

20 September 2024

Distributed Energy Policy  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
GPO Box 3090  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

**Re: Streamlining network connection processes for consumer energy resources (CER) and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)**

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Streamlining the connection of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and large Consumer Energy Resources (CER) Options Paper. We acknowledge the need to ensure the Australian Government's commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is supported by several important subsidiary targets, including increased renewable energy generation and increased consumer energy resources, which includes electric vehicles (EV).

The AER aims to ensure consumers are better off now and in the future, and are supported during the energy transition. We continue to be part of and support the broad collaboration to implement pathways for CER and EV grid integration. Determining the extent that existing connection processes or regulatory frameworks are possibly hindering connection timeframes will contribute to these goals.

Throughout our engagement with DCCEEW and Oakley Greenwood on this project, we have noted that there may be a number of factors beyond the existing energy regulatory framework contributing to issues with connections timeframes. These include challenges with planning approvals, financing, supply chains and resourcing. The AER therefore considers a holistic review of the CER/EV connections landscape, including the scope for amendments to the regulatory framework, would contribute to optimal design of solutions for connections streamlining.

We note that proposed options involving potential changes to the regulatory framework would likely place additional obligations and requirements on the AER and industry participants. Such new obligations and requirements will have resourcing implications for the AER. For example, should the AER be required to develop and administer a new incentive scheme, we would need additional resourcing to consider its design, implementation and ongoing administration.

We thank DCCEEW for the opportunity to submit on this process, and look forward to continuing to engage with DCCEEW on these issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Funston'.

Dr Kris Funston  
Executive General Manager  
Network Regulation Division

Submitted online on: 20.09.2024