

Our reference: D26/3035

Contact Kelly Kwan

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26 February 2026

Nous Group
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via email

Dear Nous Group,

IPART submission to the NSW Electrical and Gas Safety Review

Introduction

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the NSW Electrical and Gas Safety Review (the Review).

IPART supports the objectives of the Review and the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring the electrical and gas safety framework is clear, coherent and fit for purpose in a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

The transition to a more decentralised and technology enabled energy system presents new and emerging safety risks. IPART considers that any future modernised legislation and associated regulatory arrangements should be sufficiently adaptable to respond to these changes. At the same time, they should continue to enable proportionate, risk-based regulation that protects the safety of consumers, workers and the broader NSW community.

IPART's role in the NSW electrical and gas regulatory framework

IPART acknowledges the Review's focus on institutional arrangements and governance, including the distribution of responsibilities across multiple agencies.

IPART has a long-standing role in electrical and gas regulation, with functions that support safe, reliable and efficient energy services for NSW consumers. IPART's responsibilities relevant to the electrical and gas safety framework include:

- administering licensing regimes for electricity transmission and distribution network operators, and monitoring and enforcing compliance with licence conditions and network operator safety obligations.
- administering gas reticulator authorisations and gas distributor licences, and reporting annually to the Minister for Energy on compliance with licence conditions.
- acting as Scheme Administrator and Scheme Regulator for the Energy Security Safeguard schemes, including the Energy Savings Scheme, Peak Demand Reduction Scheme and Renewable Fuel Scheme (not yet commenced).

IPART is willing to assist the Review through the provision of information, data and insights relevant to these regulatory functions, as needed.

As part of its regulatory functions, IPART also engages closely with co-regulators including SafeWork NSW, the NSW Building Commission and NSW Fair Trading, and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) as the accountable policy agency.

IPART adopts a risk-based approach to regulation

IPART has a range of regulatory powers to enable it to monitor compliance of electricity network operators with their regulatory obligations, including, in some cases, powers to obtain information such as documents, records or reports from network operators or other relevant persons.

We apply a risk-based regulatory model which allows us to focus on allocating resources to areas of higher risk and tailor our compliance and enforcement response. This allows us to efficiently use our resources and minimise excessive costs to the regulated entities, and therefore to the people of NSW.

IPART assesses network operator compliance through self-reporting from network operators, annual self-assessed compliance reports, notification of particular events, and a program of audits and enquiries conducted by IPART.

Consistent with our risk-based approach, we inform, educate and support regulated entities to comply with their obligations. We consider the materiality of any non-compliance and other relevant matters when determining what enforcement actions might be appropriate.

IPART reports to the Minister for Energy by 31 October each year on electricity and gas network operators' compliance.

IPART's ongoing [investigation](#) into the electricity outages impacting the Far West NSW in October 2024 includes assessing any breach of relevant regulatory obligations by licensed network operators. As part of this work, IPART may make recommendations, for the NSW Government's consideration, on improvements to the regulatory and licensing framework for electricity network operators in NSW.

Review of the regulatory framework for supply connection infrastructure in NSW

As part of the broader energy transition, increasing volumes of renewable generation and storage are being connected to the electricity network through power lines and equipment known as supply connection infrastructure (SCI).

As noted in the consultation paper, IPART has been commissioned by the NSW Government to review the regulatory framework for SCI in NSW and to make recommendations to the Minister for Energy in accordance with the [Terms of Reference](#). This review will consider:

- the appropriate regulatory framework for SCI
- whether assets currently regulated under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* are more appropriately regulated under a new framework
- any other opportunities to improve the overall regulatory framework.

IPART will publish an Options Paper in March 2026 seeking stakeholder feedback on different approaches for regulating SCI and will provide a final report to the Minister for Energy and the Minister administering the IPART Act by the end of June 2026.

IPART acknowledges that this work will contribute to DCCEE's broader program of reform to modernise the regulatory framework for energy networks in NSW, including the NSW Electrical and Gas Safety Review. IPART looks forward to engaging with the review team as both reviews progress.

Closing

IPART stands ready to support the Review as it progresses and to engage constructively with DCCEE and the independent reviewers as required.

IPART looks forward to continued engagement as the Review moves to subsequent stages and thanks the NSW Government for the opportunity to contribute to this important work.

IPART's contact officer for this matter is Kelly Kwan, Executive Director, contactable on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

26/02/2026

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