

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Title:	Pilbara Advisory Committee (PAC)
Date:	Thursday 21 May 2026
Time:	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Location:	Online

#	Item	Responsibility	Type	Duration
1	Welcome and Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts of interest Competition Law 	Chair	Noting	3 min
2	Meeting Apologies/Attendance	Chair	Noting	2 min
3	Minutes of Meeting 2025_03_26 Published 7 May 2026	Chair	Noting	2 min
4	Update on 22 November 2025 Power System Incident Investigation	ISOC0	Discussion	30 min
5	EPNR Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG outcomes on NSP-to-NSP Connection Framework 	DEED Tim Robinson	Discussion	60 min
6	PAC Action Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including update on CEFC funding allocation for Pilbara. 	Chair Kathryn Barrie (Update)	Discussion	15 min
7	General Business	Chair	Discussion	8 min
	Next meeting: 23 July 2026 at 1:30pm			

Please note, this meeting will be recorded.

Competition and Consumer Law Obligations

Members of the PAC (**Members**) note their obligations under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA)*.

If a Member has a concern regarding the competition law implications of any issue being discussed at any meeting, please bring the matter to the immediate attention of the Chairperson.

Part IV of the CCA (titled "Restrictive Trade Practices") contains several prohibitions (rules) targeting anti-competitive conduct. These include:

- (a) **cartel conduct**: cartel conduct is an arrangement or understanding between competitors to fix prices; restrict the supply or acquisition of goods or services by parties to the arrangement; allocate customers or territories; and or rig bids.
- (b) **concerted practices**: a concerted practice can be conceived of as involving cooperation between competitors which has the purpose, effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition, in particular, sharing Competitively Sensitive Information with competitors such as future pricing intentions and this end:
 - a concerted practice, according to the ACCC, involves a lower threshold between parties than a contract arrangement or understanding; and accordingly; and
 - a forum like the PAC is capable being a place where such cooperation could occur.
- (c) **anti-competitive contracts, arrangements understandings**: any contract, arrangement or understanding which has the purpose, effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition.
- (d) **anti-competitive conduct (market power)**: any conduct by a company with market power which has the purpose, effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition.
- (e) **collective boycotts**: where a group of competitors agree not to acquire goods or services from, or not to supply goods or services to, a business with whom the group is negotiating, unless the business accepts the terms and conditions offered by the group.

A contravention of the CCA could result in a significant fine (up to \$500,000 for individuals and more than \$10 million for companies). Cartel conduct may also result in criminal sanctions, including gaol terms for individuals.

Sensitive Information means and includes:

- (a) commercially sensitive information belonging to a Member's organisation or business (in this document such bodies are referred to as an Industry Stakeholder); and
- (b) information which, if disclosed, would breach an Industry Stakeholder's obligations of confidence to third parties, be against laws or regulations (including competition laws), would waive legal professional privilege, or cause unreasonable prejudice to the Coordinator of Energy or the State of Western Australia).

Guiding Principle – what not to discuss

In any circumstance in which Industry Stakeholders are or are likely to be in competition with one another a Member must not discuss or exchange with any of the other Members information that is not otherwise in the public domain about commercially sensitive matters, including without limitation the following:

- (a) the rates or prices (including any discounts or rebates) for the goods produced or the services produced by the Industry Stakeholders that are paid by or offered to third parties;
- (b) the confidential details regarding a customer or supplier of an Industry Stakeholder;
- (c) any strategies employed by an Industry Stakeholder to further any business that is or is likely to be in competition with a business of another Industry Stakeholder, (including, without limitation, any strategy related to an Industry Stakeholder's approach to bilateral contracting or bidding in the energy or ancillary/essential system services markets);
- (d) the prices paid or offered to be paid (including any aspects of a transaction) by an Industry Stakeholder to acquire goods or services from third parties; and
- (e) the confidential particulars of a third party supplier of goods or services to an Industry Stakeholder, including any circumstances in which an Industry Stakeholder has refused to or would refuse to acquire goods or services from a third party supplier or class of third party supplier.

Compliance Procedures for Meetings

If any of the matters listed above is raised for discussion, or information is sought to be exchanged in relation to the matter, the relevant Member must object to the matter being discussed. If, despite the objection, discussion of the relevant matter continues, then the relevant Member should advise the Chairperson and cease participation in the meeting/discussion and the relevant events must be recorded in the minutes for the meeting, including the time at which the relevant Member ceased to participate.



Agenda Item 4: 22 November 2026 Incident Investigation

Pilbara Advisory Committee (**PAC**) Meeting 2026_05_21

1. Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to:

- present to the PAC a factual overview of the events that resulted in widespread loss of supply across the east and west Pilbara covered networks on 22 November 2025;
- present ISO's recommended changes to rules, procedures and operational practices; and
- discuss next steps, including the opportunity for stakeholders to provide submissions to the ISO.

2. Recommendation

That the PAC:

- (1) notes the factual overview of the incident and ISO's recommendations.
- (2) approves the next steps and timing.

3. Background

- Under rule 197(1) of the Pilbara Networks Rules, the ISO may investigate incidents to which Subchapter 7.6 applies. On that basis, the ISO investigated the power system incident that occurred on 22 November 2025.
- The presentation will summarise the factual incident report, ISO's recommended changes to rules, procedures and operational practices, the opportunity for stakeholder submissions, and ISO's proposed next steps.
- As an immediate next step, ISO proposes to undertake public consultation on the recommendations before progressing rule and procedure changes. This reflects that stakeholders have not yet been consulted on the recommendations, and some recommendations require further work and assessment against the Pilbara Electricity Objective and the EPWA reform agenda before being progressed.

4. Attachments

- To be provided.
 - ISO is currently undertaking the pre-disclosure process under the Pilbara Networks Rules and complying with common law procedural fairness requirements.
 - Once that process is complete, the factual report and ISO's report under R197 will be published on the ISO website.



Agenda Item 5: EPNR Update

Pilbara Advisory Committee (**PAC**) Meeting 2026_05_21

1. Purpose

Energy Policy WA (EPWA) to provide an update on the Evolution of the Pilbara Networks Rules (EPNR) project.

2. Recommendation

That the PAC:

- notes the planned forward agenda for the PAC EPNR Working Group; and
- discuss the Working Group detailed design outcomes on an NSP-to-NSP connection framework.

3. Background

- At the last PAC meeting on 26 March 2026, EPWA outlined the implementation activities it would pursue in early 2026 including prioritising the development of an NSP-to-NSP connection framework.

4. Update

- This update provides further information on planned use of the PAC's EPNR Working Group.
- Further, this update provides a summary of the outcomes of the EPNR Working Group meetings held on 16 April 2026 and 7 May 2026 to progress detailed design of an NSP-to-NSP connection framework.

5. Attachment

(1) Agenda Item 5 – Attachment 1 – Presentation slides




Department of
Energy and Economic
Diversification

Pilbara Advisory Committee – EPNR Update


21 May 2026

Contents

No.	Item	Duration
1	Introduction	5 min
2	Working group schedule	10 min
3	NSP to NSP connections	40 min
4	Next steps	5 min



EPNR activity since the last PAC meeting

- The EPNR working group has met twice since the last PAC meeting:
 - 16 April
 - 7 May
 - Meeting materials are published online, including Minutes from 16 April meeting.
 - Both meetings focused on the NSP to NSP connection framework.
 - FMG and Horizon Power have provided additional feedback outside meetings. This feedback has been shared with working group members.
 - The initial rule change tranche is progressing (internally).
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Working group schedule



Packages of work

The No Regrets activities are being conducted in four packages:


- Package 0 is the implementation of HTR changes and other straightforward items.
- Packages 1 and 2 are led by DEED, and contain topics to be covered in two consultation papers later in the year.
- Package 3 is led by the ISO, and will be covered in the same consultation paper as package 2.

Design for packages 1, 2 and 3 will be developed in conjunction with the working group.




Package zero: initial rule change

The first rule change (to be released in the coming weeks) will include:

- Changes to the HTR to implement working group recommendations
 - Renaming existing ESS to align with the WEM
 - A head of power for the ISO to develop outage regime
 - Requiring the ISO to develop a manual load shedding list
 - Removing the requirement to have non-compliant equipment to be eligible for Connection Point Compliance
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Package 1 (DEED led)

The next set of priority actions will be discussed at the PNR working group between April and June, then proposals released for consultation in Q3.

- NSP to NSP connections
 - Information management framework
 - Head of power for Pilbara System Plan and Pilbara Integrated Plan
 - Introducing the concept of Energy Producing System
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Package 2 (DEED led)

The remaining priority actions will be discussed with the PNR working group from June through August, and included in a consultation paper to be issued in Q4.

- Runway method for Contingency Reserve Raise
 - Regulation service cost recovery
 - Horizon Power cost recovery for control room transition
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Package 3 (ISO-led)

The ISO will lead discussion of these topics at the PNR working group during Q3:

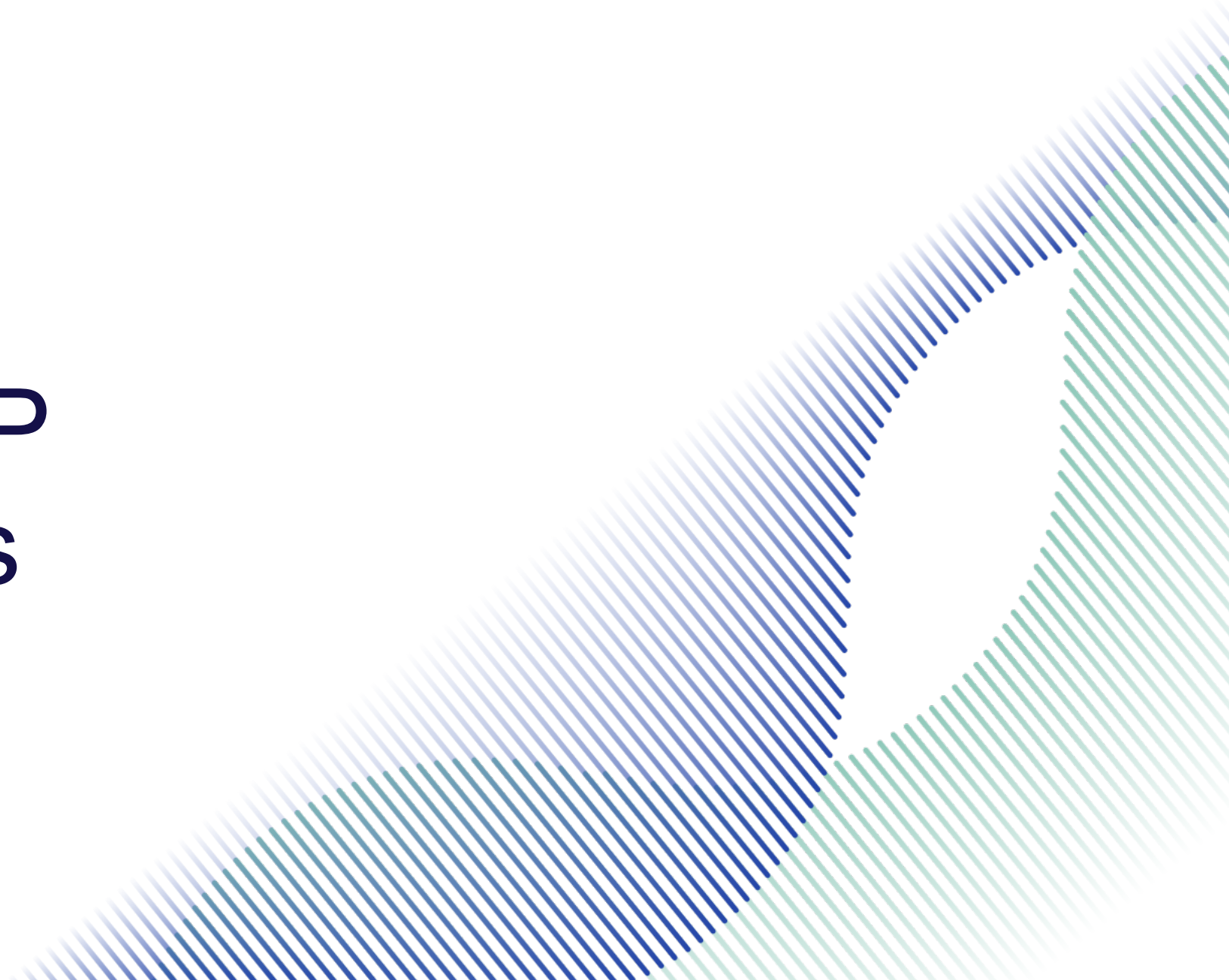
- Outage coordination process, including risk assessment framework
- Criteria for including equipment on the outage planning list
- Project plan for ISO to develop control desk functions

The ISO will chair and provide secretariat services for those topics.

More technical activities will be addressed in the HTR working group:

- System strength: Fault level framework, regional fault level requirements
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NSP-to-NSP connections



PNR current connection process


The current PNR connection process is managed by the NSP where the new connection will be located.

- Connection seeker applies to connect to a Registered NSP (the Host NSP)
- ISO provides input to Host NSP
- Seeker and Host NSP negotiate a Network Access Contract.
- Host NSP determines whether the seeker is compliant with the HTR.
- Host NSP responsible for providing information and model to ISO.
- ISO assesses the new connection's impact on System Security and Reliability, and can veto connection liveness.

Depending on its configuration, a facility may opt to show compliance with the HTR as at the connection point, or for each piece of connected equipment.




What is different about connecting a network?


- Adding a new connection between networks in the NWIS has more potential to affect existing equipment and connections than a new generator or load.
 - A connecting network will have a range of equipment (generation, load, etc.) connected to it. Before the network can be connected to the NWIS, the ISO must be sure that all equipment has been assessed for potential to impact the existing power system. As a result, the range and number of activities required to ensure security and reliability is wider and larger than connecting a generator or load.
 - Some networks control all connected equipment, while others serve third parties. A network which serves third parties must have clear responsibility for overall performance of its network, including monitoring and responding to third party operations. The vertically integrated nature of operations in the Pilbara means that connecting NSPs may be competitors. To avoid perceptions of unfair treatment, the process may require involvement of an independent third party, like the ISO.
 - The CPC pathway in the current rules is intended for user facilities, not for networks serving multiple connected parties. CPC applicants must demonstrate that they have measures in place to manage non-compliant equipment.
 - Therefore, EPWA considers that new rules would need to be developed for compliance at the connection point of NSP to NSP connections, where the connecting NSP is responsible for the operation of all equipment on its network.
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Design objectives

The NSP-to-NSP Connection Framework should be designed:

1. **to maintain Power System Security and Reliability on the NWIS;**
 2. to be efficient in terms of timeline and effort of all parties involved; and
 3. provide clear guidance without unnecessary complexity.
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Scope of working group discussion

- 1 Overview of connection process
 - 2 Determination as NSP vs network user
 - 3 Application of technical standards
 - 4 Testing for NSP connections
 - 5 Information and visibility
 - 6 Assessing impact of material changes behind the connection point
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Working group discussion – Connection process

- The group agreed that it will be important to use common terminology with clear definitions, and clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties. The arrangements should minimise grey areas which rely on the application of discretion.
- The group considered that it should not be mandatory for the ISO to manage the process, and that a connecting network owner should have the option to work primarily with either the ISO or the Host NSP.
- The Connecting Network Owner needs to work with the prospective Host NSP to establish the potential for a physical connection before it can provide any information to the ISO. Even when the ISO manages the connection process, The Connecting Network Owner and the Host NSP will always need to negotiate a connection agreement setting out the physical and commercial arrangements for operating the new connection.
- The group considered that it would be difficult to set one-size-fits-all timeframes for the connection process. It is important to allow sufficient time for negotiation and technical discussion, but some defined timelines may be needed to avoid undue delay. It would be best to describe the process in more detail before considering appropriate timeframes for process steps.

Do PAC members have other comments on the NSP to NSP connection process?

Working group discussion – NWIS model

- Members noted some specific impacts that need to be studied to understand a new connection's impact on existing networks. These included potential changes in fault current levels, and additional network constraints.
- In order to conduct power system studies, a connecting network owner needs access to the ISO's NWIS model. The ISO is interested in the prospective connection's capability to carry out robust and relevant studies as part of its due diligence for the connection.
- At present the ISO can only provide access to the model for specific purposes under the rules, and a prospective connection is not included. There should be clear and simple rules to ensure access for prospective connecting parties.

Do PAC members have other comments on the provision and use of the ISO's NWIS model?




Working group discussion – Registering as an NSP vs as a network user

- EPWA proposed that a connecting network owner should be required to register as an NSP if it serves third parties or if it expects to have greater than 10 MW injection to the rest of the NWIS.
- Some members considered that the 10 MW injection requirement was relevant to generators, not to networks, and that alternative criteria could be whether the entity is responsible for a transmission system (66kV and above), and whether it has centralised control of equipment on the network.
- Members discussed the existing CPC rules, which allow a self-contained network to be registered as a facility. These rules are broadly written, and were designed for a connecting entity with its own load and generation, which imports and does not export. The group discussed whether these rules could be applied to networks serving third parties.
- One member considered that connecting network owners not serving third parties should be able to choose whether to register as an NSP, but that a connecting network owner serving third parties should be required to register as an NSP.
- The group asked EPWA to:
 - Consider what risks there would be if the current CPC approach were extended to network owners/operators who may provide access to third parties.
 - Use diagrams and examples to illustrate the roles, responsibilities, and activities required for different types of network-to-network connection.

Do PAC members have comments on the working group discussions?



Registering as an NSP vs as a network user

- A party connecting to the NWIS must be responsible for compliance of all equipment it is connecting.
 - Under the PNR, NSPs must manage compliance of network equipment and connected facilities in a standard, transparent way, so that all NWIS parties can have confidence that power system security and reliability will be maintained.
 - If a network owner serving third parties could connect without registering as an NSP:
 - It would still have to provide a network model to the ISO.
 - It would still need to manage compliance of third parties connected to its network, as well as at the connection point to the Host NSP.
 - It could manage third party connections according to a different set of standards than apply to the rest of the NWIS, leading to fragmentation of standards and loss of confidence in overall system reliability.
 - the ISO and the Host NSP would require it to show that it has standards, processes, and mitigation measures in place to manage the risks to other connected parties to the same level as defined in the HTR.
 - **In what circumstances and entity should register as NSP?**
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Working group discussion – Technical standards

- The group disagreed on whether all equipment connected to the NWIS should be subject to the same technical standards. Members noted the ongoing work on the HTR to allow it to be a master standard for the whole network, and the proposed implementation plan activity to develop a minimum standard as well as a default standard. Any gaps should be raised for the HTR working group to consider and address.
- The ISO will review the HTR standards for network operations and provide input on those that could be assessed at the connection points between networks, and those that would require consideration of the equipment behind the connection point.
- The classification of a connected network owner as an NSP or a network user determines the approach to compliance monitoring, not the technical standards which must be complied with.
- Decisions about PNAC coverage interact with technical standards. Example: A non-covered network complies with the HTR at the connection point, but not at all points behind the connection point. If a third party wants to connect to the NWIS via the non-covered network, and applies for the network to become covered, then assessing compliance at the connection point would no longer be an option.

Do PAC members have other comments on technical standards for NSP to NSP connections?

Next steps



Next steps

The EPNR working group will meet three times before the next PAC meeting. The intended topics are:

- June (HTR workstream): Feedback on draft rules, discuss if grandfathering arrangements are required
- June (PNR workstream): NSP to NSP connections, information management framework, ESS cost recovery
- July (PNR workstream): ESS cost recovery, new outage regime, Horizon Power cost recovery for control room transition

Timing for some topics will depend on ISO readiness.





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Thank-you



Agenda Item 6: PAC Action Register

Pilbara Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting 2026_05_21

Shaded	Shaded action items are actions that have been completed since the last PAC meeting. Updates from last PAC meeting provided for information in RED .
Unshaded	Unshaded action items are still being progressed.
Missing	Action items missing in sequence have been completed from previous meetings and subsequently removed from log.

Item	Action	Responsibility	Meeting Arising	Status
1/2026	Working Group (HTR) to consider whether transitional arrangements are required, particularly for storage standards planned for Q4 2026.	DEED	2026_03_26	Open – meeting (not yet scheduled) planned for June.
2/2026	DEED to provide an update to the PAC on State/Commonwealth negotiations and allocation of CEFC funding for the Pilbara.	DEED	2026_03_26	Closed – verbal update to be provided at 21 May PAC meeting.