



Department of  
**Energy and Economic  
Diversification**

# Fixed Capital Charge

## Consultation Paper

4 December 2025

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### **Energy Policy WA**

Level 1, 66 St Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6000

PO BOX Z5044, St Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6831  
Telephone: 08 6551 4600

[www.energy.wa.gov.au](http://www.energy.wa.gov.au)

ABN 84 730 831 715

*Enquiries about this report should be directed to:*

Email: [EPWA-info@deed.wa.gov.au](mailto:EPWA-info@deed.wa.gov.au)

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# Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Access Arrangement</b>	The main agreement negotiated between the Economic Regulation Authority and Western Power that sets out the terms and conditions for obtaining access to the South West Interconnected System.
<b>Access Code</b>	The Electricity Network Access Code 2004, which establishes a framework for third party access to electricity transmission and distribution networks in Western Australia.
<b>Connection Assets</b>	Network assets solely used by a transmission connection or expansion applicant, defined under Western Power's Contributions Policy.
<b>Contributions Policy</b>	A policy in an access arrangement that deals with contributions by network users.
<b>Fixed Capital Charge (FCC)</b>	A \$100,000 per megawatt charge payable by applicants for new and expanded network connections greater than 10 megawatts.
<b>Network Connections</b>	Generation (supply), storage and load (demand) that is seeking to connect to the South West Interconnected System.
<b>Registration of Interest</b>	A process conducted by Western Power and Energy Policy WA in November 2023 to gain feedback from industry regarding future network requirements and willingness to pay for transmission upgrades.
<b>Regulated Asset Base</b>	The value ascribed to the network assets used to provide covered services.
<b>Safeguard Mechanism</b>	Commonwealth Government policy for reducing emissions at Australia's largest industrial facilities.
<b>South West Interconnected System</b>	Western Australia's main electricity network that services most of the State's population. The South West Interconnected System spans from Albany in the south, to Kalbarri in the north, and east to Kalgoorlie.
<b>Shared assets</b>	All network assets that are not connection assets. These comprise most of the network and typically include infrastructure items and costs associated with upgrading the broader network.
<b>Transmission network</b>	Assets used, or to be used for, or in connection with the transport of electricity at nominal voltages of 66 kilovolts or higher.

# Abbreviations

Term	Definition
<b>Access Code</b>	Electricity Network Access Code 2004
<b>Coordinator</b>	The Coordinator of Energy
<b>CMD</b>	Contract Maximum Demand
<b>DEED</b>	Department of Energy and Economic Diversification
<b>DSOC</b>	Declared Sent Out Capacity
<b>EI Act</b>	<i>Electricity Industry Act 2004</i>
<b>ERA</b>	Economic Regulation Authority
<b>EPWA</b>	Energy Policy WA
<b>ESM Rules</b>	Electricity System and Market Rules
<b>RAB</b>	Regulated Asset Base
<b>SWIS</b>	South West Interconnected System
<b>MW</b>	Megawatt

# Executive Summary

The State Government is developing an improved approach to capital contributions for Western Power transmission projects. This new approach is intended to reduce barriers to entry to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS), support connection of renewable energy projects and provide greater cost certainty for generation and storage providers, and for large energy users.

The Fixed Capital Charge (FCC) is proposed to replace existing 'shared asset' costs for projects connecting to the transmission network from 1 July 2026:

- a \$100,000 per megawatt (MW) charge would be payable by all new and expanded generation, storage, and load connections that are 10 MW or larger;
- the FCC would replace the current capital contribution arrangements for shared assets on the transmission system; and
- generation, storage and load applicants that are 10 MW or larger would continue to pay all costs for 'connection assets'.

Generation, storage and load applicants less than 10 MW would continue to pay capital contributions as per the existing capital contribution arrangements.

The FCC would not be a new or additional impost. Customers connecting to the transmission network already pay capital contributions and the proposed approach would only change how that contribution is calculated.

Further, there would be no change to the total costs that all connections would pay over time. This is because of the relationship between capital contributions and network tariffs (see section 4.6).

The proposed FCC would provide certainty to project developers on their connection costs, replacing the current arrangements that are difficult to forecast and do not provide price certainty until very late in the connection process.

The revised approach is part of the State Government's drive towards a cleaner energy future – it would enable industry to progress projects with confidence in an increasingly competitive market, facilitating the connection of more renewables and providing a way forward for Western Australia to reach its decarbonisation objectives.

The \$100,000 per MW FCC was informed by industry feedback to a willingness to contribute that was part of a Registration of Interest process undertaken by Western Power and Energy Policy WA (EPWA) in 2023. Several potential contribution values were tested with industry to determine a commercially viable amount. A lower figure would have necessitated that a greater share of network spend is recovered via network tariffs. Section 4.1 provides greater detail on how the proposed FCC value was selected.

The proposed new funding model would, if adopted, help to facilitate Western Power's delivery of the \$1.7 billion that has been committed to the Clean Energy Link Program to date, and the connection of significantly greater amounts of new generation, storage and loads.

Details on how the proposed FCC would be applied are provided in this document and will be provided on Western Power's website.

Legislative and regulatory changes would be made to enable the new funding model, including changes to the Electricity Networks Access Code 2004 (Access Code).

The Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED), on behalf of the Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation, is seeking feedback on the implementation approach and key policy details outlined in sections 4 and 5.

**By 5:00pm (AWST) on Friday 23 January 2026** please provide submissions to:

[EPWA-info@deed.wa.gov.au](mailto:EPWA-info@deed.wa.gov.au)

# 1. Background

Significant investment is needed in the SWIS to ensure the power system continues to operate securely and reliably as ageing State-owned coal fired power stations retire. Investment is needed to facilitate delivery of low-emissions electricity to enable Western Australia to realise its low-carbon future.

Demand for electricity is expected to rise rapidly through 2030 as industry seeks to decarbonise, particularly in response to the Commonwealth Government's Safeguard Mechanism.

The State Government released the SWIS Demand Assessment in May 2023.<sup>1</sup> This report identified that significant investment is required in the SWIS over the next 20 years to support the State Government's and industry's decarbonisation ambitions.

In November 2023, EPWA and Western Power conducted a Registration of Interest process for new generation and load connections. This Registration of Interest reinforced that the scale of industrial interest in network connections is beyond the current capacity of the SWIS and confirmed the need for new transmission investments.

The responses to the Registration of Interest gave Western Power and EPWA new information relating to potential locations for generation developments and alternative views on the magnitude, location and timing of new large load.

The Registration of Interest also requested that respondents indicate a willingness to contribute to network augmentations on a cost per megawatt (\$/MW) basis.

Subsequently, the State Government released the SWIS Transmission Planning Update in May 2024 that confirmed the need for additional transmission across all regions of the SWIS.<sup>2</sup>

More recently, DEED and Western Power developed the SWIS Transmission Plan that outlines the transmission assets that need to be built to facilitate the phase-out of coal generation, support the widespread electrification of existing industries, and enable the new load connections needed to diversify and strengthen the State economy. The SWIS Transmission Plan was published on 18 September 2025.<sup>3</sup>

Since May 2023, the State Government has announced almost \$1.7 billion for transmission investment in the SWIS, as part of Western Power's Clean Energy Link Program.<sup>4</sup> In-service dates for Phase One projects are defined in the SWIS Transmission Plan, and funding for Phase One projects will be committed as required to ensure timely delivery against these dates.

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<sup>1</sup> SWIS Demand Assessment Report, May 2023 ([SWIS Demand Assessment](#)).

<sup>2</sup> SWIS Transmission Planning Update, May 2024 ([SWIS Transmission Planning Update](#)).

<sup>3</sup> SWIS Transmission Plan, September 2025 ([The South West Interconnected System Transmission Plan: A Future-Ready Transmission Network for WA's Main Electricity System](#)).

<sup>4</sup> This includes \$126 million in the 2023-24 Budget, \$708 million in the 2023-24 Mid-year Review, \$324 million in the 2024-25 Budget, and \$509 million in the 2025-26 Budget ([Clean Energy Link Program](#)).

## 2. Current Transmission Cost Recovery Framework

Western Power is responsible for building, maintaining and operating the infrastructure that forms the SWIS. It does this in line with the regulatory framework set out in the Access Code under the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* (EI Act), and it is subject to independent regulation by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA).

Under this framework, Western Power can make the necessary investments in the network and recover efficient expenditure on network assets. Cost recovery on network investments primarily occurs through a combination of customer capital contributions and network tariffs.

The capital contributions paid by applicants for connection are determined under the Contributions Policy, which was approved by the ERA as part of Western Power's fifth access arrangement.<sup>5</sup>

### 2.1. Capital Contributions

Under the current Contributions Policy, contributions are determined using a formula that produces highly variable results, depending on the costs associated with the infrastructure assets required to facilitate the connection at a given site and the network tariff revenue those assets are forecast to recover.

One component of that formula is new 'connection assets'. Connection assets are assets used solely by a connection or expansion applicant. Examples of connection assets include the power lines and transformers that connect a generator's plant to a substation.

The capital costs for connection assets are paid in full by the applicant. This approach would not change.

Another component of the formula is new shared assets. Shared assets typically come in the form of upgrades to the broader network. Shared assets are all assets that are not connection assets and include infrastructure items and costs associated with upgrading the broader network. Examples of shared assets include high-voltage wires, transformers, switching equipment, and monitoring and communications equipment needed to move energy across the SWIS.

Capital contributions for shared assets are calculated by:

- forecasting the costs of the shared assets that are required to be built or modified to facilitate the applicant's network connection; and
- deducting the amount of revenue that Western Power would gain from providing covered services to the applicant over a fixed amount of time, up to 15 years.

The forecast cost of shared assets includes capital costs, some non-capital costs and any taxation liabilities incurred by Western Power in receiving the capital contribution. Examples of non-capital costs include refinement to protection settings (which determine how the network's protective relays, circuit breakers, and control systems detect faults and isolate parts of the network) and reprogramming computer equipment to accommodate the connection request.

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<sup>5</sup> [Appendix 4A – Transitional Western Power Network Contributions Policy](#).



## 2.2. The Need for Change

The calculation of shared assets costs can be highly variable and may evolve during Western Power's connection process based on project development, network studies and refinement of estimates. Unpredictable variations in capital contributions can impact project viability, including after potential applicants have invested in early planning works.

New transmission lines and significant network upgrades are required to unlock network capacity and to connect new generation, storage and industrial users. This is likely to lead to greater capital contributions under the current capital contributions arrangement.

### 2.2.1. Cost Certainty

The proposed FCC would give project proponents greater planning certainty. Under the existing regime, there is limited certainty as to how much will be payable until well into the connection process, especially in relation to shared assets costs.

While Western Power provides a broad estimate during initial scoping, these are limited to Class 5 estimates, which have +100 percent to –50 percent accuracy. More accurate Class 4 or 3 estimates are not available until much later during the scoping stage and still only possess a +50 percent to –30 percent accuracy.

The first four stages of Western Power's connection process typically take 17-24 months to finalise, with proponents typically incurring \$300,000 to \$750,000 in fees along the way.<sup>6</sup> This means that proponents may wait two years before receiving a final connection cost inclusive of connection and shared asset contribution requirements.

Accurate estimates of connection and shared costs are often not known until over a year into the connection process. This means that some applicants only discover whether a connection is commercially viable after contributing significant time and money to the connection process. This uncertainty is a barrier to project delivery and can disincentivise investment.

A \$100,000 per MW FCC would help to remove this uncertainty and provide greater certainty around connection costs to industry, regardless of connection location. The table below indicates how the proposed FCC would simplify Western Power's connection application process for shared assets relative to the existing capital contributions approach.

As noted in section 2.1, the capital costs for connection assets would continue to be paid in full by the applicant, and this aspect of the connection process would remain unchanged.

Phase	Enquiry	Initiation	Scoping	Planning	Execution
<b>Indicative timeframe</b>	3 months	6-10 months	4-7 months	4 months	Project specific
<b>Existing shared assets regime</b>	Class 5 estimate (+100% to –50%)	Not applicable	Class 3 or 4 estimate (+50% to –30%)	Final costs only known at the end of the planning stage	Not applicable
<b>FCC</b> (replaces shared assets regime)	\$100,000 per MW	FCC cost remains unchanged			

<sup>6</sup> These estimated timeframes and costs are a guide and will vary depending on project specifics, such as facility size, connection voltage, complexity and geography. The durations are based on all customer deliverables having been received and with no queuing time. Further details are available on [Western Power's website](#).

## 2.2.2. Existing Contributions Framework

Progressing under the current contribution framework requires connecting applicants to either:

- **Progress individually:**

If a connection requires a new transmission build or substantial network upgrade, the shared network upgrade costs could be significant. This can create a first mover penalty, where the initial connecting customer bears most of any shared network upgrade costs and subsequent connecting customers contribute less.<sup>7</sup>

Attempting to mitigate this by initially pursuing a more limited capacity network build would create cost inefficiencies, as a series of small upgrades will often likely be more expensive than a single larger-scale upgrade. Under the current capital contributions approach, calculating costs individually makes it more difficult to ensure synergies between builds and to ensure that augmentations are optimised.

- **Progress collectively:**

Progressing several connections at the same time to share the capital costs across multiple projects is an alternative approach. Such an approach currently exists – the Competing Applications Group concept. However, this approach has been found to create complexity as it requires all transmission connection or expansion applicants to be at an equal stage of readiness throughout the process. This is a challenging and often unrealistic expectation to place on project developers.

The unpredictability of shared assets costs and the first mover penalties that can inadvertently occur under the current capital contribution arrangements result in uncertainty and risk for industry that can stall project development and delivery. A simpler capital contributions policy would help to mitigate these challenges and better meet the State electricity objective<sup>8</sup> by promoting more efficient investment in electricity infrastructure in the SWIS.

## 2.3. Options Considered

Building transmission infrastructure at the scale required to deliver the Clean Energy Link Program will involve substantial upfront investment.

Given the complexities associated with the existing capital contributions approach, a range of options have been considered to help meet these costs while providing greater certainty to industry. For example, a private-led solution for the Goldfields Regional Network is being considered by the State Government, in consultation with industry other stakeholders.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Western Power's approved Contributions Policy provides for the first mover to agree a rebate mechanism with Western Power, under which subsequent applicants bear a share of the contribution the first mover has paid, but this is an uncertain solution.

<sup>8</sup> Section 3A. of the [Electricity Industry Amendment \(Distributed Energy Resources\) Act 2024](#):

The **State electricity objective** is to promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity services for the long-term interests of consumers of electricity in relation to —

- (a) the quality, safety, security and reliability of supply of electricity; and
- (b) the price of electricity; and
- (c) the environment, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

<sup>9</sup> WA Government, Energy Policy WA, Goldfields Regional Network, accessible online at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/energy-policy-wa/goldfields-regional-network>.

Other options that were considered include:

- **Higher FCC:**

As outlined in section 4.1, the proposed charge of \$100,000/MW was informed by feedback received through the Registration of Interest process conducted in 2023. A higher FCC would enable faster recovery of costs for Western Power. However, it would also impact the commercial viability of private industry projects and, in turn, limit economic growth and diversification opportunities in WA.

- **Lower FCC:**

A lower FCC would inappropriately shift costs from connecting projects onto Western Power and the State, to be paid for by all network users, not only the connecting project.

### 3. The Fixed Capital Charge

A proposed new and more effective funding model for transmission connection applications has been developed to support the connection of renewable energy to enable the energy transition of the SWIS to address the concerns raised in section 2.2.

The proposed FCC would not impact the total recovery of efficient network costs by Western Power over time. These costs would continue to be recovered via customer contributions or network tariffs.

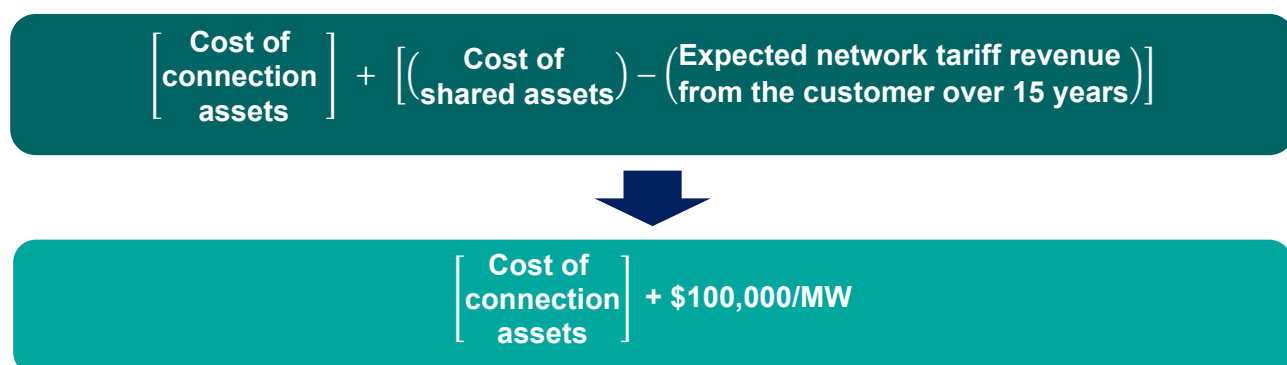
Under this model, the FCC would apply as follows:

- a \$100,000 per MW charge would be payable by all new and expanded generation, storage and load applicants that connect to the transmission system and are 10 MW or larger;
- the FCC would replace the current capital contribution arrangements for shared assets on the transmission system; and
- generation, storage and load applicants that are 10 MW or larger would continue to pay all costs for connection assets.

The FCC of \$100,000 per MW is real in 2025 dollars (indexed to the Perth CPI), and inclusive of tax.

The FCC, if adopted, would be payable at the conclusion of the Planning stage of Western Power's connection process, prior to the commencement of the Execution stage, with an option for payments to be split over two years.

Transmission connection or expansion applicants currently pay shared assets contributions that are highly variable and often difficult to determine in advance of a connection application. The proposed FCC would provide greater certainty on the shared assets costs required for access to the common-use transmission infrastructure, relative to the existing approach.



Under current arrangements, Western Power provides indicative estimates for shared assets costs to potential applicants early in the connection applicant process. However, these estimates often vary significantly from the eventual capital contributions amounts. This means that applicants often have limited visibility of shared assets costs until well into the connection application process, by which time they have committed significant resources toward their application.

The introduction of a fixed \$100,000 per MW charge would reduce this uncertainty and provide greater clarity to industry about their anticipated costs, ahead of lodging connection applications.

The connection asset component of capital contributions would not change. Connection assets are specific to a project and benefit only the applicant, so the costs for these assets would continue to be paid in full by the applicant.

Generation, storage and load applicants less than 10 MW would continue to pay capital contributions as per the existing capital contribution arrangements.

## 4. Implementation and Key Policy Details

### 4.1. Value

The efficient costs of the network expansion required for the SWIS will be recovered via a combination of network tariffs and connection charges. The value of the FCC, if adopted, will impact what proportion of these costs are recovered from up-front customer contributions versus the proportion recovered via network tariffs.

Western Power and EPWA conducted a Registration of Interest process in November 2023 to inform decision making on the size, location and type of connections that will require access to the network. This process included a survey of industry's willingness to contribute to the cost of the transmission upgrades across a range of contribution options.

Western Power received 143 responses to the Registration of Interest process, of which 66 percent indicated a willingness to contribute \$100,000 per MW or more, 86 percent indicated a willingness to contribute \$80,000 per MW or more, and 14 percent did not provide a response on willingness to contribute.

The Department of Treasury subsequently commissioned a report in 2024 that considered a variety of options for how Western Power could recover transmission costs. This included an examination of the extent to which network connection charges could partially or fully recover the anticipated cost of the future network build. This report found that a significantly higher connection charge would be needed to fully recover the capital cost of the required transmission upgrades, but that this would be an unacceptable barrier to investment in the State, and that \$100,000 per MW would not have a significant negative impact.

Based on the responses to the Registration of Interest process and the Department of Treasury's analysis, the State Government is considering a \$100,000 per MW charge, which would replace the existing highly variable shared assets contribution.

### 4.2. Applicability

The proposed FCC would apply per MW of requested network capacity, payable by new and expanded transmission connection applicants seeking to connect to the SWIS:

- for load customers, this is the Contract Maximum Demand (CMD);
- for generation customers, this is the Declared Sent Out Capacity (DSOC); and
- for storage customers or sites that demand and provide electricity, the charge would be applied to the maximum of the CMD or DSOC, as that is the measure of the network capacity being used.

Contribution arrangements under existing access agreements would continue under the terms of the existing agreement and would not be impacted by the proposed changes.

The FCC, if adopted, would apply to transmission network connections only, with no exceptions for Government Trading Enterprises, including Synergy.

### 4.3. Size Threshold

The proposed FCC would apply to:

- new connecting generation, storage or industrial load connections that are over 10 MW in requested capacity; and
- expansions of existing generation, storage or industrial load connections, where the expansion is greater than 10 MW.

New connections and expansions that are smaller than 10 MW would pay contributions for shared assets calculated under the current Contributions Policy.

This size threshold reflects that connections below 10 MW, such as community battery projects or new housing estates, have a smaller impact on the shared transmission network and rarely trigger significant upgrades to shared assets. Given this, a \$100,000 per MW charge would represent a material additional impost on these connections and could disincentivise such projects.

If an applicant lodges two or more connection or expansion applications, the capacity increase sought by the applications would be aggregated to determine whether the FCC should be applied to the cumulative capacity increase if it exceeds 10 MW.

## 4.4. Transition

The FCC is proposed to apply to all connection applications that do not have an executed access offer with Western Power by 1 July 2026.

If adopted, a transition arrangement would apply to ensure that network connection and expansion applicants that have made significant progress in the connection process are not adversely impacted by the FCC.

This transition arrangement would apply where Western Power forecasts that an access offer will be executed by 1 July 2026, but there is a delay that is outside the applicant's control. In these situations, the applicant would have a three-month window, to 30 September 2026, where they will have the option to pay the capital contribution for shared assets in accordance with Western Power's current Contributions Policy or pay the FCC.

## 4.5. Payment

The proposed FCC would be payable at the conclusion of the Planning stage of Western Power's connection process, upon securing an Interconnection Works Contract. This is consistent with the current timing for payment of contributions.

For some projects, the FCC may represent a significant up-front cost, payable well before any anticipated revenue is derived from their project. Therefore, an option would be provided to pay the FCC over two years, rather than as a single up-front payment.

If a connection chooses to split its payment, the first payment would be due at the conclusion of the Planning stage of Western Power's connection process. The second payment would be due 12 months later and would incur an interest charge to recover the additional debt holding costs incurred by Western Power because of the deferred payment.

## 4.6. Fixed Capital Charge and Network Tariffs

If the FCC is adopted, there would be no change to the total costs that all connections will pay over time. This is because of the relationship between capital contributions and network tariffs.

The amounts Western Power receives from the FCC would be treated in the same way as capital contributions for shared assets – they would be deducted from the capital expenditure in the RAB.

When setting target revenue for an upcoming access arrangement period, forecast revenue from the FCC would be deducted from forecast capital expenditure, in the same way that forecast capital contributions are currently treated. Any differences between actual and forecast revenue from the proposed FCC would then be reconciled in the subsequent access arrangement.

The precise impact of the change to the capital contribution arrangements on network tariffs is difficult to determine because the proposed FCC would replace an inherently complex and unpredictable capital contribution arrangement.

Forecasting shared asset contributions for projects requires an assessment of the cost of the required augmentations to the shared network to accommodate a new connection, which can vary significantly throughout Western Power's connection process, making long-term network tariff assessments challenging.

Notwithstanding these forecasting challenges, the cost impact for all network users would be neutral over the long run, at the network level.

Network tariffs would continue to be reviewed and approved annually by the ERA to account for changes to the underlying costs of providing network services, and to ensure no over-recovery against the efficient cost of providing network services, across the life of the network assets. The ERA's assessment would account for the FCC's impact on the RAB.

## 4.7. Review of the FCC

Regulations and amendments to the Access Code are being developed to implement the proposed FCC (see section 5). The regulations would require that the Coordinator of Energy (Coordinator) to review the FCC at least once every five years to consider whether it is meeting its policy objectives, including providing greater investment certainty for industry in Western Australia.

The reviews would consider (among other things) the levels of actual and forecast transmission expenditure, new connections and electricity demand, in determining whether there is a need to adjust the FCC arrangements, including the amount of the FCC.

The Coordinator would make recommendations to the Minister for Energy who may reflect changes to the FCC by amending the regulations and Access Code.

## 4.8. Flexibility in Applying the Fixed Capital Charge

Customers' requirements to connect to the SWIS are complex and vary substantially for different generators and loads depending on factors like location and network constraints.

Additionally, there are situations where a developer may choose to pre-build part of the transmission network so that it is available earlier than when Western Power would build it and then seek to transfer it to Western Power.

The complexity and variability of customers' requirements will continue, and Western Power will retain flexibility on these matters to ensure that customers can connect.

Western Power would not have the ability to waive the FCC, but customers should contact Western Power to discuss the specifics of their connection.

## 4.9. Recovery of Costs

Generators and retailers are expected to be able to recover their network connection costs through their contractual arrangements and/or through the Electricity System and Market (ESM) Rules.

The FCC is expected to impact the Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price (BRCP). The BRCP is an input in calculating Reserve Capacity Prices and Reserve Capacity Security amounts under the ESM Rules and provides a price signal to market participants for the Reserve Capacity Mechanism.

The ERA sets the BRCP annually in accordance with the ESM Rules and the ESM Procedure: Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price. If the FCC is adopted, the ERA would be expected to account for the FCC in determining the BRCP.



## 4.10. Locational Signals

The proposed FCC has not been designed to provide an incentive for any particular generation technology in any specific location. There are already mechanisms to encourage facilities to locate where capacity is available in the SWIS, including:

- the Network Access Quantity framework in the Reserve Capacity Mechanism, which accounts for network constraints in allocating Capacity Credits to generation and storage facilities; and
- the Transmission System Plan and Network Opportunity Map, which summarise Western Power's proposed network development plans and identify potential opportunities for network and non-network solutions.

These mechanisms will continue to provide locational signalling to project proponents, highlighting where network capacity exists. Proponents for storage facilities can directly engage with Western Power about optimal site locations for projects that wish to provide network support services.



## 5. Draft Amendments

Implementation of the proposed FCC would require amendments to the Access Code. The precise structure and wording of these changes will be informed by responses to this Consultation Paper.

As required under section 108 of the EI Act, a further 30-day consultation process would then be undertaken on the draft changes to the Access Code.

The EI Act would also need to be amended to give effect to the proposed changes to the Access Code, to provide a clear head of power for the FCC, and to draft regulations that would specify the details of the FCC. These changes to the EI Act are yet to be considered by Parliament.

## 6. Consultation Process

This paper outlines the rationale and intent behind the policy to replace the existing variable methodology for determining shared assets costs with a proposed FCC of \$100,000 per MW for all new and expanded network connection applications over 10 MW.

DEED, on behalf of the Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation, is seeking feedback from interested parties on the implementation approach and key policy details laid out in sections 4 and 5.

Submissions must be received by **5:00pm (AWST) on Friday 23 January 2026** and should be emailed to [EPWA-info@deed.wa.gov.au](mailto:EPWA-info@deed.wa.gov.au).

To promote transparency, submissions will be made available publicly on the EPWA website (<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/energy-policy-wa>).

Stakeholders should clearly specify if the information they provide in their submission is confidential and, where possible, separate confidential information from non-confidential information.

Persons making any claim for confidentiality should familiarise themselves with the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, which imposes obligations in respect to the release of documents.

**Department of Energy and Economic Diversification  
Energy Policy WA**

Level 1, 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

PO BOX Z5044, St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6831

Telephone: 08 6551 4600

[www.energy.wa.gov.au](http://www.energy.wa.gov.au)