independent auditor, that confirms compliance with this provision b);
  - ii. the DNSP may use the Government contribution to offset costs (regulated or unregulated) either partially or fully but may not exceed the total cost allocation to a particular stack (regulated or unregulated);

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- iii. the total cost of the battery allocated to the RAB must be an amount equal to or less than the forecast network benefit; and
- iv. definitions:
  - **the total quantified benefit** is the sum of both the forecast network benefit (quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset for direct control services) and the forecast non-network benefit (quantified benefit accruing to the DNSP derived from the deployment of the asset for other distribution service and other services) over its economic life.

## Criteria

The following criteria apply to projects that fall within class (b):

1. A DNSP must comply with the Cost Allocation Principles that require a DNSP to appropriately allocate and attribute costs for use of the asset between direct control services, other distribution services, and other services.
2. A DNSP must provide, as part of that DNSP's independently audited annual ring-fencing compliance report that is required under clause 6.2 if the Guideline.
  - a. the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset or all services over the most recent financial year;
  - b. the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset from direct control services over the most recent financial year;
  - c. the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset from other distribution services and other services over the most recent financial year; and
  - d. a comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the battery that confirms the usage by the DNSP and usage by its retail partner (or other third party), including the initial proposed allocation as a baseline against which actual usage of the assets can be compared.

The following criteria will apply to projects which fall within class (a) or (b):

3. A DNSP must provide the AER with information as to the terms and conditions of the contracts entered into with third parties for the leasing of battery capacity. This information should include:
  - a. the name of the contracting party or parties;
  - b. the volume of capacity (in kW or kWh) leased to that party or parties;
  - c. the price the capacity is leased for; and
  - d. which party controls the operation of the battery and on what terms.

Waiver from the obligation to comply with clause 4.2 of the Ring-fencing Guideline (functional separation) to allow Ergon Energy to contract with AEMO to provide RERT services via voltage management.

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The scope of the class waiver is limited to the following pre-conditions:

- DNSPs that negotiate with AEMO to enter into, and/or enter into, a RERT Panel Agreement with AEMO for the provision of short notice reserve via voltage management pursuant to rule 3.20.2 of the National Electricity Rules and clause 6 of the RERT Guidelines.
- DNSPs must not contract with AEMO to recover payments for pre-activation of reserve.
- If the DNSP's RERT Panel Agreement with AEMO ceases, the DNSP will no longer qualify for the class waiver (unless, and until, the DNSP commences negotiation to enter into a further RERT Panel Agreement with AEMO). For clarity, this class waiver expires on 15 April 2025, and will not apply to any RERT Panel Agreement (pre-existing or otherwise) beyond this date.
- DNSPs that meet the precondition of providing the AER with a copy of the RERT Panel Agreement entered into with AEMO.
  - Where possible, the RERT Panel Agreement should be emailed to [AERRingfencing@aer.gov.au](mailto:AERRingfencing@aer.gov.au) immediately, or if it is being negotiated, within 20 business days of the agreement being finalised. The AER will treat this information as commercially sensitive and note our policies regarding information privacy and disclosure of information.

End Date: 15/04/2025

The class waiver is subject to the following conditions:

- DNSPs participating in the class waiver must provide the AER with quarterly performance reports, where RERT has been provided in that quarter, detailing:
  - the number of instances the DNSP provided short notice reserve to AEMO in a quarter (i.e. the number of times the reserve was activated by AEMO);
  - the volume (MW) of reserve provided in each instance that the DNSP provided short notice reserve to AEMO; and
  - the revenue received for each instance that the DNSP provided short notice reserve to AEMO.

These quarterly performance reports will be published on the AER website.

- DNSPs must notify the AER if the DNSP receives:
  - notification from a customer about any adverse impacts of the DNSP's provision of RERT services via voltage management; or
  - any other customer complaints relating to the quality of supply that may be associated with the provision of RERT services via voltage management.

Start Date: 02/06/2022

Waiver from clause 3.1 of the Guideline to allow Energex to lease the excess capacity from up to 35 batteries to Origin Energy. The waiver is granted on the

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<p>basis that the assets remain excluded from the Regulatory Asset Base and subject to the conditions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing the AER with information on the contractual relationship between Energex and Origin Energy. This information includes the contractual terms, conditions and payments. This information should be provided to <a href="mailto:AERRingfencing@aer.gov.au">AERRingfencing@aer.gov.au</a> within 20 business days of the contract being finalised. Where there are changes in this contractual arrangement, the AER should be notified within 20 business days. We acknowledge the commercially sensitive nature of this information and will treat this information accordingly, noting our policies regarding information privacy and disclosure of information.</li><li>• Ex-post public sharing of information about the battery (e.g., location(s), size, intended purposes and uses, approved cost allocation method, and a key contact for external stakeholders if they wish to discuss the project further) and any useful learnings from the battery usage that will support the battery market.</li><li>• Provide on an annual basis a comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the battery that confirms and differentiates between Energex network usage and spare capacity leased to Origin Energy, and an explanation of any differences between forecast and actual usage. The independent assessor, as part of the annual ring-fencing compliance assessment, is to confirm the comparison is accurate.</li></ul>	End Date: 30/06/2035
<p>Waiver from the obligation under clauses 3.1 and 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the Guideline in relation to the prospective reclassification of the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• emergency recoverable works;</li><li>• public lighting and nightwatchman lights;</li><li>• high load escorts;</li><li>• property services,</li><li>• network related training courses;</li><li>• rental and hire services;</li><li>• sale of inventory.</li></ul>	Start Date: 18/12/2017  End Date: 30/06/2020

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Waiver from the obligation under clause 4.2.3 to allow them to continue use Energex and Ergon Energy branding on uniforms and fleet used in the provision of the following other services:

- test, inspect and calibrate services;
- contracting services to other network service providers;
- operation and maintenance of customer assets;
- equipment services;
- training to external parties;
- type 1-4 metering services.

Start Date: 18/12/2017

End Date: 31/12/2019

Waiver from the obligation to comply with clause 3.1 of the Guideline so that Energex may novate existing contracts for Other Services to Energex's affiliated entity.

Start Date: 18/12/2017

End Date: 30/06/2018

For further information or feedback, please email to: [ring.fencing@energyq.com.au](mailto:ring.fencing@energyq.com.au)