

Evoenergy 2026–31 access arrangement public forum

AER Board Member – Lynne Gallagher – Conference Chair
Wednesday 17 September 2025

Acknowledgement of country

Lynne Gallagher
AER Board Member

Agenda

Topic	Speaker	Duration
Welcome & Acknowledgement of country	Lynne Gallagher, AER Board Member (Chair)	5-7 mins
High-level overview of the submissions	Kami Kaur, General Manager, Networks Expenditure	5 mins
Stakeholder Reflections	Jana Farook, Senior Policy Advisor, ACTCOSS Adam Collins, Executive Manager, Advocacy & Policy, ECA Robyn Robinson, AER's Consumer Challenge Panel, sub-panel 33	10-15 mins
Evoenergy Presentation	John Knox, CEO Megan Willcox, General Manager Economic Regulation, Evoenergy	5-7 mins
Facilitated Q&A	Andreas Blahous, (Convenor) Executive Director, Reset Coordination and Strategy and Evoenergy	20 mins
Closing remarks, next steps	Lynne Gallagher, AER Board Member	5 mins

Evoenergy's 2026–31 access arrangement

Evoenergy submitted its access arrangement proposal for 2026–31 on 30 June 2025 and submissions closed 15 August 2025.

Factors considered through Evoenergy's proposal:

- the policy landscape of the ACT is at the forefront of the energy transition with a legislative net zero emission target by 2045
- the complexity of balancing customer impacts and cost recovery in the short- and long-term interests of customers
- current AEMC rule changes, including considering new connections, and disconnection/abolishments

High-level overview from submissions

Kami Kaur

General Manager, Networks Expenditure

High-level summary of key issues raised in submissions

We received seven submissions during the consultation period and [are available on our website](#) for those who wish to explore them in full.

Submissions were received from a range of stakeholders, including: consumer advocates, government, and industry perspectives.

For Evoenergy, key issues we heard include:

- Uncertainty of the gas transition and the risks associated with this unpredictably should be better accounted for
- Accelerated depreciation and the concern that this approach has potential to transfer risk from the business to the customer
- Support for Tariff Reform and Equity in Cost Distribution
- Consideration on the form of control

Stakeholder Reflections

- Jana Farook, ACTCOSS
- Adam Collins, ECA
- Robyn Robinson, AER's Consumer Challenge Panel, sub-panel 33

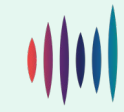
Evoenergy access arrangement 2026-2031

Outline of submission to the Australian
Energy Regulator

September 2025



Energy Consumers Australia's feedback on Evoenergy access arrangement 2026-2031



We generally support the approach Evoenergy is taking

- we welcome Evoenergy's commitment to support a steady and equitable path to the ACT Government's net zero emissions target by 2045, while managing the uncertainty as customers transition off gas

Accelerated depreciation should not be approved

- accelerated depreciation is a transfer of cost and risk from a gas distribution business to customers
- clearer cost sharing is needed between networks, government and consumers — not the status quo where only consumers are being asked to prepay for likely future network liabilities

We welcome Evoenergy's approach to disconnections and safety

- a targeted approach to permanent disconnections that minimises costs while maintaining network safety appears reasonable while JEC's rule change on disconnections is being considered by the AEMC

Connecting customers should pay full upfront connection costs

- no new connections in the ACT but new customers in NSW should pay full upfront connection costs, consistent with ECA's rule change proposal

Understanding consumer perspectives on accelerated depreciation and financeability

Helen Bartley (Bartley Consulting) and Kieran Donoghue (Newgrange Consulting)



Download the report

ECA has submitted four rule change requests to the AEMC on gas connection costs (open), and accelerated depreciation, capex criteria, and planning requirements (yet to commence).

Evoenergy

ACT and Queanbeyan-Palerang gas network access arrangement 2026–31

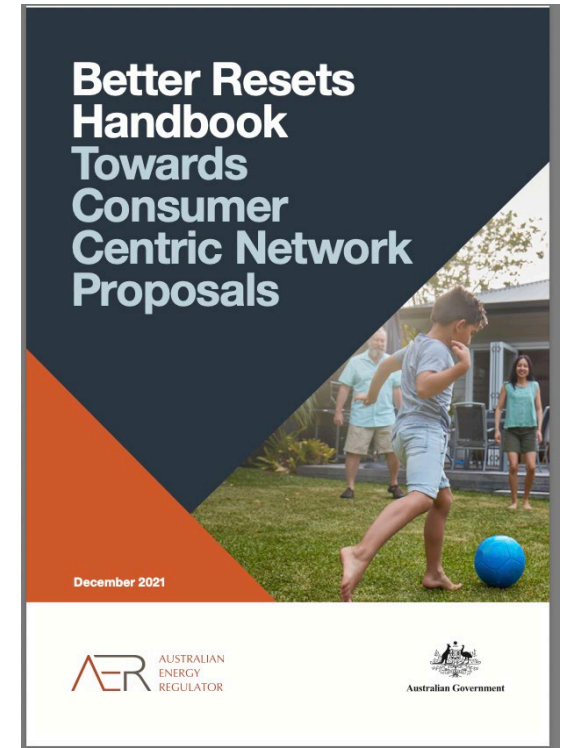
CCP33 Presentation 17 September 2025
Robyn Robinson & Helen Bartley

Consumer
Challenge
Panel

CCP role

To advise the AER on:

- Effectiveness of Evoenergy's engagement activities with consumers and how this is reflected in the development of its revenue proposal
- Whether Evoenergy's proposal is in the long-term interest of consumers



Context: ACT leads the transition from gas

- Closure of the gas network by 2045, with decommissioning to start from 2035
- Exploring new options to help manage the transition:
 - ▷ Risk-based approach to disconnections
 - ▷ Sum of years digits approach to accelerated depreciation
 - ▷ Enhancements to demand forecasting

Consumer engagement

- Broad engagement, however significant gaps
 - ▷ Low income/vulnerable customers
 - ▷ NSW customers
 - ▷ No deep engagement on building block expenditure
- Key engagement topics & consumer preferences
 - ▷ Accelerated depreciation accepted – but regulatory framework challenged
 - ▷ Form of control – not well understood
 - ▷ Minimal engagement on hybrid mechanism to share demand risks
 - ▷ Tariff rebalancing – encouragement to be more ambitious
 - ▷ Disconnections – support for the new approach (in ACT)

Evoenergy Presentation

John Knox, CEO

Megan Willcox, General Manager Economic Regulation

Gas access arrangement 2026–31

AER public forum

17 September 2025



The region's context is different to other jurisdictions

ACT Government policies target accelerated electrification

The ACT Government leads in electrification policies, with the most aggressive and broad initiatives supported with financial incentives.

Integrated Energy Plan key initiatives include:

- 2023** ACT is the first to legislate banning new gas connections
- 2030** Possible regulatory measures to accelerate electrification
ACTG aims to electrify feasible public and community housing
- 2035-2040** Phased network decommissioning to commence
- 2045** Legislated net zero emission target

Electrification intentions are strongest in the ACT

Consumer research shows strong motivation to electrify in the ACT.

28% of Evoenergy customers are forecast to disconnect by 2031

36% of customers are expected to have their largest gas appliances fail by 2031

Energy Consumers Australia reports:

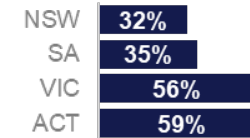
65% of ACT gas customers plan to close their gas account within 10 years (vs. 35% nationwide)

Sagacity forecasts:

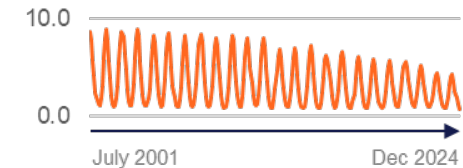
78% increase in residential gas customers likely to switch to electric appliances (2020 to 2024)

Unique demand characteristics in the ACT

The ACT has a high residential load portion



Winter peak usage dropped from 9 to 4.3 GJ per residential customer monthly



The ACT has limited industrial load

-97% compared to NSW **1/3** of NSW and SA

ACT demand is highly seasonal

July usage is **5x** January usage

Acting now enables an equitable transition over the long term

evoenergy

The equitable transition pathway for our community

Our proposal reflects our community feedback for Evoenergy to:

- Enable an equitable transition path to 2045
- Manage bill impacts for low-and middle-income households
- Maintain a safe and reliable network
- Charge no more than needed
- Align with emissions reduction policy



Best available **demand forecast** reflecting our customer's transition path



Accelerate depreciation now to enable a more **equitable pathway** for all customers through to 2045



Materially **reduce expenditure**[^]
Controllable opex ↓ 14%
Capex ↓ 38%



Revenue cap ensures customers pay no more and no less than efficient costs



Efficiently manage **safety** through **targeted permanent disconnections** and retaining user pays



Gradually **flatten tariffs** to align with emissions reduction policy and manage small customer bill impacts

Next steps



Engage

- We will continue to engage with:
- the AER and its consultants, and
 - our community and stakeholders



Update

We will update our demand forecast



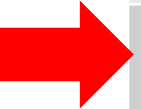
Participate

We will actively participate in the AEMC's rule change process

Facilated Q&A

Andreas Blahous, Executive Director, Reset Coordination

Next Steps

Milestone	Date
Evoenergy submits its regulatory proposals to AER	30 June 2025
Submissions on Evoenergy's access arrangement close	15 August 2025
 AER holds a public forum	17 September 2025
AER publishes draft access arrangement decision	28 November 2025
Evoenergy submits revised access arrangement to AER	January 2026
Submissions on revised proposal and draft decision close	By February 2026
AER publishes final decision for access arrangement period	By 30 April 2026

Thank you