GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Energy and Economic Diversification**

Energy Policy WA

Pilbara Advisory Committee (MAC) Minutes

Date:	17 September 2026
Time:	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Location:	Microsoft Teams

Attendees	Company	Comment
Sally McMahon	Independent Chair (Chair)	
Summa McMahon	Independent System Operator (ISO)	
Momcilo Andric	Registered NSP	
Sandy Morgan	Registered NSP	
Lizzie O'Brien	Registered NSP	
Ben Bradfield	Excluded NSP	
Ken Chong	Excluded NSP	
Nick Bardsley	Discretionary Rule Participant	
Kristian Myhre	Discretionary Rule Participant	Left at 3:00 pm
Anne Hill	Small-use Customer	New Member
Noel Ryan	Minister Appointed Observer	
Melinda Anderson	ERA Appointed Observer	
Other attendees	**From**	**Comment**
Alastair Duffy	Robinson Bowmaker Paul (RBP)	Presenter for Item 5
Tim Robinson	RBP	Presenter for Item 5
Dora Guzeleva	Energy Policy WA (EPWA)	PAC Secretariat (Left at 3:00 pm)
Rory Hannon	EPWA	PAC Secretariat

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members. The Chair noted her roles at the AEMC, the Market Advisory Committee, the Gas Advisory Board and the National Competition Council. She further noted that:

- The PAC's advice to the Coordinator of Energy (Coordinator) does not necessarily reflect the Chair's views.
- The Competition and Consumer Law obligations of PAC members apply, and she invited members to bring to her attention any issues that may arise.

2. MEETING APOLOGIES AND ATTENDANCE

The Chair noted the meeting attendance as listed above and welcomed Anne Hill as the Small-use Customer representative nominated by the Minister.

Ms Hill briefly outlined her experience in the energy sector and her interest in balancing the needs of the market participants and the broader community.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 2026_07_23

The Minutes of the 23 July 2026 meeting were approved out-of-session and published on the Coordinator's website on 30 July 2026.

4. ACTION REGISTER

The Chair reviewed the Action Register and noted that two actions had been closed since the previous meeting while one remained open.

- Mr Chong sought clarification on the intended timing for consultation, finalisation and commencement of the Tranche Zero Amending Rules.
- Ms Guzeleva advised that the Exposure Draft would first be provided to the Minister, as the ultimate decision maker of changes to the PNR, before being released for public consultation. She noted that DEED was targeting consultation within three to four weeks, depending on the extent of the comments received by the PAC members as these would have to be considered and amendments made, if necessary, followed by a four-week consultation period. She added that, following consideration of submissions, the Minister would be requested to make the Rules.

5. UPDATE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE PILBARA NETWORKS RULES

Ms Guzeleva introduced the item and noted that much of the Tranche Zero Exposure Draft had previously been considered by the EPNR Working Group. She proposed that the PAC discussions focus on matters not previously considered by the Working Group, particularly the proposed arrangements for access to the power system model.

Power system model

- Ms O'Brien supported the intent of the proposed amendments but considered that the drafting conflated encryption, reduced models, confidential information and proprietary information, making some provisions difficult to comply with. She offered to provide DEED with proposed drafting amendments. Ms O'Brien also considered that rule 112 required refinement to clearly reflect the intended arrangements for modelling responsibilities and access to information.

Ms Guzeleva explained that the intent of rule 112 was that an NSP would use its version of the power system model, incorporating its own information together with the reduced information provided by other NSPs.

- Ms Morgan and Ms O'Brien considered that the existing arrangements already allowed registered NSPs to access the power system model and that the principal issue was enabling broader access for other parties. They considered that aspects of the proposed drafting could unnecessarily restrict existing arrangements.

- Ms Morgan noted that an amended rule 112 should be drafted as to broaden its application beyond the NSPs, allowing interested parties to obtain the NWIS power system model directly from the Pilbara ISO, rather than soley through connection applications with NSPs.
- Ms McMahon noted that there were two separate issues: difficulties currently being experienced releasing the model to registered NSPs, and arrangements for providing the model to applicants or other prospective users.
- Mr Andric confirmed that Rio Tinto was no longer willing to share its model with other registered NSPs.
- Mr Andric supported the concept of a reduced NWIS model but emphasised that Rio Tinto operates as a vertically integrated mining network subject to the protections in rule 5. He considered that a reduced representation at the connection point should be sufficient, and that access and connection processes should not require disclosure of Rio Tinto's internal information.
- Members generally supported providing broader access to a reduced power system model that remained fit-for-purpose for access and connection studies, while protecting confidential information.
- Members discussed appropriate eligibility requirements for access to the reduced model, including demonstrating a genuine need related to a function under the Rules, and the potential for a fee to recover the ISO's costs of providing access.
- Mr Chong noted a potential sequencing issue between rules 110B and 114B, noting that a prospective NSP may need access to the reduced power system model before it could develop a compatible network model of its own system.

Ms Guzeleva confirmed that DEED would address the issue.

- Mr Myhre queried whether the proposed information-release arrangements had been considered against the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*.
- Mr Chong raised concerns about publication of information identifying prospective NSPs under rule 114B, particularly where access to the model occurred before a final investment decision and queried whether this information could be anonymised.

Ms Guzeleva indicated that DEED would consider whether the publication requirement was necessary.

- Mr Bradfield noted several minor drafting issues and agreed to provide these to DEED in writing.
- Mr Chong also suggested consistent use of the phrase "for access and connection purposes" and sought confirmation that prospective NSPs could provide the model to appropriately appointed technical advisers.

Ms Guzeleva noted that the recipient of the model would remain responsible for compliance with the Rules if the model was subsequently provided to an adviser.

Long term planning and manual load shedding

- Ms Morgan supported broadening the ISO's information provision role, while the detailed long-term planning provisions in Schedule 2 remained suspended, but considered that the ISO should be required to consult with industry on the reports it proposed to produce to ensure they were fit for purpose.
- Ms Morgan also considered that the proposed manual load shedding provisions did not provide sufficient detail on their practical implementation and should require consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- Ms O'Brien supported a requirement for broader consultation.

Ms Guzeleva indicated that DEED could amend the drafting to require consultation with stakeholders.

- Ms O'Brien queried the intended benefit of the proposed manual load shedding amendments, noting that the ISO already had relevant powers under the pre-contingency protocol, and sought clarity on how the amendments would change the existing arrangements.
- Mr Andric emphasised that any application of the manual load shedding arrangements to Rio Tinto should recognise its rule 5 protections. He considered that the ISO should specify requirements at the point of interconnection rather than determine or publish Rio Tinto's internal load shedding priorities, which could disclose production-related information.

Ms Guzeleva indicated that DEED would review the basis and need for the proposed provisions and remove or change them if they were not necessary or justified.

Action item #1

DEED to review the need for a head of power for manual load shedding and for the ISO to develop and publish a Manual Load Shedding Priority List.

Other Tranche Zero matters

- Mr Andric considered that the outage coordination framework should be risk-based and focused on material system consequences rather than establishing a parallel maintenance planning regime. He noted that Rio Tinto's outage planning can be linked to production and supported the comments Woodside had provided to the PAC.
- Mr Andric also sought a clear technical justification for the proposed change to the oscillation requirement in the Harmonised Technical Rules from 5 seconds to 0.5 seconds. He considered that requirements for additional monitoring, and related equipment should be risk-based and connection-point focused to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing assets and protection schemes.

Ms Guzeleva noted that three upcoming Working Group workshops would consider outage coordination and strongly encouraged PAC member organisations to nominate suitable representatives.

- Ms Morgan requested that reforms relating to flexible loads be prioritised in a future tranche, noting increasing demand for flexible load connections and the potential implications if the currently suspended generation adequacy provisions were reactivated before these reforms.

- Ms Morgan requested that reforms relating to flexible loads, currently scheduled for 2030, be brought forward to Tranche Zero, noting increasing demand for flexible load connections.

Ms Guzeleva advised that the reforms could not be included in Tranche Zero as their design had not yet been considered.

- Ms Morgan subsequently requested that the reforms be prioritised for the next tranche, noting the potential implications if the currently suspended generation adequacy provisions were reactivated before the reforms were implemented.

Ms Guzeleva noted that any proposal to reactivate the generation adequacy provisions should be subject to consultation with stakeholders in advance.

- Ms McMahon advised that the ISO intended to review generation adequacy during the year and would consult participants before any proposed reactivation.
- Ms McMahon also noted that, under the ISO's ACCC authorisation, the ISO was required to prepare a condition 5 report considering the competition implications of changes to the Rules and the regime. She indicated that the ISO would support transparent consultation processes to avoid exacerbating competition risks.

Action item #2

PAC members to provide written feedback on the Tranche Zero Amending Rules to DEED by COB Monday, 21 September 2026.

6. REVIEW OF THE PILBARA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chair introduced this item, noting that the PAC has been operating since May 2022 and invited members to provide feedback on its effectiveness and potential improvements.

Members generally considered that the PAC remained a valuable forum for testing reform proposals and discussing strategic issues before progressing rule changes. Members identified several opportunities to improve its effectiveness, including:

- developing a longer-term forward work program to provide greater visibility of upcoming issues and enable organisations to plan their participation;
- providing meeting papers earlier, where practicable, particularly if matters require input from other areas within their organisations;
- using working groups to progress detailed or technical matters, allowing the PAC to focus on strategic issues and the overall reform program;
- enabling members to provide written feedback between meetings, provided that substantive feedback and requests for changes are made transparent to all members; and
- providing clearer guidance to new members on the PAC's role, processes and how advice and actions arising from meetings are recorded.

Other views included:

- A lack of rule change processes is not viewed as a problem, testing of ideas hasn't resulted in changes but has been valuable regardless.

- The ability of members to put forward ideas is important, whereas PAC items can sometimes come across as DEED has already decided, rather than an open-ended discussion.
- There is uncertainty around what the final outcomes of PAC meetings are and if the actions recorded accurately reflect the discussions had.
- The PAC remains valuable for testing the strategic value of reforms but with a large breadth of work in the program sometimes substantive positions on matters cannot be worked through in the meetings.
- New PAC members could be provided with an introducing pack describing how the committee functions and what to expect.
- A reminder to members to look at the PAC constitution and the intention of the group would help.

Members generally supported a flexible meeting schedule aligned with the forward work program and matters requiring PAC consideration, rather than meeting at a fixed frequency.

- Ms O'Brien suggested that consideration is also given to formally expanding the PAC's scope to provide a forum for matters relating to the Pilbara Networks Access Code where these overlap with matters considered by the PAC.

The Chair noted that meeting papers were generally developed approximately two weeks before meetings, for consideration by the Chair, and circulated one week beforehand, which may limit the scope for earlier distribution. Members could identify priority matters following circulation of the papers so that additional meeting time could be allocated if necessary.

The Chair noted the support for developing a forward work program and advised that members' feedback would be considered in determining potential improvements to the PAC. She invited members to provide any further feedback directly to her or Ms Guzeleva.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Ms O'Brien requested an update on the remaining PNR work program, including the timing and scope of future rule tranches, to provide PAC members with greater visibility of upcoming work.

Acton item #3

DEED to provide PAC members with an update on the PNR reform program at the next PAC meeting.

- Ms Morgan requested a similar update on the PNAC reforms, including the forward work program.

The next PAC meeting will be held online at 1:30 pm on Thursday 12 November 2026.

The meeting closed at 3:30 pm.