

Attachment 1**EnergyCo responses to IPART for the 2024–25 IPART Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap Annual Report****Request for information – Minister**

Minister's request from the infrastructure planner for the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap's Annual Report:

What	Response 2024-25
MERI Framework Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap's Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework as an appendix to the Annual Report.	Not applicable for the Infrastructure Planner - DCCEEW is preparing response for IPART
Consultation and commitments to local Aboriginal communities 1. the Infrastructure Planner's consultation with local Aboriginal communities when exercising its functions under section 3(2)(b) of the EII Act to "promote consultation and negotiation with the traditional Aboriginal owners of land on which generation, storage and network infrastructure is proposed to be constructed or operated" 2. the Infrastructure Planner and Consumer Trustee's consultation and negotiation for the purposes of increasing income and employment opportunities for local Aboriginal communities informed by the First Nations Guidelines and section 4 of the EII Act.	The Infrastructure Planner is committed to collaborating with and empowering Aboriginal communities to enable their participation in the energy transition. This is a key priority in EnergyCo's Corporate Strategy: to deliver EnergyCo's vision with better-together partnerships and trust-based relationships that foster support. EnergyCo has established Regional Aboriginal working groups to ensure local Aboriginal people can participate in the energy transition and co-design the benefits. The First Nations Fund (FNF) is one of four funding streams available under the CWO Community and Employment Benefits Program (launched in 2024), which funds projects that increase capacity of local Aboriginal organisations, improve Aboriginal employment opportunities and improve outcomes for Aboriginal people by supporting better access to health services, housing and accommodation, and other cultural programs or services. The FNF is expected to be announced in 2025.
Long-Term Energy Service Agreements and access rights include a summary of the Long-Term Energy Service Agreements and access rights that have been awarded in the 2024-25 financial year.	AEMO Services Limited leads the Long-Term Energy Services Agreement tender and delivery process. IPART to contact AEMO for a summary of the Long-Term Energy Service Agreements. Access rights information relating to the Infrastructure Planner has been provided below:

	The Infrastructure Planner has awarded: • 7.15 GW of access rights for Central-West Orana REZ on 7 May 2025 • 3.56 GW of access rights for South West REZ on 23 April 2025. Central-West Orana REZ • Cobbora – Pacific Partnerships – Solar 700 MW • Cobbora – Pacific Partnerships – BESS 400 MW • Sandy Creek – LightSource BP – Solar 700 MW • Sandy Creek – LightSource BP – BESS 700 MW • Birriwa – ACEN – Solar 600 MW • Birriwa – ACEN – BESS 600 MW • Liverpool Farm POC1 – TILT – Wind 634 MW • Liverpool Range POC2 – TILT – Wind 698 MW • Spicers Creek – Squadron – Wind 700 MW • Valley of the Winds POC 1 - ACEN - 148 MW • Valley of the Winds POC 2 - ACEN - 319 MW • Valley of the Winds POC 3 - ACEN - 452 MW • Tallawang Hybrid - Potentia Energy - 500 MW South West REZ • Bullawah Wind Farm – BayWa R.E. Project Australia – 262.3 MW • Yanco Delta Wind Farm – Origin – 1,460 MW • Dinawan Energy Hub WF POC 1 – Spark Renewables – 357 MW • Dinawan Energy Hub POC 2 – Spark Renewables – 350 MW • Dinawan Energy Hub POC 3 – Spark Renewables – 300 MW (308.2 Solar + 310 BESS) • Pottinger Energy Park – Someva and AGL – 831.2 MW (850 Wind + 400 BESS)
Project summary for awarded Long-Term Energy Service Agreements Please include the financial year of: • financial close achieved (where applicable) • construction commenced (where applicable) • commissioning achieved (where applicable)	Not applicable for the Infrastructure Planner - AEMO Energy Services leads the Long-Term Energy Services Agreement tender and delivery process.

Table of functions

IPART has provided the below 'table of functions' to assist the entity report against each of their functions under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (NSW) (EII Act) and the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021* (NSW) (EII Regulation). This is a revision of the table we provided last year, to reflect changes to the legislations since the last report. We acknowledge some of the functions listed may not have been relevant for FY2024-25. We have included these functions for completeness. Please review the table and update if necessary.

For each of the entity's functions under the EII Act and EII Regulation, the entity should set out:

- Whether the entity exercised each function in FY2024-25.
- Relevant timeframes on when the entity exercised each function and outputs (for example, details of frameworks/guidelines/rational supporting any assessments carried out, recommendations, drafted documents, etc.).
- How the entity exercised each function, including any constraints or limitations on the entity's ability to carry out, or complete, each function.
- If the entity did not exercise a function in FY2024-25, an explanation why.

Table 1 Functions of the Infrastructure Planner under the EII Act and the EII Regulation

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
Consultee about declarations of access regimes	Section 24(6)(a)	The Minister must consult with the Infrastructure Planner before the Minister declares an access scheme that is to apply in a renewable energy zone, or part of a renewable energy zone.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
Orders prohibiting connection to network infrastructure	Section 29(1)	The Infrastructure Planner may, by order served on a relevant operator, prohibit the relevant operator from allowing a proponent to connect proposed infrastructure to the relevant operator's network infrastructure.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
	Sections 29(3)-(5)	The Infrastructure Planner must seek and consider submissions from relevant parties ^c , and must not make an order unless they are satisfied of the criteria in section 29(4) or if the proponent has development consent under the <i>Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&A Act) to construct and operate the proposed infrastructure.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
		An order must apply to network infrastructure in a specified area within a renewable energy zone.	
	Section 29(6)	The Infrastructure Planner is to publish guidelines on its website about the exercise of its functions under section 29.	The Infrastructure Planner did exercise this function in FY 2024-25
Recommend REZ network infrastructure projects for renewable energy zone	Section 30	The Infrastructure Planner for a renewable energy zone (currently EnergyCo) is to assess and make recommendations to the Consumer Trustee about REZ network infrastructure projects required for the renewable energy zone within the period specified by the Consumer Trustee.	The Infrastructure Planner made a recommendation in relation to the Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure Project on 20 December 2024. The project was authorised by the Consumer Trustee under s 31(1)(b) of the EII Act on 17 April 2025 and a public report was made available on 30 April 2025.

^a In this column, references to sections are to section of the EII Act, while references to clauses are references to clauses of the EII Regulation.

^b In this column, references to the Regulator are to IPART for performance audit and annual report-related functions, to the EPA for functions under Part 12 of the EII Regulation, and otherwise to the Australian Energy Regulator for all other functions.

^c Under section 29(3) these are the relevant operators in the local area, the proponent, and the local council in the local area.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
		In assessing and making recommendations about REZ network infrastructure projects, the Infrastructure Planner must consult the relevant parties ^d .	In developing the recommendation, the Infrastructure Planner consulted with entities required under s 30(3) of the EII Act including AEMO, relevant Network Service Providers in the REZ and local councils, with a stakeholder consultation summary provided as an appendix to the recommendation.
Technical specifications for REZ network infrastructure projects	Clause 44 (s 30)	The Infrastructure Planner's assessment and recommendations about a REZ network infrastructure project must deal with the matters prescribed in this clause.	These functions were exercised with the purpose of making a recommendation about the Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure Project. The Infrastructure Planner requested the following technical specifications, required under cl 44(a), in the requests for proposal for the project: - proposed routes of the network infrastructure, including substation locations - connections between proposed and existing network infrastructure - the operating voltages and network capacity of the network infrastructure. The Infrastructure Planner made assessments of this information for the purpose of the recommendation. Under cl 44(b) of the EII Regulation, the Infrastructure Planner assessed the safety and reliability of electricity infrastructure, by including requirements for safety in the request for tender for projects. Network Operators are required to ensure safety of their distribution and transmission systems under the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation, including having a safety management system in place. Under cl 44(c) of the EII Regulation, the Network Operator is required to comply with the National Electricity Rules, which include requirements about security of electricity supply. For each REZ, the Infrastructure Planner may (at its discretion) either require the Network Operator to install system strength remediation as part of the specification for REZ Network Infrastructure or have generators connecting to the REZ to rely on the System Strength Service Provider for NSW.

^d Section 30(3). AEMO, relevant operators in the renewable energy zone and each local council in the renewable energy zone.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
			Under contractual arrangements between EnergyCo and network operators, EnergyCo can and does impose contractual obligations on relevant network operators to generally comply with the law when discharging the functions of network operator, which would include compliance with the National Electricity Rules.
Consultee for revenue determinations	Clause 49(1) and (2) (s 38(10)(a))	The Infrastructure Planner is to be consulted by the Regulator before the Regulator makes a revenue determination. The Infrastructure Planner must give the Regulator all information about an infrastructure project that the Regulator considers necessary to make the revenue determination, including— (a) information about or obtained from a competitive assessment process, or (b) information relevant to determining an amount under clause 47E(3).	The Infrastructure Planner provided information to the Regulator to support the following revenue determinations: • Waratah Super Battery - Transgrid's annual adjustment to the SIPS Service revenue determination. The adjustment determination was published by the AER in March 2025 to reflect the occurrence of Adjustment event 11: Delay in achieving Commercial Operation. • Waratah Super Battery - Transgrid's Network augmentation and SIPS control system revenue determination that was remade and published by the AER in May 2025. • Central-West Orana – ACERERZ initial revenue determination in December 2024) and financial close redetermination in May 2025. The Infrastructure Planner provided feedback and detailed input to both submissions. • The Infrastructure Planner also provided additional evidence to support both submissions as agreed with the AER. • Hunter-Central Coast – Ausgrid's non-contestable revenue proposal, submitted to the AER in May 2025.
Consultee before revenue determinations are published	Clause 53(3) (s 38(10)(f))	The Infrastructure Planner is to be consulted by the Regulator before the Regulator publishes a revenue determination on its website.	The Regulator consulted the Infrastructure Planner before publishing the Central-West Orana initial revenue determination in December 2024 and the financial close redetermination in June 2025. This consultation was undertaken on a bi-weekly basis and continues to date. The Regulator consulted the Infrastructure Planner before publishing the Waratah Super Battery project SIPS Service adjustment determination in March 2025 and the Network augmentation and SIPS control system remade determination in early 2025.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
Transfer of network infrastructure	Clause 21(2)(a) (ss 38(10)(a) and 42)	If EnergyCo is the Infrastructure Planner in relation to transferred network infrastructure, it may make a recommendation to the authorisation provider ^e in relation to whether to give approval under clause 21(1)(c) of the EII Regulation.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
Consultee for review and remaking of revenue determinations for errors	Clause 54(2)(c) (s 40)	The Infrastructure Planner is to be consulted by the Regulator before the Regulator reviews or remakes a revenue determination for the purposes of correcting an error prescribed in subclause (1).	There is no relevant event requiring such consultation for 2024-25.
Applying for a cost recovery declaration	Clause 54C(1)(b) and (3)(a) (ss 39(2) and 41)	The Infrastructure Planner, as a 'relevant person' for the purposes of clause 54C, may apply to the Minister for a cost recovery declaration. The Infrastructure Planner is to be consulted by the Minister before the Minister makes a cost recovery declaration.	No cost recovery application was made during FY2024-25.
Request for advice	Clause 18(1) (s 60(4)(c))	The Infrastructure Planner may request that the Consumer Trustee give advice about a network infrastructure project.	In March 2025, the Infrastructure Planner requested advice, under section 60(4) of the EII Act, regarding AEMO Services 2025 Infrastructure Investment Objectives (IIIO) Report modelling results, for potential network upgrade projects to the NSW distribution and transmission networks by existing network service providers (ENUs). In response, the Consumer Trustee provided section 60(4) advice to the Infrastructure Planner in April 2025.
Consultee for rules of conduct for competitive tenders for access schemes	Clause 42A(2)(a) (s 60(4))	The Infrastructure Planner is to be consulted by the Consumer Trustee when the Consumer Trustee makes rules about the conduct of a competitive tender in relation to the granting or increasing of access rights.	The Infrastructure Planner was consulted on the tender rules ahead of Tender Round 6. The Infrastructure Planner responded to AEMO Services Limited (ASL).
Contracts	Section 63(4)(a)	The Infrastructure Planner has the function of contracting in connection with the exercise of its functions under the EII Act.	The Infrastructure Planner entered into a range of contracts in connection with the exercise of its functions under the EII Act. Details are provided in the EnergyCo Annual Report.
Generation, storage, and network infrastructure	Section 63(4)(b)-(c)	The Infrastructure Planner is to investigate, plan, co-ordinate and carry out planning and design of generation infrastructure	For the Waratah Super Battery project , progress in its construction through the 2024-25 financial year included: In October 2024, the completion of the battery by Akaysha Energy.

^e The Consumer Trustee is the authorisation provider if it has provided an authorisation under section 31 of the EII Act to carry out a REZ network infrastructure project.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
		planning, design, construction, and operation of storage and network infrastructure.	• In November 2024, Akaysha Energy commencing testing and commissioning. Further commissioning and testing is underway and expected to be completed in 2025 • On 30 June 2025, Akaysha Energy passed Hold Point Test 3 enabling the battery to generate up to 369MW of power capacity. For the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ), progress in planning and construction of the REZ through the 2024-25 financial year included: • February 2025, the network operator received its initial revenue determination from the AER. • March 2025, the construction contract was awarded to BMD to complete 19 intersection upgrades to enable wind farms Over Size Over Mass (OSOM) vehicle movements to reach the CWO REZ. • April 2025, the project achieved Financial Close • May 2025, 10 Access Right Holders were announced to connect into the CWO REZ infrastructure, providing 7.15GW of generation. • June 2025, the project achieved construction commencement, with earthworks at Merotherie Energy Hub and Barigan Creek Switching Station. For the Hunter Transmission Project, progress in planning included: • Dec 2024 – Published the <i>Refining the Hunter Transmission Project</i> paper which outlined a refined corridor which reduced the number of landowners from 78 to fewer than 25. • Dec 2024 – EnergyCo signed the HTP Commitment Deed with Transgrid as the preferred Network Operator. • Jan 2025 – Announced the 7 shortlisted contractors for the two work packages; transmission line and substation. • Feb 2025 – Released the tender for transmission line package. • Mar 2025 – Released the tender for substation package. • April and May 2025 – Community drop-ins and online engagement on early findings of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
			- May 2025 – Established an expanded Hunter-Central Coast Regional Reference Group. For the New England REZ, progress in planning included: - July 2024 - Lodged a scoping report with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - September 2024 - Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued - December 2024 - Established two community reference groups to seek local input on the project - March 2025 - Held an industry briefing for the Network Operator procurement package and invited registrations of interest (ROI) - May 2025 - Invited expressions of interest for the Network Operator with strong interest received - June 2025 - Announced the relocation of the north energy hub onto Origin-owned land For the Illawarra REZ, early REZ scoping activities began in January 2025. Activities to date have included: - In January 2025 EnergyCo commenced technical planning and consultation for the ILW REZ. - In May 2025 EnergyCo delivered an industry roundtable at the University of Wollongong to engage with key stakeholders on the needs of the Illawarra. - In May 2025 EnergyCo signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Endeavour Energy to work together in assessing project options on Endeavour's distribution network. - EnergyCo is conducting regular Joint Planning with Transgrid and Endeavour Energy to understand network needs and opportunities, to inform REZ Network Infrastructure design. For the Hunter-Central Coast REZ, progress in planning and construction of the REZ through the 2024-25 financial year included: - In December 2024, EnergyCo and Ausgrid entered into a Commitment Deed. - In April 2025, the Review of Environmental Factors for the HCC REZ went on public display.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
General functions	Section 63(5)	Where EnergyCo is appointed Infrastructure Planner, EnergyCo may exercise the functions it has under Part 4 of the <i>Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987</i> as the Infrastructure Planner under the EII Act to the extent reasonably necessary to: (a) enable the Infrastructure Planner to exercise its functions under the EII Act, and (b) achieve the objects of the EII Act.	• In May 2025, ASL authorised Ausgrid as the Network Operator • In May 2025, Ausgrid submitted their revenue proposal to AER The Infrastructure Planner has exercised a broad range of objects and functions under Part 4 of the EUA Act 1987. • Sections 11 and 12, EnergyCo exercised a range of objects and functions, including the following examples where EnergyCo: ◦ undertook investigations and planning activities related to the development, supply, and use of energy and energy resources. ◦ has assisted and advised, and made reports and recommendations to the Minister in respect of matters relevant to the EUA Act. ◦ has generally undertaken surveys, test excavations and borehole drilling to effectively exercise its functions to plan, design and coordinate the delivery of renewable energy zone transmission and generation development in CWO REZ, for HTP and NE REZ ◦ generally provided information on its website, including through updated mapping and publication of environmental impact statements and other documents information dissemination or promoting location and development of energy and energy resources. ◦ has commissioned and carried out research in respect of matters relating to energy and energy resources including Landholder Guide with NSW Farmers, Agrivoltaics guide in relation to solar energy generation, technical studies to inform planning and environmental approval processes and cumulative impact studies in renewable energy zones ◦ generally meets with, participates in forums and workshops and provides feedback to the Commonwealth and other states in the planning and coordination of policies related to energy and energy resources

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
			- regularly consults and engages with other government and regulatory agencies that carry out functions that may affect energy or energy resources such as DCCEE, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Transport for NSW and others. - Section 12A, EnergyCo determined its service delivery priorities with regard to the Minister's Statement of Expectations. - Section 12B, EnergyCo submitted its Corporate Plan to the Minister on 30 June 2025. - Section 12C, EnergyCo kept the Minister informed on significant activities and developments - Section 13, reviewed plans and drafts plans as part of the infrastructure planner function - Section 14, the Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25 - Section 15, EnergyCo acquired interests in lands under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. - Section 16, the Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25 - Section 17, the Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25 - Section 18, the Infrastructure Planner has entered in a number of contracts in relation to its infrastructure planner function (further details are set out in this table) - Section 19, the Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25 - Section 20, on 23 May 2025, EnergyCo signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Endeavour Energy. The MOU's intent is for the two organisations to work collaboratively to investigate project options for the Illawarra REZ.
	Section 63(7)	As EnergyCo has been appointed the Infrastructure Planner, it may: (a) form, or participate in the formation of a private subsidiary corporation,	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
		(b) acquire interests in private subsidiary corporations, and (c) sell or otherwise dispose of interests in private subsidiary corporations.	
Considerations	Clause 41 (s 63)	In exercising functions under Part 5 of the Act, the Infrastructure Planner must consider the guidelines issued by the Minister under section 4 (guidelines about consultation and negotiation with the local Aboriginal community) of the Act and the plan approved by the Minister under section 8 (Plan for NSW renewable energy sector) of the EII Act.	The Minister for Energy issued the Hunter Central Coast and South West REZ region-specific First Nations Guidelines in May 2024. An updated version of the region-specific guidelines is applicable every two years (updated version due 2026). The Infrastructure Planner made recommendations in relation to the HCC REZ Network Infrastructure Project on 20 December 2024. This included recommendations to the Consumer Trustee on whether to include conditions in the authorisations, in accordance with the First Nations Guidelines and the Renewable Energy Sector Board Plan.
Functions of the Infrastructure Planner – access schemes	Clause 42C(1) (s 63(4)(d))	The Infrastructure Planner may request the Consumer Trustee to conduct a competitive tender in relation to the granting or increasing of access rights— (a) under an access scheme, and (b) in accordance with the declaration for the access scheme.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25
	Clause 42C(2) (s 63(4)(d))	The Infrastructure Planner for an access scheme must exercise: (a) the access scheme functions for the access scheme if the Infrastructure Planner is appointed to administer the access scheme, or (b) a particular access scheme function for the access scheme if the Infrastructure Planner is directed to exercise the function in the declaration for the access scheme.	The Infrastructure Planner exercised some of the access scheme functions under Schedule 1A of the EII Regulation in FY 2024-25. For the CWO REZ Access Scheme, the access scheme functions exercised include functions related to: • administering the access scheme (clause 1) • the access rights register (clause 2) • the grant or increase of access rights (clause 5) • technical matters (clause 8) • giving notices and publishing information in relation to the scheme (clause 11(1)). • from 11 April 2024 (in FY 2023-2024) to 8 May 2025, conducting an application process for the grant of access rights. (clause 13)

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
			- consulting with the scheme financial vehicle and Consumer Trustee on the terms and conditions, including bonding arrangements, of a payment deed between the scheme financial vehicle and access rights holder (clause 14(2)) - recommendations to the SFV to enter into payment deeds (clause 14(1)) For the South West REZ access scheme, the access scheme functions exercised include functions related to: - administering the access scheme (clause 1) - the access rights register (clause 2) - giving the Consumer Trustee information relevant to the determining of access fees and the conduct of a competitive tender (clause 3(2)) - the grant or increase of access rights (clause 5) - technical matters (clause 8) - giving notices and publishing information in relation to the scheme (clause 11(1)). - consulting with the scheme financial vehicle and Consumer Trustee on the terms and conditions, including bonding arrangements of a payment deed between the scheme financial vehicle and access rights holder (clause 14(2)) - recommendations to the SFV to enter into payment deeds (clause 14(1)) The following access scheme functions in the EII Regulation, Schedule 1A were not exercised in FY 2024-25: - functions related to competitive tenders conducted by the infrastructure planner (clause 3(1)) - determination of the eligibility criteria of participants in a competitive tender in relation to the granting or increasing of access requires (clause 4) - assessing and approving connections and disconnections (clause 6) - determining notification readiness criteria (clause 7) - functions related to functional specifications for assets (clause 9) - extending the term of a scheme (clause 10)

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
			- giving notices and information under (clause 11(2) and (3)) - amendment of access schemes under (clause 12). - termination of access rights (clause 15)
Functions of the Infrastructure Planner – standard development agreement under access schemes	Clause 42CA (s 63(4)(d))	Subclause (1) prescribes the matters that the Infrastructure Planner must address in an agreement (a development agreement) between it and a participant for a project in relation to the grant or increase of access rights under the access scheme. The Infrastructure Planner must publish on its website the standard form and content of a development agreement (the standard development agreement) that includes the matters under subclause (1).	At the request of the Infrastructure Planner, the standard development agreement for the South West REZ access scheme, titled "Project Development Agreement template" was published on AEMO Services' website as one of the tender documents for Tender Round 5. A link to AEMO Service's website page for Tender Round 5 was provided on EnergyCo's website. The Infrastructure Planner prepared the standard development agreement in accordance with the requirements for cl 42CA.
Functions of the Infrastructure Planner – particular renewable energy zones	Clause 42D (s 63(4)(d))	The Infrastructure Planner for a REZ to which an access scheme applies has the following functions: (a) to administer, manage and make payments of money held for use in relation to a community purpose or employment purpose, (b) make guidelines about the administration, management, and payment of money under this clause. Subclause (1) prescribes the circumstances in which the Infrastructure Planner may exercise these functions.	The Infrastructure Planner exercised the function under clause 42D(2)(b). In April 2025, the Infrastructure Planner announced an initial funding round to award \$60 million in grants to 54 projects under the Community and Employment Benefits Program (the Program) in the Central-West Orana REZ. The Program will assess applications, and manage, administer, acquit and report funds allocated to community and stakeholder groups for community and employment purposes. Its preparation included Guidelines, a Policy Paper and Summary Policy Paper, all published on the EnergyCo website, and preparing workshops to help community groups prepare their applications. The Program will be funded from the TAF until access fees are collected from access right holders. The Infrastructure Planner exercised the function under clause 42D(2)(a). In May 2025, the Infrastructure Planner entered into contracts with access right holders under the Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme to coordinate the construction of generation infrastructure in the REZ
Functions of the Infrastructure Planner – under the National Electricity Rules Chapter 9A	Clause 42E (s 63(4)(d))	An infrastructure planner has the following functions— (a) the functions of an infrastructure planner under the National Electricity Rules, Chapter 9A, (b) functions ancillary to the functions in paragraph (a), (c) the functions set out in Schedule 1B.	Infrastructure Planner functions relating to this section are provided throughout this document: Chapter 9A – see below at item 35 for Infrastructure Planner exercise of functions related to Chapter 9A

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
			Ancillary functions – see above at item 20 for Infrastructure Planner exercise of functions related to access and connection under Schedule 1A Schedule 1B – see below at item 35 for Infrastructure Planner exercise of functions related to Schedule 1B Related to Schedule 1B. - During 2024-25, the Infrastructure Planner conducted early, targeted consultation with key stakeholders regarding potential REZ access standards for the New England REZ. This included relevant network service providers, and AEMO. - Provision of information to AEMO to inform the 2026 Integrated System Plan (ISP). This information included scoping, cost, and timing information for a range of current and prospective future REZ/PTIP projects in NSW.
Assessments and recommendations by the Infrastructure Planner	Clause 43 (ss 30 and 63(4))	The Infrastructure Planner must assess and make recommendations about the following— (a) proposed REZ network infrastructure projects, (b) priority transmission infrastructure projects in relation to which the Infrastructure Planner is appointed, (c) network operators who may be authorised or directed to carry out— (i) a REZ network infrastructure project, or (ii) a priority transmission infrastructure project (d) other persons who may assist the network operator to carry out— (i) a REZ network infrastructure project, or (ii) a priority transmission infrastructure project (e) the contractual arrangements that a network operator may be required to enter into to carry out a REZ network infrastructure project or priority transmission infrastructure project under an authorisation (the recommended contractual arrangements).	In line with Clause 43(a) the Infrastructure Planner assessed and made recommendations in relation to the Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure Project on 20 December 2024. The project was authorised by the Consumer Trustee on 17 April 2025. A public report was made available on 30 April 2025. In line with Clause 43(c), Infrastructure Planner recommended Ausgrid as the preferred network operator for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure Project and provided recommended contractual arrangements in line with clause 43(e). The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise its functions under Clause 43(b), 43 (cii), or 43(d).

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
		The Infrastructure Planner may decide the extent of an assessment under subclause (1) and how the assessment will be carried out, including whether to carry out a competitive assessment process. An assessment and recommendation made by the Infrastructure Planner in relation to a priority transmission project must be provided to the Minister.	
Competitive assessment process	Clause 45(1)-(5) (ss 30(5)(a) and 63(4))	The Infrastructure Planner may carry out a competitive assessment process in relation to— (a) a proposed REZ network infrastructure project, or (b) a priority transmission infrastructure project in relation to which the Infrastructure Planner is appointed. Subclauses (2)-(4) prescribe the requirements if the Infrastructure Planner carries out a competitive assessment process. If the competitive assessment process is for a contestable augmentation, the Infrastructure Planner may work with the network operator for the related project when carrying out the functions under subclauses (1)–(4).	The Infrastructure Planner carried out a select tender process between Transgrid and Ausgrid under a non-contestable procurement and revenue determination framework, to select a Network Operator for the Hunter Central Coast REZ network infrastructure project. The Infrastructure Planner recommended to the Consumer Trustee in December 2024 that Ausgrid be authorised as the Network Operator. The Consumer Trustee authorised Ausgrid as the Network Operator in May 2025. • In carrying out the select tender process EnergyCo requested Ausgrid and Transgrid to submit binding bids (consistent with the requirement to request a binding bid from two network operators) • Developed eligibility criteria and a selection process, documented in the "Request for Procurement (RFP) Evaluation Plan" (consistent with the requirement to develop eligibility criteria and a selection process). The Plan was approved by the EnergyCo CEO after endorsement by the EnergyCo Advisory Committee and Executives, and the Evaluation Panel, • Engaged with the Regulator both before and during the select tender procurement process (consistent with the requirement to consult with the Regulator and provide information about and obtained through the process). The Regulator advised after consultation that it was generally satisfied with the procurement strategy; offered comments on the RFP Evaluation Plan (which were considered prior to its finalisation); participated in the evaluation of the Network Operator proponents as an observer on the Evaluation Panel. The AER was regularly briefed throughout the negotiation process leading up to contract finalisation.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
Contribution determination	Clause 39 (s 64(4))	The Infrastructure Planner must, if requested to do so by the Regulator, provide information to the Regulator that the Regulator considers reasonably necessary to enable the regulator to make a contribution determination.	In February 2025, the Regulator (AER) made a contribution determination under section 56(1) of the EII Act. Prior to making the contribution determination, the Infrastructure Planner provided data to the Scheme Financial Vehicle for the Regulator to verify and test. This data enables the Regulator to make the contribution determination. The Regulator audited the data and used the data to calculate the final contribution determination.
Consultee for annual audit plans	Clause 69(2)(a) (s 67)	The Infrastructure Planner, as an 'audit subject' for the purposes of Part 13 of the EII Regulation, is to be consulted by the Regulator if the Regulator proposes to audit the Infrastructure Planner under the plan.	The Regulator (IPART) consulted with the Infrastructure Planner in February-March 2025 on the draft audit plan 2025-26, and the Infrastructure Planner provided a response to the Regulator.
Consultee for scope of audits	Clause 71(2)(a)(i) (s 67)	The Infrastructure Planner, as an audit subject for the purposes of Part 13 of the EII Regulation, is to be consulted by the Regulator in determining the scope of the audit.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25. The Regulator (IPART) did not initiate consultation on an audit scope scheduled for 2025-26.
Consultee for performance audit guidelines	Clause 72(4)(a) (s 67)	The Infrastructure Planner, as an audit subject for the purposes of Part 13 of the EII Regulation, is to be consulted by the Regulator in developing or reviewing the performance audit guidelines.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
Give information to the auditor	Clause 74 (s 67)	The Infrastructure Planner, as an audit subject for the purposes of Part 13 of the EII Regulation, must, if requested to do so by an auditor, provide information to the auditor that the auditor considers reasonably necessary for the audit.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
Consultee for audit reports	Clause 75(2)(a) (s 67)	The Infrastructure Planner, as an audit subject for the purposes of Part 13 of the EII Regulation, is to be consulted by the auditor before publishing an audit report.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.
Annual reports	Section 70(1)	The Infrastructure Planner must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, provide the Regulator with a report on the exercise of the functions under the Act during the financial year.	On 12 August 2025, the Infrastructure Planner provided a report on the exercise of its functions to IPART under the EII Act for FY 2024-25.
Delegation	Section 71(2)	The Infrastructure Planner may delegate its functions, other than the power of delegation, to any person.	The Infrastructure Planner did not exercise this function in FY 2024-25.

Function area	Ref ^a	Function ^b	Comments
Access scheme functions	Schedule 1A of the EII Regulation	This Schedule sets out the access scheme functions that the Infrastructure Planner must exercise if the requirements of clause 42C(2) are met.	Infrastructure Planner exercised relevant access scheme functions as set out in clause 42C(2) in FY 2024-25 above in relation to both CWO REZ access scheme and SW REZ access scheme.
Functions relating to National Electricity Rules, Chapter 9A	Schedule 1B of the EII Regulation	This Schedule sets out the functions relating to the National Electricity Rules, Chapter 9A that the Infrastructure Planner for an access scheme must exercise if making REZ access standards.	The following functions relating to the National Electricity Rules, Chapter 9A in the EII Regulation, Schedule 1B were exercised in FY2024 -25: - The Infrastructure Planner reviewed the REZ access standards for the Central West Orana REZ in connection with a proposed increase in capacity under the access scheme that was formally declared on 16 January 2025 (Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone: Headroom Assessment – Final Decision)). No changes to the REZ access standards were made as a result of the review. [The Infrastructure Planner has agreed with AEMO to undertake a full review of the REZ access standards prior to allocating access rights for capacity additional to that allocated in the initial tranche (7.15GW).] - Provision of information to AEMO to inform the 2026 Integrated System Plan (ISP). This information included scoping, cost, and timing information for a range of current and prospective future REZ/PTIP projects in NSW The following functions relating to the National Electricity Rules, Chapter 9A in the EII Regulation, Schedule 1B were not exercised in FY 2024-25: - preparation, consultation and approval of REZ access standards (clauses 1 to 3) - approval of additional objectives for exception REZ access standards (clause 4) - declaration of network not to be IP planned REZ network (clause 6)