

# Information for solar installers and retailers

## Proposed updates for smarter solar

October 2025

**This document is for businesses that retail or install rooftop solar or batteries. From 1 February 2026, we are proposing to update connection rules for new or upgraded solar and battery systems on the state's southwest grid (SWIS). The 'smarter solar' changes would consolidate different requirements and enable more, and larger, solar and battery systems to be installed. These changes will also allow retailers to begin rolling out flexible exports, unlocking higher rooftop solar exports when the network has capacity.**

### What would the changes mean?

- From 1 February 2026, we propose to simplify connections and improve functionality for new or upgraded solar and battery systems in Western Australia's southwest grid. The changes would apply to systems up to 30 kVA on Western Power's low voltage network.
- The proposed changes are part of the WA Government's work to support distributed energy resource (DER) interoperability for customers and industry, and to consolidate different sets of rules and requirements into a single set of Electricity System and Market Rules.
- The Rules would set minimum requirements ensuring all standard inverter installations perform as expected when commissioned and over time.
- Western Power would then create a procedure to set specific requirements that supersede parts of its basic embedded generation connection technical requirements (BEGCTR). The procedure would apply to network users (electricity retailers) – not directly to installers like under current rules.
- This would simplify the process for installers because it means they can work directly with electricity retailers for solar or battery system testing and onboarding.
- Western Power's initial procedure would replicate the BEGCTR for things like phase balancing and generation capacity, but the changes would allow us to increase system sizes over time.
- System functionality would improve to make it easy for system owners to get more benefit from their systems and enable electricity retailers to begin rolling out flexible solar exports. This would improve basic functionality required since February 2022 for emergency solar management.
- Consistent with the WA Government's statement on DER interoperability, Synergy customers will use the [Common Smart Inverter Profile – Australia](#) (CSIP-AUS) for all new or upgraded systems.
- Future changes will cover larger solar and battery systems, and those connected to higher voltage parts of the network. We will later transition to nationally consistent certification and listing for CSIP-AUS devices, meaning all states and territories will use the same approach.

### Why are we implementing these changes?

Western Australia's South West Interconnected System (SWIS) is the biggest isolated grid in the world. The grid's size and isolation, coupled with large amounts of exported solar, create a unique challenge for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to maintain balanced electricity supply and demand.

We want to support as many people in Western Australia as possible to benefit from rooftop solar, and for those people to get the maximum benefit from each system. These changes make it possible for installers to continue connecting more and bigger systems to the distribution network without waiting for network capacity upgrades, and for electricity retailers to begin rolling out flexible solar exports.

Grid-scale batteries are addressing demand issues at a system level, soaking up excess solar during the day and discharging again during the evening peak. However, our expansive network of local poles and wires can still become congested on a few days each year during peak demand.

Most other times, local poles and wires are below capacity and able to deliver more electricity to customers. Using existing infrastructure to deliver more electricity is a significant opportunity for all customers to benefit, through lower network upgrade costs and higher solar exports to the grid.

Using smarter solar, customers and installers can install bigger systems to cover growing electricity needs behind the meter. At the same time, flexible exports will mean customers can export more solar to the local network and participate in new energy services that minimise local peak demand.

The proposed Rules aim to begin simplifying requirements and legal arrangements for customers and installer. Once in place, we will commence other work with installers and device makers to support bigger systems and to create a streamlined connection process.

## We want to hear from you

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed changes to make sure they deliver maximum customer benefit and are practical for installers.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposals before **5:00pm (AWST) Thursday, 20 November 2025** by submitting comments to [EPWA-Submissions@deed.wa.gov.au](mailto:EPWA-Submissions@deed.wa.gov.au). Any submissions received will be made publicly available on the [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au) webpage unless requested otherwise.

We also welcome more general feedback on the proposed changes. Feedback will help us understand how changes might scale to bigger systems or new technology like V2G (vehicle to grid) electric vehicle charging. Please provide feedback by emailing it to [smartersolar@deed.wa.gov.au](mailto:smartersolar@deed.wa.gov.au)

## What would this mean for installers now?

We are consulting consumers and industry on proposed changes, but no rules will change before February 2026.

Once updated Rules come into effect, installers would need to become familiar with retailer functionality requirements that may change from time to time. Existing safety and wiring obligations will not change.

## What would change in February?

### Installing new DER

Western Power would set minimum technical criteria for solar and battery installations that will apply to the electricity retailer. Retailers would then be responsible for setting site/device commissioning processes and monitoring new installs for a short period to make sure things like export limits are correctly set. This approach is similar to the 'authorised agent' approach used in South Australia.

Most new or upgraded sites for non-contestable customers (customers using less than 50 MWh yearly) would meet Synergy's [functionality requirements](#) and be commissioned using CSIP-AUS.

This is already a requirement under the WA Government's residential battery scheme. Synergy led national development of battery storage functionality through CSIP-AUS v1.3, which we have incorporated into the rebate scheme.

Under the proposed rules, the following installations would be exempt from meeting the functionality criteria on an ongoing basis, or would be deemed to comply:

- Inverters replaced with a similar or exact replacement under warranty.
- Systems installed and compliant with existing connection rules, but where the connection application to Western Power was before 1 February 2026.
- Systems that meet remote connect/disconnect functionality using an alternative method agreed with an electricity retailer, such as through SCADA.
- Systems commissioned using CSIP-AUS, where a customer chooses a fixed 1.5 kW export limit instead of a flexible export arrangement. The fixed export option is also being retained for the small number of customer sites that struggle to maintain remote connect/disconnect functionality for emergency solar management because of physical site constraints.

## Upgrading existing solar systems

Minimum requirements in the Rules would apply if existing systems are upgraded, such as by adding a home battery or a bigger inverter.

For the small number of inverters or sites not capable of communicating and which cannot be updated through firmware, installers will be able to use gateways to meet site requirements. Gateways are available covering the vast majority of the existing inverter market, and we previously [published a fact sheet](#) with information on some of the options available to customers upgrading these legacy systems.

Changes in responsibility for Western Power, electricity retailers, installers, and customers are an important action under the [WA Government's DER Roadmap](#). The change is critical to support more renewables on the grid, because new systems using the same open protocol means installers can keep connecting bigger systems and customers can easily opt in to things like flexible exports and VPPs.

The changes will mean that all systems, regardless of brand, have the same basic level of functionality for customers without needing further upgrades or site visits by installers. Once the changes are in place, we will commence other important work for 'behind the meter' devices. That work will make it possible for customers to choose systems or upgrades that are 'interoperable' with current systems.

## Existing systems (no upgrades)

Installers would not need to do anything for previously installed systems.

Synergy will begin to move existing non-contestable customer systems to a basic version of CSIP-AUS that provides the same functionality as its current deX platform for emergency solar management.

## Who would be responsible for ensuring inverters maintain minimum functionality over time?

There would be no changes to who is responsible for maintaining device communications when new rules come into effect on 1 February 2026.

Installers would continue to be responsible for properly installing or upgrading solar and battery systems. Once installed, electricity retailers or aggregators would likely use a short post-installation period to test systems and remotely verify they comply with export limits and perform as expected. This is similar to what currently happens in South Australia.

Once commissioned, system owners would make sure that equipment maintains the minimum connectivity needed for systems to perform as expected. Often this will be a simple fix, like entering a new Wi-Fi password on an inverter.

There would be no penalties if devices lose communication. Devices would default to a lower static export limit after a period. Exports would automatically increase again once communication is restored.

Electricity retailers would monitor dynamic/flexible systems and may communicate to their customers to let them know their systems have lost connectivity for an extended period.

## What information would I provide to existing or prospective customers/owners?

Most customers/owners are unlikely to be directly affected by the change, which is mainly to consolidate existing rules for installers and industry to prepare for future system improvements.

As with Synergy's current deX platform, we encourage installers to establish whether customers have an active internet connection before visiting a site.

We have published a dedicated customer fact sheet on the Energy Policy WA website, which we welcome installers to download and provide to customers. It summarises what the changes mean in practice for new and upgraded systems.

## I have installed systems under the WA residential battery scheme with inverters greater than 5 kVA, and these sites have a fixed 1.5 kW export limit. Would I need to revisit these sites?

No. These systems already have the functionality we are proposing. Customers with these systems would be able to easily opt in to flexible exports when their electricity retailer makes it available.

**Would I be able to upgrade a customer's current solar export arrangement?**

Yes. Installers may be able to bring sites up to the level of functionality needed for flexible exports.

Existing sites that already meet functionality requirements can be made flexible export-ready by agreement with a customer's electricity retailer. For Synergy customers, this would simply mean enrolling the site using CSIP-AUS. Customers who wish to opt in to flexible exports or a VPP, but whose sites do not meet connectivity requirements, should speak to installers about any system changes needed.

**What happens to commercial systems greater than 30 kVA?**

The proposed Rules would not affect installers or customers who plan to install solar or battery system bigger than 30 kVA. We are initially focussing on systems smaller than 30 kVA because this covers most systems currently being installed.

Customers installing bigger systems are more likely to have specific systems and are better able to negotiate connectivity and flexibility arrangements directly with electricity retailers.

**What is changing about how installers currently communicate with Western Power?**

For now, installers would still submit connection applications to Western Power. We are currently working with Western Power and Synergy on a streamlined connection process, so that installers only need to submit information once when on site.