



Ausgrid's 2029-34 Regulatory Reset

Ausgrid operates the electricity distribution network that powers the homes and businesses of more than 4 million Australians living and working from the Sydney CBD to the Upper Hunter.

Every five years, Ausgrid is required to submit a plan to the national regulator for electricity and gas networks, the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**), detailing our proposed services, costs, and prices for the next five years. The AER's role is to review our proposal to ensure it reflects the services our customers value at the most efficient cost. It then determines how much revenue we can recover from our customers over the 5-year period. This process is known as a 'regulatory reset'.

We have started planning for our next regulatory reset, which will cover the period from 1 July 2029 to 30 June 2034. The Framework and Approach (**F&A**) process is the first formal step of the regulatory reset process. The F&A process involves the AER determining the boundary between which services Ausgrid may provide and which are those better delivered through competitive markets. As part of this process, the AER will also decide whether all customers or only some customers should pay for the services Ausgrid provides.

Consultation on potential new services

Ausgrid is seeking views on the potential new services it would like to provide to customers over the 2029-34 period and how these services should be funded. Stakeholder views will help us to finalise our F&A request to the AER, which will be submitted by the end of October 2026.

To help us prepare this request, we have developed a Framework and Approach Consultation Paper with the two other NSW electricity distribution businesses, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy, to seek stakeholder views. While this Consultation Paper has been developed jointly, each business will be considering the new services they would like to provide, and different businesses may seek to provide services in different ways to meet the needs of their network and customers.

Ausgrid is considering proposing to the AER that they change how they classify four services to customers over the 2029 to 2034 period. These proposed changes reflect the transition in how our customers are using, generating and sharing energy and our views on the role we can play in supporting our customers. The changes include allowing Ausgrid to:

- Install kerbside electric vehicle (**EV**) charging infrastructure without an AER waiver;
- Lease out spare capacity on network batteries without an AER waiver;
- Rollout Local Energy Precincts, such as our Community Power Network, without an AER waiver; and
- Implement tailored data centre augmentations through a negotiated services approach.

Providing feedback on potential new energy services

Submissions on the Consultation Paper can be submitted via our [online portal](#). Submissions will close at **11:59pm, Friday 4 September 2026**.

We will also be hosting an online webinar about the potential new services we would like to provide at **2:45pm to 3:45pm on Wednesday 19 August**. You can [register here](#) for this webinar.

Potential new energy services for customers

Service	Description	Change proposed	Customer benefit
Providing access to DNSP- owned assets			
EV charging infrastructure 	- Kerbside alternating current EV chargers, which third parties can then use to provide EV charging services to customers. - The cost of the chargers would be funded by all customers.	Enabling third parties (e.g. retailers, e-mobility service providers) to access distribution network owned EV chargers to provide charging services to customers, without the need for additional AER approval.	- This change will enable more EV chargers to be rolled out, which will support EV take up. - This will enable more customers to save from EVs and provide lower network charges for all customers through the increased use of the network.
Distributed batteries 	- Small to medium scale batteries up to 5MW connected to distribution networks. 5-20% of the battery cost would be funded by all customers, with the remainder to be funded by lease fees paid by third parties.	Enabling distribution networks to lease out spare capacity on distribution network owned batteries to third parties (e.g. retailers), without the need for additional AER approval.	This change will enable a faster, larger scale roll-out of distributed batteries, enabling more customers to benefit from the bill savings from solar energy.
Evolving Energy Services			
Local Energy Precincts 	- Distribution networks co-ordinating solar, storage and network infrastructure across neighbourhoods. - The costs of providing shared network benefits will be funded by all customers, while other costs (e.g. solar panels) will be funded by unregulated funding sources.	- Ausgrid is currently piloting Local Energy Precincts through its Community Power Networks Regulatory Sandbox trial. - A service classification change would provide a clearer pathway to continue and expand Local Energy Precincts without the need for additional AER approval.	- This change will enable lower network costs by increased use and co-ordination of network infrastructure. - It will also provide support for more solar energy and enable more renewable energy to be used locally. - Customers will save through a transparent annually calculated payment to share the revenues and cost savings from the Local Energy Precincts.
Data centre connections 	- Data centre connections to distribution networks. - The costs of connections would be funded by data centres.	Enabling data centre connections to be funded by data centres through direct negotiation between distribution networks and data centre customers.	- Funding data centre connections through direct negotiation would remove the risk that other customers would need to contribute to these costs. - Data centres can also place downward pressure on everyone's bills by making better use of the existing network.