

Ausgrid - Hunter Central Coast RNIP 2026-31- Revenue proposal

CCP presentation to AER Public Forum

25 August 2025

CCP35: Helen Bartley

Consumer
Challenge
Panel



Acknowledgement of country

Ausgrid's facilities and networks traverse the lands of many Indigenous nations. I recognise the traditional owners of these lands and honour their customs and traditions and special relationship with the land

CCP role: Ausgrid HCC REZ revenue proposal

To advise the AER on:

- Effectiveness of Ausgrid's engagement activities with consumers and how this is reflected in the development of its revenue proposal
- Whether Ausgrid's proposal, or elements, are in the LTIC

CCP activities

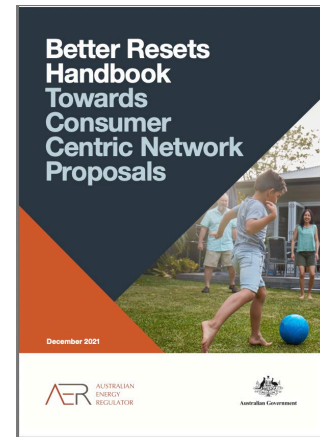
- Observed all meetings with Ausgrid and its customer panel
- Reviewed Ausgrid's draft plan, panel report, Ausgrid's proposal
 - Prepared written advice to the AER
- Reviewed the AER's preliminary position paper – written advice forthcoming

Ausgrid engagement

- Narrow scope given short time frame under EII Act for AER to assess proposal (whether costs are prudent, efficient and **reasonable**)
- Ausgrid established a fit-for-purpose customer panel
 - ▷ The panel met 6 times (half-day meetings), January to April 2025, face to face (including a site visit) and online, plus once with AER
- Engagement focused on aspects consumers could reasonably influence
 - ▷ Risk allocation
 - ▷ Adjustment mechanisms
 - ▷ Incentive schemes
 - ▷ Social license

Ausgrid's engagement effectiveness

- Established a fit-for-purpose customer panel
- Sincere intent, commitment to effective engagement
- Open (where possible) and constructive
- Ausgrid published a detailed draft plan
- Panel provided Ausgrid with considered and detailed feedback – documented in the panel's submission to the draft plan
- Ausgrid's revenue proposal responds to panel's feedback, although feedback could have been better articulated throughout



AER's preliminary position

- AER observations align with my observations – and the quality of engagement provides a solid foundation for the AER's decision
- Preliminary position paper **responds** to panel and CCP concerns
- Limited scope and confidentiality heighten the need for consumers to trust the regulatory process and the AER to be responsive and transparent where possible
- AER commended for:
 - Seeking reassurances from EnergyCo on relevance of pre-period costs
 - Challenging Ausgrid on confidentiality claims and publishing a supplementary Appendix with more information about Ausgrid's procurement costs

CCP provisional conclusion: support for AER's preliminary position