

Ring-fencing class waiver

DNSP-led projects funded under the Community Batteries for Household Solar Program

As part of consultation on the proposed distribution ring-fencing class waiver for DNSP-led batteries funded under the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar Program, on Thursday 12 January 2023 AER staff consulted with some members of the AER Customer Consultative Group (CCG).

This document provides a summary of feedback received, but does not provide responses to any feedback, questions or concerns. The feedback will be considered in our decision-making process and addressed in our decision document.

Summary of feedback

- CCG Members commented on the need for community batteries funded under the program to provide direct benefits to the community. Members raised concerns that DNSP-led projects would return benefits only to network businesses. Members suggested there should be a clear and simple community benefit test for Government-funded community batteries.
- Members suggested the AER should signal that it will be looking for community and consumer benefits stemming from community batteries.
- Members were concerned that there would be no 'true-up' mechanism if actual battery use (and the split between unregulated and regulated benefit streams) were to vary from forecasting.
- Members identified that a review of the class waiver would be appropriate to inform future approaches. Members suggested a review occur after 12-24 months of the class waiver being in place.