AUSTRALIAN ENERGY REGULATOR

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Our Ref: **AER25011169**
Contact Officer: Jen Mann
Contact Phone: [redacted]

24 October 2025

Ben Thomas
National Operations Manager
WINconnect

By email: [redacted]
cc: [redacted]

Dear Ben

Re: Notice of Acceptance of eligibility to register network exemption – Queen Victoria Markets, 65 – 159 Victoria Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

I refer to the application of Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd and WINconnect Pty Ltd (the **Applicants)** for eligibility to register network exemptions under the requirements of clause 4.9 of the Network Service Provider Registration Exemption Guideline, version 6 (**Network Exemptions Guideline**), to create an embedded network at Queen Victoria Markets, 65 – 159 Victoria Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 (the **Site**).

I am writing to inform you that the application satisfactorily addresses the requirements of clause 4.9. We therefore issue this Notice of Acceptance effective from 23 October 2025 and confirm that the Applicants are now eligible to register the relevant network exemptions for publication on the AER's public register of exemptions.

We have assessed this application against the eligibility criteria set out in version 6 of the Network Exemptions Guideline as it was the version in effect at the time the application was submitted to the AER. Please be advised that any retrofit applications submitted to the AER after 1 September 2025 will be assessed against the retrofit eligibility criteria set out in Appendix C of the Network Exemption Guideline (version 7).

Eligibility for exemption in relation to conversions of existing networks

In accordance with condition 4.1.12.1 of the Network Exemption Guideline, an embedded network must not be created without the written consent of existing energy consumers who will be included within the proposed network.

In addition, clause 4.9.7 stipulates that a network must not be converted until the effective date specified in this notice.

Parties who are issued with a Notice of Acceptance under clause 4.9 are eligible to register and hold network exemptions for the network at that particular site according to the appropriate activity class. Activity classes are detailed under Section 3 of the Network Exemption Guideline and are subject to the further conditions detailed in Section 4.

Failure to observe the conditions of exemption may render an exemption invalid. Owning, controlling or operating a network without registration with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) or holding a valid exemption from the AER constitutes a breach of section 11(2) of the National Electricity Law.

Additional conditions applicable to the network exemption class(es) registered

In addition to the conditions usually applicable to the network exemption class(es) held in relation to the embedded network at this site, the Applicants must also comply with the conditions of clause 4.9. These conditions concern:

- retain consent records for a period of at least 2 years from the date of the application;
- facilitating the continuation of a customer's energy contract with their current retailer;
- maintaining a customer's direct connection to the registered distributor;
- offer matching;
- avoidance of duplicated network charges;
- liability of the costs of metering/network changes; and
- the ability of metering arrangements to allow for access to retail competition.

For the full list of conditions refer to the Network Exemptions Guideline.

If you have any further queries, or would like to discuss this further, please contact Jen Mann on [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Sarah Pinchuck
A/g Director
Compliance and Enforcement

Sent by email on: 24.10.2025