



Department of
**Energy and Economic
Diversification**

**Energy
Policy WA**

Making it easier to connect solar, batteries and EV chargers

Consultation summary report

Citation for this paper:

Consultation summary report – DER data and connections issues paper

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Energy Policy WA

Level 1, 66 St Georges Terrace

PO Box Z5044

St Georges Terrace WA 6831

www.energy.wa.gov.au

ABN 84 730 831 715

Please email enquiries about this document to: smartersolar@deed.wa.gov.au

Background

On 20 July 2026, the Western Australian Government announced its intention to improve data quality and connection timeframes for distributed energy resources (DER).

Improving data and connections for DER will make Western Australia more energy competitive and increase the amount of renewable electricity powering the state's economy.

The Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) published an [issues paper on DER data and connections](#) for public consultation. Our objective was to involve stakeholders early on priority improvements to improve how DER integrates into Western Australia's electricity system.

The submission period ended on 18 August 2026, and this document summarises feedback that stakeholders provided. The consultation scope was broad, and we invited feedback on seven early proposals:

Proposal 1: Require all inverters up to 30 kVA to be CSIP-AUS v1.2 (SA TS 5573:2025) enabled to support interoperability of DER devices.

Proposal 2: Establish Western Power functions to collect, validate, and share DER data to support good electricity demand forecasts.

Proposal 3: Indirect data collection for electric vehicle chargers, to balance better charger data with the need to keep connections simple at this stage of Western Australia's EV uptake.

Proposal 4: Simplify data requirements to make it easier to connect larger DER systems, such as businesses looking to install PV systems on warehouse roofs.

Proposal 5: New requirements for Western Power to share more information about its distribution network capacity.

Proposal 6: Look at mechanisms for VPP operators to provide simple capacity data to AEMO.

Proposal 7: Tie Western Power requirements to share network capacity information with VPP opportunities for customers.

Consultation outcome

We received 23 written submissions strongly supporting the policy direction and generally supporting each of the seven reform proposals.

Stakeholder feedback reflected six themes:

1. **Simpler commercial and industrial connections** through standardised data and technical requirements.
2. **Clearer statutory obligations** for Western Power to collect, validate and share data.
3. **National alignment and interoperability** for technical standards.
4. **Customer-centric data sharing** to allow authorised access and to protect privacy.
5. **Network visibility** to assist customer and investor decision-making on projects.
6. **VPP visibility** to improve power system planning, forecasting and network management.

Our response and next steps

Having now considered all feedback, we intend to develop an exposure draft of changes to the Electricity System and Market Rules (ESMR) for reform proposals 1 to 5.

We will continue to discuss proposals 6 and 7 with stakeholders before incorporating them into proposed changes.

We will work closely with Western Power, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), and the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (Building and Energy) to ensure any changes do not duplicate existing arrangements and meaningfully support DER uptake.

DEED will publish a full response to stakeholder feedback on the issues paper alongside the EMSR exposure draft.

We will consult again on the exposure draft before recommending final changes to the Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation.

Issues paper context

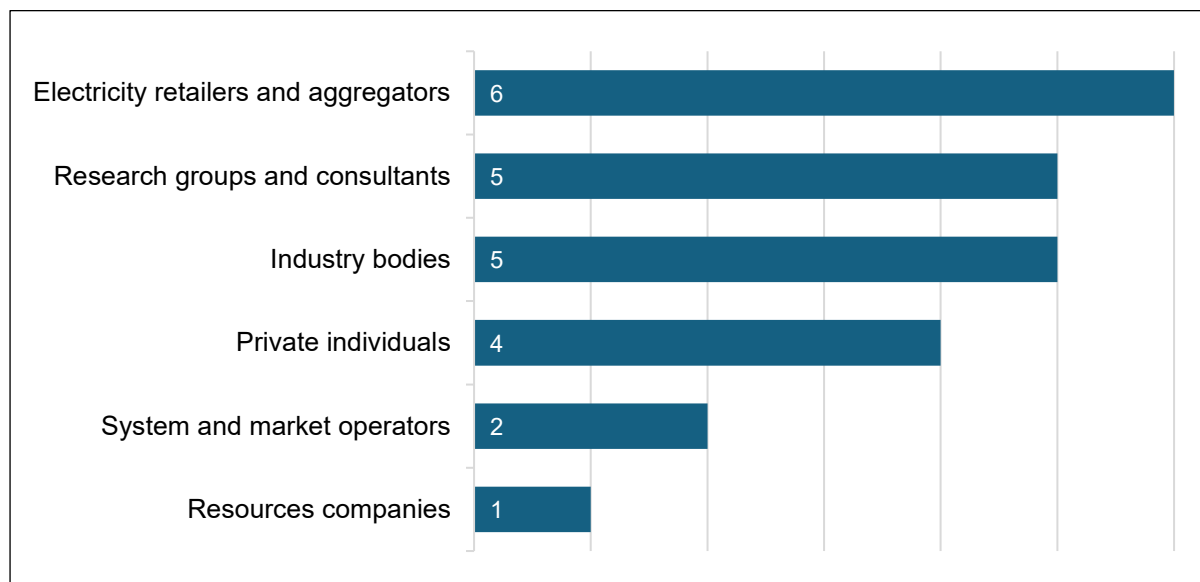
The issues paper outlined work to improve DER integration through Project Jupiter and its predecessor Project Symphony and explored specific platforms like a centralised data hub and a decentralised exchange. Foundational reforms in the issues paper aim to provide regulatory clarity and high-quality data, which any work on a specific technology platform would rely on.

The issues paper also mentioned that reform was happening concurrently with Western Power's work to redesign its DER connection process. And that while Western Australia sought to achieve similar DER integration outcomes as the east coast National Electricity Market (NEM), targeted reforms could achieve this at lower cost and complexity because of our simpler market. The WA Government's changes in the *Electricity Industry Amendment (Distributed Energy Resources) Act 2024* allow the regulatory framework to directly address distribution connections, technical standards, metering, and data more generally.

Part A: Consultation summary and next steps

We received 23 written submissions from a range of stakeholders, including electricity retailers, manufacturers, DER retailers, industry groups, consulting businesses, and individuals.

Figure 1: Public consultation submissions by stakeholder type



During the consultation period, we also met with eight stakeholders to discuss some specific challenges they experience in areas that related to the issues paper, including:

- AGL Perth Energy
- iStore
- Kleenheat
- Smart Energy Council
- Solargain
- Starling Energy Group
- Western Power
- West State Electrics

We thank stakeholders for taking the time to prepare and make a submission, and to those who met with us to share more information.

What we consulted on

In addition to any general feedback that people wished to provide, we asked:

1. Whether people had feedback on the seven reform proposals.
2. If there were any other things we should consider to improve DER data quality, collection and/or data flows.
3. How well data sharing and connection processes work for different stakeholders, like consumers, DER installers, electricity retailers, and potential VPP aggregators.
4. If proposals in the paper would broadly help to increase DER uptake and participation, by making it easier to install or upgrade systems.
5. Whether there are parts of the DER connection process we should pay specific attention to as part of this reform work.

What we did not consult on

The consultation did not seek feedback on specific regulatory amendments for DER data and connections. Instead, our approach was to invite feedback on early reform proposals to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to guide the policy direction.

We will use stakeholder suggestions to develop more detailed regulatory proposals, so that we can improve priority areas identified as soon as possible.

What we heard

All respondents supported the general policy direction and the three reform principles. In submissions, stakeholders noted the proposals were practical and likely to improve DER integration and increase customer participation. We welcome the strong support for the general policy direction in this space and will continue to seek feedback from stakeholders as we prepare detailed regulatory amendment proposals for further consultation.

Of stakeholders who specifically mentioned individual reform proposals, at least two-thirds supported or strongly supported each except proposal 7 (VPP visibility), where support was slightly lower. More than half of respondents still supported or strongly supported proposal 7. Approval was strongest for proposals 2, 3, and 4, which covered DER data collection processes, EV charger data, and streamlining larger DER connections. Close to three-quarters of responses were favourable.

None of the responses specifically indicated strong opposition to any reform proposal.

Stakeholders particularly supported any effort to streamline connection processes for larger but routine DER systems, noting the time it takes to connect these systems is a barrier to uptake. Commercial DER installers who met with us during the submission period also provided helpful context about some of the challenges they face getting access to data needed to connect systems for customers.

Submissions supported improving DER VPP dispatch data in-principle and noted better visibility of VPP dispatches could assist planning and forecasting. However, feedback was that more work is needed to define the scope of any new reporting. Respondents generally agreed with DEED's 'controllable capacity' concept to reflect technological differences between DER types.

We also received feedback on policy areas we did not specifically consult on, such as the [third-party aggregator \(TPA\) framework](#), customer contestability, the [alternative electricity services \(AES\) framework](#), and DER for renters including EVs and plug-in balcony solar. DEED will seek to reflect all stakeholder feedback as we develop policy options and advice.

Part B: Responses to individual reform proposals

Most submissions indicated support for each proposal, either in full or with refinements. Stakeholders generally considered the proposals proportionate and appropriately targeted at current challenges but encouraged us to carefully consider the net benefit of each measure.

Principle 1 – Increasing DER standing data quality

Reform proposal 1: Require inverters up to 30 kVA to be CSIP-AUS (v1.2) enabled to support interoperability of DER devices

Stakeholders strongly supported requiring all inverters up to 30 kVA to use CSIP-AUS, noting it is already widely used across the SWIS for non-contestable customers.

Submissions also noted CSIP-AUS being used nationally for utility-to-customer DER communication and that it is an important standard for DER integration, VPP opportunities, consumer choice and national consistency.

Several responses emphasised that standards should be technology-neutral and should cover a range of DER architectures. Respondents generally supported aligning with national standards where possible.

DEED welcomes support for common DER interoperability standards, including feedback that extending CSIP-AUS to all inverters up to 30 kVA is a practical way to simplify technical requirements between different electricity retailers.

We specifically note feedback warning against gateway device requirements for existing non-CSIP-AUS systems. Another response pointed to increases in witness testing for DER systems if CSIP-AUS is extended to cover more systems.

We also acknowledge feedback that stakeholders would prefer regulations to refer to generic versions of technical standards (for example, without a date or year), so that they can be applied automatically once standards are updated. Generally, mandatory requirements should refer to specific versions of technical standards to avoid unintended consequences if updates apply automatically when standards are updated. We recognise previous exceptions to this, such as ESMR references to generic versions of AS/NZS 4777.2, and we will look at options to address this in the exposure draft.

Reform proposal 2: DSO functions to collect, validate and share data

Stakeholders strongly supported establishing clearer DSO statutory functions to collect, validate and share DER data. Stakeholder feedback indicated that this proposal underpinned the whole reform package, noting that poor data quality currently creates challenges for forecasting, network planning, flexibility services and DER participation.

Stakeholders were broadly in favour of an expanded DSO role for Western Power to collect and validate information provided governance arrangements, privacy safeguards and implementation responsibilities are clearly defined. However, we acknowledge the need to avoid any unnecessary administrative or compliance burdens on installers, raised in several submissions. Submissions also repeatedly mentioned the need for data to be machine-readable, stating this was more important than data type for being able to use it to inform project decisions.

A strong theme across submissions was the need to “collect data once, use many times.” Stakeholders mentioned often that customers, installers, retailers and aggregators should

not be required to provide the same information multiple times through different systems. Several confirmed our view in the issues paper that aligning with the existing WA DER Register is a good starting point for data types that should be collected and validated through the DER connections process. Others went further, suggesting specific additional types of data and more granularity to improve customers' DER installation experience.

Many submissions also emphasised the potential value of customer-authorised information sharing. Retailers and industry bodies argued that allowing customers to authorise access to validated DER information would improve the quality of customer advice and help them to make more straightforward decisions about electrification and VPPs. Stakeholders were generally in favour of frameworks to give customers control over how information is shared while ensuring privacy protections are robust.

Data governance was also common in stakeholder submissions. Several called for stronger obligations and oversight to ensure information is shared in an equitable way between different electricity sector participants. One suggested that data should be shared with DER aggregators directly and on equal terms with electricity retailers. We acknowledge this is an important distinction.

Reform proposal 3: Indirect data collection for electric vehicle chargers

Stakeholders broadly supported improving visibility of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and generally agreed that existing installation, certification and connection processes should be leveraged where possible.

One retailer echoed DEED's view on improving the quality of data provided by Western Power to AEMO under existing DER Register requirements. They agreed that tapping into the existing electrical safety process would be a cost-effective way of capturing better data without adding unnecessary cost.

Many respondents considered improved EV charger data a practical way to assist with electricity demand forecasting, distribution system planning, and something that could improve distribution network utilisation.

One submission recommended DEED further considers costs and benefits of the proposal before implementing further measures.

Stakeholders also had differing views regarding the future role of smart charging and interoperability. Some respondents argued EV charging should be integrated into broader DER interoperability frameworks from the outset, while others cautioned against imposing additional technical obligations while EV uptake remains in a relatively early phase. Several suggested going further by expanding Western Power's connection application process to include registration of level 2 chargers and above, including by setting minimum standards like the Open Charge Point Protocol.

Several submissions noted that, beyond data collection, other practical barriers continue to affect EV uptake and charging behaviour. Consumer feedback was that public charging infrastructure can be confusing, inconsistent and difficult to use, while advocacy organisations identified additional barriers affecting households without access to off-street parking. These stakeholders recommended reforms to improve the public EV charging experience and that enabling new charging models should be considered alongside efforts to improve charger visibility.

Principle 2 – Making it easier for businesses to connect

Reform proposal 4: Standardised data requirements to create an easier connection pathway

Support for this proposal was the strongest and most consistent between submissions. Stakeholders widely agreed that current commercial connection processes can be complex and fragmented compared to residential DER. Stakeholders told us that they face challenges finding the right information about sites to help with new system installations. An industry body listed commercial DER connections reform as their highest priority because of current lead times, driven by bespoke assessments that apply to all systems even if they are relatively routine.

In submissions, feedback was almost universally that C&I DER represents one of the largest remaining opportunities for increased DER uptake. Submitters generally agreed to standardising technical requirements for larger DER systems, particularly where systems are relatively routine and where network impacts are well understood.

During our consultation period, the Australian Government announced that it would expand the [small-scale renewable energy scheme](#) to include systems up to 1 MW, up from the previous cap of 100 kW. The change will significantly reduce the cost of installing larger DER systems and further increases the importance of commercial connections reform.

Generally, stakeholders supported the idea of a staged connections approach that distinguishes systems in the 30 to 200 kVA range from those in the 200 kVA to 1 MVA range. In submissions and consultation meetings, stakeholders told us that a greater proportion of systems in the lower bracket could be assessed through a simpler process. Larger systems may still require more complex assessments, but stakeholders told us that this was where approval and connection costs represented a smaller overall portion of project costs.

Responses strongly supported a simpler pathway for low-voltage commercial systems within the 30 to 200 kVA range. Feedback indicates that systems in this size category are often relatively routine and common standards like CSIP-AUS can be used to provide DSO certainty that systems are behaving correctly.

Stakeholders suggested that standardised technical information, predefined assessment criteria and greater use of automation could reduce processing time and improve customer experience for these projects. Some submitters proposed service standards and defined assessment timeframes, while others argued that projects meeting standard technical requirements should progress through a substantially simplified pathway like the one used for residential systems.

Stakeholders also supported efforts to improve connection pathways for systems between 200 kVA and 1 MVA, although submissions generally recognised that these projects are more diverse and often involve greater complexity. Some advised a measured approach to extending CSIP-AUS requirements for those above 200 kVA to allow a reasonable lead time for manufacturers to develop this capability for larger systems.

Some stakeholders told us the primary opportunity within this category is not necessarily removing connection steps and that simply better defining timelines would also assist new customers to get connected. Western Power supported the principle of using standardised data to assist streamlining connections and requested additional clarity on specific proposals relating to its ongoing DER connections redesign work. Particularly, it recommended close collaboration on regulatory and implementation work to standardise and scale connections.

Western Power cautioned that site-specific conditions, export requirements and network constraints remain significant drivers of connection complexity and timeframes, and that standardising data requirements alone would be unlikely to alter connection times.

A common theme in submissions was that future connection pathways should recognise the increasing prevalence of integrated energy systems rather than treating each technology separately. Several stakeholders noted that commercial projects increasingly combine rooftop solar, battery storage, EV charging infrastructure, energy management systems and flexible loads operating as a coordinated system. Stakeholders generally supported assessing these systems holistically to avoid separate administrative pathways for each.

On data types, several submissions agreed that data collected during the connection process should first be aligned with the requirements of the existing WA DER Register, as we outlined in the issues paper.

Reform proposal 5: Requirements to share network capacity

Stakeholders strongly supported efforts to improve public visibility of distribution network capacity.

Submissions generally agreed that better access to network information would improve planning and reduce development risk for new projects. Further, feedback suggests this would begin to bridge the gap between information already available in existing mapping tools and site-specific data that affects new DER connections.

There was strong support for access to both forecast and historical network capacity information. Stakeholders argued that greater visibility of available capacity, constraints and network opportunities would allow customers, retailers, aggregators, developers and investors to make more informed decisions before investing time and money into detailed project design and connection applications.

A recurring theme was that information should be available in formats that enable automation and overall digitalisation of the distribution system. Many advocated machine-readable datasets, APIs, GIS-based tools and downloadable information rather than static reports or maps. Stakeholders suggested self-service access would reduce transaction costs and improve the efficiency of DER planning and deployment.

Many submissions also sought greater spatial granularity. While views differed on exactly how detailed published information should be, stakeholders generally supported feeder-level visibility and more detailed information about local network conditions, provided privacy and security requirements could be maintained. Several submissions argued that information should distinguish import and export constraints because different DER projects may be sensitive to different network constraints.

Importantly, stakeholders emphasised that network capacity information should be for early planning or screening, rather than a connection guarantee. They argued that published information would still help proponents identify suitable sites even if a more formal connection assessment would still be needed. An industry body example was that preliminary costs to determine network constraints can themselves affect project investment decisions, and so any network visibility improvement would help to target more open parts of the network.

Western Power supported the network visibility proposal in principle but mentioned the importance of clearly defining intended use cases and sought clarity about how new

obligations would relate to existing requirements. This includes existing requirements for the network opportunity map (NOM), interactive network opportunity map (iNOM) and network capacity mapping tool (NCMT). Western Power also suggested DEED confirm uses for historical capacity data before finalising new requirements, noting it does not always provide meaningful insight without sufficient context about changing network conditions and configurations.

Principle 3 – Better understanding how VPPs mitigate grid impacts and maximise opportunities for consumers

Reform proposal 6: Explore mechanisms for VPP operators to provide simple capacity data

Stakeholders generally supported the principle of improving virtual power plant visibility, and agreed better information about aggregated DER would support network and system planning. This includes downstream activity like more dynamic flexibility services, procurement and system forecasting.

There was support for developing a simple, proportionate reporting framework that provides visibility of VPP capability while avoiding inflexible reporting obligations. As we have seen in other public consultations on this issue, stakeholders differed on how VPPs should be defined, what information is reported, and who should be responsible for providing it.

Respondents also broadly accepted DEED's premise that nameplate capacity alone does not provide an accurate representation of actual DER capacity through VPPs. Stakeholders agreed that capacity reporting should reflect real characteristics of systems by factoring in things like state of charge, weather, customer behaviour, portfolio composition and operational constraints.

A second theme on this proposal was allocation of reporting obligations. Several submissions supported a formal registration pathway for VPP operators (such as through the [alternative electricity services framework](#)), while others preferred a 'light touch approach', cautioning against reporting obligations on retailers, installers or market participants that do not directly hold the relevant information. Stakeholders generally supported assigning accountability directly to the entity best placed to collect and maintain data.

Many also highlighted the importance of protecting commercially sensitive information. While there was support for improving visibility of VPP capability, there was limited support for disclosure of information that could reveal customer participation, portfolio composition or commercially-sensitive operational strategies. We also acknowledge the need to ensure sufficient customer protections are in place, recommended in some submissions, when considering which data might be shared.

Reform proposal 7: Tie Western Power requirements to share network capacity information with VPP opportunities

Stakeholders generally agreed with leveraging improved distribution system mapping to promote VPP opportunities, and some recommended the concept be expanded to broader DER flexibility services. Feedback highlighted that the capacity information becomes more valuable when linked to quantifiable opportunities for consumers to benefit from DER flexibility. A strong theme in submissions was support for using spatial tools to make the information available.

Stakeholders broadly supported building on existing platforms such as Western Power's iNOM, which shows street-level network information for network support services. Feedback

indicated data-rich spatial tools are one of the most practical ways to communicate complex network information, but that machine-readable numerical data would still be needed to analyse and act on capacity information.

Consistent with submissions on proposal 5 (network data sharing), stakeholders strongly endorsed machine-readable and self-service access to flexibility services information. Many suggested APIs, downloadable datasets, GIS data and integrations with existing planning tools to enable automated analysis of DER flexibility services.

Many noted that improved visibility could help more targeted recruitment of DER resources into VPPs, reduce project development costs and help ensure DER is deployed in locations where it delivers the greatest value for customers and the broader grid. Several submissions suggested that improved opportunity mapping could reduce the number of speculative projects and agreed with DEED's premise that better mapping would make it easier to target projects in parts of the network with known flexibility needs.

There was broad agreement that opportunity mapping should remain technology neutral. While framed around VPP opportunities, stakeholders noted that network support services may be provided by a wide range of DER types, including residential batteries, commercial batteries, managed EV charging, flexible loads, community batteries and other emerging technologies. Some submissions recommended that any policy framework focus on required network outcomes rather than specific technologies providing it. As in other public submissions on this issue, we heard that where manufacturers remotely change DER controllable capacity through settings/firmware updates, this should be dealt with outside any definition of VPP.

Other feedback, which stakeholders have previously provided to DEED, was that service providers cannot develop commercially viable flexibility services without network tariff reform that passes the value of flexibility back through to customers.

Privacy remained a major consideration. While stakeholders strongly supported improved information sharing, several specifically mentioned that they did not support customer-level information sharing. DEED did not propose this in the consultation, and we thank stakeholders for specifically bringing our attention to it in their feedback. Most submitters preferred aggregated information at feeder level or other suitable geographic scales.

Part C: Key submission themes

In summary, we identified six broad themes across general and specific feedback that stakeholders provided, shown below.

Theme 1: Simpler commercial and industrial connections	Stakeholders most strongly supported efforts to standardise data and technical requirements for larger but routine DER systems. Key issues included bespoke technical assessments for relatively routine installations, information requirements, and the opportunity cost of long connection timeframes for customers.
Theme 2: Clearer statutory obligations	Stakeholders consistently supported clearer Western Power statutory functions for DER data collection, validation and governance. Several submissions mentioned current issues with data quality and supported assigning clear accountability for data collection and validation responsibilities as a way to improve it.
Theme 3: National alignment and interoperability	Stakeholders strongly supported alignment with national technical standards, particularly CSIP-AUS communications standards and existing DER Register arrangements. Respondents noted national consistency would reduce costs and complexity for manufacturers, service providers and customers.
Theme 4: Customer-centric data sharing	Several responses supported allowing customers to authorise access to DER, energy usage and connection information, noting it would reduce friction for new installations and easier DER participation. Broadly, stakeholders supported sharing aggregated information while opposing publication of customer-specific or NMI-level information. Some responses expressed concern about customer targeting, disclosure of sensitive information and customer protections.
Theme 5: Network visibility	There was strong support for publishing more network capacity information to assist customer and investor decision making. Stakeholders also requested more granular constraint information for both imports and exports, and better access to both historical and forward-looking network data. Submissions noted that spatial data is useful for planning and context day to day, but it was important people had access to up to date data in a machine readable format.
Theme 6: VPP visibility	Stakeholders broadly supported improving visibility of VPP capability and contribution to the power system. Most submitters accepted that some level of VPP reporting could assist planning, forecasting and network management. However, there were differing views regarding the detail and scope of required reporting. Generally, stakeholders supported a 'controllable capacity' concept that automatically reflects differences in technology type and behind the meter usage trends.