


30 April 2026

Ben Stonehouse
Acting General Manager Network Expenditure.
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Submitted by email: 

Dear Mr Stackhouse,

Re: Application – ex ante determination system security network support service


Please find attached APA's official application for the AER to make ex-ante determination that the system security network support service payment methodology set out in the draft contract is likely to be prudent and efficient under clause 6A.6.6A of the NER.

The parties to the draft contract are Basslink Pty Limited (ACN 609 169 959) (Basslink) and Hydro Tasmania Corporation (ABN 48 072 377 158) (Hydro Tasmania).

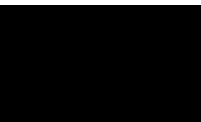
APA greatly appreciates the AER's assistance and informal review in preparing this application ahead of its official submission.

APA recognises that this is a new process for both the AER and APA and that procuring the services for the Frequency Control System Protection Scheme (FCSPS) is a unique circumstance in the National Electricity Market (NEM). However, we encourage the AER to make a timely determination on this application in order for these system security services to be made available by 1 July 2026, or as soon as reasonably possible.

We have provided this confidential version to initiate the process but in accordance with the AER's confidentiality guidelines, also plan to provide a redacted version supported by confidentiality claims. These are currently being finalised.

If you or your team require any further information or clarification on this application, please contact Patrick Whish-Wilson at 

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Lindsay
General Manager Regulation and External Policy
Legal, Governance and Regulatory