

Transgrid Central West Orana RNIP 2026-31 (non-contestable) - Revenue proposal

CCP presentation to AER Public Forum
8 November 2025

CCP35: Helen Bartley

Consumer
Challenge
Panel



Acknowledgement of country

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

CCP role: Transgrid's CWO REZ revenue proposal

To advise the AER on:

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

CCP activities

- Observed all meetings with Transgrid and its customer panel
- Reviewed Transgrid's draft plan, panel report, Transgrid's proposal
 - Prepared written advice to the AER
- Reviewed the AER's Preliminary Position Paper
 - Will provide written advice to the AER on its PPP

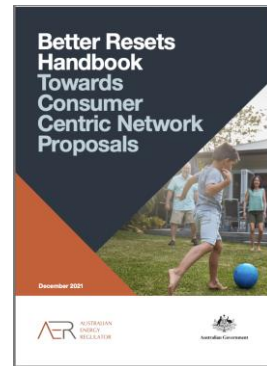
Transgrid engagement

- Narrow scope for engagement acknowledged given short time frame under EII Act
- Transgrid relied on its Advisory Council (TAC) for its pre-lodgement engagement
 - ▷ The panel met five times (half-day meetings), January to April 2025, face to face and online
- I observed all meetings
- Engagement topics focused on:
 - ▷ Incentive schemes
 - ▷ Risk allocation
 - ▷ Adjustment mechanisms
 - ▷ Financeability

Transgrid's engagement effectiveness

*While Transgrid commenced its engagement early and presented well-organised and detailed materials, **its engagement** was less effective than its proposal suggests and **fell short of BRH expectations***

- The TAC is *not a customer panel*
- Engagement was predominantly about *informing* the TAC
- Transgrid published a detailed draft plan, but *allowed limited time and resources* for feedback before lodging its proposal
- AER received four submissions – all raised concerns about limitations of Transgrid's engagement



CCP views on AER's preliminary position

I commend the AER's preliminary position ...

- Transgrid's engagement "requires further improvements" (AER, PPP, p.16), [compared to the 2023 WSB Project], and suggesting some improvements
- Rejecting aspects of the proposal where Transgrid had not provided sufficient justification
- Exercising power to reject/approve different adjustment events, and providing reasoning to support its preliminary positions
- Aligning focus issues with the contentious issues for stakeholders

High level recommendations for future REZ proposals ...



For Transgrid to:

- Start early
- Learn from networks that have been commended for good engagement practice
- Establish a dedicated **consumer representative** panel who will focus on **consumer interests**
 - ▷ Focus on material topics, of interest to consumers and where they can influence outcomes and agree these with the panel)
 - ▷ Engage beyond “informing” – and encourage and respond to consumer challenge
- Commit to early delivery of draft proposal and fairly fund the panel to prepare submissions

For the AER to:

- Continue appointing CCPs to scrutinise network engagement and provide timely consumer-oriented advice as network operators develop their REZ proposals
- Consider guidance notes for REZ revenue proposals to supplement BRH