



Proposed Pricing Methodology (1 April 2027 – 31 March 2032)

TRR 2027-32

Friday, 31 October 2025

Table of contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Rules requirements	4
3.	AusNet's aggregate annual revenue requirement	5
4.	Allocation of AAR to categories of prescribed transmission services	6
4.1.	Overview of allocation principles	6
4.2.	Application of the allocation principles	7
4.3.	Example of the application of the allocation principles	9
5.	Allocation of the ASRR to transmission network connection points	10
5.1.	Overview of allocation principles	10
5.2.	Application of the allocation principles	10
5.3.	Recovery of the ASRR as prices	13
5.4.	Recovery of system strength charges	13
6.	Information requirements and billing	14
6.1.	Compliance with Rule 6A.26	14
6.2.	Compliance with Rule 6A.27	14
6.3.	Compliance with AER pricing methodology guidelines	14
6.4.	Differences between this pricing methodology and that proposed for the current period	14
7.	Prudential requirements	16
7.1.	Prudential requirements for prescribed transmission services	16
7.2.	Capital contribution or prepayment for a specific asset	16
	Appendix A – Structure of transmission pricing in Victoria	17
	Appendix B – Priority ordering methodology	18
B1.	Rules requirements	18
B2.	Objective and general approach	18
B3.	Proposed methodology	18
B4.	Definition – Branches	19
B5.	Examples	20

1. Introduction

This pricing methodology will apply from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032 and proposes amendments to the approved pricing methodology primarily to address the changes required by the introduction of *System Strength Charging* in accordance with the AEMC's Rule determination, *Efficient Management of System Strength on the Power System Rule 2021*, October 2021.

AusNet is a TNSP in Victoria for the purposes of the *Rules*. This document sets out AusNet's proposed *pricing methodology* for the period 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032 and has been prepared in accordance with AusNet's obligations under the *Rules*.

It is important to note that the transmission arrangements in Victoria differ from those in other states, given the roles and responsibilities that are ascribed to AusNet and VicGrid.¹ In relation to pricing matters, AusNet allocates its *aggregate annual revenue requirement (AARR)* to each of the *categories of prescribed transmission services*, and is also responsible for pricing *connection services*. VicGrid is responsible for pricing *prescribed Transmission Use of System (TUOS) services* and *prescribed common transmission services*. VicGrid is also the *System Strength Service Provider* in Victoria. For the purposes of clause 6A.29.1, VicGrid is the *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* for Victoria and allocates all relevant AARR within Victoria. The diagram in Appendix A shows the delineation of responsibilities between AusNet and VicGrid in relation to transmission pricing under Part J of Chapter 6A of the *Rules*.

In light of the arrangements in Victoria, this proposed *pricing methodology* only addresses the pricing matters for which AusNet has responsibility. VicGrid is subject to specific pricing methodology provisions set out in Schedule 6A.4.2 (f) of the *Rules*.

AusNet will monitor compliance with its pricing methodology, the relevant pricing principles and Part J of the NER through the established audit process conducted as part of the annual pricing process undertaken to enable VicGrid to issue transmission prices.

The remaining sections of this document are structured as follows:

- Section 2 – sets out the key requirements for pricing methodologies in the *Rules*.
- Section 3 – defines the AARR in accordance with the *Rules*.
- Section 4 – explains the allocation of the AARR to the *categories of prescribed transmission services* in accordance with clauses 6A.23.2 and 11.6.11, in order to establish the *annual service revenue requirements (ASRR)* for each category.
- Section 5 – explains the allocation of the ASRR to *transmission network connection points* in accordance with clause 6A.23.3.
- Section 6 – explains the application of the principles for the recovery of the ASRR as prices to the charges for *connection services* in accordance with clause 6A.23.4.
- Section 7 – describes the requirements relating to information provision, and the billing arrangements in accordance with clause 6A.27.
- Section 8 – sets out AusNet's prudential requirements as required by rule 6A.28.

Throughout this document, terms which appear in *italics* have the meaning given to them in the *Rules*.

¹ Before 1 November 2025, this function was undertaken by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

2. Rules requirements

Clause 6A.24.1(b) of the *Rules* states that the pricing methodology applied by a *TNSP*:

1. Allocates the aggregate annual revenue requirement (AARR) for prescribed transmission services provided by the *TNSP* to each category of prescribed transmission services;
2. Provides for the manner and sequence of adjustments to the annual service revenue requirement (ASRR);
3. Allocates the ASRR to transmission network connection points (other than *connection points* of any *Market Network Service Provider*);
4. Determines the structure of the prices that a *TNSP* may charge for each category of prescribed transmission services under 6A.23.4(a)²; and
5. Determines for each *system strength node* on its *transmission network*, the *system strength unit price*.³

The pricing methodology must comply with the principles and guidelines established by or made under the *Rules*. Clause 6A.10.1(e) of the *Rules* requires that the proposed pricing methodology must:

- (1) give effect to and be consistent with the *Pricing Principles for Prescribed Transmission Services*, which are set out in rule 6A.23; and
- (2) comply with the requirements of, and contain or be accompanied by such information as is required by, the *pricing methodology guidelines* made for that purpose under rule 6A.25.

Further, under clause 6A.24.1(d), a *TNSP* must comply with the *pricing methodology* approved by the *AER* as part of a *transmission determination* that applies to that *TNSP*, and any other applicable requirements in the *Rules*, when the *TNSP* is setting the prices that may be charged for the provision of *prescribed transmission services*.

² Under the current Victorian transmission arrangement, AEMO is responsible for setting prices under clause 6A.23.4(a)(1), (2) and (3) of the *Rules*.

³ Under the current Victorian transmission arrangement, AEMO is the System Strength Service Provider in Victoria and is responsible for calculating the *system strength unit price*.

3. AusNet's aggregate annual revenue requirement

As required by the *Rules*, AusNet determines the AARR in accordance with rule 6A.3 and clause 6A.22.1. Clause 6A.22.1 states that for the purposes of pricing regulation, the AARR for *prescribed transmission services* provided by a TNSP is the *maximum allowed revenue* referred to in clause 6A.3.1 adjusted:

- (1) in accordance with clause 6A.3.2, and
- (2) by subtracting the operating and maintenance costs expected to be incurred in the provision of *prescribed common transmission services*; and any adjustments under clause 6A.7.2 that relate to a reconciliation in a previous regulatory year of expected *system security network support payments* with actual system security network support

System security network support payments include the following:

- (1) Payment made by a TNSP under a network support agreement for NSCAS. Either VicGrid or AusNet could require payment under a network support agreement for NSCAS.
- (2) An inertia service payment. As VicGrid is provider of these services in Victoria, AusNet will not incur any inertia service payments.
- (3) A system strength service payment. As VicGrid is the System Strength Service Provider for Victoria, AusNet will not incur any system strength service payments.

Clause 6A.3.1 states that the revenue that a TNSP may earn in any regulatory year of a regulatory control period from the provision of *prescribed transmission services* is the maximum allowed revenue subject to any adjustments referred to in clause 6A.3.2, and is to be determined in accordance with:

- (a) the revenue determination forming part of the applicable transmission determination; and
- (b) the provisions of Part C of Chapter 6A, which relate to the regulation of revenue for *prescribed transmission services*.

The operating and maintenance costs that are subtracted from the maximum allowed revenue are determined by reference to the revenue determination operating and maintenance costs forecasts. The costs allocated to common services are those that cannot or should not be allocated to specific assets or by asset share and consist of:

- System operation opex;
- Non-System opex;
- Land taxes / rates;
- Insurance and self-insurance;
- Debt and equity raising Costs; and
- Easement land tax costs.

The effect of clause 6A.3.1 is that the AARR is to be determined by reference to AusNet's *revenue determination*. AusNet undertakes to ensure that the AARR for price setting purposes is determined in accordance with its *revenue determination* relating to the 2027 - 2032 *regulatory control period* and is depicted in Appendix A of this pricing methodology.

4. Allocation of AAR to categories of prescribed transmission services

4.1. Overview of allocation principles

Clauses 6A.22.3, 6A.23.2 and 11.6.11 of the *Rules* provide the framework for calculating AusNet's *annual service revenue requirement (ASRR)*.

Clause 6A.23.2 of the *Rules* requires the AARR to be allocated in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) The AARR for a *TNSP* must be allocated to each *category of prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the *attributable cost share* for each such category of services.
 - (a1) As applicable:
 - (1) the AARR for a *TNSP* must be allocated to each *category of prescribed transmission services* it provides by multiplying its AARR by the *attributable cost share* calculated under clause 6A.22.3(a) for that *category of prescribed transmission services*; and
 - (2) The *total regional AARR* for a *region* must be allocated to each *category of prescribed transmission services* in the *region* by multiplying the *total AARR* by the *attributable cost share* calculated under clause 6A.22.3(b) for that *category of prescribed transmission services*.
 - (b) This allocation results in the *annual service revenue requirement (ASRR)* for that category of services.
 - (c) The allocation of the AARR must be such that:
 - (1) every portion of the AARR is allocated; and
 - (2) the same portion of the AARR is not allocated more than once.
 - (c1) The allocation of the *total regional AARR* must be such that:
 - (1) every portion of the *total regional AARR* is allocated; and
 - (2) the same portion of the *total regional AARR* is not allocated more than once
 - (e) An *interconnector transfer amount* (if any) will affect the *total regional AARR* for a *region* by being added under clause 6A.22.5(d) or deducted under clause 6A.29.1A(b) (as applicable to the *region*) and consequently will be accounted for through the allocation of the *total regional AARR* to each *category of prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the principles of this clause.

Clause 6A.22.3 defines *attributable cost share* as follows:

- (a) For a *TNSP* for a *category of prescribed transmission services*, the *attributable cost share* for that *TNSP* for that category of services must, subject to any adjustment required or approved, under this Part, substantially reflect the ratio of:
 - (1) the costs of the *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of that *category of prescribed transmission services*; to
 - (2) the total costs of all the *TNSP's transmission system* assets and any other *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed transmission services*.
- (b) For a *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* allocating the *total regional AARR* to each *category of prescribed transmission services* in a *region*, the *attributable cost share* for that *category of prescribed transmission services* must, subject to any adjustment required or approved under this Part, substantially reflect the ratio of:
 - (1) the costs of the *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of that *category of prescribed transmission services* in the *region*; to
 - (2) The total costs of all *Transmission Network Services Providers' transmission systems* and any other *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed transmission services* in the *region*.
- (c) Where, as a result of paragraph (a) or (b), any costs of a *transmission system* asset would be attributable to more than one *category of prescribed transmission services*, that *attributable cost share* is to be adjusted

and applied such that any costs of a *transmission system asset* that would otherwise be attributed to the provision of more than one *category of prescribed transmission services* is allocated as follows:

- (1) to the provision of *prescribed TUOS services*, but only to the extent of the *stand-alone amount* for that *category of prescribed transmission services*;
 - (2) if any portion of the costs of a *transmission system asset* is not allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* under subparagraph (1), that portion is to be allocated to *prescribed common transmission services*, but only to the extent of the *stand-alone amount* for that *category of prescribed transmission services*;
 - (3) if any portion of the costs of a *transmission system asset* is not allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* under subparagraph (1) or (2), that portion is to be attributed to *prescribed entry services* and/or *prescribed exit services*.
- (d) The costs of the *transmission system assets* referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) refers to optimised replacement cost or to an accepted equivalent to optimised replacement cost that is referable to values contained in the accounts of the *TNSP*.
- (e) To avoid doubt, the *attributable cost share* for a *category of prescribed transmission services* in a *region* is calculated without regard to whether the *total regional AARR* is affected by an *interconnector transfer amount* (whether added under clause 6A.22.5(d) or deducted under clause 6A.29.1A(b)), and accordingly the *attributable cost share* for a *category of prescribed transmission services* in a *region* will be the same as it would have been had the *total regional AARR* for the *region* not been affected by an *interconnector transfer amount*.

4.2. Application of the allocation principles

In accordance with clause 6A.22.3(a), AusNet determines the *attributable cost share* for each *category of prescribed transmission services* by calculating the ratio of:

- (1) the costs of the *transmission system assets* directly attributable to the provision of that *category of prescribed transmission services*; to
- (2) the total costs of AusNet's *transmission system assets* and any other *transmission system assets* directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed transmission services*.

In accordance with clause 6A.22.3(d), AusNet values its assets in accordance with an optimised replacement cost (ORC) methodology.

To give effect to the allocation process, the costs of *transmission system assets* must be allocated to a *category of prescribed transmission services* in accordance with clause 6A.23.2 of the *Rules*. The *categories of prescribed transmission services* to which the costs can be allocated are defined in the *Rules*⁴ and referred to in clause 6A.22.3. This clause must be read together with clause 11.6.11. Clause 11.6.11 is a transitional provision which deems certain *connection services* provided to *Generators* and customers directly connected to the *transmission network* for *connections* in place or committed to be in place as at 9 February 2006 to be a *prescribed connection service*. A full description of the priority ordering methodology is provided in Appendix B to this *pricing methodology*.

The following paragraphs identify the *category or categories of prescribed transmission service* to which each of AusNet's asset categories (and its ORC) is allocated.

4.2.1. Lines

All lines are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services*, with the following exceptions:

- 66 kV double circuit lines between Cranbourne and Frankston Terminal Stations; and
- 66 kV double circuit lines between Templestowe Terminal Station and DNSP zone substations DC, HB, L and WD.

The line assets listed immediately above are allocated to *prescribed exit services*, as each of the above lines is radial and connects a particular user to the *transmission network*.

4.2.2. Transformers

⁴ As (a) prescribed entry services; (b) prescribed exit services; (c) prescribed common transmission services; and (d) prescribed TUOS services.

The main system tie transformers are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services*. Connection Transformers are allocated to *prescribed entry and exit services*.

4.2.3. Switchgear

A shallow connection policy is applied in determining the allocation of switchgear. In accordance with this policy, switchgear is assigned to *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* only when those assets provide supply to *Network Users* connected at the *connection point*. The remainder are assigned to *prescribed TUOS services*.

4.2.4. Busbars and rack structures

Busbars and rack structures are not separately identified for allocation. Instead, they are included in the relevant switchgear, transformer or reactive primary bays and the establishment costs at each terminal station.

4.2.5. Reactive compensation plant

All reactive plant is assigned to *prescribed common transmission services* as it provides equivalent benefit to all *Transmission Network Users* with the following exceptions:

- *Reactive plant* will be assigned to *prescribed TUOS services* if the benefits of the *reactive plant* can be allocated on a locational basis and agreed with VicGrid, but cannot be allocated to a particular user or group of users.
- *Reactive plant* at the sub-transmission voltage level will be assigned to *prescribed exit services* if it is clearly evident that the plant has been provided to meet the local reactive requirements of one or more users connected at the relevant terminal station as stipulated in a connection agreement.

4.2.6. Land and station establishment

Land and establishment costs are apportioned between *prescribed exit services* and *prescribed TUOS services* on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the principles set out in clauses 6A.23.2 and 11.6.11.

4.2.7. Communications

All communication assets are assigned to *prescribed common transmission services*.

4.2.8. Secondary systems

Secondary equipment is generally allocated in accordance with the allocation of the associated primary equipment.

4.2.9. Transmission operations centre

All operational costs are assigned to *prescribed common transmission services*.

4.2.10. System spares

System spares are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services*.

4.2.11. Non-system assets

Non-system assets are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services*.

4.2.12. Easements

Easements are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services*.

4.2.13. Easements land tax

As any land tax imposed on transmission easements in Victoria under the *Land Tax Act 2005* is directly associated with the value of the easement portfolio, AusNet allocates this cost to *prescribed common transmission services*.

4.3. Example of the application of the allocation principles

AusNet values its assets in accordance with an optimised replacement cost (ORC) methodology. In accordance with clause 6A.22.3(a), AusNet determines the *attributable cost share* for each category of prescribed transmission services by calculating the ratio of:

- (1) the ORC of the *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of that *category of prescribed transmission services*; to
- (2) the total ORC of AusNet's *transmission system* assets and any other *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed transmission services*.

For example, if the ORCs of the *prescribed transmission assets* have been allocated to the applicable categories of *prescribed transmission services* as shown in the table below, then the *attributable cost shares* for entry assets are calculated as shown in the formula below:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Attributable cost share}_{\text{Entry}} &= \text{ORC}_{\text{Entry}} \div \text{ORC}_{\text{Total}} \\
 &= \$2,875,000 \div \$104,460,000 \\
 &= 0.0275
 \end{aligned}$$

The *attributable cost shares* of the other categories of *prescribed transmission services* follow the same formula resulting in the *attributable cost shares* shown in the last column of the table.

Table 14-1: Step changes and zero-based costs

Category	ORC	Attributable cost share
Entry services	2,875,000	0.0275
Exit services	22,593,000	0.2163
TUOS services	68,992,000	0.6605
Common services	10,000,000	0.0957
Total	104,460,000	1.0000

5. Allocation of the ASRR to transmission network connection points

5.1. Overview of allocation principles

The next step in the *pricing methodology* is for AusNet to allocate the ASRR for each of *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* to *transmission network connection points*. This section of the proposed pricing methodology explains how that allocation is done.

It is noted that VicGrid is responsible for allocating the ASRR for *prescribed TUOS services* and *prescribed common transmission services* in accordance with the *Rules*.

Clause 6A.23.3 sets out the following principles for allocating the ASRR to *transmission network connection points*:

- (i) The whole of the ASRR for *prescribed entry services* is to be allocated to *transmission network connection points* (other than connection points of any Market Network Service Provider) in accordance with the *attributable connection point cost share* for *prescribed entry services* that are provided by the TNSP at that connection point.
- (j) The whole of the ASRR for *prescribed exit services* is to be allocated to *transmission network connection points* (other than connection points of any Market Network Service Provider) in accordance with the *attributable connection point cost share* for *prescribed exit services* that are provided by the TNSP at that connection point.

Clause 6A.22.4 defines the *attributable connection point cost share* as follows:

- (a) For a TNSP for *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services*, the *attributable connection point cost share* for that TNSP for each of those categories of services must substantially reflect the ratio of:
 - (1) the costs of the *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed entry services* or *prescribed exit services*, respectively, at a *transmission network connection point*; to
 - (2) the total costs of all the TNSP's *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed entry services* or *prescribed exit services*, respectively.
- (b) The costs of the *transmission system* assets referred to in paragraph (a) refer to optimised replacement cost or to an accepted equivalent to optimised replacement cost that is referable to values contained in the accounts of the TNSP.

5.2. Application of the allocation principles

In accordance with clause 6A.23.3, AusNet allocates the ASRR for *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* to *transmission network connection points* using the *attributable connection point cost shares* for *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* at each connection point. The *attributable connection point cost shares* are determined by calculating the ratio of:

- (1) the costs of the *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed entry services* or *prescribed exit services*, respectively, at a *transmission network connection point*; to
- (2) the total costs of all AusNet's *transmission system* assets directly attributable to the provision of *prescribed entry services* or *prescribed exit services*, respectively.

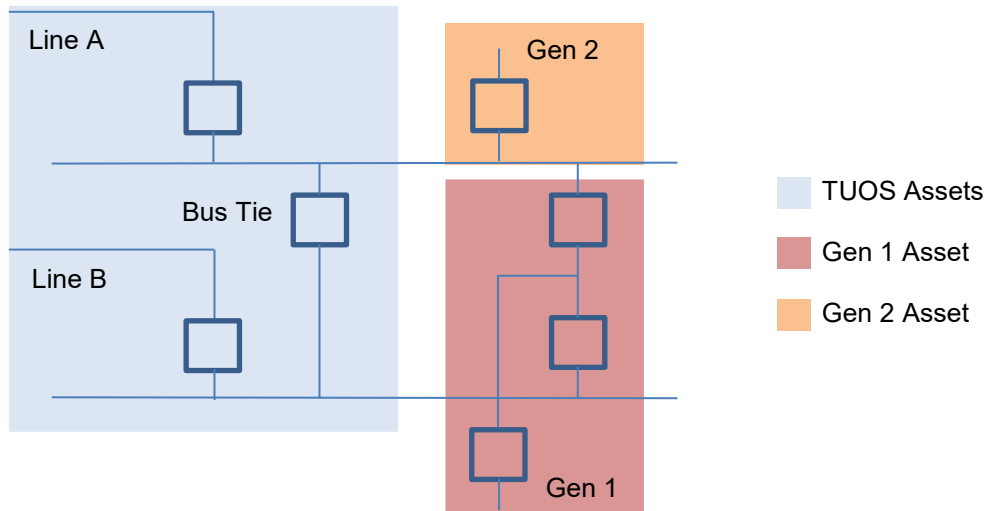
In calculating the costs used to calculate these ratios, AusNet values its assets in accordance with an ORC methodology.

The *Rules* do not specify any principles to address the allocation of costs to multiple customers at a single terminal station. Nevertheless, AusNet proposes the following standard allocation methodology for multiple customers at a single terminal station with its existing customers. Customers remain free to negotiate a different methodology with AusNet at any time. Any change in methodology will need to be agreed by all customers at a single terminal station.

5.2.1. Shared entry services

Where more than one entry customer shares a terminal station, shared costs will be allocated by directly allocated asset optimised replacement cost (ORC) share. For example, if Generator 1 has been allocated dedicated assets with an ORC value of \$3M and Generator 2 has been allocated dedicated assets with an ORC value of \$1M then the remaining shared assets ORC value will be allocated with a 75%/25% split respectively. An example showing the breakdown of assets undertaken in accordance with clauses 6A.22.4 and 6A.23.3 at an entry terminal station is illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 14-1: Entry terminal station example



5.2.2. Shared exit services

Where more than one exit customer is supplied from a terminal station, shared costs will be allocated.

For the avoidance of doubt, storage assets (such as batteries) will be treated as load when they connect at 66kV. This means storage assets will be treated as exit customers. This is represented by the 'Negotiated service' icon in Figure 5.2.2.

In order to be consistent with the AER's final determination for VicGrid's pricing methodology (which has not yet been settled), one of the two methods described below will be used to allocate shared costs for multiple exit customers supplied from a terminal station.

- MDi10 method
 - Uses the average of the customer's half-hourly coincident maximum demand over the 10 highest demand days;
 - Maximum demand information provided will be based on the most up to date March to February period data available; and
 - Adjustments to the coincident maximum demand will be made where a feeder is shared between two or more customers. Any adjustments necessary will be agreed by all customers connected to the relevant *connection point*.
- 365 day method
 - Uses the average of customer's half-hourly monthly maximum demand over 365 days⁵;
 - Maximum demand information provided will be based on the most up to date July to June period data available; and
 - Adjustments to the monthly maximum demand will be made where a feeder is shared between two or more customers. Any adjustments necessary will be agreed by all customers connected to the relevant *connection point*.

The proportion of shared costs allocated to a new exit customer must be calculated on the basis of a reasonable estimate of expected demand (over a period of not less than six months), consistent with the terms of the connection agreement between AusNet and the new exit customer.

AusNet will receive the required information from the relevant *Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP)* as a percentage split for each shared terminal station. Non-distributor connection customers who share in the use of

⁵ 366 days will be used on a leap year.

prescribed connection assets will be subject to identical allocation principles. AusNet will recognise and treat the shared cost as a “negotiated exit charge”.⁶ The aggregate amount of negotiated exit charges calculated annually will be subtracted from the ASRR allocated to the relevant connections.⁷

Where augmentation of a connection asset is driven by the connection of a non-distributor connection customer, this customer's share of the asset will be derived using the same allocation principles and will not be classified as a prescribed service. Instead, it will be recovered from the customer as a negotiated exit charge.

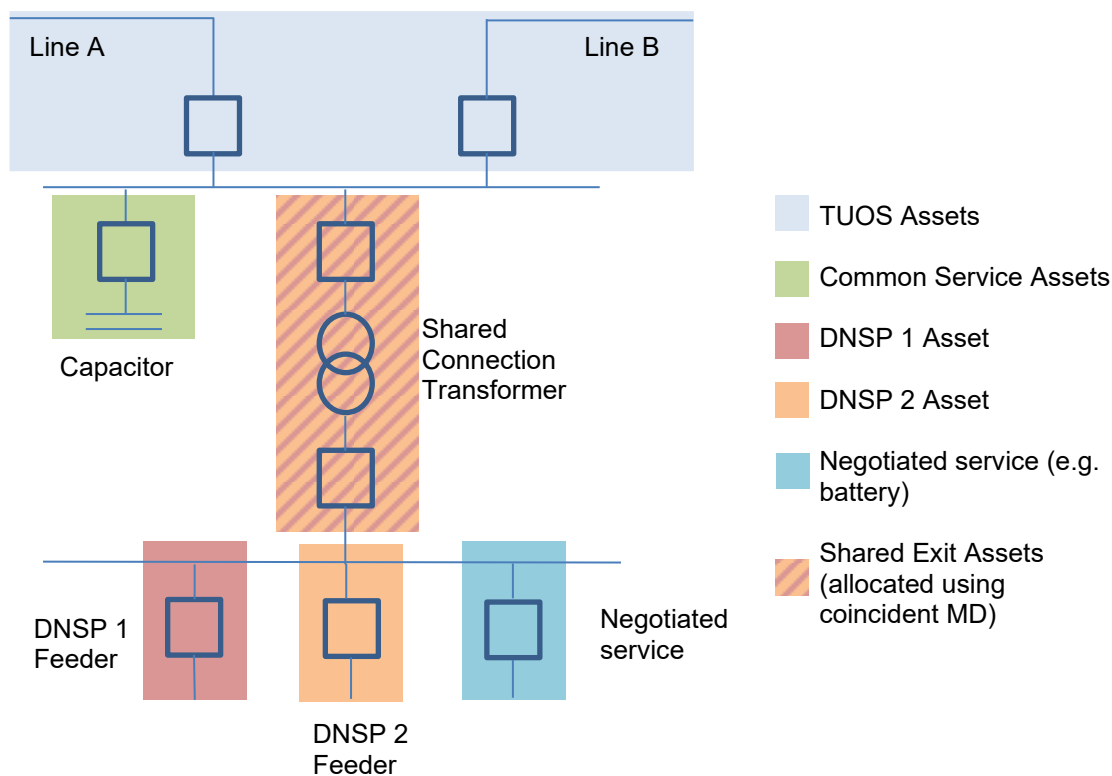
An example showing the breakdown of assets undertaken at an exit terminal station is illustrated in the figure below.

Regarding the allocation of shared costs for multiple exit customers supplied within a terminal station, based on either the 365 day method or the MDi10 method (subject to the AER's final determination), consider the following example. In this example, the shared costs are allocated across two DNSPs and one negotiated customer.

- (1) Applying the appropriate method (either 365 day method or the MDi10 method), DNSP 1's average half-hourly monthly maximum demand is 200MW, DNSP 2's average half-hourly monthly maximum demand is 200MW and the negotiated customer's average half-hourly monthly maximum demand is 100MW.
- (2) The shared assets ORC value of \$2M will be allocated 40% to DNSP 1, 40% to DNSP 2, and 20% to the negotiated customer.

Further examples of pricing allocation calculations can be found in Appendix B5 – Examples.

Figure 14-2: Exit terminal station example



5.2.3. Shared exit and entry services

Where an exit customer shares a terminal station with a *Generator* or *Market Network Service Provider*, shared costs will be allocated by asset ORC share.

In alignment with the approach outlined in Section 5.2.2, the 365 day method (or the MDi10 approach if agreed) will be used to allocate total costs of exit services between all exit customers.

AusNet will subtract any negotiated charges from non-DNSP customers from any prescribed charges to DNSPs (in relation to multiple customers sharing exit services).

⁶ A negotiated exit charge is a charge for an exit service which is also a negotiated transmission service within the meaning of the NER, and which is payable by a Transmission Customer (including a non-DNSP customer) to AusNet. The negotiated exit charge is subject to AusNet's negotiating framework and negotiated transmission service criteria (NTSC).

⁷ For the avoidance of doubt, a negotiated exit charge amount that is subtracted from the ASRR is revenue that can no longer be recovered by AusNet in the current or a future regulatory year under Part J of Chapter 6A of the NER.

5.3. Recovery of the ASRR as prices

Clause 6A.23.4 requires a *TNSP* to develop prices for the recovery of the ASRR for Transmission Customers (but not *Market Network Service Providers*) for the relevant regulatory year to which the maximum allow revenue relates and in accordance with the principles set out in the clause. As noted earlier, AusNet is responsible for the pricing of *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* only, whilst VicGrid has responsibility for pricing *prescribed TUOS services*, *prescribed common transmission services* and *system strength transmission services*.

In relation to *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services*, clause 6A.23.4(g) requires that prices for *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* must be a fixed annual amount. In accordance with this *Rules* requirement, AusNet therefore proposes that prices for *prescribed entry services* and *prescribed exit services* are fixed annual amounts.

5.4. Recovery of system strength charges

Clause 6A.23.6 applies to a *TNSP* that is not a *System Strength Service Provider*. This clause states that such a *TNSP* must provide for a charge applicable to each *system strength connection point* on its network to recover from the relevant *Transmission Network User*, on a pass through basis, the *annual system strength charge* for the *system strength connection point* determined by the relevant *System Strength Service Provider*.

Notwithstanding the requirements of clause 6A.23.6, the AER's *pricing methodology guidelines*, has determined that AusNet is a transmission network in an adoptive jurisdiction and Clause 6A.23.6 should not apply to AusNet.⁸ In Victoria, VicGrid is responsible for jurisdictional planning, management of the connection process, quoting and charging for the provision of system strength services and recovering prescribed transmission services costs.

AusNet therefore has no role in recovering *system strength charges* from *Transmission Network Users*.

⁸ AER 2025, *Electricity transmission network service providers Pricing methodology guidelines*, clause 2.1(m)(3)(A).

6. Information requirements and billing

6.1. Compliance with Rule 6A.26

We note the requirement to address information relating to any prudent discounts for prescribed transmission services previously submitted to the AER or expected to be submitted to the AER within the next regulatory control period and how those discounts are proposed to be recovered from Transmission Network Users in accordance with rule 6A.26 of the NER. This is addressed in VicGrid's pricing methodology.

6.2. Compliance with Rule 6A.27

Consistent with clause 6A.27.1:

- AusNet will calculate the transmission service charges payable by Transmission Network Users in accordance with the transmission service prices published under clause 6A.24.2.
- AusNet will issue a bill to Transmission Network Users for *prescribed transmission services*.
- Where the billing for a particular financial year is based on quantities which are undefined until after the commencement of the financial year, charges will be estimated from the previous year's billing quantities with a reconciliation to be made when the actual billing quantities are known and, where the previous year's billing quantities are unavailable or no longer suitable, nominated quantities may be used as agreed between the parties.
- Where charges are to be determined for *prescribed transmission services* from metering data, these charges will be based on kW or kWh obtained from the *metering data* managed by VicGrid.

AusNet will issue invoices to *Transmission Network Users* for *prescribed transmission services* which satisfy or exceed the minimum information requirements specified in clause 6A.27.2 on a monthly basis or as otherwise agreed in the relevant *transmission connection agreement*.

Consistent with clause 6A.27.3, a *Transmission Network User* or *System Strength Transmission Service User* must pay charges for *prescribed transmission services* properly charged to it and billed in accordance with this proposed *pricing methodology* by the date specified in the invoice.

6.3. Compliance with AER pricing methodology guidelines

To address the information requirement per the AER's pricing methodology guidelines, we note there are no applicable derogations in accordance with NER chapter 9.

6.4. Differences between this pricing methodology and that proposed for the current period

This pricing methodology for the 2027-32 period submitted reflects the following differences compared to the 2022-27 period pricing methodology:

- Highlighted the roles and responsibilities of AusNet and VicGrid in Victoria in relation to pricing, given the transition of network functions from AEMO to VicGrid on 1 November 2025.
- Revisions to Sections 4.1 and 4.2 to be consistent with NER clauses 6A.22.3 and 6A.23.2 under current rules.
- Revised Section 4.2.2, to reflect the allocation of Connection Transformers to both prescribed entry and exit services
- Section 5.2.2 was revised to clarify in relation to treatment of storage assets (such as batteries) when they connect at 66kV.
- Revised description of NER clause 6A.23.2 to be consistent with current rules.
- Updated the definition of AARR to be consistent with current version of NER clause 6A.22.1
- Added examples of calculations regarding the allocation of ASRR to connection points for exit services in accordance with NER clause 6A.22.4.
- Added mention of AusNet's role regarding prudent discounts.
- Noted the lack of applicable derogations to this pricing methodology.

7. Prudential requirements

7.1. Prudential requirements for prescribed transmission services

As permitted by clause 6A.28.1, AusNet may require a *Transmission Network User* to establish *prudential requirements* for *connection services*. These *prudential requirements* may take the form of, but need not be limited to, capital contributions, prepayments or financial guarantees.

The requirements for such *prudential requirements* will be negotiated between the parties and specified in the applicable *transmission connection agreement*.

7.2. Capital contribution or prepayment for a specific asset

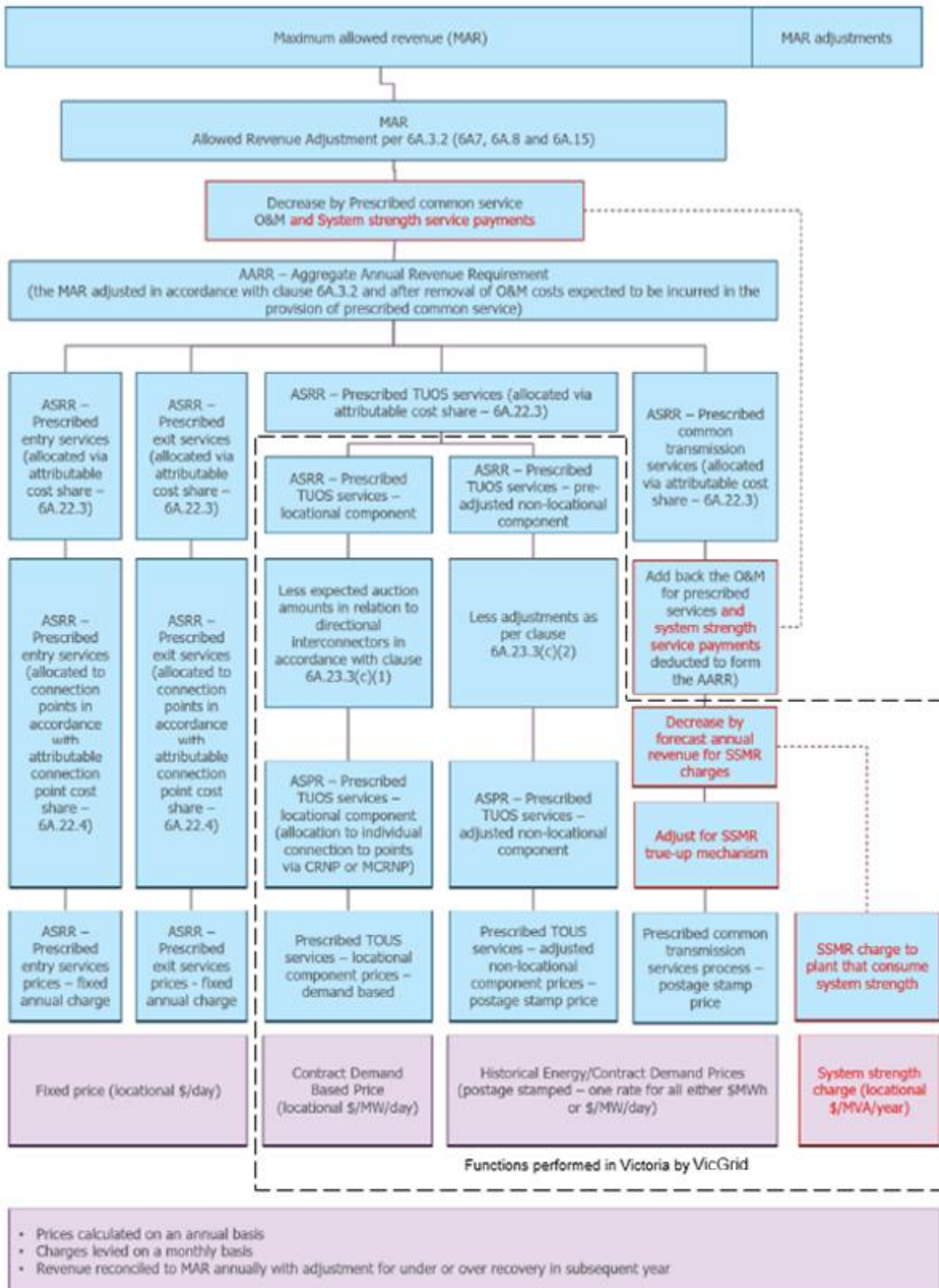
Consistent with clause 6A.28.2 of the *Rules*, where AusNet is required to construct or acquire specific assets to provide *prescribed connection services* to a *Transmission Network User*, AusNet may require the *Transmission Network User* to make a capital contribution or prepayment for all or part of the cost of the new assets installed.

In the event that a capital contribution is required, any contribution made will be taken into account in the determination of *prescribed transmission service* prices applicable to that *Transmission Network User* by way of a proportionate reduction in the ORC of the asset(s) used for the allocation of *prescribed transmission service* charges, or as otherwise negotiated between the parties.

In the event that a prepayment is required, any prepayment made will be taken into account in the determination of *prescribed transmission service* prices applicable to that *Transmission Network User* in a manner to be negotiated between the parties.

The treatment of such capital contributions or prepayments for the purposes of a *revenue determination* will, in all cases, be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Rules*.

Appendix A – Structure of transmission pricing in Victoria



Source: AEMC,⁹ AusNet

⁹ AEMC 2021, *Rule Determination – National Electricity Amendment (Efficient Management of System Strength on the Power system) Rule 2021*, p. 181.

Appendix B – Priority ordering methodology

B1. Rules requirements

Clause 6A.23.2 of the Rules requires that AARR is allocated to each category of *prescribed transmission services* in accordance with the principles.

Transitional Rule 11.6.11(c) states the following:

“For the purposes of new Chapter 6A:

(1) the costs of the transmission system assets that from time to time may be treated as:

- (i) directly attributable to the provision of a prescribed connection service; or
- (ii) incurred in providing a prescribed connection service,

to a Transmission Network User or a group of Transmission Network Users at a transmission network connection point is limited to the costs of the eligible assets which, from time to time, provide that prescribed connection service;

(2) any costs of an existing asset or a replacement asset (or of any portion of an existing asset or a replacement asset) that:

- (i) is not an eligible asset (other than as a result of clause 11.6.11(d)); and
- (ii) is used by a TNSP to provide connection services to a Transmission Network User or a group of Transmission Network Users at a transmission network connection point,

must be treated as costs that are directly attributable to the provision of, or are incurred in providing, prescribed TUOS services and, to avoid doubt, the services provided by those assets which would otherwise be connection services are taken to be prescribed TUOS services; and

(3) the stand-alone amount for prescribed TUOS services is taken to include any portion of the costs referred to in clause 11.6.11(c)(2) that has not been allocated under clause 6A.23.2(d)(1).”

This transitional provision effectively introduces a fourth step to the priority ordering requirement.

B2. Objective and general approach

The allocation methodology relies on the assumption that terminal station infrastructure and establishment costs are proportionate to the number of circuit breakers in the terminal station.

Based on this assumption the appropriate allocator for terminal station infrastructure and establishment costs for a stand-alone arrangement is the ratio of the number of circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the number of circuit breakers in the whole terminal station.

B3. Proposed methodology

Step 1: Branch Identification

Identify the branches, being the lines, transformers, major reactive devices and exits / entries in the terminal station which provide prescribed TUOS services, prescribed common transmission services and prescribed exit services or prescribed entry services, in the terminal station.

Step 2: Allocation of circuit breakers to branches

For each high voltage circuit breaker in the terminal station identify the branches directly connected to it. Any circuit breaker that does not directly connect to a branch is excluded from allocation and all costs associated with it are added to the terminal station infrastructure and establishment cost.

Count the total number of circuit breakers directly connected to branches.

Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) are classified as a prescribed exit service while Generators are classified as a prescribed entry service. Negotiated transmission services are not part of the regulated asset base and fall outside the priority ordering process detailed in clause 6A.23.2(d) of the Rules.

Step 3.1: Stand-alone arrangements for prescribed TUOS services

With reference to the number of lines providing prescribed TUOS services determine the number of circuit breakers required to provide prescribed TUOS services of an equivalent standard on a stand-alone basis. The stand-alone configuration is the simplest terminal station configuration (in the absence of development) had it been developed to provide a prescribed TUOS service. This may be done by way of a look up of typical stand-alone configurations.

Step 3.2: Stand-alone arrangements for prescribed common transmission services

With reference to the number of lines providing prescribed TUOS services and the devices providing prescribed common transmission service determine the number of circuit breakers required to provide prescribed common transmission services of an equivalent standard on a stand-alone basis. The stand-alone configuration is the simplest terminal station configuration (in the absence of development) had it been developed to provide a prescribed common transmission service. This may be done by way of a look up of typical stand-alone configurations.

Step 4: Allocation of terminal station infrastructure and establishment costs

Step 4.1 – Allocation of prescribed TUOS services

Allocate a portion of terminal station infrastructure and establishment costs to prescribed TUOS services according to the ratio of the high voltage circuit breakers identified in step 3.1 to the total number of high voltage circuit breakers connected to branches in the terminal station identified in step 2.

Step 4.2 – Calculation of the unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after prescribed TUOS services allocation)

Calculate the unallocated terminal station infrastructure cost (after prescribed TUOS services allocation) by subtracting the amount calculated in step 4.1 from the total terminal station infrastructure amount.

Step 4.3 – Allocation of prescribed common transmission services

Allocate a portion of the terminal station infrastructure and establishment costs to prescribed common transmission services based on to the ratio of the high voltage circuit breakers providing prescribed common transmission services identified in step 3.2 to the total number of high voltage circuit breakers connected to branches in the terminal station. If the prescribed common transmission services portion of terminal station infrastructure is greater than the unallocated costs, then the unallocated portion only is attributed to prescribed common transmission services. In this instance, nothing will be attributed to prescribed entry services and prescribed exit services.

Step 4.4 – Calculation of the unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after prescribed common transmission services allocation)

Calculate the unallocated terminal station infrastructure cost (after prescribed common transmission services allocation) by subtracting the amount calculated in step 4.3 from the amount calculated in step 4.2.

Step 4.5 – Allocation of prescribed entry and exit service costs to Prescribed TUOS services per clause 11.6.11

Allocate the remaining terminal station infrastructure and establishment costs (calculated in step 4.4) to each branch providing prescribed TUOS services based on the ratio of the high voltage circuit breakers providing the prescribed TUOS services to the branch to the total number of high voltage circuit breakers providing prescribed TUOS services or in accordance with the cost allocation process in section 4 of this Pricing Methodology as appropriate.

Notes

Costs are only allocated in step 4 until fully allocated.

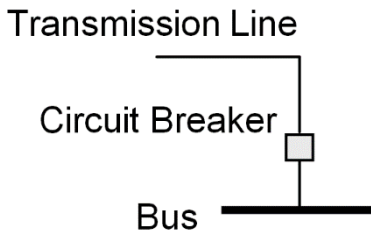
Consistent with clause 6A.23.2(d)(3) of the Rules it is possible that no costs will be attributed to prescribed entry services and prescribed exit services.

New and existing negotiated transmission service assets are excluded from the analysis as any incremental establishment costs associated with them are taken to be included in the negotiated transmission services charges on a causation basis.

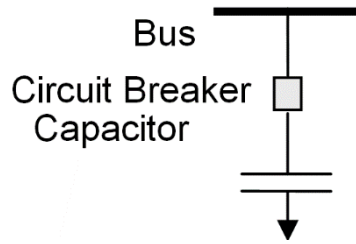
The assessment of standalone arrangements only needs to be conducted once per terminal station except where changes to the configuration of the terminal station occur.

B4. Definition – Branches

As illustrated by the diagrams below a “Branch” is a collection of assets (e.g. lines, circuit breakers, capacitors, buses and transformers) that provide a *transmission service*.



Branch with transmission line, bus and circuit breaker

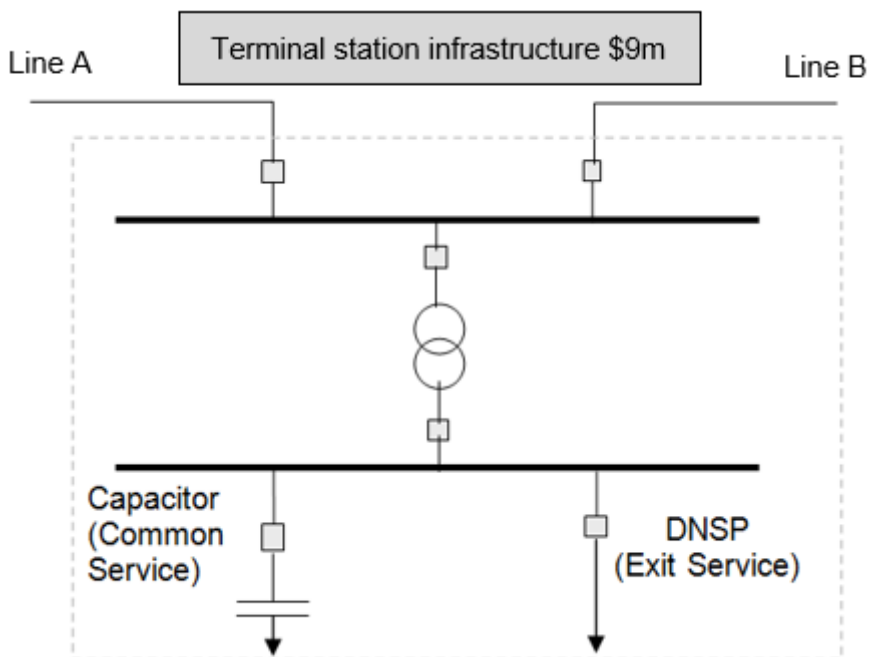


Branch with capacitor, circuit breaker and bus

B5. Examples

B.5.1 Example A

Terminal station configuration



Step 1: The branches are Line A, Line B, DNSP, tie transformer and prescribed common transmission services.

Step 2: The total number of circuit breakers directly connected to branches is 6.

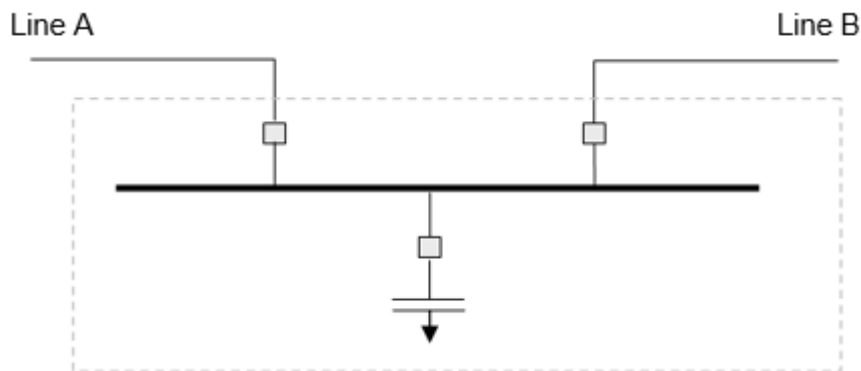
Step 3.1: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of prescribed TUOS services to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 2 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed TUOS services



Step 3.2: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of prescribed common transmission services to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 3 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed common transmission services



Step 4:

Assume total Infrastructure cost is \$9m.

Costs are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (a) = $(2 \div 6) \times \$9m = \$3m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$9m - \$3m = \$6m$

Costs are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* = $(3 \div 6) \times \$9m = \$4.5m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed common transmission services* allocation) = $\$6m - \$4.5m = \$1.5m$

Remainder of unallocated (calculated above) to be allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* per clause 11.6.11 of the Rules.

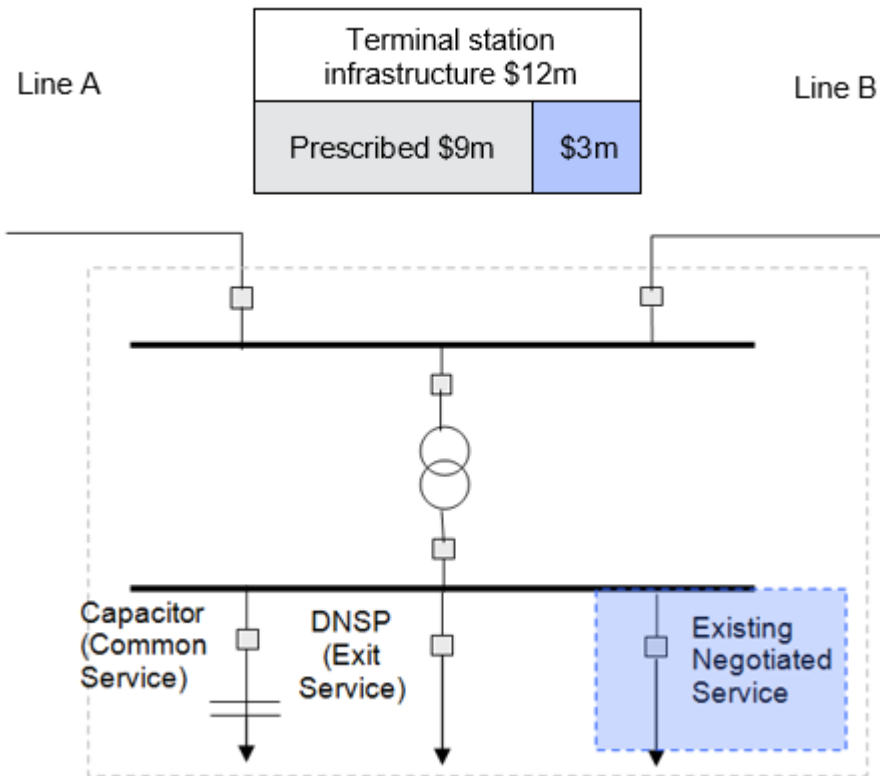
Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (b) = \$1.5m

Table B.5.1: Example A cost breakdown

Item	Number	Allocation	Unallocated
Terminal station infrastructure costs		9,000,000	9,000,000
Total breakers	6		
TUOS stand-alone breakers	2		
Share to TUOS (a)	0.333	3,000,000	6,000,000
Common services stand-alone breakers	3		
Share to common services	0.500	4,500,000	1,500,000
Share to TUOS (b)		1,500,000	
Total share to TUOS (a) + (b)		4,500,000	
Total share to common services		4,500,000	

B.5.2 Example B

Terminal station configuration

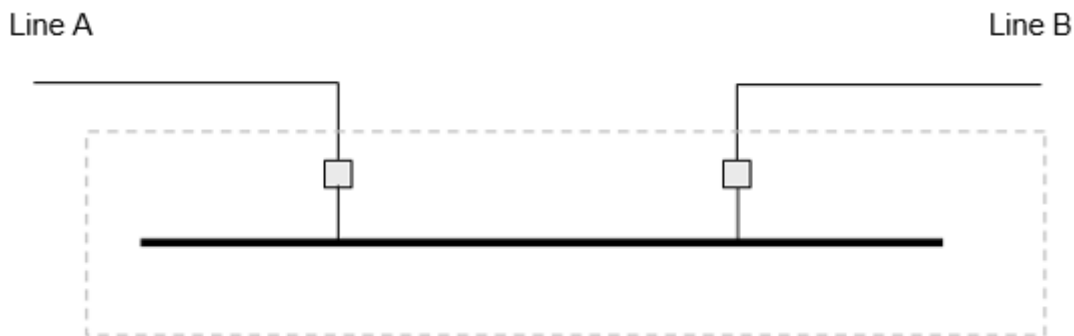


Step 1: The branches are Line A, Line B, DNSP, tie transformer, prescribed common transmission services and an existing negotiated service.

Step 2: The total number of circuit breakers directly connected to branches is 6 (no prescribed costs are allocated to the existing negotiated transmission services).

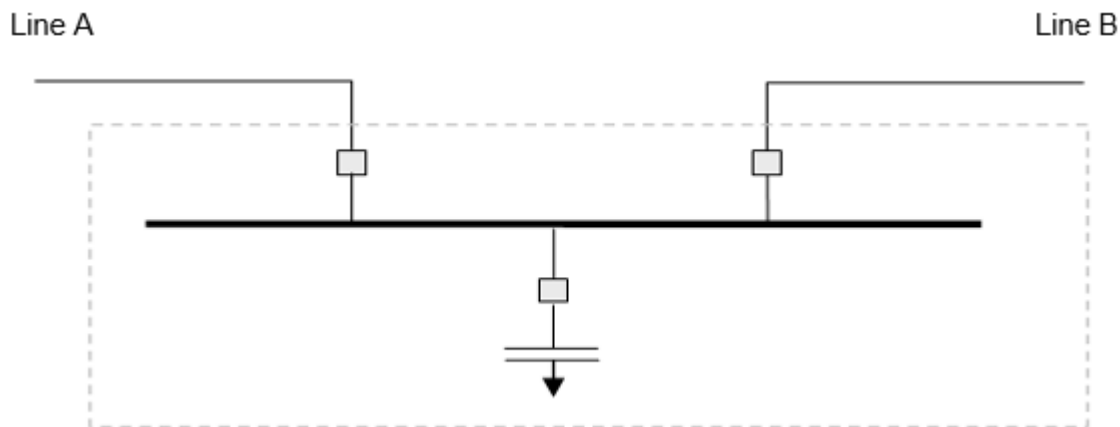
Step 3.1: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of prescribed TUOS services to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 2 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed TUOS services



Step 3.2: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of prescribed common transmission services to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 3 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed common transmission services



Step 4:

Assume total infrastructure cost is \$12m, however \$3m is for the existing *negotiated transmission service*, which does not form part of the regulated asset base and is not governed by clause 6A.23.2(d) of the Rules.

Costs are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (a) = $(2 \div 6) \times \$9m = \$3m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$9m - \$3m = \$6m$

Costs are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* = $(3 \div 6) \times \$9m = \$4.5m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed common transmission services* allocation) = $\$6m - \$4.5m = \$1.5m$

Remainder of unallocated (calculated above) to be allocated to *prescribed TUOS services*.

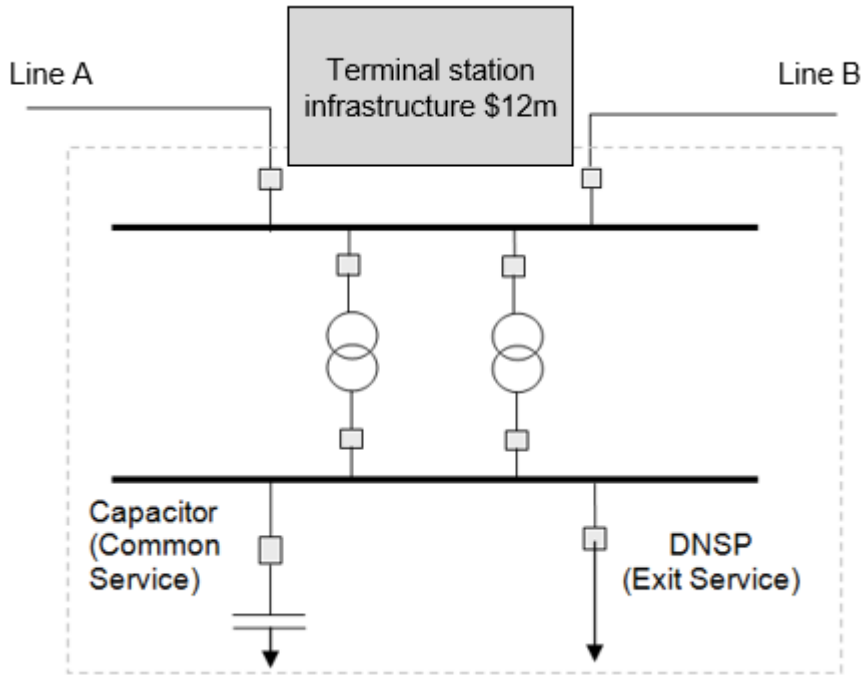
Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (b) = $\$1.5m$

Table B.5.2: Example B cost breakdown

Item	Number	Allocation	Unallocated
Terminal station infrastructure costs		9,000,000	9,000,000
Total breakers	6		
TUOS stand-alone breakers	2		
Share to TUOS (a)	0.333	3,000,000	6,000,000
Common services stand-alone breakers	3		
Share to common services	0.500	4,500,000	1,500,000
Share to TUOS (b)		1,500,000	
Total share to TUOS (a) + (b)		4,500,000	
Total share to common services		4,500,000	

B.5.3 Example C

Terminal station configuration



Step 1: The branches are Line A, Line B, DNSP, tie transformer 1, tie transformer 2 and *prescribed common transmission service*.

Step 2: The total number of circuit breakers directly connected to branches is 8.

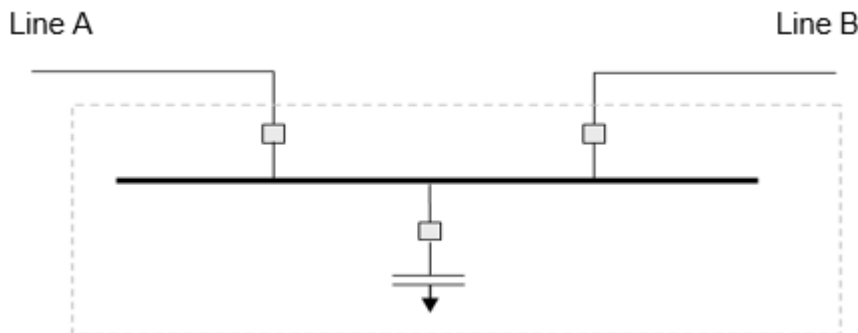
Step 3.1: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of *prescribed TUOS services* to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 2 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed TUOS services



Step 3.2: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of *prescribed common transmission services* to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 3 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed common transmission services



Step 4:

Assume total Infrastructure cost is \$12m.

Costs are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (a) = $(2 \div 8) \times \$12m = \$3m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$12m - \$3m = \$9m$

Costs are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* = $(3 \div 8) \times \$12m = \$4.5m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed common transmission services* allocation) = $\$9m - \$4.5m = \$4.5m$

Remainder of unallocated (calculated above) to be allocated to *prescribed TUOS services*.

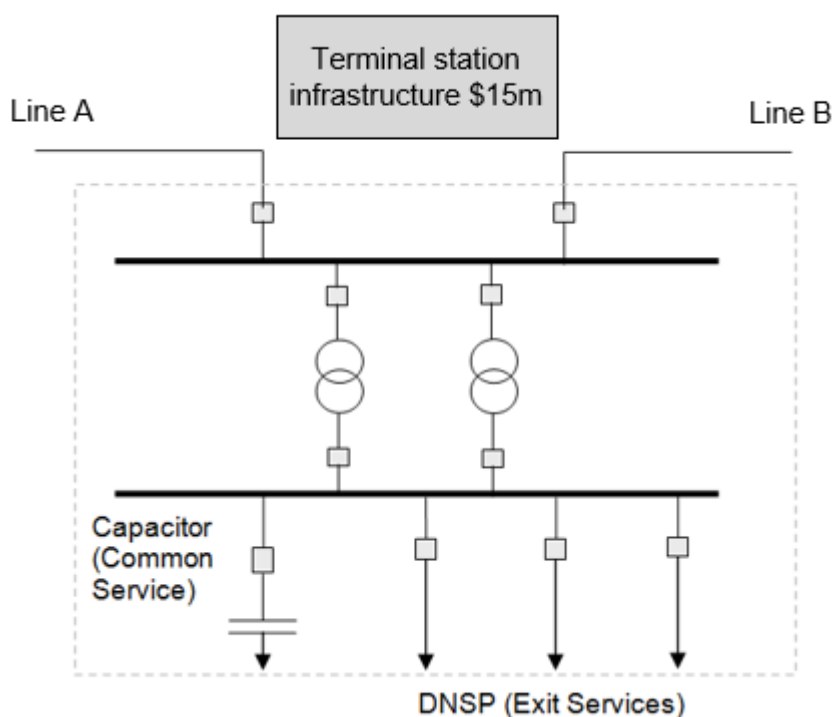
Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (b) = $\$4.5m$

Table B.5.3: Example C cost breakdown

Item	Number	Allocation	Unallocated
Terminal station infrastructure costs		12,000,000	12,000,000
Total breakers	8		
TUOS stand-alone breakers	2		
Share to TUOS (a)	0.250	3,000,000	9,000,000
Common services stand-alone breakers	3		
Share to common services	0.375	4,500,000	4,500,000
Share to TUOS (b)		4,500,000	
Total share to TUOS (a) + (b)		7,500,000	
Total share to common services		4,500,000	

B.5.4. Example D

Terminal station configuration



Step 1: The branches are Line A, Line B, DNSP1, DNSP2, DNSP3, tie transformer 1, tie transformer 2 and PCS.

Step 2: The total number of circuit breakers directly connected to branches is 10.

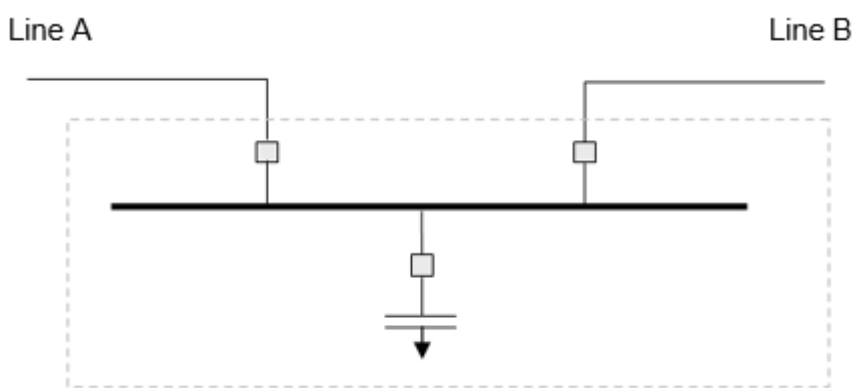
Step 3.1: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of *prescribed TUOS services* to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 2 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed TUOS services



Step 3.2: The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of *prescribed common transmission services* to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 3 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed common transmission services



Step 4:

Assume total Infrastructure cost is \$15m.

Costs are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (a) = $(2 \div 10) \times \$15m = \$3m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$15m - \$3m = \$12m$

Costs are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* = $(3 \div 10) \times \$15m = \$4.5m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$12m - \$4.5m = \$7.5m$

Remainder of unallocated (calculated above) to be allocated to *prescribed TUOS services*.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (b) = $\$7.5m$

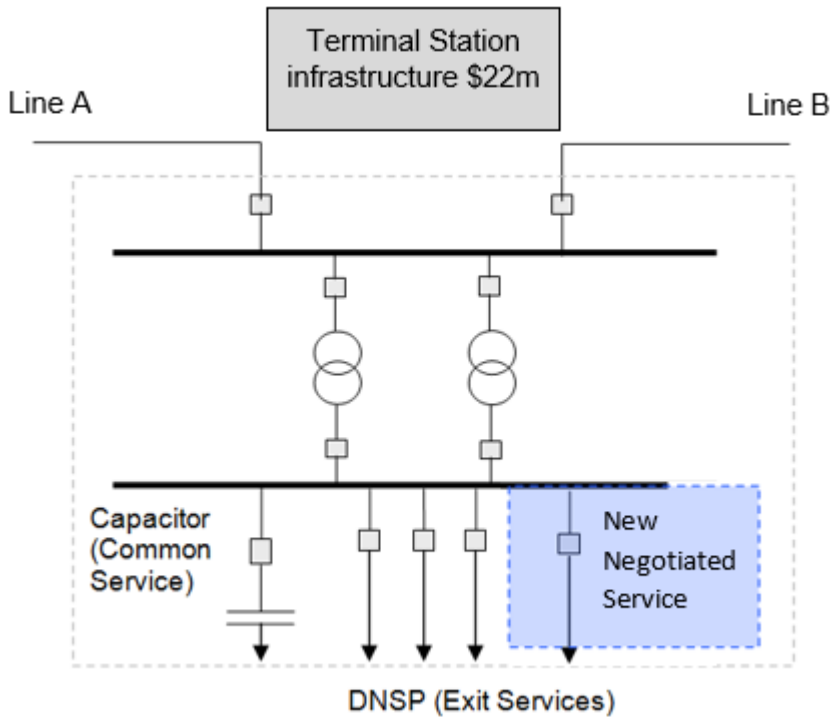
Table B.5.4: Example D cost breakdown

Item	Number	Allocation	Unallocated
Terminal station infrastructure costs		15,000,000	15,000,000
Total breakers	10		
TUOS stand-alone breakers	2		
Share to TUOS (a)	0.200	3,000,000	12,000,000
Common services stand-alone breakers	3		

Share to common services	0.300	4,500,000	7,500,000
Share to TUOS (b)		7,500,000	
Total share to TUOS (a) + (b)		10,500,000	
Total share to common services		4,500,000	

B.5.5 Example E

Terminal station configuration



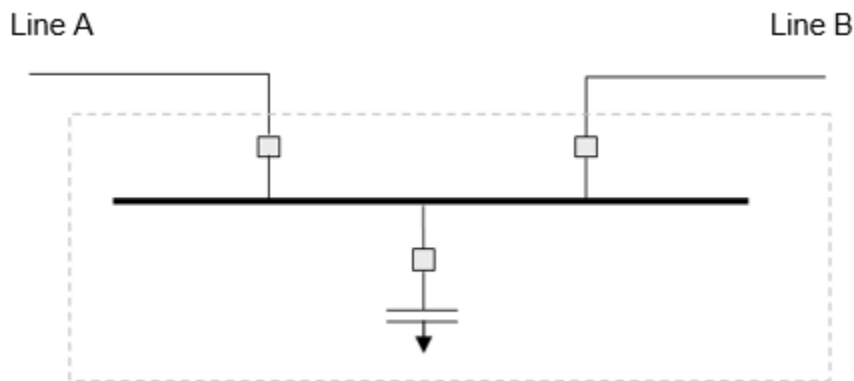
- Step 1:** The branches are Line A, Line B, DNSP1, DNSP2, DNSP3, new negotiated service, tie transformer 1, tie transformer 2 and PCS.
- Step 2:** The total number of circuit breakers directly connected to branches is 11.
- Step 3.1:** The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of prescribed TUOS services to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 2 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed TUOS services



- Step 3.2:** The stand-alone arrangement for the provision of prescribed common transmission services to an equivalent standard is shown below and consists of 3 circuit breakers.

Stand-alone prescribed common transmission services



Step 4:

Assume total Infrastructure cost is \$22m.

Costs are allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (a) = $(2 \div 11) \times \$22m = \$4m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$22m - \$4m = \$18m$

Costs are allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* in the ratio of the circuit breakers in the stand-alone arrangement to the total circuit breakers.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed common transmission services* = $(3 \div 11) \times \$22m = \$6m$

Unallocated terminal station infrastructure costs (after *prescribed TUOS services* allocation) = $\$18m - \$6m = \$12m$

Remainder of unallocated (calculated above) to be allocated to *prescribed TUOS services*.

Infrastructure cost allocated to *prescribed TUOS services* (b) = \$12m

Table B.5.5: Example E cost breakdown

Item	Number	Allocation	Unallocated
Terminal station infrastructure costs		22,000,000	22,000,000
Total breakers	11		
TUOS stand-alone breakers	2		
Share to TUOS (a)	0.182	4,000,000	18,000,000
Common services stand-alone breakers	3		
Share to common services	0.273	6,000,000	12,000,000
Share to TUOS (b)		12,000,000	
Total share to TUOS (a) + (b) ¹⁰		16,000,000	
Total share to common services		6,000,000	

¹⁰ Proportion of TUOS cost will be allocated to the non DNSP customer as a negotiated exit charge. This charge will be excluded from maximum allowed revenue recovered annually.

AusNet

AusNet

Level 31
2 Southbank Boulevard
Southbank VIC 3006

T 1300 360 795

Locked Bag 14051
Melbourne City Mail Centre
Melbourne VIC 8001

Follow us on

 @AusNet.Energy

 @AusNet

ausnet.com.au