

The Energy Users' Association of Australia (EUAA) is the peak body representing Australian commercial and industrial energy users. Our membership covers a broad cross section of the Australian economy including significant retail, manufacturing, building materials and food processing industries. Combined our members employ over 1 million Australians, pay billions in energy bills every year and in many cases are exposed to the fluctuations and challenges of international trade.

Our members are highly exposed to movements in both gas and electricity prices and have been under increasing financial stress due to escalating energy costs. These increased costs are either absorbed by the business, making it more difficult to maintain existing levels of employment or passed through to consumers in the form of increases in the prices paid for many everyday items.

This is a short submission to support United Energy's application for a ring fencing waiver in relation to its proposed installation of pole-mounted battery energy storage system (BESS) units in its low voltage network. We support the granting of the waiver to apply until the end of the next regulatory period on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to allow United Energy to grant a retail partner a right of access to the storage capacity of pole-mounted batteries as part of a trial project.

The electricity sector is seeing rapid change, particularly in the area of distributed generation. While our members are seeking to take advantage of technological developments it is important that networks have the opportunity to trial new and innovative approaches to efficiently manage the surging levels of distributed generation that are being introduced into the distribution system. As a member of the Ausgrid Customer Consultative Committee, we have been a strong supporter of their community battery proposal. We think these types of battery innovation trials contribute to furthering the NEO.

The EUAA support for these innovative trials does not diminish our support for the ring-fencing principles ensuring a level playing field for the competitive provision of services that might draw on the results of these trials.

Do not hesitate to be in contact should you wish to discuss this further.



Andrew Richards  
Chief Executive Officer