



Pilbara Advisory Committee (PAC) - Minutes

Date:	23 July 2026
Time:	1:30pm – 3:30pm
Location:	Online, via TEAMS

Attendees	Representing in PAC	Company	Comment
Sally McMahon	Chair		
Summa McMahon	Independent System Operator (ISO)	ISOC	Replacing James Campbell-Everden
Momcilo Andric	Registered NSP	Rio Tinto	
Liz Gharghori	Registered NSP	APA	Proxy for Lizzie O'Brien
Sandy Morgan	Registered NSP	Horizon Power	
Ben Bradfield	Excluded NSP	BHP	Left 14:56pm
Ken Chong	Excluded NSP	Fortescue	
Kristian Myhre	Discretionary Rule Participant	TransAlta	
Nick Bardsley	Discretionary Rule Participant	Woodside	
Timothy Edwards	Discretionary Rule Participant	Metro Power Company	
Warner Priest	Discretionary Rule Participant	Intercontinental Energy	
Anne Hill	Small-use Customer	Small End-Use Consumer	Proxy for Rosh Ireland
Noel Ryan	Minister Appointed Observer	DEED	
Melinda Anderson	ERA Appointed Observer	ERA	
Other attendees			Comment
Dora Guzeleva	Secretariat	DEED	
Tom Coates	Secretariat	DEED	
Samantha Jasmin	Secretariat	DEED	



Luke Commins	Secretariat	DEED	
Peter Van den Dolder	Presenter – Item 5	ISOCco	
Tim Robinson	Presenter – Item 6	RBP	
Apologies	From		Comment
Lizzie O'Brien	Registered NSP	APA	
Rosh Ireland	Small-use Customer	Minister Appointed Small-use Consumer	

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members.

The Chair reminded members of her roles as a Councillor of the National Competition Council and Commissioner of the AEMC.

The Chair noted that advice provided by PAC may not necessarily reflect her personal views and reminded members of their obligations under the Competition and Consumer Law.

The Chair reminded members that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of preparing the Minutes.

2. MEETING APOLOGIES AND ATTENDANCE

The Chair noted the attendance and apologies as listed above and welcomed Ms Gharghori, attending on behalf of APA, and Ms McMahon, who had been nominated by the ISO as its representative on the PAC, replacing Mr Campbell-Everden.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 2026_05_21

The Minutes of the 21 May 2026 meeting were approved out-of-session and published on the Coordinator's website on 22 June 2026. No amendments were raised.

4. ACTION REGISTER

The Chair requested that future Action Registers include clearer references to the originating agenda item or issue associated with each action to improve traceability and assist members in following the progression of matters between meetings.

The Chair reviewed the Action Register and noted that three actions had been completed since the previous meeting.

- Ms Guzeleva advised that discussion the ISO system model would occur under Item 6. She further advised that there was no update on CEFC funding allocations and that Action 5/2026 should remain open.
- Consideration of an additional PAC meeting on proposed reforms arising from the 22 November 2025 power system incident investigation would depend on the outcome of the discussion under Agenda Item 5.



5. ISOCO PRE-RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL CONSULTATION

The Chair introduced the item and noted that ISOCO was seeking feedback prior to commencing development of Rule and Procedure Change proposals arising from the 22 November 2025 power system incident investigation.

The Chair reminded members that PAC had received an overview of the investigation report at its previous meeting and that the purpose of the consultation was to discuss the proposed implementation pathway for recommendations, including those requiring changes to the Rules or Procedures.

Mr Van den Dolder explained that ISOCO had reviewed the recommendations and assessed whether each should be progressed through the existing EPNR reform process or through a separate ISO-led Rule or Procedure Change Proposal.

Mr Van den Dolder advised that six submissions had been received in response to the investigation report and that those submissions, together with any clarification responses prepared by ISOCO, would be published and considered as part of future consultation.

Mr Van den Dolder sought feedback on whether the Rule and Procedure Changes should proceed.

- Mr Chong considered the recommendations directionally sound and supported progressing them as an integrated package through the most efficient implementation pathway.
- Ms Morgan sought clarification on how stakeholder submissions would be addressed before Rule Change Proposals were brought forward.

Mr Van den Dolder confirmed that ISOCO intended to prepare clarification responses where required and publish them alongside stakeholder submissions.

- Mr Andric advised that Rio Tinto supported reforms that strengthen reliability and security but considered that the consultation material did not adequately recognise the unique circumstances of vertically integrated mining networks operating under Rule 5. He expressed concern that outage coordination reforms could inadvertently extend ISO authority into internal operational and maintenance activities and noted that any future framework should include objective materiality thresholds.
- Mr Andric also observed that the consultation paper only identified costs to ISOCO and did not consider implementation costs that may be incurred by Network Service Providers and other Participants.

Mr Van den Dolder confirmed that the ISOCO was not proposing changes to Rule 5 or to participant classifications, and that future proposals would continue to be assessed within the existing Rule 5 framework. He acknowledged that Participant implementation costs would be considered through subsequent consultation processes.

- Mr Myhre supported the overall direction of the recommendations and noted that major system incidents provide important opportunities for learning and improvement. He emphasised the importance of detailed design to maintain an appropriate balance between outage coordination, operational flexibility and system security.



- Ms Morgan reiterated that future rule changes should balance security and reliability objectives with efficiency considerations, noting that costs would ultimately be borne by consumers.

The Chair observed that members appeared broadly comfortable with the allocation of recommendations between the EPNR reform process and separate ISO-led rule changes, although several members had expressed concerns regarding aspects of the underlying policy design.

Mr Van den Dolder sought feedback on the estimated implementation costs.

- Mr Chong sought clarification regarding the estimated cost of approximately \$40,000 identified in the paper.

Mr Van den Dolder confirmed that the cost was already accommodated within ISOCo's approved budget and did not require additional funding.

- Ms Morgan reiterated the importance of considering broader implementation costs and overall efficiency outcomes as the proposals are developed.
- Ms Guzeleva queried whether the recommendation relating to gas infrastructure would be more appropriately addressed through outage coordination with gas operators, rather than by extending the scope of outage coordination for electricity infrastructure.

Mr Van den Dolder explained that the proposal was intended to clarify obligations relating to generator-controlled gas infrastructure associated with power stations, rather than include gas transmission infrastructure or create additional classes of Rule Participants. He advised that ambiguity currently exists regarding whether some gas-related works require notification through existing outage coordination arrangements for the electricity system.

- Mr Andric expressed concern that the proposed approach could create overlap with existing gas regulation, noting that gas infrastructure is already subject to pipeline licensing and safety requirements.
- Ms Gharghori supported Mr Andric's comments and suggested that the November 2025 incident would not necessarily have been prevented by the proposed rule change.
- Mr Myhre observed that, while not advocating regulation of gas infrastructure under the Pilbara Networks Rules, improved coordination and information sharing regarding major gas infrastructure outages could enhance system security.
- Ms Guzeleva noted that coordination mechanisms between electricity and gas operators, similar to those being considered in the Wholesale Electricity Market, may provide a more appropriate solution.

The Chair summarised that members generally supported progression of the investigation recommendations and the proposed consultation pathways. However, she noted that significant concerns had been raised regarding the treatment of gas infrastructure and encouraged ISOCo to consider that feedback before developing detailed proposals.

6. UPDATE ON EPNR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS



The Chair noted that the PAC had been asked to provide feedback on the outcomes of recent Working Group meetings covering information management, long-term planning, NSP-to-NSP connections, grandfathering arrangements and ESS cost recovery.

Ms Guzeleva suggested that discussions focus on information management and long-term planning, as these topics had generated the most extensive discussion during the Working Group meetings.

Information management

Mr Robinson presented Slides 2 – 3 and Slides 13 – 20.

- Ms Gharghori sought clarification on whether equivalent information management arrangements in the WEM are actively used.
- Ms Guzeleva advised that the WEM framework is used regularly and operates on the principle that information is public unless it satisfies defined confidentiality criteria.
- Mr Andric expressed concern regarding disclosure of commercially sensitive information contained within the NWIS model. He considered that any information-sharing framework should include robust eligibility, confidentiality and cybersecurity requirements, and provide affected participants with appropriate protections.
- Ms Guzeleva acknowledged Mr Andric's concerns and noted that, while appropriate information protections are necessary, a practical model-sharing framework is also required to support future connections and efficient network development.

Mr Robinson advised that this is likely to be achieved through a reduced or redacted model that supports connection studies while protecting commercially sensitive information.

- Ms McMahon noted that the ISO would continue to require access to a complete, unencrypted model to support operational and planning studies, while further work would be required to determine which information could appropriately be shared.
- Ms Morgan supported the overall direction of the proposal and noted that cybersecurity should be explicitly recognised within the final framework.
- Several members supported an approach where the ISO maintains the complete model and connection proponents and existing Participants are provided with access to a reduced version that protects commercially sensitive demand information, while still being fit-for-purpose to support connection applications.
- Mr Edwards observed that similar issues have been addressed in the SWIS through aggregated network modelling, transfer function approaches and independent third-party engineering studies, demonstrating that confidential information can be protected while supporting connection assessments.
- Ms Hill emphasised the importance of strong governance and cybersecurity arrangements to protect information held by the ISO from unauthorised disclosure.

The Chair noted broad support for the direction of the reforms, subject to appropriate governance, confidentiality and cybersecurity arrangements, and that members generally agree that model sharing is necessary to facilitate future connections, provided commercially sensitive information remains appropriately protected.



Long-term planning

Mr Robinson presented Slides 21 – 23, highlighting that the proposed reforms distinguish between planning based on known and committed developments, and longer-term strategy planning based on future scenarios

- Ms Hill supported a long-term planning function and suggested that different planning products could serve different purposes, with some updated more frequently than others.
- Mr Andric noted that Rio Tinto's electricity planning is closely linked to confidential mining plans and cautioned that commercial sensitivities may limit the information participants are willing to share.
- Mr Priest considered that improved visibility of future network development would assist proponents of large renewable energy and hydrogen projects in understanding future infrastructure requirements and constraints.
- Mr Bardsley sought clarification on how the proposal differed from previous planning work undertaken by PoweringWA.

Mr Robinson explained that the reforms seek to distinguish between strategic future scenarios and shorter-term assessments based on known and committed developments.

- Ms Morgan acknowledged the value of planning but questioned whether frequent updates would justify the effort to prepare and maintain the plans, noting that planning quality depends heavily on Participants' willingness to share information.
- Ms McMahon noted that the Rules already require planning documents to be produced by July 2027 and emphasised the importance of an effective planning framework in supporting the Pilbara Electricity Objective.

The Chair noted broad support for an ongoing planning function, while recognising the challenges associated with confidentiality, information quality and the appropriate role of planning in supporting future investment decisions.

Registration categories

Mr Robinson presented Slides 6 – 9.

Ms Guzeleva observed that registration categories may provide an appropriate governance framework by ensuring that parties receiving access to sensitive system information are subject to corresponding obligations under the Rules.

- Ms McMahon noted that introducing additional registration categories could increase complexity for the ISO and emphasised the need to understand how any new arrangements would interact with existing Rule obligations.
- Mr Andric reiterated the importance of recognising vertically integrated mining networks as distinct from traditional network service providers.



Grandfathering arrangements

Mr Robinson presented slides 4 – 5.

- Ms Gharghori supported grandfathering arrangements but acknowledged that facilities undertaking significant modifications or reinvestment may need to comply with updated requirements. She suggested that financial investment decision may provide a practical and objective trigger for grandfathering rights.

Ms Guzeleva noted that further consideration is required to determine the appropriate trigger for grandfathering rights, including whether this should occur at connection, financial investment decision or another project milestone. She also observed that the increasing penetration of inverter-based resources may require some flexibility to adjust settings, especially when hardware changes are not required.

ESS cost recovery and next steps

Mr Robinson advised that discussions on ESS cost recovery remains at an early stage. Initial Working Group feedback supported a causer pays approach to cost allocation, although several implementation issues remain unresolved and require further consideration before detailed proposals are presented to the PAC.

Mr Robinson advised that the next phase of work would include further consideration of ESS cost recovery, outage coordination reforms, HTR grandfathering arrangements and preparation of a consultation paper. He noted that PAC members will have an opportunity to review consultation material before it is finalised and published for public comment.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

No matters were raised under General Business.

The next PAC meeting will be held online at 1:30pm on Thursday, 17 September 2026.

The meeting closed at 3:32pm.