



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN
ENERGY
REGULATOR

Notice inviting submissions: AusNet Services, CitiPower, Jemena Electricity Networks, Powercor and United Energy Framework and Approach

The Framework and Approach (F&A) is the first step in a process to determine efficient prices for electricity services. For electricity distribution businesses, the F&A determines, amongst other things, which services the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) will regulate and the broad nature of any regulatory arrangements as prescribed by the National Electricity Rules (NER). This includes how the AER will set prices for electricity distribution services and the application of any incentive schemes. The F&A process also facilitates early public consultation and assists each network service provider prepare its regulatory proposal.

AusNet Services, CitiPower, Jemena Electricity Networks, Powercor and United Energy have written to the AER requesting that we amend or replace their respective current F&As. Each service provider considers updates are required to clarify the AER's approach to recent changes to the NER, classification of distribution services and application of incentive schemes.

In accordance with the NER, the AER invites submissions on whether it is necessary or desirable to amend or replace the current F&A for the next regulatory control period commencing on 1 July 2026¹ for any of the following network service providers:

- Ausnet Services (Victorian electricity distributor)
- CitiPower (Victorian electricity distributor)
- Jemena Electricity Networks (Victorian electricity distributor)
- Powercor (Victorian electricity distributor)
- United Power (Victorian electricity distributor)

The matters the AER may amend or replace in its F&A paper are listed in clauses 6.8.1 and 6A.10.1A of the NER. Briefly for electricity distribution and transmission businesses, these include:

- the application of a range of incentive schemes that encourage things like service quality, improvements in network reliability or efficient capital and operative expenditure
- the application of the AER's Expenditure Forecast Assessment Guideline
- whether depreciation of assets will be based on actual or forecast capital expenditure.

Additionally, for distribution electricity businesses, clause 6.8.1 of the NER also permits the AER to amend or replace the classification of distribution services and the formulae that give effect to control mechanisms.

¹ NER, cl. 6.8.1(c)(2).

The current final F&A papers were published in January 2019 for each of the service providers and can be located [here](#).

How to make submissions

The AER invites submissions on whether it is necessary or desirable to amend or replace the F&A papers for any or all of the network service providers listed above. Submissions close at **5pm on Monday 4 December 2023**.

Submissions should be sent electronically to vic2026@aer.gov.au

Alternatively, you may mail submissions to:

Kris Funston
Executive General Manager, Network Regulation
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131,
Canberra ACT 2601

The AER prefers that all submissions be publicly available to facilitate an informed and transparent consultative process. The AER will treat submissions as public documents unless otherwise requested. Parties wishing to submit confidential information are requested to:

- clearly identify the information that is the subject of the confidentiality claim
- provide a non-confidential version of the submission in a form suitable for publication.

All non-confidential submissions will be placed on the AER's website at www.aer.gov.au. For further information regarding the AER's use and disclosure of information provided to it, see the *ACCC/AER Information Policy*, June 2014 available on the AER's website.

Enquiries should be directed to:

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