Ob bAusNet Ring-fencing Waivers Register

Date of Update: 30/09/2026

AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (**AusNet**) maintains this register in accordance with clause 5.7 of the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**) Electricity Distribution Ring-fencing Guideline (**Guideline**).

This waiver register includes:

- the description of the conduct to which the waiver or interim waiver applies; and
- the terms and conditions of the waiver or interim waiver;

as set out in the AER's written decision, provided by the AER to the DNSP, to grant (or vary) the waiver or interim waiver.

This register summarises in separate tables:

- the current waivers granted to AusNet
- the class waivers granted to all DNSPs including AusNet
- expired waivers.

Note: Details of waivers can be found on the AER's Ring-fencing waivers webpage: Ring-fencing waivers | Australian Energy Regulator (aer.gov.au)

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Current waivers

Table 1: Ring-fencing waivers granted to AusNet

Waiver group	Waiver description	Conditions	End date
*Pole leasing services for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (**EVCI**)*	*The AER granted AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (AusNet) a waiver to obligations under clauses 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the Ring-fencing Guideline. This waiver is to allow AusNet to provide pole leasing services for EVC).*	*None*	*30 June 2031*
10 Pole-Top Battery Energy Storage Systems	*The AER granted a ring-fencing waiver from clause 3.1, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of the Guideline from 19 November 2024 to allow AusNet to lease spare capacity to a third party for the ten pole-top batteries AusNet will install, own, and operate.*	*The following conditions apply with this waiver approval:* *(a) Providing the AER with information on the contractual relationship between AusNet and its retail partner. This information includes the contractual terms, conditions and payments. This information should be provided to AERringfencing@aer.gov.au within 20 business days of the contract being finalised. Where there are changes in this contractual arrangement, the AER should be notified within 20 business days. We acknowledge the commercially sensitive nature of this information and will treat this information, accordingly, noting our policies regarding information privacy and disclosure of information.* *(b) Ex-post public sharing of information about the battery unit (e.g., location(s), size, intended purposes and uses, and a key contact for external stakeholders if they wish to discuss the project further) and any useful learnings that will support the battery market.* *(c) Provide on a calendar year basis a comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the battery that confirms and differentiates between AusNet's network usage and spare capacity leased to its contracted third party, and an explanation of any differences between forecast and actual usage. The independent assessor, as part of the annual ringfencing compliance assessment*	*31 December 2035*

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Waiver group	Waiver description	Conditions	End date
		required under clause 6.2 of the Guideline, is to confirm the comparison is accurate. This includes: *i. The total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the battery from all services.* *ii. The total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the battery from direct control services.* *iii. The total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the battery from other distribution services and other services; and* *iv. A comparison of uses (volume and frequency) of the battery that confirms the usage by AusNet and by its contracted third party, including the initial proposed allocation as a baseline against which the actual usage of the battery can be compared.* *In addition, staff may request that AusNet makes available to the AER, information on the performance of the batteries participating in this trial, such as the split between network and market benefits, when this is sought by the AER staff at any time during the tenure of the waiver.*	

Table 2: Ring-fencing class waivers granted by the AER

Waiver group	Waiver description	Conditions	End date	Is AusNet currently providing services under this class waiver?
Battery program	*The AER granted a ring-fencing class waiver from clauses 3.1 and 4.2.1 and*	*The scope of this class waiver is limited to DNSP-led projects where the battery asset is funded under the Australian Government's Community*	*30 June 2041*	*No*

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Waiver group	Waiver description	Conditions	End date	Is AusNet currently providing services under this class waiver?
	4.2.2 of the Guideline, effective from 3 February 2023 to 30 June 2041, for DNSP-led projects that meet the classes and criteria of this waiver.	*Batteries for Household Solar Program (administered by the Business Grants Hub or ARENA), where:* *(a) the asset is wholly excluded from the DNSP's RAB; or* *(b) what is allocated to the DNSP's RAB is only the part of the total cost of the asset that reflects the proportionate share (that relates to direct control services) of the total quantified benefit that is forecast at the time the investment decision is made, where:* *i. prior to the RAB allocation at the DNSP's next regulatory proposal, the DNSP includes in its regulatory proposal evidence, and a report from an independent auditor, that confirms compliance with this provision b);* *ii. the DNSP may use the Government contribution to offset costs (regulated or unregulated) either partially or fully but may not exceed the total cost allocation to a particular stack (regulated or unregulated);* *iii. the total cost of the battery allocated to the RAB must be an amount equal to or less than the forecast network benefit; and* *iv. definitions:* • *the total quantified benefit is the sum of both the forecast network benefit (quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset for direct control services) and the forecast non-network benefit (quantified benefit accruing to the DNSP derived from the deployment of the asset for other distribution service and other services) over its economic life.* *The following criteria apply to projects that fall within class (b):* *1. A DNSP must comply with the Cost Allocation Principles that require a DNSP to appropriately allocate and attribute costs for use of the*		

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Waiver group	Waiver description	Conditions	End date	Is AusNet currently providing services under this class waiver?
		asset between direct control services, other distribution services, and other services. 2. *A DNSP must provide, as part of that DNSP's independently audited annual ring-fencing compliance report that is required under clause 6.2 of the Guideline.* a. *the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset or all services over the most recent financial year;* b. *the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset from direct control services over the most recent financial year;* c. *the total quantified benefit derived from the deployment of the asset from other distribution services and other services over the most recent financial year; and* d. *a comparison of the uses (volume and frequency) of the battery that confirms the usage by the DNSP and usage by its retail partner (or other third party), including the initial proposed allocation as a baseline against which actual usage of the assets can be compared.* *The following criteria will apply to projects which fall within class (a) or (b):* 3. *A DNSP must provide the AER with information as to the terms and conditions of the contracts entered into with third parties for the leasing of battery capacity. This information should include:* a. *the name of the contracting party or parties;* b. *the volume of capacity (in kW or kWh) leased to that party or parties;* c. *the price the capacity is leased for; and*		

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Waiver group	Waiver description	Conditions	End date	Is AusNet currently providing services under this class waiver?
		d. *d. which party controls the operation of the battery and on what terms.*		
Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT) services	*Class waiver, effective from 14 December 2022 to 15 April 2025, to allow DNSPs to contract with AEMO to provide RERT services via voltage management.* *The class waiver exempts DNSPs from their obligations to comply with clause 4.2 of the Guideline (functional separation) in relation to the provision of RERT services via voltage management*	*DNSPs participating in the class waiver must provide the AER with quarterly performance reports, where RERT has been provided in that quarter, detailing:* • *the number of instances the DNSP provided short notice reserve to AEMO in a quarter (i.e. the number of times the reserve was activated by AEMO);* • *the volume (MW) of reserve provided in each instance that the DNSP provided short notice reserve to AEMO; and* • *the revenue received for each instance that the DNSP provided short notice reserve to AEMO. These quarterly performance reports will be published on the AER website.* *DNSPs must notify the AER if the DNSP receives:* • *notification from a customer about any adverse impacts of the DNSP's provision of RERT services via voltage management; or* • *any other customer complaints relating to the quality of supply that may be associated with the provision of RERT services via voltage management*	*15 April 2025*	*No*

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Expired waivers

The following waivers were previously in place following AER approval but have since expired and are no longer needed. They are included on this register to provide a historical view of AusNet's ring-fencing waivers.

Table 3: Expired waivers

Waiver description	Conditions	End date
The AER grants a waiver of AusNet Services' obligation to comply with clauses 3.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the Guideline from 18 December 2017 until 31 December 2020 in relation to the following services: • *public lighting and nightwatchman lights (including: alteration and relocation of distributor public lighting assets; new public lights, and; installation, repair and maintenance of watchman lights)* • *emergency recoverable works* • *reserve feeder construction.* *On 16 October 2020, the AER granted an extension to the expiry date of this waiver from 31 December 2020 to 30 June 2021 to align with the six-month extension to the Victorian electricity distribution regulatory control period.*	*None*	*1 July 2021*
The AER also grants a waiver of AusNet Services' obligation to comply with clauses 3.1 (b) and 4.2.3(a)i. of the Guideline from 18 December 2017 until 15 May 2020 in relation to the provision of electricity services to Mt Baw Baw.	*None*	*15 May 2020*

If you have any questions about this register, please contact AusNet via compliance@ausnetservices.com.au

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