GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Joint industry forum

New requirements for small-scale solar and battery installations

Thursday, 19 February 2026

Jai Thomas, Coordinator of Energy

Acknowledgement of Country

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Today’s session

- New rules have been introduced that will impact new and upgraded installations at sites with less than 30 kVA (combined generation).
- Jai Thomas, Coordinator of Energy – talking about the Rules.
- Tony Law (Principal Engineer, Distribution Grid Strategy & Planning) and Clayton Vander Schaaf (A/ DSO Enablement Manager, Distribution Energy Transition), **Western Power** – talking about the technical standards under the WEM Procedure.
- Rebecca Hargrave (Head of DER and OT Technologies) and Jamie Pickles (Manager DER Strategy and Development), **Synergy** – talking about how it plans to meet these new obligations through its Functionality Requirements.

  Note: other electricity retailers will have to develop their own methods.

We’re supporting more renewables

Nearly half of homes across the SWIS now have rooftop solar – around 2.5 GW connected

Over 11,500 batteries have been installed under the WA Residential Battery Scheme since 1 July 2025

On 20 December 2025, new SWIS record of 91.1% renewables, with 62.6% from rooftop solar

Why we’re implementing these changes

- The SWIS is isolated while having large amounts of solar generation – this creates challenges for power system stability and management of the network.
- We’re aiming to safely integrate significantly more solar and batteries, while managing risks to the power system.
- We want to support as many people as possible to access DER, and for consumers and installers to share in the benefits of greater rooftop solar uptake.
- These Rules are a step to simplify requirements and legal arrangements, and will allow **more, and bigger, solar and battery systems** to connect.

Our vision: future-proofing and flexibility

- These Rules create a single, consistent standard for new energy systems so that all customers can easily join or leave flexible exports and VPPs without extra upgrades or installer visits.
- This will future-proof homes and unlock more customer choice and financial benefits.

Government responses to date

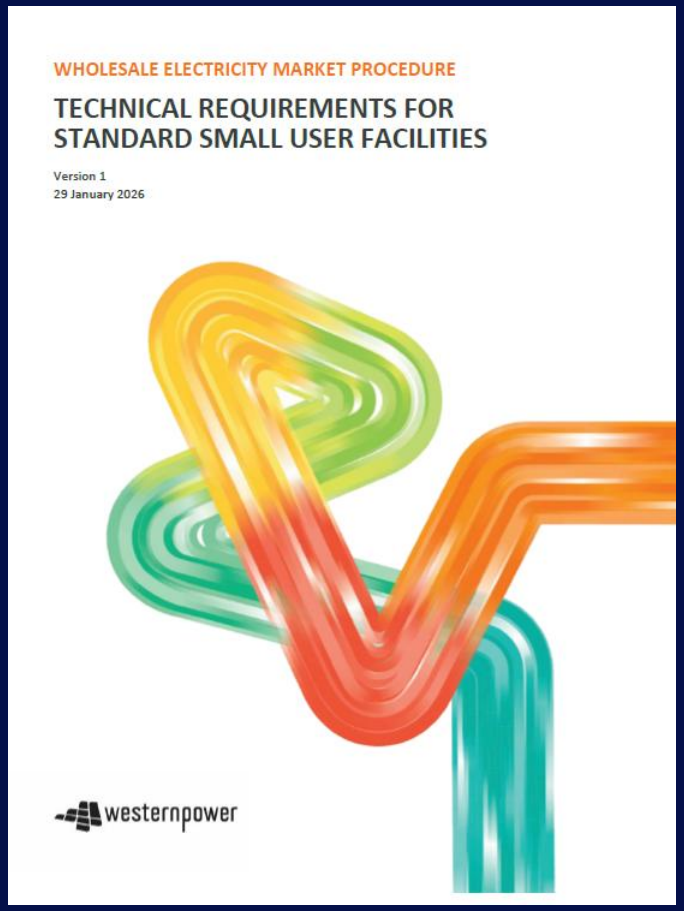
- The new Rules, which will take effect from **1 May 2026,** are part of a long path to support more embedded generation in WA:
    - *DER Roadmap* in 2020
    - *Emergency Solar Management* in 2022.
    - New legislation *(the DER Act)* in 2024.
    - Residential Battery Scheme requiring VPP participation in 2025.
- The Rules (known as the Electricity System and Market Rules) were updated in December, following public consultation that supported the changes.

What the Rules mean (I)

The new requirements will only apply for connections with new or upgraded solar or battery.

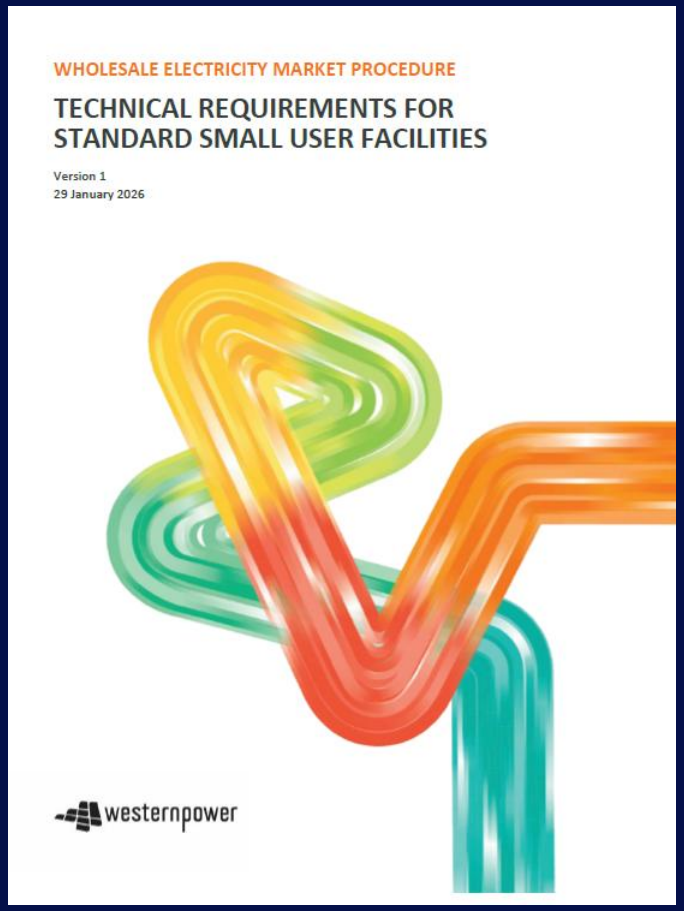
The Rules require Western Power to publish a WEM Procedure:

- This will apply to all connections with an aggregate DER capacity of 30 kVA or less.
- New and upgraded systems must meet AS 4777.2 compliance requirements.
- Systems wanting to export more than 1.5 kW must be capable of remote disconnection/reconnection.
- Western Power will outline limits for generation capacity and injection limits.



What the Rules mean (II)

- **All electricity retailers will be responsible for ensuring that they meet the WEM Procedure requirements.**
- In its May 2025 *Statement on Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources*, Government has outlined its intention to align with national interoperability standards (CSIP-Aus).
- The Rules do not prescribe interoperability standards specifically, but Government supports retailers seeking to align with the statement.
- Synergy's approach, which requires CSIP-AUS compatibility, is consistent with the Government's intended direction.



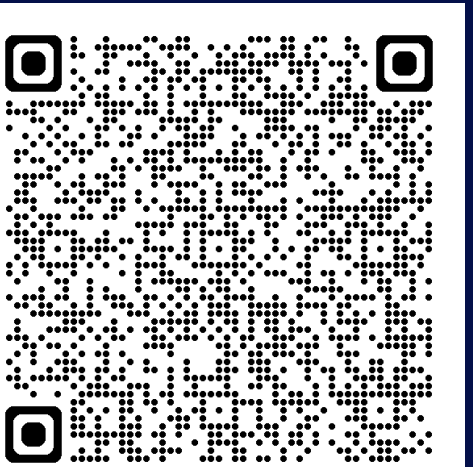
Useful resources

- EPWA's information page on the new requirements for installers and retailers:

https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/energy-policy-wa/new-requirements-solar-and-batteries-information-installers-and-retailers.

- EPWA's consultation summary paper:

https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/consultation-electricity-system-and-market-rules-distributed-energy-resources-roles-and-technical-requirements.



New WEM Procedure: Technical Requirements for Standard Small User Facilities

Industry Briefing

Tony Law, Principal Engineer
Distribution Grid Strategy & Planning

Our role in decarbonising the energy system

We’re integrating Distributed Energy Resources in WA’s main electricity network to safely provide reliable supply, keep costs low and enable decarbonisation for our community.

Customer Value

Supporting the Network

Strengthening the energy system

Environmental Benefits

About the new requirements

Western Power has developed a new Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) Procedure to support changes to the Electricity System and Market (ESM) Rules for Inverter Energy Systems (IES).

The Procedure documents the technical requirements for Standard Small User Facilities, consistent with Western Power's role as Distribution System Operator.

From 1 May 2026, the Procedure applies to Standard Small User Facilities (up to 30 kVA) connected to Western Power's distribution network in the SWIS, and includes inverter energy systems (IES) for rooftop solar, batteries and electric vehicles.

Public Consultation on the changes occurred between 25 November 2025 and 5 January 2026.

Who this applies to

Market participants and aggregators who remotely manage and coordinate DER.

For new and upgraded IES.

Who is affected

Owners of premises with IES with Solar, Battery and Electric Vehicles

Electricians installing IES products with Solar, Battery and Electric Vehicles

Retailers offering IES products for Solar, Battery and Electric Vehicles

What it means

More flexible design and operation of Inverter Energy Systems (IES)
Installers and retailers will have greater flexibility to design, integrate and operate IES that combine solar, batteries and electric vehicles.

Clearer pathways for larger systems and exports
Homes and small businesses with higher energy needs will have clearer options to install larger systems and export energy where appropriate.

More opportunities to unlock value from IES
Compliant IES can be called on to support the power system, creating new value streams for customers and supporting ongoing industry growth.

A more future-ready and reliable power system
Updated requirements help manage system risks as IES uptake grows, keeping the power system safe, reliable and capable of supporting continued participation.

Maximum Inverter Capacity Changes

What the procedure enables

- A Standard Small User Facility can install up to 30 kVA total inverter capacity
- This can be shared across solar, batteries, or other inverter-based energy sources
- Phase balance requirements for multiple-phase connections

Benefits for industry

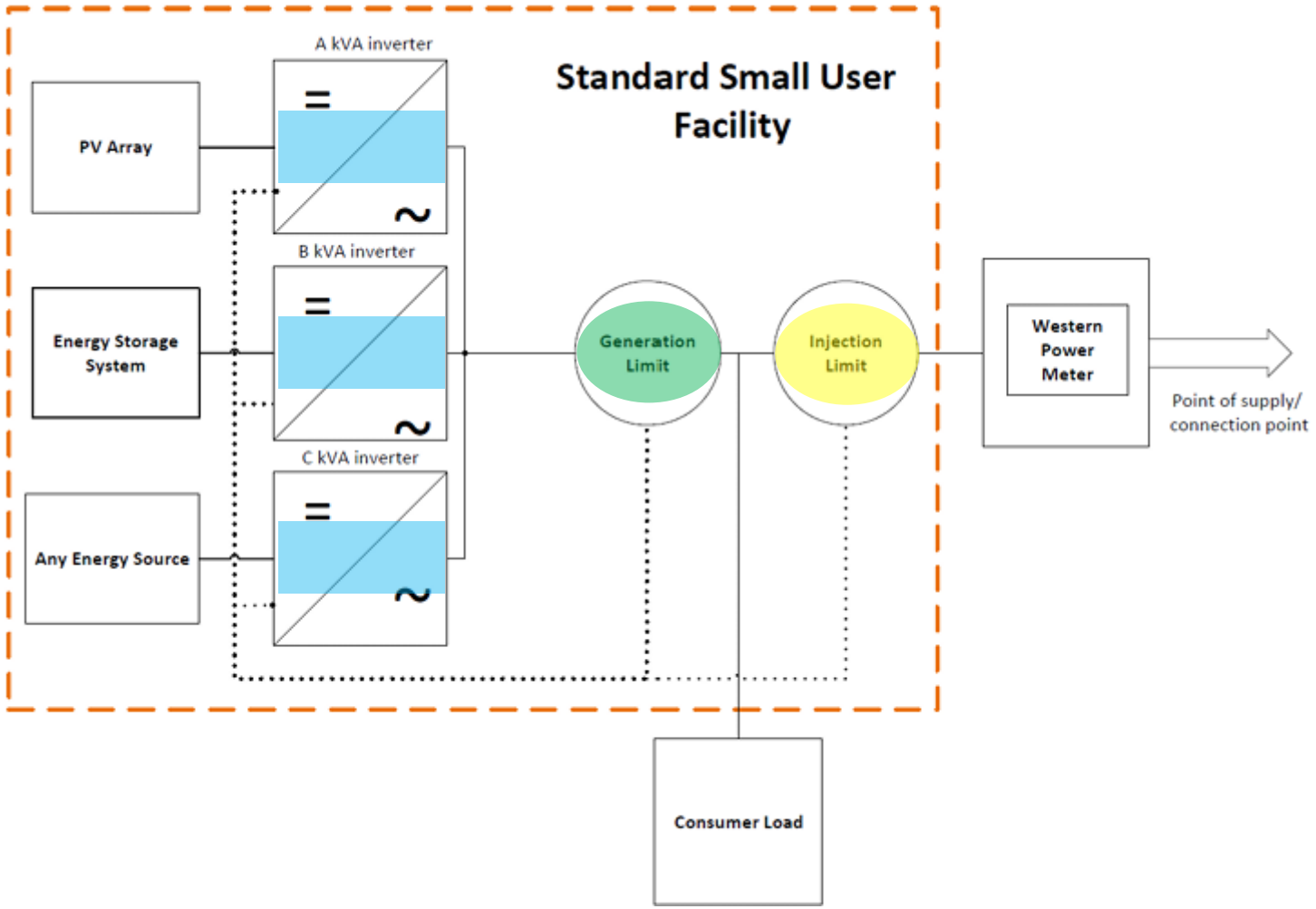
- More flexibility to design inverter energy systems up to 30 kVA under a standard connection
- A clearer pathway for larger systems and increased exports over time
- Clearer phase balancing and more flexibility

What remains unchanged

- Systems must continue to be designed and installed to meet balance and performance requirements
- Electrical safety (and consumer safety) as the main driver for system design and standards compliance
- All relevant legislation, regulations, standards and Western Power requirements continue to apply

Generation limits vs system size

Below is a simplified diagram of a theoretical Standard Small User Facility to assist with the interpretation of generation and injection limits in Table 3.1, Table 3.2 and Table 3.3 of the WEM Procedure.



Generation limits vs system size

What the procedure introduces

- Generation limits are aligned with the standard connection service capacity and network category
- Limits vary depending on whether the connection is on a small or large low-voltage network
- Where IES capacity exceeds the generation limit, systems must be able to manage both generation limits and export limits so approved limits are not exceeded

What this means

- Larger IES can be installed in premises with a standard connection service

  → provided both export limits and generation limit are set

- This supports batteries and virtual power plant participation without overloading the network or the customer's electrical installation

Inverter standards

What the procedure supports

- Inverters must comply with AS/NZS 4777.2
- Australia “B” region settings apply
- Evidence of certification must be available

What this means

- No material change – this aligns with existing requirements and practice.
- Greater consistency across products and installers.
- Confidence that inverters respond correctly to voltage, frequency and control signals

Injection limits, remote control

What the procedure Introduces

Enables participation in virtual power plants and future network services

What this means

- A static base export limit of 1.5 kW applies to maintain network and customer safety.
- Systems seeking to export more must be capable of remote communication, control and disconnection via a Market Participant.
- Remote disconnection/reconnection capability is necessary to manage network risks, but becomes the gateway to even greater levels of participation and value for customers.

Next Steps

The updated WEM Procedure and Basic Embedded Generator Connection Technical Requirements have now been published and will commence on 1 May 2026.

Industry forum being planned to communicate changes to the BEGCTR.

Key Links

- WEM Procedure: technical Requirements for Standard Small User Facilities
- Basic Embedded Generator Connection Technical Requirements (1 May)

Preparing for regulatory changes to solar and battery installations

Rebecca Hargrave
Head of DER and OT Technologies

synergy

WA Government's updated requirements

What's changing?
The WA Government has released new technical requirements for new and upgraded rooftop solar and household battery installations in WA.

From 1 May 2026, new and upgraded rooftop solar and household battery systems up to 30 kVA installed on a standard connection in the SWIS will be required to comply with new minimum technical standards set out in the WEM Procedure: Technical Requirements for Standard Small User Facilities.

What does this mean for industry?
For Synergy customers, connecting systems sized between 0-30kVA, they must:

- be included on the SSL under the 'DER-Generator' category and;
- be designed, installed and commissioned in accordance with Synergy's DER Functionality Requirements*.

These changes enable flexible exports, larger system sizes and improved system reliability.

*Synergy's DER Functionality Requirements are subject to Western Power approval, as per WEM Procedure: Technical Requirements for Standard Small User Facilities, clause 3.4.4.

New technical requirements from 1 May 2026

The new requirements introduce additional opportunities for customers and industry with bigger systems able to connect.

All systems subject to the new requirements will be required to meet new minimum technical requirements that will enable system owners to unlock additional value from their DER assets.

- All systems subject to the new requirements will be need to be designed, installed and commissioned to meet Synergy's DER Functionality Requirements, including CSIP-AUS connectivity, allowing for secure remote monitoring and management.
- For customers who do not wish, or cannot, maintain system connectivity requirements, installers must make sure that the site is export limited to 1.5kW, while still meeting all other DER Functionality Requirements.
- Installers and retailers play a key role in helping customers understand the options, making informed choices about participation and ensuring systems are configured correctly at the point of commissioning.

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) interoperability

DER interoperability refers to the ability of DER devices to exchange information with the electricity system. Its implementation across the SWIS will provide the following benefits:

1. 

   Confirmation that DER devices are configured for secure and efficient network operation
   Example: helping to identify whether an inverter meets the requirements of the AS 4777 standard, and that export settings are correct.

2. 

   Efficient implementation of emergency backstop measures to support system security
   Example: enhancing Emergency Solar Management (ESM) through increased automation and more sophisticated use to minimise impacts on system owners.

3. 

   Introduction of flexible connections to maximise the use of assets and the network
   Example: Adjusting the limits on how much can be exported to the grid depending on what the grid can handle at the time. This will supersede current fixed exports and allow more energy to flow between DER and the network to the benefit of the system and electricity consumers.

4. 

   Opportunities for consumers to benefit from new electricity products
   Example: enabling customers to participate in Virtual Power Plants (VPPs). VPP participation refers to the remote orchestration of aggregated DER assets into a single entity, a VPP, to provide network and market services. New retail products will see consumers benefit financially in exchange for the use of their asset.

Source: WA Government Statement on Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources (2025).

Working together for compliance

Meeting these new requirements is a shared effort across industry. Each participant has a role to play.

Technology providers

- Must ensure solutions meet the new requirements and align with Synergy's DER Functionality Requirements.
- Equipment must be listed on the SSL under the 'DER-Generator' listing category to be eligible for installation.

Retailers

- Must be registered with Synergy.
- Guide customers on compliant equipment and participation options.
- Ensure systems are designed to comply with DER Functionality Requirements.
- Ensure installers follow DER Installation Handbook and that equipment is commissioned correctly.

Installers

- Install, commission and test systems in accordance with DER Installation Handbook.
- Use the Installer Test Tool to validate correct commissioning.

Synergy's Supported Solutions List (SSL)

Synergy's SSL provides a pathway for identifying equipment that meets the new WEM Procedure: Technical Requirements for Standard Small User Facilities.

- The SSL publishes the approved solutions that align with both the WEM Procedure: Technical Requirements for Standard Small User Facilities and Synergy's DER Functionality Requirements.
- The SSL is regularly updated, ensuring industry always has access to the latest compliant solutions and guidance.
- 'DER-Generator' listing will be required for all installations from 1 May 2026.
- 'DER-Storage' listing is already an eligibility requirement for the WA Residential Battery Scheme and will continue to be required for installations from 1 May 2026.

Training and commissioning support

To make the transition to the new technical requirements smooth, Synergy is providing comprehensive guidance and practical support for installers.

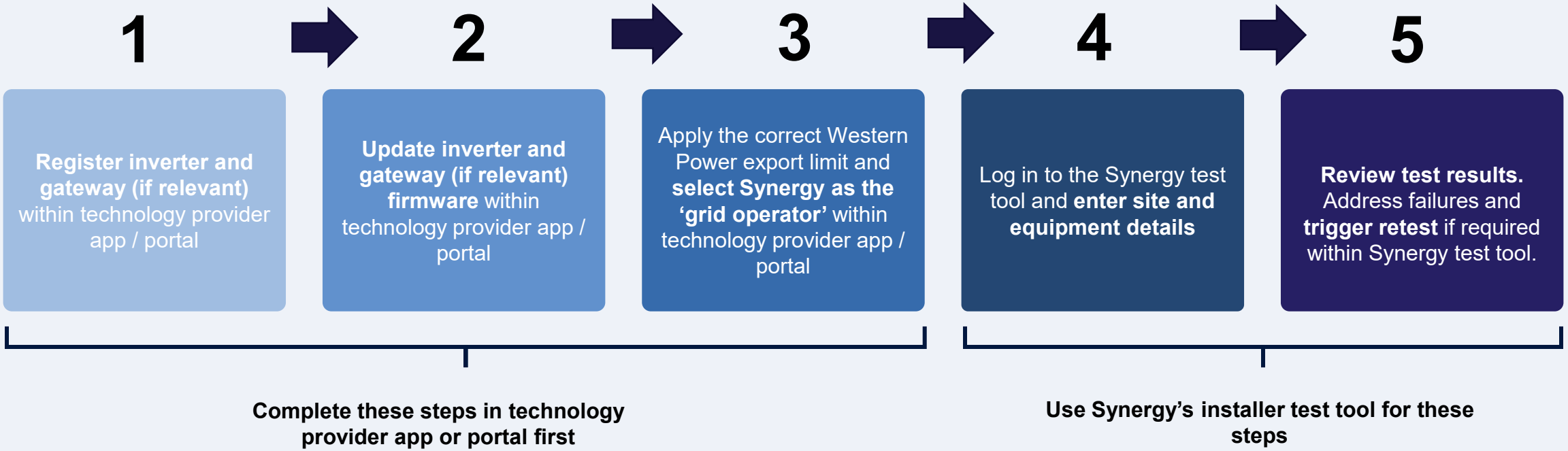
Installer training

- A training module is available to installers and covers installation, commissioning and capability testing processes. This includes instructions on using the Installer Test Tool.
- Completion of this training is already required for all installers working on systems participating in the WA Residential Battery Scheme.

Industry-focused support

- By providing tools and resources, industry will be able to navigate the new requirements confidently, ensuring installations meet new requirements and are prepared for participation in DER programs.

Critical commissioning steps on site



Synergy's role in supporting industry

Successful implementation of the new technical requirements relies on close collaboration across the industry.

Tools and resources

- SSL provides guidance on approved equipment.
- DER Functionality Requirements and DER Installation Handbook outline installation, commissioning and testing processes.
- Practical tools, including the Installer Test Tool, support verification of system functionality.
- Training and webinars support installers and retailers through the transition.

Ongoing communication

- A dedicated support and case management system via our website will help resolve complex queries.
- Consistent communication provides access to advice, tools and resources, reducing industry uncertainty.

Next steps for industry

Industry participants can take proactive steps now to prepare for the technical requirements.

What to do now

- Review Synergy's DER Functionality Requirements, DER Installation Handbook and the SSL.
- Apply for listing on the SSL if your solution isn't already included.
- Register as a retailer with Synergy via our website to ensure you can participate in the commissioning and support processes for customer installations.
- Plan for training and familiarisation with commissioning and testing tools to ensure systems are installed and verified correctly.

Stay informed

- Synergy will be reviewing existing guidance and developing additional resources to support industry.
- Visit our webpage for latest updates: **synergy.net.au/our-energy/household-energy-assets**.

Thank you

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Joint industry forum

Q&A (until 4pm)