

AUSNET EDPR 2026-2031 COORDINATION GROUP MEETING #22 MINUTES

Location: Microsoft Teams

Date: 21 October 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Coordination Group (CG):
Peter Eben (Chair of CG, meeting Chair)
Helen Bartley (Research and Engagement Panel Lead) (meeting secretary)
Kieran Donoghue (Availability Panel Lead)
Gavin Dufty (Tariffs and Pricing Panel Lead)
Mark Grenning (Benchmarking and Opex Lead) (until 10 am)
Attendees: Dean Lombard (Future Networks Panel Lead)
Emily Peel (Customer Experience Lead)

AusNet:
Charlotte Eddy
Lucy Holder
Rob Ball
Lia Mavrias

AER

Gus Mandigora
Alex Thorne (Capex Team)
Mark Langeluddecke (Opex Team)
Adam Rappoport (Opex and Benchmarking)
Prianka Thomas (Pricing 5 mins)
Malcolm Rae (Tariffs 5 mins)
Felix Karmel (Capex Team)
David Prins (CCP Observer)
Mark Henley (CCP Observer)

Apologies: Lynley Jorgenson (AER)

I. WELCOME AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Acknowledgement of Country (DL)

No conflicts of interest declared.

II. AUSNET POST LODGEMENT ENGAGEMENT (LUCY)

- A. Lucy spoke to AusNet's Slide 5 proposed engagement timetable, and noted the tight timeline between the draft decision in end of September, engagement limited to CG meeting today (21 October) and larger face to face forum proposed for 6 November
- B. Lucy noted AusNet has separately undertaken some bespoke engagement on CSIS and public lighting with councils
- C. Lucy noted the tight timelines and following the 6 November meeting AusNet needs to present its proposal to the AusNet Steering Committee for approval; then has one more week to finalised documentation for AER on 1 December
- D. In the draft decision, AER has not flagged any specific issue on further engagement other than customer preferences for data centre connections (other topics up for CG consideration see below)
- E. Aim of today is to finalise engagement format and topics for 6 November, session will include an update for the broader group and areas where changes are proposed
- F. Questions and comments:
 - i. CCP noted the [regulatory] rules set the timing and so they appreciate limited opportunities for detailed engagement. CCP has no specific expectations given the tight timelines and appreciate the need to prioritise areas for engagement. CCP suggested AusNet provide clarity in its revised proposal on areas where changes have occurred including engagement.

III. AER DRAFT DECISION OVERVIEW AND AUSNET'S INTENDED RESPONSE (CHARLOTTE) (SLIDES 7 – 26)

- A. AusNet raised concerns about the AER's Draft Decision (DD) and significance of cuts to the AusNet proposal in capital and operating expenditure and emphasized the need for a capex step up in the AER's final decision for AusNet to maintain safety and reliability of the network.
- B. AusNet provided commentary and discussion on each key component of the DD as per their slides. The CG raised points of clarification that AusNet and / or the AER clarified as required.
- C. AusNet noted that it is working through its response to the DD and the forum will provide key customer perspectives on areas where decisions may influence customer outcomes.
- D. AusNet also noted it would update elements of its proposal to reflect matters like changing demand forecasts, higher market costs and additional data where the AER requested further information.

IV. CONFIRMING APPROACH FOR 6 NOVEMBER WORKSHOP (PETER) (SLIDES 28 – 30)

- A. Confirmation AusNet is not intending to engage further with the CG, and the CG noting the technical nature of step changes is not a suitable topic for the broader forum
- B. Query as to the assumptions AusNet will make about the CG's position as it finalises its revised proposal, and therefore the CG's role in the forum
- C. Discussion on what AusNet/AER are looking for in next submission from the CG?
 - 1. AusNet: short letter set out top of mind concerns with the AER's draft and AusNet's revised proposal, and noting limitations; expecting, short list of topics to consult on, e.g. data centre tax threshold
 - 2. AER perspective: up to AusNet to agree on engagement between now and the revised proposal, in terms of Jan submission need to think out – DD look at issues in draft decisions
- D. Priority topics (slide 29) noting all topics can not be covered was discussed
 - 1. Tax thresholds for data center topic must be covered
 - 2. Reliability, resilience, customer experience opex, CSIS and digital were noted as important topics
 - 3. AusNet to put a list of topics together and share outline with the CG in next few days
- E. Agreement was noted on the Table work approach to the session (slide 30)

V. COORDINATION GROUP

- A. Submission on AER draft decision and AusNet's revised proposal (Peter) to be discussed after the workshop on 6 November
- B. AusNet to consider what it will fund

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VII. ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

No Action items

Next meeting – in person at AusNet forum