

14 May 2025

Clare Savage
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520
Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia

Dear Clare

Ausgrid submits this pass through application under clause 6.6.1(a) of the National Electricity Rules (**NER**) seeking to recover \$19.6 million (real FY24) in additional costs incurred in response to a squall line storm event that impacted our network between 15 and 17 January 2025.

Squall line storm events are fast-moving and highly destructive convective weather systems characterised by a long line of thunderstorms, typically associated with a cold front. The squall line system that struck Ausgrid's network area in January 2025 persisted over a three-day period, producing wind gusts in excess of 100 km/h and nearly 74,000 lightning strikes.

The storm caused widespread damage across our network and resulted in power outages affecting more than 210,000 customers. Ausgrid rapidly mobilised over 1,000 field and support staff to undertake safety checks, restore supply, and repair damaged infrastructure.

Our application explains why the January 2025 storm event satisfies the definition of a natural disaster event under Ausgrid's 2024-29 distribution determination and qualifies as a positive change event under clause 6.6.1 of the NER. It confirms that the costs incurred were directly attributable to the storm, exceeded the materiality threshold specified in the NER, and were not anticipated in our 2024-29 regulatory allowance. The application also outlines the governance and operational frameworks that ensured our response was prudent and efficient.

If you wish to discuss this application please contact [REDACTED], Regulatory Strategy Manager, on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Regards,



Marc England
Chief Executive Officer
Ausgrid