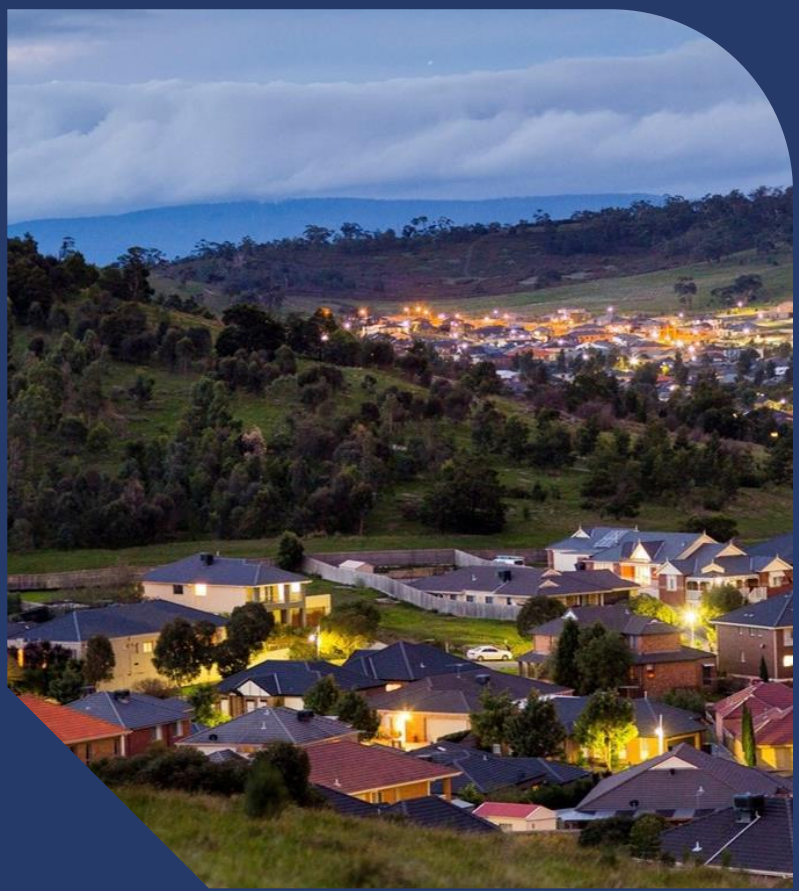
AusNet

Distribution Connection Policy

AusNet

Friday, 31 January 2025



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About AusNet

AusNet is a major energy network business that owns and operates key regulated electricity transmission and electricity and gas distribution assets located in Victoria, Australia. These assets include:

- 6,620 kilometres of electricity transmission network that services all 6.7 million electricity consumers across Victoria;
- An electricity distribution network delivering electricity to approximately 810,000 customer connection points in an area of more than 80,000 square kilometres of eastern Victoria; and
- A gas distribution network delivering gas to approximately 800,000 customer supply points in an area of more than 60,000 square kilometres in central and western Victoria.

AusNet's purpose is 'to provide our customers with superior network and energy solutions.' The AusNet company values are:

- We work safely
- We do what's right
- We're one team
- We deliver

For more information visit: www.ausnetservices.com.au

Contact

This document is the responsibility of the Regulated Electricity Services division of AusNet. Please contact the indicated owner of the document below with any inquiries.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

This document is our connection policy for our electricity distribution network. This Connection Policy has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the National Electricity Rules (**NER**), the connection charge guidelines[1] published by the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**), and the AER's approved Framework and Approach **(F&A**) decision for Victorian electricity distribution. Our Connection Policy also addresses recent updates to the connection charge guideline in 2023 including requirements that impose conditions on offering static zero export limits on micro distributed energy resources, as well as terminology changes introduced to reflect the Integrating Energy Storage Systems rule change.

This Connection Policy sets out the circumstances where a retail customer or real estate developer may be required to pay a connection charge for the provision of a connection service.[2] It specifies:

- The categories of persons that may be required to pay a connection charge and the circumstances in which such a requirement may be imposed.
- The aspects of a connection service for which a charge may be made.
- The basis on which connection charges are determined.
- The way connection charges are to be paid (or equivalent consideration is to be given).
- The threshold below which a retail customer (not being a non-registered DER provider or a real estate developer) will not be liable for a connection charge for an augmentation.[3]

For completeness, this document also applies for connections involving Regulated stand-alone power systems

1.2. Commencement date

This Connection Policy applies from 1 July 2026 and supersedes the previous version published on 1 July 2021.

1.3. Application to Chapter 5A connections of the NER

This Connection Policy applies only to Chapter 5A connections in the NER, as Chapter 5A applies in Victoria.[4] The regime in Chapter 5A applies to connecting load for retail customers, or a retailer or other person on behalf of a retail customer, or a real estate developer. It also applies to non-registered DER providers and micro resource operators .

1.4. Other relevant documents

This Connection Policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Our approved Annual Pricing Proposal, which sets out the fees for connection services and ancillary network services.
- Our minimum system requirements for inverter systems, including photovoltaic installations.
- The Model Standing Offer (MSO) for basic connection services, which sets out the terms and conditions for providing a connection between the distribution system and a retail customer's premises.

[1] AER, Connection Charge Guidelines for Electricity Retail Customers under Chapter 5A of the National Electricity Rules, April 2023
[2] In accordance with Clause 6.7A.1 of the NER
[3] A customer would be required to pay for an extension, where the customer is located outside the present boundaries of the distribution network.
[4] *National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005* (Vic), Schedule 2 – Amendment of National Electricity Rules, s 4.

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- The MSO for basic connection services (currently titled, Basic Micro Embedded Generation Units recently updated with Victoria's Emergency Minimum Backstop Mechanism), which sets out the terms and conditions for connecting a retail customer who is a micro resource operator.
- The MSO for standard connection services, which sets out the terms and conditions for underground extension connection services within a specified distance from the distribution network.
- The electricity distribution contract, which sets out the terms and conditions on which we will maintain the connection.

These documents are available at:

- https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/Connections; and
- https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/codes-guidelines-policies-and-manuals/deemed-distribution-contract-variations-review-2018#tabs-container2

1.5. Structure of this document

The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides an overview of the connection charging principles.
- Section 3 explains the charging arrangements for basic connections.
- Section 4 explains the charging arrangements for standard connections.
- Section 5 describes the arrangements for negotiated connections for small customers.
- Section 6 sets out the connection charging arrangements applying to real estate developers.
- Section 7 addresses other matters relevant to a connection, including security deposits and fees, payment of connection charges, and dispute resolution

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2. General connection pricing principles

2.1. Overview of connection services

Distribution connection services encompass the services required to connect premises to our distribution network. The connection services generally include the design, construction and energisation of connection assets.

In some circumstances, the new connection or connection alteration may require an augmentation of the shared distribution network to ensure there is sufficient capacity to service the connection. The new connection or connection alteration may also require a network extension to enable the connection of the standard service line to the distribution network.

Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3 illustrate the typical connections for a residential customer for overhead and underground supplies.

Figure 1: Typical overhead connection for residential customer

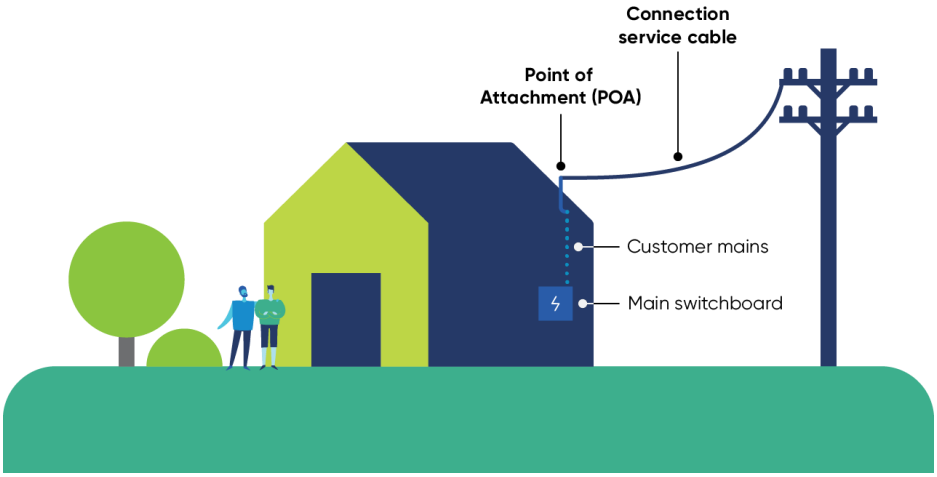

Figure 2: Typical underground connection for residential customer

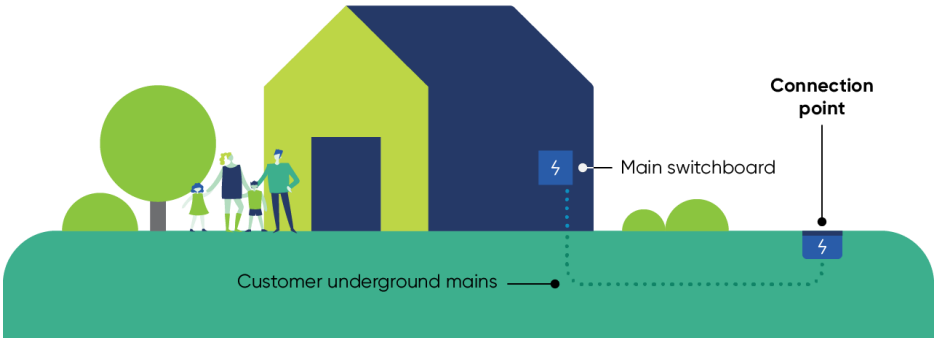

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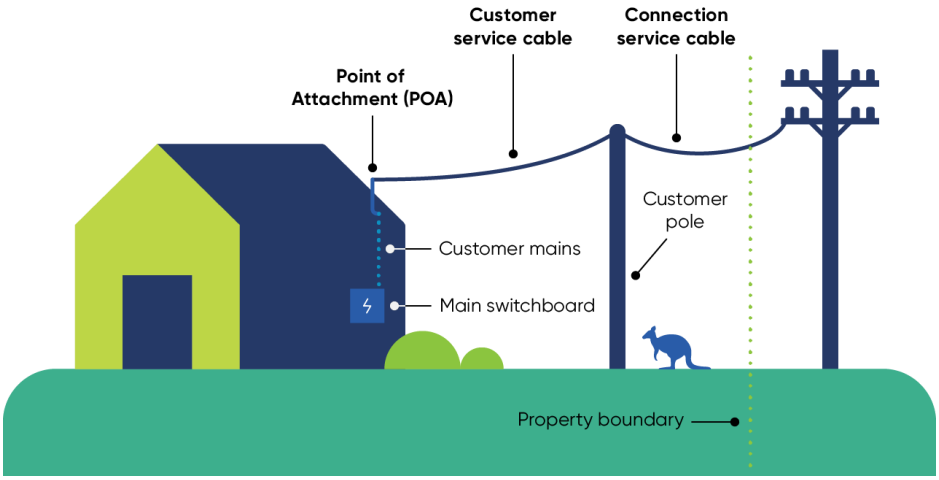
Figure 3: overhead connection for residential customer with a private pole or poles



There are different types of connection services, depending on:

- the customer classification of the applicant for the purposes of connection charging
- the nature of the connection
- whether line capacity is readily available in the existing distribution network.

The following sections detail the customer classifications, the classification of connection services and the connection charges that may be applicable.

2.2. Classification of customers

In broad terms, the connection service requirements and the associated charges will depend on the type of customer and the nature and location of the connection service. For this Connection Policy, it is useful to identify the different classes of customers:

- residential and small commercial premises not requiring any network augmentation
- customer connections requiring network augmentation
- customers requesting temporary supply
- customers requesting an unmetered supply for connection with maximum demand less than 2 ampere
- distribution connected unit operator, including micro resource operators and non-registered DER providers
- real estate developers
- Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (REFCL) HV customers.

Within these customer classes, we distinguish between customers on the basis of their network requirements, including:

- energy consumption
- maximum demand
- electricity import and export capacity.

The connection application process and the contractual arrangements vary accordingly.

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2.3. Basic, standard and negotiated connection services

When an application is made for a new connection or alteration to an existing connection, we will offer to provide either of:

- a basic connection service
- a standard connection service
- a negotiated connection service.

The type of connection service we offer will depend on the nature of the connection required and the network capacity available.

Table 1 below sets out where in this document each type of connection is explained in further detail. For connection types where one or more of the basic, standard or negotiated connections are available, the choice of service will often depend on the customer's particular circumstances.

Table 1: Further information for each type of connection

A connection for … is covered in	Basic connection	Standard connection	Negotiated connection
Residential and small business overhead	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5
Residential and small business underground	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5
Micro DER connection	Section 3	n/a	Section 5
Temporary connection	Section 3	n/a	Section 5
Unmetered supply	n/a	n/a	Section 5
Customer connections requiring augmentation	n/a	n/a	Section 5
Distribution connected unit other than Micro DER connections	n/a	n/a	Section 5
Real estate developments	n/a	n/a	Section 5

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2.3.1. Basic connection service

As the name suggests, the basic connection service is the most straightforward connection and will apply in most cases. If a property is eligible for a basic connection, all a customer is required to do is contact their chosen electricity retailer to request the connection and provide the necessary paperwork from their electrical contractor (electrician).

We offer two classes of basic connection service:

- A basic connection service, where connection between the distribution system and the customer's premises requires minimal or no augmentation of the distribution network.
- A micro DER connection service, which is for the connection of distribution connected units of a micro resource operator:
  - with a maximum export capacity less than 5 kW per phase, or less than 3.5 kW per phase if connected to a single-wire earth return (**SWER**) powerline, or
  - subject to a flexible export limit.

A retail customer is only eligible for a basic connection service if the proposed connection satisfies certain conditions. These conditions are described in Chapter 3 of this Connection Policy and in the relevant MSO. If a retail customer is not eligible for a basic connection service or prefers to negotiate the terms and conditions of the connection service, we will offer a negotiated connection service.

2.3.2. Standard connection service

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We offer a standard connection service for underground connections within a specified distance from the distribution network, as set out in section 4.2 and Table 4 1 of this Connection Policy. This service includes trenching and boring under roads, if required. Underground connections that require longer connections are classified as negotiated connection services.

2.3.3. Negotiated connection service

A connection that does not meet the requirements of a basic or standard connection service is a negotiated connection service.

Most negotiated connection services are classified as a standard control service, meaning that the connection charges are approved by the AER.

An enhanced connection service is a specific type of negotiated connection service, where the service is provided:

- with higher reliability standards, or lower reliability standards (where permissible) than those specified in the NER or any other applicable regulatory instruments; or
- at service levels or plant ratings in excess of those required by the regulatory framework to be provided by us; or
- management of export and load at a customer site that provides the customer greater network capacity than they would otherwise be eligible for.

Enhanced connection services have been classified by the AER as alternative control services and connection charges will be calculated as quoted services.

2.4. Connection process and expedited connections

Figure 4 and Figure 5 below show the typical steps required when arranging an electricity supply to a property. They illustrate the simplified processes for obtaining a basic connection service or standard connection service, which do not require any negotiation between the connection applicant and us.

Figure 4: Diagrams of process for arranging a basic electricity supply

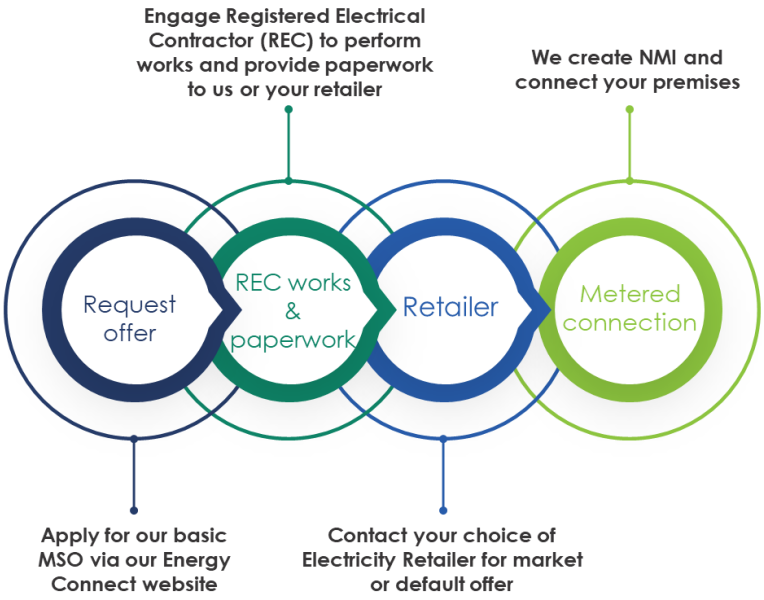

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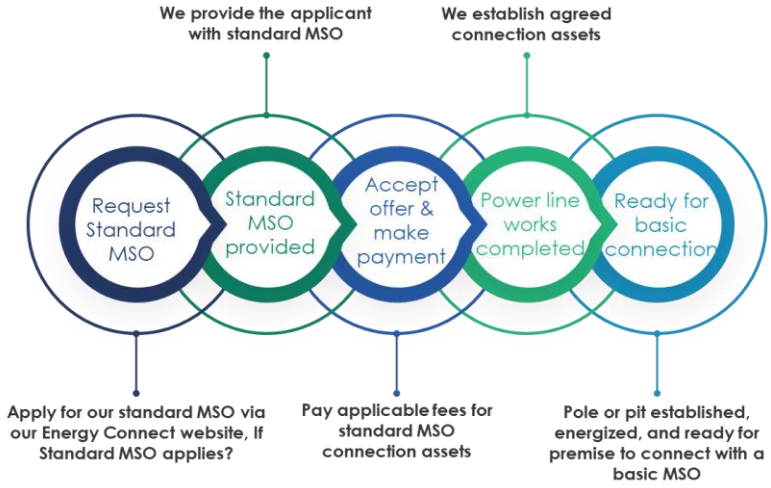
Figure 5: Diagrams of process for arranging a standard MSO for electricity supply with a pit or pole



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We will use our best endeavours to provide connection applicant with an offer for:

- a basic connection services MSO within 10 business days, or
- a standard connection services MSO within 20 business days.[5]

We will notify the connection applicant within 10 business days if their request does not appear to satisfy the relevant qualifying conditions applying to that service. In those circumstances, the customer will require a negotiated connection service.

If a connection applicant does not require a connection offer or a signed agreement for a basic connection service, the connection applicant may apply for an expedited connection. An expedited connection request requires the applicant to contact their electricity retailer and provide the necessary paperwork from a Registered Electrical Contractor.

For an expedited connection, we are taken to have made, and the connection applicant is taken to have accepted, a connection offer in accordance with the relevant MSO on the date we receive the application. An expedited connection is subject to the same qualifying conditions as a basic connection service. We will notify the customer as soon as possible if it becomes evident that these conditions are not satisfied.

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[5] AusNet will provide an offer within 10 business days of conducting a site-specific assessment or site inspection. It may take up to 10 business days to conduct this site-specific assessment or site inspection.

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Our negotiated connection process is substantially more involved with contestable design options, contestable construction arrangements, auditing and authority to connect arrangements. Applicants can request a negotiated connection offer using our online application portal, provide any necessary information (including attachments) and manage their connection process, see the below link.

https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/connections/energyconnect-application

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2.4.1. Connections of distribution connected units (<1.5 MW)

We have an online tool that instantly assesses applications to connect solar and/or battery systems up to 10 kW maximum inverter capacity per phase (all SWER connections must be assessed on a case by case basis) and 5 kW (3.5 kW for SWER) total export limit per phase, unless a flexible export limit applies. The online tool allows the applicant to obtain a connection agreement amendment following the process described in Figure 6 below. This online tool can be found on our website here:

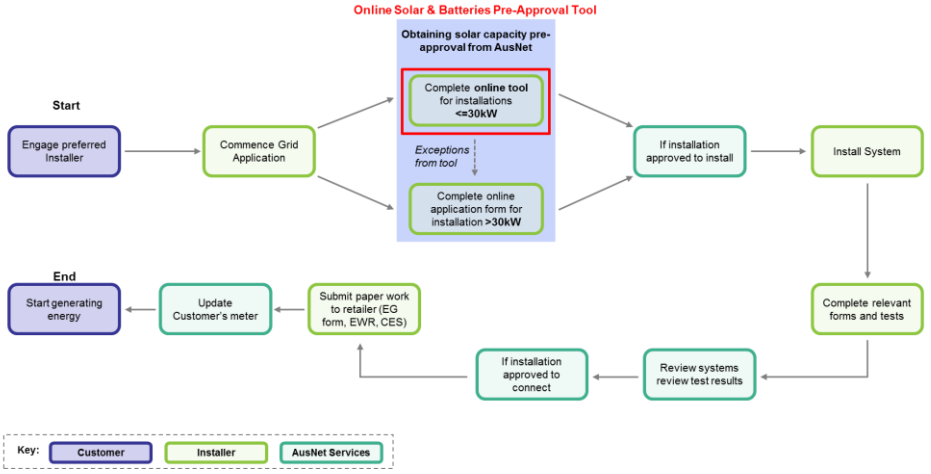
https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/solar/solar-application

For systems greater than 30 kW capacity and 15 kW export, the connection applicant must apply for a manual technical assessment using the link above.

Flexible export limit conditions apply to all customers connecting distribution connected units to our network, see the below link:

https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/flexible-exports

Figure 6: Diagram of process for embedded generator connections



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2.4.2. Application of flexible export limits

To enable as much renewable energy resources on our network as possible, we may offer flexible export capacity limits for eligible applications to connect new distribution connected units. Flexible export connections utilise available network capacity for bi-directional energy flows to enable customers to consume renewable energy generated and exported by other customers. Sufficient bi-directional network capacity is typically available for large periods of time throughout the year. The flexible export limits are designed to avoid excessive augmentation and the need for network investment that would otherwise increase the cost of our electricity customers.

If a connection applicant is not eligible for a flexible export limit then a low static export limit needs to be applied with respect to the applicant's inverter(s). Flexible export limits will vary up to a set maximum limit based on our assessment of network capacity in the customer's area and the specific network conditions at the time.

Distribution networks have a limited capacity to support bi-directional energy flows from connections of new rooftop PV systems and batteries. This 'hosting capacity' is limited by the application of:

- Voltage constraints – We have regulatory obligations to maintain supply at customers connection points to specific voltages as specified in section 20.4 of the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice (Victoria) and to minimise the quality of supply issues for other customers.
- Thermal constraints – From high rooftop PV penetration leading to reverse power flows surpassing traditional peak demand, which may exceed the thermal rating of low voltage transformers, fuses and ultimately lead to supply interruptions.

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- Protection constraints – Where required for negotiated connections, we apply conditions to protect our distribution network equipment and customer premises during an electrical or mechanical fault.

Our flexible export management systems utilise our distribution system models, network conditions[6] and the effects of export energy on our distribution system to determine and apply our dynamic, flexible export allowances. The flexible export arrangements, including our low static export limit, are specified in our model standing offer for distribution connected units.

However, there may be times at which some sections of the network where a zero static export limit must be applied. We expect this will be required only for a limited number of connections.

2.4.3. Static Zero Export Limits

Static zero export limits can apply to either to basic or negotiated connections for the connection of distribution connected units. A static zero export limit means that a customer is prevented from accessing the network to export electricity at any time. The AER's connection charge guidelines specify the conditions under which we may apply a static zero export limit, if there is no suitable flexible export arrangement, compliant with our specifications, for the applicant's distribution connected units for a particular location.

We may apply a static zero export limit condition for new, or altered, distribution connected units connecting to our distribution network, when:

- the export from the distribution connected units will have a high probability of resulting in us either not meeting a regulatory obligation (e.g., a voltage level), or not being able to maintain the distribution network within its technical limits (e.g., thermal or protection limits); and
- the cost of augmenting the distribution network to allow a reasonable export capacity level by the connection applicant outweighs the benefits from providing the additional export capacity. In undertaking this cost-benefit evaluation, we will consider the expected future outputs that will be exported to our distribution network arising from the augmentation; or
- when requested by the connection applicant.

We will establish a standard assessment policy that sets out the application of the above assessment, and will publish it on our website, see the below link.

https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/flexible-exports

When we offer a static zero export limit condition in a connection offer unless the static zero limit is requested, we will inform the connection applicant of:

- the technical and economic considerations that led to the static zero export limit condition being applied;
- their option to establish suitable flexible export arrangements,[7] if available, to avoid a static zero export limit condition being applied;
- how to access an independent technical review of our reasons for applying the static zero limit condition;
- their option to raise a dispute with us (see section 7.3) and other dispute resolution channels available; and
- their option to seek a review of the static zero export limit condition five years after the initial connection is completed.

If the connection applicant seeks a review of the static zero export limit condition after five years of completing the initial connection and, following this review, we assess applying a static zero export limit condition is no longer justified based on the above circumstances, we will inform the connection applicant that they can reapply to have their static zero export limit condition lifted.

We will review static zero export limit conditions applied on existing distribution connected units following any network augmentation works designed to expand the export hosting capacity of the distribution network in a particular location. If additional export capacity becomes available as a result of that augmentation, we will inform the relevant customer that they can re-apply to have their static zero export limit condition lifted. In these circumstances, a new connection or alteration application would be required to enable any export limit changes to be made

[6] Network conditions including weather, customer exports, customer loads, outages or directions from AEMO

[7] We offer flexible export arrangements to all customers, however if customers can install a different dynamic response system that mitigates our voltage, thermal and protection constraints based on relevant network data this may also be used as an alternative to a static zero export limit.

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2.5. Overview of connection charges

The charges payable for a connection application will depend on the nature of the connection service required, the demand and consumption profile and the work involved in establishing the connection. The connection charges that a connection applicant may be required to pay can include one or more of the following cost components:[8]

- fees for connection services
- a capital contribution (CC) charge
- metering costs
- costs of minor variations
- other incidental costs
- charges payable to account for any pioneer schemes (also known as reimbursement schemes).

Table 2 below describes each of these cost elements.

Table 2: Summary of connection fees and charges

FEE OR CHARGE GROUP	DESCRIPTION
Connection service fee	These fees cover the cost of the connection assets or alteration of the existing connection, including design, construction, commissioning and energisation of connection assets. The various connection services offered by us are defined in section 2.6 of this Connection Policy. The fees for these services are approved annually by the AER. Fees for connection services will need to be paid directly by the connection applicant.
Capital contribution charge	CCs for extension or augmentation of the distribution system (including the customer's connection assets) may apply to connections where the expected demand exceeds an augmentation threshold. Our augmentation threshold is: • 10 kVA on SWER lines,[9] or • 100A single phase, or 100A per phase of a multi-phase supply. The rationale for these thresholds is discussed in section 2.7 of this Connection Policy. All connection applicants will pay a CC for any new network extensions required for their new connection or connection alteration, in addition to any augmentation of the connection assets. CCs are calculated in accordance with section 2.7 of this Connection Policy.[10] CCs do not apply in relation to basic connection services.
Metering costs	The connection may require a change of meter, which would incur a metering charge. The metering costs will be charged in accordance with AusNet Services' published fees.
Minor variations	These costs arise if the connection requirements vary from the standard specifications as detailed in the applicable MSO or as otherwise agreed with the connection applicant.
Other incidental costs	The connection applicant may be required to pay incidental costs arising from the connection, as detailed in the relevant MSO or as otherwise agreed with the connection applicant.
Pioneer Scheme charge	Where a connection is made to an extension funded by an original customer, we may be required to refund customers already connected to the extension under a pioneer scheme (reimbursement scheme). The connection applicant (the subsequent customer) may be required to share costs of the original

[8] These components are set out in clause 5A.B.2(b)(5) of the NER and, in relation to pioneer schemes, clause 6.1.5 of the AER's connection charge guidelines for electricity retail customers.
[9] SWER line means a single wire earth return (that is, a single-wire electricity distribution line which supplies single phase electrical power such that the earth is used as the return path for the current).
[10] AusNet's CCs are calculated in accordance with section 5 of the AER's guidelines and the connection charge principles in clause 5.A.E1(c) of the NER

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	customer's connection by making an appropriate contribution towards the cost of the shared line.

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Further information on the calculation of these cost components is provided in later sections of this Connection Policy and in the MSO for basic connection services and the MSO for standard connection services.

2.6. Regulation of connection fees

As noted in the previous section, the connection service fee is a component of the total cost of the connection. The AER classifies connection services depending on the nature of the service and the extent of competition in the provision of the service.

The AER's connection charge guideline requires us to apply different connection charges depending on the AER's service classification. Given this requirement, Table 3 below maps our connection services to the AER's service classification for regulatory purposes.

Table 3: Connection services and the AER's service classification

SERVICE GROUP	FURTHER DESCRIPTION	AER's Service Classification
Basic connection service	Means a *connection service* related to a *connection* (or a proposed connection) between a distribution system and a retail customer's premises (excluding a non-registered DER provider) in the following circumstances: (a) either: 1. the retail customer is typical of a significant class of retail customers who have sought, or are likely to seek, the service; or 2. the retail customer is, or proposes to become, a micro resource operator; and (b) the provision of the service involves minimal or no augmentation of the distribution network; and (c) a MSO has been approved by the AER for providing that service as a basic connection service.	Alternative control
Standard connection service	Connection service (other than a basic connection service) for a particular class (or sub-class) of connection applicant and for which a MSO has been approved by the AER.	Standard control
Negotiated connection	Connection service (other than a basic connection service) for which a DNSP provides a connection offer for a negotiated connection contract. This includes connections under Chapter 5 of the NER.	Standard control
Connection application and management services	Connection application related services Works initiated by a customer or retailer that are specific to the connection point. This includes, but is not limited to: • field based de-energisation and re-energisation • non-basic supply abolishment or reposition non-basic connection • temporary connections (e.g. for builder's supply, fetes etc.) • overhead service line replacement – customer requests the existing overhead service to be replaced (e.g. because of a point of attachment relocation). No material changes to load. • protection and power quality assessment • supply enhancement (e.g. upgrade from single phase to three phase) • customer requested change requiring primary and secondary plant studies for safe operation of the network (e.g. change protection settings) • upgrade from overhead to underground service • rectification of illegal connections or damage to overhead or underground service cables • calculation of a site-specific distribution loss factor on request in respect of a generating unit up to 10 MW or a connection point for an end-user	Alternative control

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	with actual or forecast load up to 40 GWh per annum capacity, as per clause 3.6.3(b1) of the NER • calculation of site-specific loss factors when required under the NER • power factor correction • embedded network management • assessing connection applications or a request to undertake relocation of network assets as contestable works and preparing offers • processing preliminary enquiries requiring site specific or written responses • undertaking planning studies and associated technical analysis (e.g. power quality investigations) to determine suitable/feasible connection options for further consideration by applicants • liaising with groups representing multiple connecting parties (e.g. community group upgrades) • site inspection in order to determine the nature of the connection service sought by the connection applicant and ongoing co-ordination for large projects • registered participant support services associated with connection arrangements and agreements made under Chapter 5 of the NER.	
Enhanced connection services (a specific type of negotiated connection service)	Other or enhanced connection services provided at the request of a customer or third party that include those that are provided: • with higher reliability standards, or lower reliability standards (where permissible) than those specified in the NER or any other applicable regulatory instruments. This includes reserve feeder installation and maintenance. • at service levels or plant ratings in excess of those required by the regulatory framework to be provided by the us.	Alternative control
Public lighting	Public lighting services (including emerging public lighting technology), including: • Operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of public lighting services • Alteration and relocation of public lighting assets • New public lighting services • Provision, construction and maintenance of emerging public lighting technology.	Alternative control

Source: AusNet

The AER regulates the fees that we charge for the connection services set out above. The fees and the regulatory arrangements for annual changes are detailed in the current Victorian electricity distribution determination. We submit an annual pricing proposal for the AER's approval to update the applicable fees in accordance with the AER's determination.

For a complete list of our current services and fees, please refer to our Annual Pricing Proposal at:

https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/tariffs-and-charges

2.7. Capital contributions

A CC is a contribution paid by the connection applicant towards the cost of extending or augmenting the distribution network or installing or upgrading new connection assets required to enable the new connection or connection alteration to be made. Where a CC is required, we will note this and specify the amount of the contribution in the connection offer. The CC must be paid as a lump sum before we commence any works.

CCs for network augmentation (other than a network extension beyond the standard service line) are not required where:

- The connection service is offered under the terms and conditions of a basic connection offer; or
- Maximum demand at the connection point does not exceed:
    - 10kVA on SWER lines; or
    - 100A per each of the phases of a multi-phase low voltage supply (the augmentation threshold).

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These maximum demand thresholds have been determined having regard to the principles set out in the AER guidelines for setting such thresholds. Based on the limited available capacity on SWER lines, the rural nature of our distribution network, and the average size of the connecting customers, we consider that a threshold above 10kVA for SWER connections would drive significant augmentation costs that would be unfair to share across all customers.

Where applicable, the CC amount will be calculated in the following manner

Capital Contribution (CC) = ICCS + ICSN – IR(n=X)

Where:

ICCS = Incremental Cost Customer Specific

ICSN = Incremental Cost Shared Network

IR (n=X) = Incremental Revenue.

A CC is only payable where the incremental costs exceed the incremental revenue (i.e. CC > $0).

2.7.1. Incremental Cost of Customer Specific Connection Assets

The Incremental Cost Customer Specific (ICCS) is the incremental costs we incur that are specific to the connection, such as network extension assets and augmentation of connection assets at the premises. The ICCS is calculated as the sum of the incremental costs specific to the connection, such as:

- design and construction of new customer-specific connection assets
- design and augmentation of any existing connection assets at the customer's premises
- network extension costs
- administration costs (including design and certification costs)
- tender costs (where applicable)
- the provision of any other connection services that are to be used solely by the connection applicant.

Overheads will be applied in addition to the costs specific to the connection.

For the ICCS, we will:

- determine the cost in a fair and reasonable manner and ensure that the cost estimate is reflective of the efficient cost of performing the service; and
- calculate the cost on the basis of the least cost, technically acceptable standard necessary for the connection,[11] unless the connection applicant requests a connection service (or part thereof) to be provided to a higher standard. In these circumstances, the connection applicant is required to pay for the additional cost of providing the services to the higher standard.

Where we elect to provide the service to a higher standard or capacity than necessary to meet the connection applicant's requirement (other where the applicant is a real estate developer), we will not charge the connection applicant for the additional cost. Where the connection applicant is a real estate developer, we may provide the service to a higher capacity so as to efficiently provide for forecast load growth at that location, and may charge the developer accordingly. The treatment of connection applications from real estate developers is discussed in Chapter 6 of this Connection Policy.

2.7.2. Incremental cost of shared network

The Incremental Cost Shared Network (ICSN) is the network cost we incur as a result of the new or altered connection, but which is not specific to the connection e.g. network augmentation (other than an extension beyond the standard service line). The ICSN is determined on the basis of unit rates, as follows:

ICSN = Unit Rate × Demand Estimate

Where:

Unit Rate = Average cost of augmentation (other than an extension beyond standard service line) per unit of added capacity, expressed as $/MVA

[11] The least cost, technically acceptable standard may also depend on the location and nature of the connection. Please refer to section 7.3 of this Connection Policy for further details

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Demand Estimate = Estimated maximum demand[12] at the connection point, measured in MVA

We will apply the above ICSN formula when the connection applicant's expected demand is above the augmentation thresholds as described in section 2.7 of this Connection Policy. The unit rates used to determine the ICSN are consistent with our approach in the AER's Electricity Distribution Determination for the previous 2021-26 regulatory period, except for the inclusion of REFCL specific rates.

We propose to include Marginal Cost of Reinforcement (MCR) with REFCL variations in each connecting customer's Capital Contribution. The MCR concept, and underlying basis for calculation, aligns with the Incremental Cost Shared Network (ICSN) component of the Customer Contribution Formula. In parts of the network where REFCL technology is operating, the cost of augmentation for new HV connected load contributes to the eventual need to upgrade the upstream distribution system REFCL technology.

The calculated unit rates reflect the average cost of shared network augmentation recently undertaken by us, on a $/MVA basis, for the following network components:

- Low voltage mains
- Distribution substation
- Higher voltage feeder (REFCL or non-REFCL)
- Zone substation (REFCL or non-REFCL)
- Sub-transmission line.

The unit rates vary according to the network component requiring augmentation, reflecting the cost that we incur in adding each unit of capacity to the network (measured in kVA), exclusive of overhead costs. The unit rates reflect the useful life of the network assets and the assumed period that the connection applicant is expected to use the network.

The applicable unit rates for residential and business customers in 2026 are presented in the following table.

Table 4: Augmentation unit rates, ($ per MVA, $2026 excluding overheads)

	RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS (NON-REFCL)	BUSINESS CUSTOMERS (non-REFCL)	RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS (REFCL)	BUSINESS CUSTOMERS (REFCL)
LV feeder	$1,360,634	$870,544	$1,360,634	$870,544
Distribution substation	$1,135,521	$726,515	$1,135,521	$726,515
HV feeder	$735,293	$470,446	$1,017,487	$650,996
Zone substation	$469,779	$300,568	$751,972	$481,118
Sub-transmission line	$58,180	$37,224	$58,180	$37,224

Source: AusNet

In addition to the quoted augmentation unit rates presented in Table 4 above, we will apply:

- Price escalation in each year according to movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and
- an overhead charge.

In determining the connection applicant's demand estimate for the purposes of the ICSN calculation, we will:

- Apply an average diversity factor for the corresponding customer type to estimate the customer's expected contribution to system peak, coincidental demand; and
- In the case of a request to alter or upgrade an existing supply, apply an average diversity factor to the estimated increase in the connection applicant's maximum demand at the time of system peak.

In respect of these diversity factors:

- The cumulative diversity factor applied will vary depending on the point of connection; and
- The diversity factors vary for residential and business customers, reflecting the variations in the expected load placed on the network by different types of customers.

We will apply the unit rates listed in Table 4 for all negotiated load connections where the cost-revenue test is applied, except for very large high voltage customers that require major upstream augmentation such as the establishment of a new zone substation and/or 66kV feeder assets including major upgrades. In such cases, we will estimate the cost of the shared network components used by the customer, having regard to the amount of

[12] The connection applicant's estimated peak demand or peak coincident demand

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capacity required to meet specific connection requirements and the retail customer's estimated maximum demand.

The process for determining the estimated maximum demand is described in greater detail in section 2.9 of this Connection Policy.

2.7.3. Incremental Revenue Calculation

The Incremental Revenue (IR(n=X)) is the present value of the incremental revenue stream expected to be received from the new or altered connection over a pre-defined period. For residential premises, this is 30 years. For commercial and industrial premises, the period varies depending on the nature of the business and will be defined in the connection offer to a maximum of 15 years.

To estimate the incremental revenue, we will:

- when calculating the present value of the revenue stream, apply the pre-tax weighted average cost of capital as:
    - set out in the AER's Final Distribution Determination, or
    - updated annually in accordance with the AER's Final Distribution Determination;
- use the price profile in the Final Distribution Determination and apply a flat profile in real terms thereafter; and
- remove the component attributable to shared network augmentation costs from the network tariff where a customer's expected demand is below the augmentation threshold (in accordance with the AER connection charging guideline, clause 5.3.1(b)).

All CC will be calculated specifically for the connection applicant except in the case of standard connection services, where we will apply pre-calculated CCs. Standard connection services are discussed in Chapter 4 of this Connection Policy.

2.8. Higher standards under Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations

The least cost technically acceptable standard may depend on the location of the connection. For example, a higher standard may apply in areas specified as hazardous bushfire risk areas for the purposes of the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013. In these circumstances, the connection applicant will be required to pay for the additional cost of providing the services to the higher standard.

A codified area will usually require the use of covered or insulated conductor. A supply fed from a zone substation supported by REFCL technology or its transfer feeders may require additional works to maintain the capacity prescribed by the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013.

2.9. Measuring demand and consumption

Where the connection applicant is required to make a CC, the connection offer will set out the demand and consumption estimates used to determine the amount of the CC.

In general, the demand and consumption estimates will reflect the information supplied in the connection application. However, we may also have regard to the actual consumption and demand information from existing connections with similar characteristics. The demand and consumption estimates will account for the load characteristics, which will reflect the impacts of any distribution connected unit relevant to the connection offer.

Where we and the connection applicant cannot reach agreement on the demand and consumption estimates for use in determining the CC payable, we will apply a provisional estimate.

Where a provisional estimate is applied, the connection applicant may be subject to an additional charge or receive a refund of an upfront security deposit once the difference between the actual consumption and demand and the provisional estimates are assessed.

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We will assess the additional charge or security deposit refund payable within three years of the connection being energised. The amount of the additional charge or security deposit refund will be the difference between the actual CC paid and the contribution calculated using the actual demand and consumption.

A security deposit refund will only be paid where the connection applicant is still solvent and continuing to utilise the premises at the contracted demand rates.

2.10. Pioneer Schemes

Cost sharing arrangements or 'Pioneer Schemes' ensure that a customer that initially funds a network extension recovers part of their expenditure when other customers subsequently make use of that asset. For new connections that require network extensions, we will apply a Pioneer Scheme in circumstances where required by the AER's connection charge guidelines.

The Pioneer Scheme means that a connection applicant may be required to contribute to the costs of an existing line that is subject to the scheme as part of their connection fees and charges. The amount the customer will need to pay will be identified in our connection offer. If other customers subsequently connect, the connection applicant may recover a proportion of the contribution they paid from the subsequent customers.

We apply the following principles under the Pioneer Scheme:

- The scheme applies for seven years after the network extension is complete.
- Capital contributions made in relation to an augmentation or alterations that did not involve a network extension are not subject to the Pioneer Scheme.
- Each extension is subject to a separate cost sharing arrangement under the Scheme, even if it connects to a pre-existing extension.
- The capital contribution paid by the customer for the network extension (which includes contributions to upstream augmentation and connection assets) is the maximum amount that may be recovered from new customer(s).
- The reimbursement amount payable by new customer(s) or embedded generator(s) in relation to a network extension is based on the depreciated value of the relevant assets at the time of the connection application and the relative usage made by the new and existing customers, taking into account:
    - the physical attributes of the assets to be used by the new customer(s) (for example, length of line) relative to other customers already connected to the extension;
    - the amount of electricity demand forecast to be used by the new customer(s) relative to other customers already connected to the extension; and
    - the depreciated value of the assets, calculated on a straight line basis over a period of 20 years for the purpose of the scheme.
- A reimbursement under the Pioneer Scheme will only be paid where the minimum threshold is met. In accordance with the AER's connection charge guideline, the reimbursement threshold is $1,444 for 2026.[13]
- Where a reimbursement is payable, the payment is made to the original connection applicant(s) that contributed to the relevant network extension.
- If the network extension was built by a third party, we estimate the cost of the extension and adopt this as the amount we would have charged to build the extension.
- Where the original extension was built to a higher standard or capacity than the least cost technically acceptable standard required by the original customer or embedded generator, the cost of constructing the network extension to the least cost technically acceptable standard will be used for the purpose of the Pioneer Scheme.
- In relation to real estate developments, the Pioneer Scheme only applies to customers or embedded generators connecting to the extension assets outside the pioneer developer's site boundary and not to premises connecting within the development.
- In relation to embedded generators, the Pioneer Scheme only applies to embedded generators connecting to the extension assets built by another embedded generator.

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[13] This figure reflects the AER's threshold of $1,000 (2012 dollars), updated for CPI. The threshold will be updated annually by applying ABS CPI All Groups, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities, March to March Quarter

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2.11.Other cost sharing arrangements

We may offer alternative cost sharing arrangements to those provided by the Pioneer Scheme.

Alternative cost sharing arrangements are specifically designed for circumstances where land adjacent to a development is expected to be rezoned for real estate development. In these cases, it is important that the electricity infrastructure is appropriately sized, and the associated costs are shared appropriately between the initial and subsequent customers.

In broad terms, the alternative cost sharing will apply a $/lot rate to reflect an appropriate contribution to the initial costs of the infrastructure. The calculation of the $/lot rate and the payment arrangements will be subject to negotiation between us and the developer.

Where these cost sharing arrangements apply, it is not necessary or appropriate to apply the Pioneer Scheme.

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3. Basic connection services

3.1. Qualifying conditions

The majority of our new connections for load and solar Photovoltaics (PVs) do not require any augmentation. As such, the connection application process is relatively simple, and the connection timeframes are typically within 10 business days from the customer's acceptance of a connection offer. For a connection to be classified as a basic connection service the proposed connection must satisfy several qualifying conditions, which are set out in the table below. These qualifying conditions ensure that more complex connections, including those requiring augmentation of the distribution network, are not inappropriately classified as basic connection services.

Table 5: Qualifying conditions for basic connection services[14]

BASIC CONNECTION SERVICE	QUALIFYING CONDITIONS
Customer connection to the distribution network	For connection of residential and small business premises where: • A low voltage supply with the necessary capacity is available • Minimal or no augmentation is required • The maximum connection capacity does not exceed 100A[15] in total with no more than 40A per phase • The connection complies with our technical and metering requirements, as outlined in the relevant MSO • The proposed connection is not to a SWER line

Micro DER connection to the distribution network	For connection of a distribution connected unit where:
	• A low voltage supply with the necessary capacity is available
	• Minimal or no network augmentation is required
	• The proposed connection satisfies our safety and technical requirements.[16]
	• The customer's electrical installation complies with the requirements of:
	  ○ Standard IEEE 2030.5-2018, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standard for Smart Energy Profile Application Protocol, as amended from time to time.
	  ○ CSIP-Aus (Common Smart Inverter Profile) Handbook,
	  ○ AS/NZS 4777 grid connection of energy systems via inverters parts 1 and 2,
	  ○ AS/NZS 3000 wiring rules, and
	  ○ AS/NZS 5033 installation and safety requirements for photovoltaic arrays.
	• The total maximum export and inverter capacity of all distribution connected units connected must not exceed the *agreed installed generation export and capacity limit* with us.
	The customer acknowledges that their *export limit* may be reduced to the *low static export limit* if they do not take all reasonable steps to ensure their distribution connection unit:
	• is connected to our utility server via a permanent and reliable internet connection at all times;
	• remains connected to the internet at all times; and
	• has the ability to communicate with our utility server via a communication channel that complies with the IEEE

[14] It should be noted that these qualifying conditions may change from time to time in response any other conditions legislated by the Victorian Government.

[15] Connections rated above 63A by the electrical contractor are capable of exceeding the 100A maximum allowed capacity. Therefore, unless the connection application includes a 63A (or lower) circuit breaker or equivalent maximum demand-limiting device, the customer will require a negotiated connection service.

[16] AusNet's safety and technical requirements are specified in the MSO. It should be noted that these requirements may change from time to time in response to technological developments and operational experience.

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	Standard and the CSIP-AUS Handbook and is hosted on the customer's distribution connected unit; o on a gateway device; or o via a cloud connection.

Source: AusNet, Attachment Model Standing Offer for Basic Connection Services Micro DER connection (Inverter Energy System – Battery, Solar, Wind).

If the above conditions are not satisfied, the connection application will be classified as a standard connection service or negotiated connection service (see Chapters 4 and 5 of this Connection Policy).

It should also be noted that connection applicants who are entitled to a basic connection service or standard connection service have a right to negotiate the terms and conditions of their connection offer. Where the connection applicant prefers a negotiated outcome, the MSO (and the associated processes) for basic connection services do not apply. In these circumstances, we will offer to provide a negotiated connection service (see Chapter 5 of this Connection Policy).

3.2. Basic customer connections to the distribution network

We will provide the following basic connection services for customer connections to the distribution network.

Table 6: Basic connection types for customer connections

CONNECTION TYPES	DESCRIPTION
Routine connection of new premises – customers up to 100A	Connection services to customers making connection of a new premise to the network. This service includes: • the provision of a service cable in areas with overhead supply • making a connection in an existing pit for customers in underground supply areas. See Table 7 for further details.
Temporary connections and disconnections	Distributors provide temporary connection and/or disconnection services to specific customers on request. This is most commonly used for construction sites, although other examples include blood bank vans and community fetes.

Source AusNet

We offer several different types of connections as basic connection services. The table below describes each of these services.

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Table 7: Routine Connections up to 100A

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION
Single overhead (single-phase) connection	Establish a single-phase connection between the connection point at a premises and our distribution system. The connection will be between the connection point and an existing low voltage pole no longer than permitted in the Victorian Service and Installation Rules, on the same side of the street with no requirement to cross another property and complying with statutory clearance requirements over driveways.[17]
Multi overhead (multiphase) – direct connected meter	Establish a multiphase connection between the connection point at a premises and our distribution system. The connection will be between the connection point and an existing low voltage pole no longer than permitted in the Victorian Service and Installation Rules, on the same side of the street with no requirement to cross another property and complying with statutory clearance requirement over driveways. The service is dependent upon the requested number of phases being available from existing network assets. A current transformer (**CT**) connected meter service is also available, but the connection is likely to exceed 100A on any phase of a 3-phase low voltage supply and therefore will be provided as a negotiated connection service.
Single underground (single-phase) connection	Establish a single-phase connection at a connection point between the premises and our distribution system. The connection point will be in an existing service pit or pillar located on the property boundary that has sufficient capacity for the connection requested. The location of the connection point must not require the consumer mains to cross another property.
Multi underground (multiphase) – direct connected meter	Establish a multiphase connection at a 'connection point' between the premises and our distribution system. The connection point will be in an existing service pit or pillar located on the property boundary that has sufficient capacity for the connection requested. The location of the connection point must not require the consumer mains to cross another property. The service is dependent upon the requested number of phases being available from existing network assets. A CT connected meter service is also available, but the connection is likely to exceed 100A and therefore will be provided as a negotiated connection service.
Temporary overhead supply	Establish a single-phase connection at a 'connection point' between the premises and our distribution system. The connection point will be on an existing low voltage pole no longer than permitted in the Victorian Service and Installation Rules, on the same side of the street with no requirement to cross another property and complying with statutory clearance requirements over driveways.

Source: AusNet

[17] Section 7.4.4 of the Service Installation Rules (**SIRs**) requires a minimum line clearance of 4.6 metres (including in service sag) over driveways and vehicle accessible areas.

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3.3. Micro DER connections

For micro DER connections that qualify as a basic connection service, we conduct an automatic assessment and approval process at no cost to the customer. An expedited application process is available online, whereby the connection application is taken to have accepted our basic connection service offer by submitting the connection application. Where there's insufficient information to process an expedited assessment or there are capacity constraints on the network, a manual technical assessment can be requested.

We do not levy a specific connection service fee for basic micro DER connection applications. However, ancillary services may be required of the kind set out in the table below. The cost of these services will be charged to the connection applicant.

Table 8: Connection application management services for micro DER connection

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION
Remote meter reconfiguration	Remotely reconfigure an existing meter as requested by the applicant (or their retailer) for the installation of a small-scale renewable energy generation system.
Manual meter reconfiguration	Manually reconfigure an existing meter by a field officer visit as requested by the applicant (or their retailer) for the installation of a small-scale renewable energy generation system.
Manual assessment of PV & small generator installation enquiry, up to 15 kW of export capacity (i.e. 5 kW per phase of export capacity)	Undertake the applicant's requested manual assessment of their PV & small generator installation to determine if more capacity is available and whether flexible export arrangements can be altered.

Source: AusNet

3.4. Fees and charges

Table 9 below sets out whether fees and charges that may be payable under a MSO for basic connection services or MSO for basic connection services (Micro DER connection) for each service group.

Table 9: Applicable fees for basic connection services

SERVICE CHARGE GROUP	Routine connection of new premises – customers up to 100A	Temporary connections and disconnections	Micro DER connection
Fees for connection services	✓	✓	✗[18]
Capital contribution for network extension[19]	✗	✗	✗
Charges for connection augmentation[20]	✗	✗	✗
Capital contribution for network augmentation[21]	✗	✗	✗

Source: AusNet

3.5. Capital contributions

For basic connection services, the connection applicant is not required to pay a CC for shared network (upstream) augmentation (such as a requirement to increase the distribution network capacity because of the applicant's connection).

[18] Customers requesting a micro DER connection will either already have an existing connection service or will request a connection service and pay the relevant service fee for connection to the distribution network.
[19] If a network extension is required, the connection service is a negotiated connection service.
[20] If augmentation of the connection assets is required, the connection service is a negotiated connection service.
[21] The basic connection service does not include connections that require network augmentation.

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Provision of flexible export services for eligible applicants of their PV & small generator installation that would otherwise be constrained to a low static export limit of 1kW. ...
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Where a new connection gives rise to a need for a network extension or augmentation of the shared network or existing connection assets, the applicant is required to contribute to the cost of these works. In these circumstances, the connection service is classified as a standard or negotiated connection service and the relevant provisions described below apply.

3.6. Pioneer Scheme

As explained in section 2.10 of this Connection Policy, we apply a pioneer scheme in accordance with the AER's connection charge guideline. To give effect to this arrangement, a connection applicant may be required to make a reimbursement payment where the proposed connection makes use of a network extension that was initially funded by another customer. The operation of the Pioneer Scheme is described in section 2.10 of this Connection Policy.

3.7. Payment of connection charges

The total connection charges payable is the sum of the applicable fees and charges set out in Table 9 above. We require these charges to be paid as a lump sum at the time the connection offer is accepted, and prior to any construction work being undertaken. Alternatively, the customer may request the connection service through their retailer and the retailer will recover the costs from the customer.

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3.8. Further information

Further information on basic connections is available in the following our publications:

- Basic Connections Standing Model Offer
- Customer Connection Guide.

These publications, and other related fact sheets, are available from our website at:
https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/connections/energyconnect-application

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4. Standard connection services

4.1. Qualifying conditions

We offer standard connection services for underground connections that require a network extension, not exceeding a specified distance from the existing low voltage supply. Customers may be eligible for a standard connection service depending on meeting the qualifying conditions for our pole-to-pit MSO.

We currently offer two standard connection services, with additional charges applicable if there is a road crossing or a site-specific Aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence assessment is required. We anticipate adding additional standard connection services during the 2026-31 regulatory period and these will be available on our website here:

https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/connections

A pre-calculated CC calculated in accordance with the formula set out in section 2.7 applies to the provision of each standard connection service and must be paid by the connection applicant in accordance with the MSO. The amount payable is based on average cost and incremental revenue estimates. This approach delivers the following benefits to customers:

- it reduces the volume of customer-specific information required by us to prepare a quote for the connection service
- the customer is not required to pay a security deposit, because the capital contribution is based on average data, rather than the customer's particular usage.

We have also identified 'minor variations/other incidentals' that may be required by a customer, where:

- the proposed connection service crosses more than one road
- a site specific Aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence assessment is required.

To further assist customers, the MSO for standard connection services specifies the costs of these 'minor variations/other incidentals', in addition to specifying the pre-calculated capital contribution for each standard connection service.

The qualifying conditions for each standard connection service closely align with those for basic connection services. The key difference is that for standard connection services, the low voltage supply can be some distance from the customer's premises. Therefore, the qualifying conditions for each standard connection service require that:

- a low voltage supply is available with the necessary capacity and within the specified distance from the proposed connection
- maximum connection capacity of 100A in total on 3 phase low voltage supply with no more than 40A per phase
- compliance with the technical and safety obligations
- connection to a line that is not a SWER line.

We note that the standard connection service applies to single underground extensions, not to connection applications involving multiple underground extensions. If a connection application does not satisfy the qualifying conditions for a standard connection service, the connection will be classified as a negotiated connection service.

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4.2. Standard connection services to the distribution network

A description of the standard connection services is set out in Table 10 below. To simplify the presentation of information, we describe the underground extension of up to 40 metres to the existing overhead supply for one or two new customers.

Table 10: Standard connection types for customer connections

STANDARD CONNECTION SERVICE	DESCRIPTION
Underground extension (up to 40 metres) to the existing overhead supply, where the service would be used by one new customer	Provision of an underground connection service to a customer's single premises, where requested to do so by the customer, and the proposed connection point is within 40 metres of an existing low voltage pole. This service involves installing an underground service pit and undertaking the necessary trenching and boring. AusNet offers two standard services at different prices, depending on whether the service is single use or dual use. If a road crossing is required, an additional connection service charge applies.
Underground extension (up to 40 metres) to the existing overhead supply, where the service would be used by two new customers	Provision of an underground connection service to a customer's single premises, where requested to do so by the customer, and the proposed connection point is within 40 metres of an existing low voltage pole. This service involves installing an underground service pit and undertaking the necessary trenching and boring. AusNet offers two standard services at different prices, depending on whether the service is for single use (one customer) or dual use (two customers). If a road crossing is required, an additional connection service charge applies.

Source: AusNet

4.3. Fees and charges

The following table sets out whether fees and charges that are payable under a MSO for the standard connection services for each service group. The underground extension to the existing overhead or underground supply does not include basic connection services for routine new connections and addition of micro EG generation. These basic connection services must be requested separately.

The table simplifies the presentation by only showing the charges that apply for underground extensions to an existing overhead supply or an existing underground supply. The applicable charges are the same in both cases, as they are for each of the two standard connection services that we offer.

Table 11: Applicable fees for the standard connection service

SERVICE CHARGE GROUP	UNDERGROUND EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING OVERHEAD SUPPLY	UNDERGROUND EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING UNDERGROUND SUPPLY
Fees for the relevant basic connection services	Requested separately	Requested separately
Pre-calculated capital contribution	✓	✓
Minor variations/other incidentals	As required	As required
Reimbursement payment (Pioneer Scheme) - see section 4.5 below.	As required	As required

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4.4. Pre-calculated capital contribution

The AER's connection charge guidelines allow distributors to set a pre-calculated capital contribution for connection applicants who are expected to have substantially the same connection service and expected usage characteristics. Pre-calculated capital contributions are specified in the MSO for Standard Connection Services.[22] A pre-calculated CC, calculated in accordance with the formula set out in section 2.7, may apply to the provision of each standard connection service and must be paid where applicable by the connection applicant in accordance with the MSO.

The AER's guideline requires that the pre-calculated capital contribution charge must be included in a distribution network service provider's basic or standard connection offers and should:[23]

- Not create unreasonable cross-subsidisation within the class.
- Reflect the average or typical CC that would be charged to connection applicants within the class, if the cost-revenue-test was individually applied to each connection applicant's connection service.

To ensure that all customers are treated fairly and cross-subsidies are minimised, we have defined our underground connection services so that customers are likely to have similar connection service and usage characteristics. Alternatively, customers may request a negotiated connection offer for their pole-to-pit or service T connection for a connection offer based on their specific design cost estimate, and not a pre-calculated CC. It is important that there is equitable treatment between customers requesting a basic connection service and those requesting a standard connection service that is an underground connection service. Given this objective, our approach is that a connection applicant for a standard connection service that is an underground connection service:

- should pay the AER-approved connection fee for the equivalent basic connection service
- should pay the pre-calculated CC
- should not contribute to the augmentation of the shared network, as basic connection service are not subject to these charges.

4.5. Pioneer Schemes

A connection applicant will be required to make a reimbursement payment where the proposed connection will make use of an existing network mains extension that was funded by an original customer through a CC. However, network extensions that are provided as part of a standard connection service featuring an underground extension to the existing overhead supply are not subject to the Pioneer Scheme, as the reimbursement amount will be below the threshold amount (as described in section 2.10 of this Connection Policy). In the case of a standard connection service including an underground extension to the existing underground supply, the extension is typically provided to real estate developers sub dividing land and are not subject to Pioneer Scheme payments.

4.6. Payment of connection charges

The total connection charges payable is the sum of the applicable fees and charges set out in Table 4 2. We require the connection applicant to pay these charges as a lump sum at the time the connection offer is accepted, and prior to any construction work being undertaken.

4.7. Further information

Further information on the standard connection services is available in the following publications:

- Standard Connections Model Standing Offer
- Customer Connection Guide.

[22] https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/-/media/Files/AusNet/New-Connections/Model-Standing-Offer-for-standard-connection-submission.ashx?la=en

[23] AER, Connection charge guidelines for electricity retail customers, April 2032, clause 5.5.2. https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/AER%20-%20Connection%20charge%20guidelines%20for%20electricity%20customers%20-%20April%202023.pdf

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These publications, and other related fact sheets, are available from our website at:
https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/connections

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5. Negotiated connection services

This chapter provides information on our negotiated connection services. As previously noted, all connection applicants have the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of their connection offer. Where the connection applicant elects to negotiate the terms and conditions of their connection, the MSOs for basic and standard connection services do not apply.

5.1. Negotiated customer connections to the distribution network

We offer negotiated connection services for connections that require network extension or augmentation, where neither a basic or standard MSO applies. Every condition is subject to negotiation between us and the applicant. Cost reflective service fees are applicable for all activities requested by an applicant for negotiated customer connections, including costs of facilitating the negotiation and provision of firm offer.

We will provide negotiated connection services for customer connections to the distribution network, as set out in the table below.

Table 12: Negotiated connection types for customer connections

NEGOTIATED CONNECTION SERVICE	DESCRIPTION
Routine connection of new premises – customers over 100A	Routine connection services to customers making connection of a new premise to the network where that customer is above 100A. These services do not require augmentation of the shared network.
New connections requiring augmentation	This service applies in circumstances where: • augmentation of the shared network is required; or • a network extension is required outside the scope of a standard connection service; or alterations are required to existing connection assets.
Rearrangement of existing assets at customer request, excluding alteration and relocation of public lighting assets	Works associated with any rearrangement of existing assets at the customer's request.
Unmetered supply	Unmetered supply to a low power public street side asset or telecommunications equipment. Unmetered supplies are rarely available to connection customers.
Cross-boundary connection with another distribution network	Routine connection services to other distribution networks to connect customers or augment existing cross-boundary connection assets.
Enhanced connection services (a specific type of negotiated connection service)	Other or enhanced connection services provided at the request of a customer or third party, including those that are provided: • With higher reliability standards, or lower reliability standards (where permissible) than those specified in the NER or any other applicable regulatory instruments. This includes reserve feeder installation and maintenance. At service levels or plant ratings in excess of those required by the regulatory framework to be provided by us.

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5.2. Negotiated distribution connection unit connections

Where the connection of a distributed connection unit does not qualify for the basic micro DER connection then we will offer a negotiated connection service. We will undertake a manual assessment of the PV and small generator installation applications (described in the table below) to determine the technical implications of the proposed connection.

As noted in Table 12, a low voltage supply must be available in order to obtain a negotiated connection service. If it is not, a connection application must be made concurrently. Where the connection applicant is also seeking a connection to the distribution network, the network requirements arising from the proposed connection of the embedded generator are considered at the same time. The CC for non-registered DER providers that are also load customers is calculated based on the total cost of the works required to support both the generation (expected electricity output) and load components of the connection service.

For distribution connected units above 1.5MW, the contribution may also include an amount to reflect the tax we incur on the capital component of the expenditure, netting off the present value of the reverse cash flow resulting from the depreciation of the CC.As part of the pre-approval process, we may recommend the customer install an export-limiting device in order to avoid incurring the cost of upstream augmentation. If the applicant chooses not to install and export-limiting device, these augmentation costs would otherwise fall on us and other network customers. In these circumstances, the connection applicant must obtain a 'new connection requiring augmentation' service and pay the associated connection costs.

Table 13 below ancillary services may also be required on completion of the connection of a distribution connected units.

Table 13: Connection application management services for distribution connected units

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION
Remote meter reconfiguration	Remotely reconfigure an existing meter as requested by the applicant (or their retailer) for the installation of a small-scale renewable energy generation system.
Manual meter reconfiguration	Manually reconfigure an existing meter by a field officer visit as requested by the applicant (or their retailer) for the installation of a small-scale renewable energy generation system.
Manual assessment of PV & small generator installation enquiry, up to 15kW of export capacity (i.e. 5 kW per phase of export capacity)	Undertake the applicant's requested manual assessment of their PV & small generator installation to determine if more capacity is available. The export capacity of all inverters at the connection point is assessed.
Manual assessment of PV & small generator installation enquiry, from 15 kW per phase of export capacity to 1.5 MW	A manual assessment will be performed on a quoted basis.

Source: AusNet

5.3. Fees and charges

The fees and charges that are payable for a negotiated connection service are subject to negotiation with us. We will determine:

- the technical requirements for the proposed new connection or connection alteration; and
- the extent and costs of any necessary augmentation of the distribution system; and
- any consequent change in charges for distribution use of system services.

In accordance with clause 5A.C.4 of the NER, we charge the connection applicant a reasonable fee (a negotiation application fee) to cover expenses directly and reasonably incurred by us in assessing the application and making a connection offer.

The table below summarises the applicable fees for negotiated connection service.

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Table 14: Connection Charges for negotiated connection services

FEES AND CHARGES	ROUTINE CONNECTIONS OVER 100A[24]	NEW CONNECTIONS REQUIRING AUGMENTATION	RE-ARRANGEMENT OF EXISTING ASSETS	UNMETERED SUPPLY	Cross-boundary connection	DISTRIBUTION CONNECTED UNITS
Pre-approval service	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Negotiation application fee	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Design and construction of connection assets	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required
Capital contribution for network extension	✗	As required	✗	As required	As required	As required
Capital contribution for network augmentation	✗	As required	As required	✗	As required	As required
Tax cost	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	As required
Charges for meter type	As required	As required	As required	✗	As required	As required
Minor variations/other incidentals	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required
Reimbursement Payment (Pioneer Scheme) - see section 2.10 **Error! Reference source not found.**	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗[25]

Source: AusNet

5.4. Augmentation threshold

As shown in Table 14 (above), a CC for network extension or shared network augmentation may apply to some connections. However, a capital contribution is not payable if the capacity of the connection does not exceed the following threshold:[26]

- 10 kVA for a connection to a SWER line; or
- A maximum capacity of 100A single phase, or 100A per each phase of a multi-phase low voltage supply elsewhere in our distribution network.

The rationale for these thresholds is explained in section 2.7. Any CC is calculated in accordance with the formula, which is also set out in section 2.7 of this Connection Policy.

5.5. Payment of connection charges

The total connection charges payable are the sum of the applicable fees and charges set out in Table 5 4. In certain circumstances, we may require these charges to be paid as a lump sum at the time the connection offer is

[24] This service applies where there is no augmentation of the shared network required. If the connection requires augmentation, the charges for "New connections requiring augmentation" would apply.

[25] As the connection to the distribution network is a qualifying condition for this service, any reimbursement relating to a pioneer scheme would be made as part of the load connection.

[26] No augmentation fee is payable if the connection service is offered under the terms and conditions of a Basic Connection Offer (see section 2.7) or a Standard Connection Offer (see section 4.4).

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accepted, and prior to any construction work being undertaken. In particular, we require advance payment of the connection charge before the commencement of any construction work in the following circumstances:

a) the upfront total connection charge is no greater than the threshold specified in the AER's connection charge guidelines (the **prepayment threshold**);

b) the construction work is scheduled to commence within three months of the acceptance of the connection offer; or

c) the construction work cannot be logically segmented into distinct construction stages.

Where the construction work does not fall into any of the above categories, we will only require payment at the time the connection offer is accepted for costs that have been incurred and/or prepayment for any sunk costs which will be incurred immediately after the connection offer is accepted (including, but not limited to advance-order specialised or non-standard assets or design and administration costs).

The remaining amount of the upfront connection charge will be recovered no more than one month prior to the commencement of the scheduled construction work.

Where construction work can be logically segmented into distinct stages of construction, we will only require partial prepayment of the connection charge prior to each construction stage.

5.6. Pioneer Scheme

As already noted, the Pioneer Scheme operates to ensure a fair sharing of network extension costs between existing and future customers.

A connection applicant may be required to make a reimbursement scheme payment where the connection will make use of a network extension that is subject to the Pioneer Scheme (i.e. the network extension was funded by an original customer via a CC).

Further detail on the application of the Pioneer Scheme, see section 2.10 of this Connection Policy.

5.7. Security deposits and fees

We may require a connection applicant to provide a security deposit and may withhold a security fee from the deposit where:

- The customer fails to take supply/utilise the capacity of the new or additional assets within the first three years of supply being made available; or
- The customer discontinues the use of the supply without warning; or
- The customer's actual consumption is less than the amount estimated in calculating the CC.

For further information on the application of security deposits and fees please see section 7.3 of this Connection Policy.

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5.8. Minimum demand agreements

As an alternative to charging a security deposit for a single site connection with minimum demand exceeding 50 kVA, we may negotiate a minimum demand agreement with the customer. Under this arrangement, the customer agrees to be assigned to a minimum demand-based network tariff for a specified period. This approach gives us greater certainty about our ability to recover the costs we incur when providing the connection service. The terms of any such agreement will depend on the circumstances and will be subject to negotiation.

5.9. Further information

Further information on negotiated connections is available from our website at:
https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/connections/energyconnect-application

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6. Real estate developers

6.1. Overview

Real estate developers are responsible for the design and construction of electrical reticulation and connection assets within the boundaries of their property development. For this Connection Policy, real estate development includes the commercial development of land in one or more of the following ways:

- Residential housing and commercial / industrial subdivisions
- Construction of commercial and / or industrial premises (e.g. shopping centres)
- Construction of multiple new residential premises.

Connecting real estate developments to our distribution network typically involves extending the distribution network and augmenting the upstream network. These works are necessary to ensure the network is sized to allow for the expected future electricity demand from the development.

All connections for real estate developments are subject to a Negotiated Connection Offer. Connection applications for real estate development connections will only be accepted from the real estate developer.

6.2. Connection charges

The connection charges for real estate developments are summarised in the table below:

Table 15: Applicable charges for negotiated connection services

FEES AND CHARGES	APPLICABLE TO A NEGOTIATED CONNECTION SERVICE?
Negotiation Application Fee	✓
Design and construction of connection assets	As required
CC for network extension and/or modification	As required
CC for network augmentation	As required
Charges for meter type	As required

Source: AusNet

These charges relate solely to the connection of the real estate development to the distribution network and are additional to any costs the real estate developer may incur in the design and construction of reticulation assets within the development.

The connection charges are payable in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in our negotiated connection offer.

6.3. Capital contributions

The CCs for augmentation of the shared network are calculated in accordance with section 2.7 of this Connection Policy, with the exception that the augmentation threshold does not apply (as mandated by the AER's connection charge guidelines and the NER).

A real estate developer is treated as a single customer for the purpose of calculating a capital contribution. The estimated incremental revenue from the development includes all the sites/connection services within a real estate development. The incremental costs may include the costs of the connection services and the efficient cost of providing for forecast demand.

6.4. Pioneer Scheme

Real estate developers seek to recover their connection costs through the sale of real estate. As such, it is not appropriate to require customers within a development to make payments to share the connection costs. Therefore, developers are typically not entitled to receive the reimbursement payments under the Pioneer Scheme.

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There is an exception for line extensions that are outside the developer's site boundary. Under this exception, a developer may receive a rebate if that line extension is later used by a subsequent real estate development outside the initial development. Similarly, developers may be required to make a reimbursement scheme payment where their development makes use of a network extension that is subject to a Pioneer Scheme (i.e. that was funded by an original customer via a CC).

As explained in section 2.10 of this Connection Policy, we may negotiate alternative cost sharing arrangements with developers, under which a charge is levied on a $/lot basis. Such arrangements may be a more efficient and administratively simpler way to ensure effective cost sharing.

6.5. Payment of connection charges

The total connection charges payable by the connection applicant is the sum of the applicable fees and charges set out in Table 15 above.

Subject to the conditions set out in section 5.5. relating to when pre-payments may be required, the connection cost must be paid as a lump sum at the time the connection offer is accepted, and prior to any construction work being undertaken.

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6.6. Security deposits and fees

We require the developer to provide a security deposit and may charge the customer a security fee from the deposit to mitigate the risks to us from the development, including the risk that we may not recover the projected future revenue from the provision of standard control services.

Further details of the application of security fees are provided in section 7.2 of this Connection Policy.

6.7. Further information

Further information for connection of real estate developments please contact us by calling 1300 360 795 or emailing us via supplyrequest@ausnetservices.com.au.

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7. Other matters

7.1. Contestable Services

There are certain tasks in the connection process that only AusNet Services can undertake for safety or operational reasons, such as auditing third party network system designs and connection assets. We will allow customers to arrange most other works, including the tendering and construction of extension works. Works that can be undertaken by a third party are "Contestable Services", and typically include:

- Project management
- Some design, including surveying and drafting services
- Construction, which includes the provision of all materials and 'as-constructed' plans.
- The cost of Contestable Services depends on several variables, including:
- The distance of line extension to the property
- Addressing environmental considerations (such as impacts on trees) or overcoming objections from third parties
- The type and size of equipment used to provide the amount of supply requested
- Meeting regulatory requirements, such as those applied by the Victorian Government and local Councils.

A customer can elect to use an Approved Contractor (instead of us) to provide Contestable Services. An Approved Contractor has demonstrated to us that they have the necessary qualifications, training, experience, and quality systems of work to provide the Contestable Services lawfully and safely. If the customer elects to use an Approved Contractor, the customer can request that we conduct the tender exercise on their behalf. A fee applies for this service.

All Contestable Services designs are subject to approval by us. This ensures the designs are technically appropriate and have considered the overall impact and potential future needs of the electricity network.

When the customer chooses an Approved Contractor to perform Contestable Services, we may require a Refundable Guarantee from the customer to cover any costs associated with fixing faults or defects that may arise from the contractor's work. Any unused portion of the Refundable Guarantee will be returned after one year from the completion of the connection works.

A compliance audit of the Approved Contractor's work must be completed to ensure compliance with our construction standards prior to connecting to our system. This inspection is necessary as we are responsible for the safety and future maintenance of the line after a connection occurs. The customer must pay the Audit Fee for this inspection and any necessary subsequent inspections.

7.2. Charges for connection services classified as alternative control services

Alternative control services are customer specific or customer-requested services. Where alternative control services are provided by AusNet Services, the full cost of the service can be recovered from customers using that service.

Alternative control services are charged on either:

- Fixed fee basis—this is where the scope of the connection service is predictable and the AER has approved a fee for the service, for example basic connection and public lighting operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of public lighting services.
- Quoted basis—using the labour rates approved by the AER, along with a pass through of material, contractor costs and tax. We determine charges on a quoted basis where the scope of the service vary significantly between customer requests and prices can only be determined when the scope of the work in known.

Our method for determining the charge for a connection service on a quoted basis is set out below.

Price = Labour + Contractor Services + Materials + Tax + Margin

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Where Labour consists of all labour costs directly incurred in the provision of the service which may include labour on-costs, fleet on-costs, overheads and margin. Labour is escalated annually by:

$$(1+\Delta CPI_t)(1-X_t^i)$$

Where:

ΔCPI_t is the annual percentage change in the ABS consumer price index (CPI) All Groups, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities from the December quarter in year *t*–2 to the June quarter in year *t*–1.

X_t^i is the X factor for service *i* in year *t*, incorporating annual adjustments to the PTRM for the trailing cost of debt where necessary.

Contractor Services reflect all costs associated with the use of external labour including overheads and any direct costs incurred. The contracted services charge applies the rates under existing contractual arrangements. Direct costs incurred are passed on to the customer.

Materials reflect the cost of material directly incurred in the provision of the service, material storage and logistics on-costs and overheads.

Tax is an amount equal to the tax costs in present value terms arising from the provision of the service to a customer, netting off the net present value of the reverse cash flow resulting from the depreciation of the capital contribution.

Margin is an amount equal to AusNet Services' nominal vanilla WACC applied to the total cost of Labour, Contractor Services and Materials

7.3. Security deposits and fees

In certain circumstances, we may require the payment of a security deposit or bank guarantee and may withhold a security fee from the deposit. We do this in circumstances where we consider there is a significant risk that we may not earn the estimated incremental revenue from the connection services we provide. If a security deposit is charged, we may require an amount to be paid upfront, or we may require a financial security to be provided for an amount which is the lesser of:

- The incremental revenue at risk of non-recovery
- The incremental cost incurred by us in providing the connection service.

Under these circumstances, where the security deposit is provided as an upfront payment, we will rebate the security deposit via annual instalments, with the annual rebate being:

- Any interest earned on the security, calculated at the interest rate (cost of debt) approved by the AER for the current revenue determination; plus
- The lesser of:
  - the actual incremental revenue received from the customer for the year; or
  - the security deposit that was paid for that year.

We will not require a security deposit:

- For an amount that exceeds the value of the incremental revenue which is at risk of not being recovered
- For an amount that exceeds the present value of the incremental costs incurred by us
- Where the total value of the network augmentation or connection asset augmentation is valued at less than $10,000.

7.4. Dispute resolution

If a connection applicant wishes to dispute our connection charges or the terms and conditions of a connection agreement, disputes are managed in accordance with our Customer Complaint and Dispute Resolution Policy and the principles of the International Standard ISO 10002. A copy of the Customer Complaint and Dispute Resolution Policy is available from our website at: https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/Misc-Pages/Links/Contact-Us

We will endeavour to resolve any disputes in a timely, fair and transparent manner.

A connection applicant is entitled to refer a dispute to the AER. Information on the AER's customer connection dispute resolution process is available on its website at:

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http://www.aer.gov.au/about-us/dispute-resolution

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Glossary

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	FULL NAME
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
CC	Capital Contribution
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CT	Current Transformer
DUOS	Distribution Use of System
ICCS	Incremental Cost Customer Specific
ICSN	Incremental Cost Shared Network
IR	Incremental Revenue
kVA	Kilovolt amperes
MSO	Model Standing Offer
PV	Photovoltaic
REFCL	Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters
SWER	Single-wire earth return

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Definitions

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Alternative Control Services	A distribution service provided by AusNet Services that the AER has classified as an Alternative Control Service under the NER.
Approved Contractor	A contractor approved by AusNet Services that can provide Contestable Services.
Augmentation	Work to enlarge the distribution system or to increase its capacity to distribute electricity.
Australian Energy Regulator (AER)	The AER is an independent statutory authority that is part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The AER is responsible for the economic regulation of electricity networks in the National Electricity Market.
Basic connection service	A connection service that meets the requirements for a Basic Connection Offer as set out in Chapter 3 of this Connection Policy.
Capital Contribution	A capital contribution may be charged where a network extension, augmentation or connection assets are required for a new connection or alteration in accordance with this policy.
Codified Area	Defined under the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations as 'Electric Line Construction' areas.
Connection	A physical link between a distribution system and a retail customer's premises to allow the flow of electricity.
Connection alteration	An alteration to an existing connection including an addition, upgrade, extension, expansion, augmentation or any other kind of alteration.
Connection applicant	An applicant for a connection service who is either a retail customer; retailer or other proxy for a retail customer, or a real estate developer.
Connection application	An application made under clause 5A.D.3 of the NER.
Connection assets	Those components of a transmission or distribution system which are used to provide connection services. Connection assets are those assets required to connect an electrical installation to the shared network and are all the assets from the connection point back up to and including the network coupling point.
Connection charge	A charge imposed by a Distribution Network Service Provider for a connection service.
Connection contract	A contract formed by the making and acceptance of a connection offer.
Connection offer	An offer by a Distribution Network Service Provider to enter into a connection contract with a retail customer or a real estate developer.
Connection point	The agreed point of supply established between Network Service Provider(s) and another Registered Participant, Non-Registered Customer or franchise customer.
Connection policy	A document, approved as a connection policy by the AER under Chapter 7, Part E of the NER.
Connection service	Means either or both of the following: (a) a service relating to a new connection for premises; (b) a service relating to a connection alteration for premises.
Contestable Service	A service is contestable where it can be provided on a competitive basis. Contestable Services can be provided by AusNet Services or an Approved Contractor.

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CSIP-AUS (Common Smart Inverter Profile) Handbook	The 'SA HB 218:2023 Common Smart Inverter Profile – Australia with Test Procedures' Handbook as amended from time to time or if superseded, the document(s) listed by Standards Australia as superseding the Handbook.
Curtail	Limiting the export of electricity from an embedded generating unit into the distribution system
Customer	A person or entity that receives, or wants to receive a supply of electricity for a premises, or any other distribution service from AusNet Services.
Distributed connected unit	A distribution connected generating unit or a distribution connected bidirectional unit as those terms are defined under the National Electricity Rules.
Distribution connected unit operator	A person who owns, controls or operates a distribution connected unit.
Distribution Network Service Provider	A person that owns, controls or operates a Distribution Network and the associated connection assets. AusNet Services is a distribution network service provider.
Distribution system	The electrical system used to transport electricity from the high voltage transmission network connection point to distribution network users.
Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charge	The component of the network tariffs which covers costs associated with connection services and/or use of the distribution network for the conveyance of electricity.
Energy	The amount of electricity consumed by a consumer over a period of time. Energy is measured in terms of watt hours, such as kilowatt hours (kWh), megawatt hours (MWh) or gigawatt hours (GWh).
Export limit	The maximum amount of the applicant's distributed connected unit allowed to export onto our distribution system agreed between the applicant and AusNet.
Extension	Work that involves the construction and connection of a power line or facility outside the present boundaries of the distribution network owned, controlled or operated by AusNet Services.
Installed generation capacity limit	The maximum amount of electricity (measured in kW) determined by the manufacturer of the *inverter* for your *distribution connected units*, that the units are capable of generating, and which is specified in Item 9 of Schedule 1 of our basic connection services for micro DER connection unit, Model Standing Offer.
Interrupt	To create temporary unavailability of supply of energy from an embedded generating unit into the distribution system.
Low static export limit	The amount of the applicant's distribution connected unit which can export onto our distribution system agreed between the applicant and AusNet, which applies when the applicant's inverter is unable to remotely interface with our utility server via the internet; or if the applicant's inverter cannot connect to the internet, or you chose not to connect it to the internet.
Micro DER connection	means a connection between a distribution connected unit and a distribution network of the kind contemplated by Australian Standard AS 4777 (Grid connection of energy systems via inverters).
Micro resource operator	A small customer, large customer or SRA customer who operates, or proposes to operate, a distribution connected unit for which a micro DER connection is appropriate.

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National Electricity Rules	Rules made under the National Electricity Law which govern the operation of the National Electricity Market.
Negotiated connection service	A connection service that is not a basic connection service or a standard connection service.
New connection	A connection established or to be established, in accordance with Chapter 5A of the NER, as it applies in Victoria, and applicable energy laws, where there is no existing connection.
Non-registered DER provider	An distribution connected unit operator that is neither a micro resource operator nor a Registered Participant.
Original customer	The connection applicant who triggered the requirement and paid for the construction of an extension asset.
Pioneer scheme	A scheme to enable original customers to receive a partial refund of their capital contributions where the network extension funded by the capital contribution is subsequently used by other customers.
Real Estate Developer	A person who carries out a real estate development.
Real estate development	The commercial development of land including its development in one or more of the following ways: (a) subdivision; (b) the construction of commercial or industrial premises (or both); (c) the construction of multiple new residential premises.
Registered participant	A person who is registered by AEMO in any one or more of the categories listed in rules 2.2 to 2.7 of the NER (in the case of a person who is registered by AEMO as a Trader, such a person is only a Registered Participant for the purposes referred to in rule 2.5A of the NER). However, as set out in clause 8.2.1(a1), for the purposes of some provisions of rule 8.2 of the NER only, AEMO, Connection Applicants, Metering Providers and Metering Data Providers who are not otherwise Registered Participants are also deemed to be Registered Participants.
Regulated stand-alone power system	A system that generates and distributes electricity and does not form part of the interconnected national electricity system.
Standard connection service	A connection service that meets the requirements for a Standard Connection Offer as set out in Chapter 4 of this Connection Policy
Static export limit	The maximum amount of the applicant's micro embedded generating unit to export onto our distribution system agreed between the applicant and AusNet

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