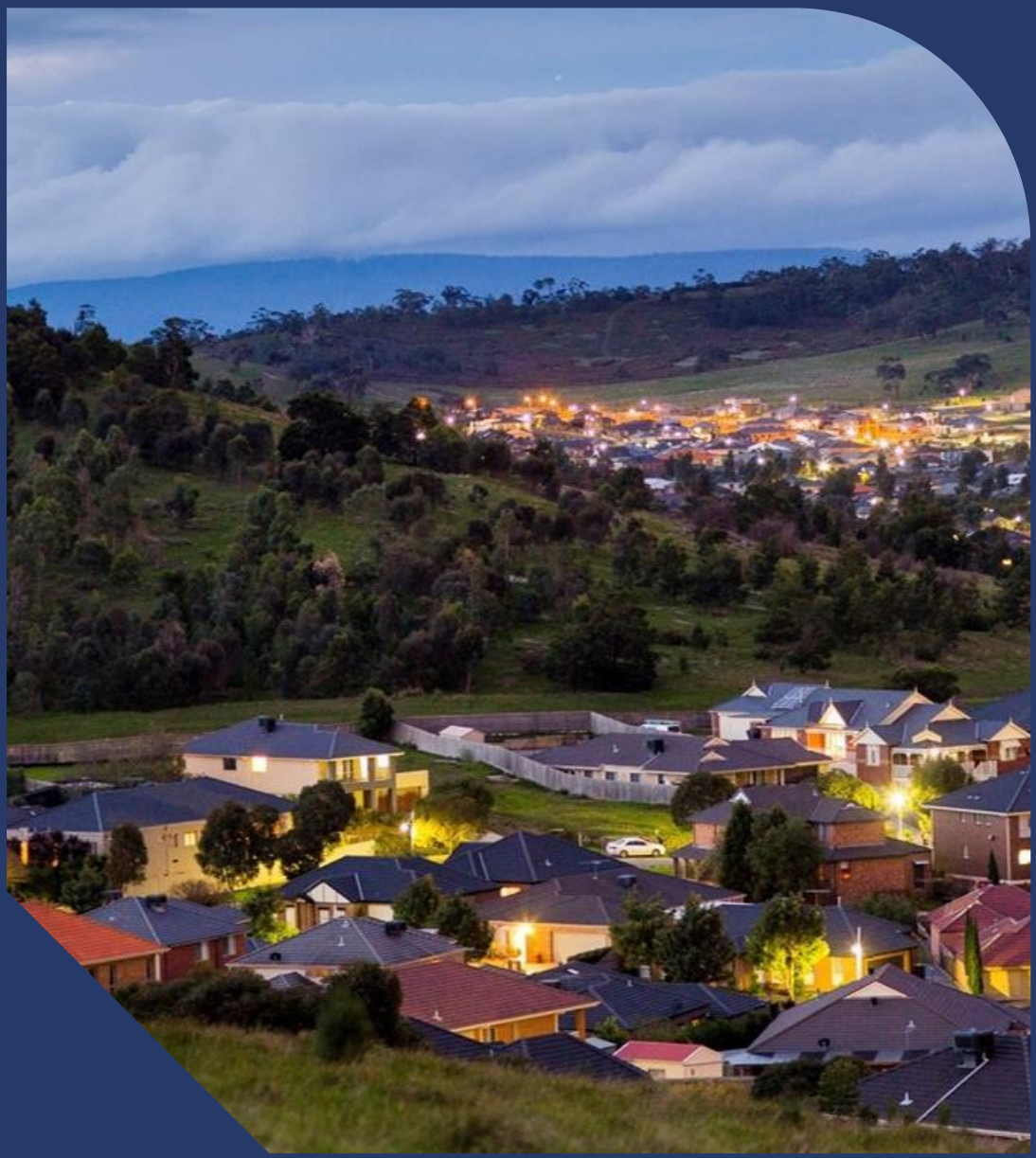
AusNet

Sub-threshold tariffs 2026-27

Thursday, 29 January 2026



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1. Introduction

In accordance with Rule 6.18.1C of the National Electricity Rules (NER), AusNet is notifying the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) of its intention to trial the following sub-threshold tariffs from 1 July 2026. Five of the tariff trials are extensions of tariff trials already approved by the AER over the course of the 2021-26 TSS period. In addition, AusNet is proposing a new tariff trial for kerbside EV charging.

The six sub-threshold tariffs are:

- **EV Dynamic** – a time of use tariff with the inclusion of a solar soak component and an event driven signal;
- **Utility energy storge system (HV)** – a tariff for utility scale energy storage systems, operating on the high-voltage network;
- **Utility energy storge system (Sub-Tx)** – a tariff for utility scale energy storage systems, operating on the sub-transmission network;
- **Neighbourhood storage tariff (medium)** - a tariff for medium neighbourhood/community storage systems, operating on the low-voltage network;
- **Neighbourhood storage tariff** (**large)** - a tariff for large neighbourhood/community storage systems, operating on the low-voltage network.
- **Kerbside EV charging** – a tariff designed for kerbside EV charging infrastructure connected to AusNet's assets.

These tariff trials are explored in more detail in the next section.

2. Sub-threshold tariff notification

Distributor	AusNet
Total cumulative revenue of all sub-threshold tariffs ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.88 million, equivalent to 0.10% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Confirmation for publication	AusNet confirms that this document contains no commercial or private information and provide permission for the AER to publish this notification on their website.

The sections below outline each sub-threshold tariff under this notification.

2.1. EV Dynamic

Name of trial	EV Dynamic
Objectives of trial	The objective of the trial is to understand EV charging response to pricing signals, customers' response to additional incentives encouraging EV charging behaviour on maximum or minimum demand days, and to gather evidence on the efficiency and effectiveness of an event-based tariff.
Retailer engagement	AusNet notified and consulted with a number of retailers. Two retailers have customers currently participating in the trial. AusNet will engage with retailers during the upcoming regulatory period in an effort to increase awareness and uptake.
Consumer engagement	AusNet consulted with our Customer Consultative Committee (CCC) on the tariff design and structure and with our Pricing and Tariffs Sub-Panel as part of our 2026-31 EDPR engagement program.
Expected consumer and/or retailer response	Retailers to pass through the signals to encourage EV customers to consume during the period of the day with high solar excess generation or at times with low network utilisation and respond to the maximum/minimum demand day events we call to manage demand in our network.
Proposed tariff (structure and pricing)	A time of use tariff with a solar soak component and an event driven signal targeting EV customers. The solar soak component seeks to incentivise customers by paying them to charge during this period. The event driven signal will notify customers to increase or curtail EV charging to manage maximum/minimum demand days. Customers will be rewarded for responding to this signal. A total of up to 10 maximum/minimum day events will be called per regulatory year. Refer to section 2.1.1 for structure and indicative pricing.
Links to TSS strategy and Export tariff transition strategy (if applicable)	Learnings from the trial will help inform the design and development of tariffs to complement the adoption of electric vehicles and other emerging technologies in future TSS.

Forecast revenue ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.01M, equivalent to ~0.01% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Trial start date	1 July 2026
Duration of trial	The duration of the 2026-31 regulatory control period.
Potential changes and triggers	AusNet will review the customer take up, structure and charges annually. Any adjustments will be done in collaboration with affected retailers and stakeholders. We will advise the AER of any proposed changes four months prior to the start of each regulatory year.
Notification date	29 January 2026
Optional information	
Forecast volumes	Up to 300 residential EV customers.
Potential additions	N/A
Location of trial	AusNet's distribution area
Other	Available to residential customers with a smart meter and ownership of an electric vehicle. Customers are required to opt-in to participate, and may opt-out at any time during the trial period.

2.1.1 EV Dynamic - Proposed tariff

Tariff code: NAST16T

Tariff component	Description	Unit	Indicative NUOS price
Standing charge	Fixed charge	$/year	146.82
Peak import	4pm to 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	28.9390
Solar soak import	11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	1.000
Off-peak import	All other times	c/kWh	5.7646
Rebate	Scaled rebate per event	$/event	3 kW (Min) - $3 4 kW - $4 5 kW - $5 **6 kW (Max) - $6**

2.2 Utility energy storage system (UESS) tariffs

We propose to introduce two tariffs in the Utility Energy Storage category, one for storage systems connected to the high voltage (HV) network and one for those connected to the sub-transmission (Sub-Tx) network.

2.2.1 UESS (HV) - Proposed tariff

Name of trial	UESS (HV)
Objectives of trial	The objective of the trial is to understand how utility-scale storage systems, such as batteries, connected to AusNet's high voltage network respond (charge, discharge) to price signals. We will use learnings to inform future tariff design which can help us to better manage the network, including periods of peak loads and periods of excess solar.
Retailer engagement	We consulted with several retailers on the trial tariff. Engagement with retailers will continue for the duration of the trial period.
Consumer engagement	We consulted with our Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR) Tariffs and Pricing Panel, our Innovation Advisory Committee and our Major Customers forum on the tariff design and structure. We have also engaged broadly with storage operators, across various forums and meetings.
Expected consumer and/or retailer response	We expect retailers to pass through the signals to storage operators directly. In response to these pricing signals, we expect storage operators will charge during the middle of the day, when there is high solar excess generation/low network utilisation, and discharge in the evening during peak demand.
Proposed tariff (structure and pricing)	A two-way tariff, including time of use components. When solar output is high (11am-4pm, aligned with AusNet's solar soak period), there will be no cost to consume to incentivise storage operators to charge. This will be paired with an export charge to disincentivise discharging. During peak periods (4pm-9pm), a rebate will incentivise discharging and this will be paired with an import price to disincentivise charging. During all other periods, there will be a low-price signal for imports, and no cost for exports to incentivise network utilisation. Refer to section 2.2.3 for structure and indicative pricing.
Links to TSS strategy and Export tariff transition strategy (if applicable)	Learnings from the trial will help inform the design and development of potentially permanent tariffs to support uptake of storage systems to support network stabilisation. The export component of the tariff will demonstrate whether storage systems respond to export price signals, and help design permanent export tariffs for future TSS.
Forecast revenue ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.29 million, equivalent to 0.03% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Trial start date	1 July 2026
Duration of trial	The duration of the 2026-31 regulatory control period.

Potential changes and triggers	AusNet will review the customer take up, structure and charges, and duration of the trial annually. Any adjustments will be done in collaboration with affected consumers and stakeholders. We will advise the AER of any proposed changes four months prior to the start of each regulatory year.
Notification date	29 January 2026
Optional information	
Forecast volumes	Up to 5 participants.
Potential additions	N/A
Location of trial	AusNet's distribution area.
Other	Available to grid-connected storage system operators, such as batteries connecting to AusNet's HV network. Customers are required to opt in to participate and may opt out at any time during the trial period in which case AusNet will place them onto an alternative tariff based on their load profile/usage characteristics.

2.2.2 UESS (Sub-Tx) - Proposed tariff

Name of trial	**UESS (Sub-Tx)**
Objectives of trial	The objective of the trial is to understand how utility-scale storage systems, such as batteries, connected to AusNet's sub-transmission network respond (charge, discharge) to price signals. We will use learnings to inform future tariff design which can help us to better manage the network, including periods of peak loads and periods of excess solar.
Retailer engagement	We consulted with several retailers on the trial tariff. Engagement with retailers and battery proponents will continue for the duration of the trial period.
Consumer engagement	We consulted with our Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR) Tariffs and Pricing Panel, our Innovation Advisory Committee and our Major Customers forum on the tariff design and structure. We have also engaged broadly with storage operators, across various forums and meetings.
Expected consumer and/or retailer response	We expect retailers to pass through the signals to storage operators directly. In response to these pricing signals, we expect storage operators will charge during the middle of the day, when there is high solar excess generation/low network utilisation, and discharge in the evening during peak demand.
Proposed tariff (structure and pricing)	A two-way tariff, including time of use components. When solar output is high (11am-4pm, aligned with AusNet's solar soak period), there will be no cost to consume to incentivise storage operators to charge. This will be paired with an export charge to disincentivise discharging. During peak periods (4pm-9pm), a rebate will incentivise discharging and this will be paired with an import price to disincentivise charging. During all other periods, there will be a low-price signal for imports, and no cost for exports to incentivise network utilisation. Refer to section 2.2.3 for structure and indicative pricing.

Links to TSS strategy and Export tariff transition strategy (if applicable)	Learnings from the trial will help inform the design and development of potentially permanent tariffs to support uptake of storage systems to support network stabilisation. The export component of the tariff will demonstrate whether storage systems respond to export price signals, and help design permanent export tariffs for future TSS.
Forecast revenue ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.24 million, equivalent to 0.03% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Trial start date	1 July 2026
Duration of trial	The duration of the 2026-31 regulatory control period.
Potential changes and triggers	AusNet will review the customer take-up, structure and charges, and duration of the trial annually. Any adjustments will be done in collaboration with affected consumers and stakeholders. We will advise the AER of any proposed changes four months prior to the start of each regulatory year.
Notification date	29 January 2026
Optional information	
Forecast volumes	Up to 5 participants.
Potential additions	N/A
Location of trial	AusNet's distribution area.
Other	Available to grid-connected storage operators connecting to AusNet's sub-transmission network. Customers are required to opt in to participate and may opt out at any time during the trial period in which case AusNet will place them onto an alternative tariff based on their load profile/usage characteristics.

2.2.3 Proposed pricing for Utility Energy Storage System Tarriff Trial

Tariff code: UESH01T (High voltage utility storage customers)

Tariff component	Description	Unit	Indicative NUOS price
Standing charge	Fixed charge	$/year	4,948.48
Peak import	Imports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	$/kVA/mth	2.10
Peak export	Exports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	2.50
Solar soak import	Imports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	$/kVA/mth	0.00
Solar soak export	Exports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	$/kVA/mth	1.11
Off-peak import	Imports at all other times	$/kVA/mth	0.60
Off-peak export	Exports at all other times	$/kVA/mth	0.00

Tariff code: UESS01T (Sub-transmission utility storage customers)

Tariff component	Description	Unit	Indicative NUOS price
Standing charge	Fixed charge	$/year	18,092.25
Peak import	Imports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	$/kVA/mth	1.24
Peak export	Exports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	1.80
Solar soak import	Imports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	$/kVA/mth	0.00
Solar soak export	Exports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	$/kVA/mth	0.66
Off-peak import	Imports at all other times	$/kVA/mth	0.32
Off-peak export	Exports at all other times	$/kVA/mth	0.00

* Local time

2.3 Neighbourhood storage tariffs

We propose to introduce two tariffs in the neighbourhood / community storage category, one for medium storage systems (up to 250 KW) and one for larger storage systems (between 250 KW and up to 1 MW).

2.3.1 Neighbourhood storage (medium) - Proposed tariff

Name of trial	Neighbourhood storage (medium)
Objectives of trial	The objective of the trial is to understand how medium community-scale storage systems, such as batteries, connected to AusNet's low-voltage network respond (charge, discharge) to price signals. Learnings can be used to inform future tariff design which can help us to better manage the network, including periods of peak loads and periods of excess solar.
Retailer engagement	We consulted with several retailers on the trial tariff. Engagement with retailers and battery proponents will continue for the duration of the trial period.
Consumer engagement	We consulted with our Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR) Tariffs and Pricing Panel, our Innovation Advisory Committee and our Major Customers forum on the tariff design and structure. We have also engaged broadly with storage operators, across various forums and meetings.
Expected consumer and/or retailer response	We expect retailers to pass through the signals to storage operators directly. In response to these pricing signals, we expect storage operators will charge during the middle of the day, when there is high solar excess generation/low network utilisation, and discharge in the evening during peak demand.
Proposed tariff (structure and pricing)	A two-way tariff, including time of use components. When solar output is high (11am-4pm, aligned with AusNet's solar soak period), there will be no

	cost to consume to incentivise storage operators to charge. This will be paired with an export charge to disincentivise discharging. During peak periods (4pm-9pm), a rebate will incentivise discharging and this will be paired with an import price to disincentivise charging. During all other periods, there will be a low-price signal for imports, and no cost for exports to incentivise network utilisation. Refer to section 2.3.32.2.3 for structure and indicative pricing.
Links to TSS strategy and Export tariff transition strategy (if applicable)	Learnings from the trial will help inform the design and development of potentially permanent tariffs to support uptake of storage systems to support network stabilisation, in the next round of the TSS. The export component of the tariff will demonstrate whether storage systems respond to export price signals, and help design permanent export tariffs for future TSS.
Forecast revenue ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.02 million, equivalent to ~0.002% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Trial start date	1 July 2026
Duration of trial	The duration of the 2026-31 regulatory control period.
Potential changes and triggers	AusNet will review the customer take up, structure and charges, and duration of the trial annually. Any adjustments will be done in collaboration with affected consumers and stakeholders. We will advise the AER of any proposed changes four months prior to the start of each regulatory year.
Notification date	29 January 2026
Optional information	
Forecast volumes	Up to 75 participants.
Potential additions	NA
Location of trial	AusNet's distribution area.
Other	Available to grid-connected storage operators (up to 250 kW) connecting to AusNet's LV network and which are likely to provide network support by importing or exporting to the distribution network at certain times. Customers are required to opt in to participate and may opt out at any time during the trial period in which case AusNet will reassign them onto an alternative tariff based on their load profile/usage characteristics.

2.3.2 Neighbourhood storage (large) - Proposed tariff

Name of trial	**Neighbourhood storage (large)**
Objectives of trial	The objective of the trial is to understand how large community-scale storage systems, such as batteries, connected to AusNet's low-voltage network respond (charge, discharge) to price signals. Learnings can be used to inform future tariff design which can help us to better manage the network, including periods of peak loads and periods of excess solar.

Retailer engagement	We consulted with several retailers on the trial tariff. Engagement with retailers and battery proponents will continue for the duration of the trial period.
Consumer engagement	We consulted with our Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR) Tariffs and Pricing Panel, our Innovation Advisory Committee and our Major Customers forum on the tariff design and structure. We have also engaged broadly with storage operators, across various forums and meetings.
Expected consumer and/or retailer response	We expect retailers to pass through the signals to storage operators directly. In response to these pricing signals, we expect storage operators will charge during the middle of the day, when there is high solar excess generation/low network utilisation, and discharge in the evening during peak demand.
Proposed tariff (structure and pricing)	A two-way tariff, including time of use components. When solar output is high (11am-4pm, aligned with AusNet's solar soak period), there will be no cost to consume to incentivise storage operators to charge. This will be paired with an export charge to disincentivise discharging. During peak periods (4pm-9pm), a rebate will incentivise discharging and this will be paired with an import price to disincentivise charging. During all other periods, there will be a low-price signal for imports, and no cost for exports to incentivise network utilisation. Refer to section 2.3.32.2.3 for structure and indicative pricing.
Links to TSS strategy and Export tariff transition strategy (if applicable)	Learnings from the trial will help inform the design and development of potentially permanent tariffs to support uptake of storage systems to support network stabilisation, in the next round of the TSS. The export component of the tariff will demonstrate whether storage systems respond to export price signals, and help design permanent export tariffs for future TSS.
Forecast revenue ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.09 million, equivalent to ~0.01% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Trial start date	1 July 2026
Duration of trial	The duration of the 2026-31 regulatory control period.
Potential changes and triggers	AusNet will review the customer take-up, structure, and charges, and duration of the trial annually. Any adjustments will be done in collaboration with affected consumers and stakeholders. We will advise the AER of any proposed changes four months prior to the start of each regulatory year.
Notification date	29 January 2026

Optional information

Forecast volumes	Up to 75 participants
Potential additions	N/A
Location of trial	AusNet's distribution area.

Other	Available to grid-connected storage operators (between 250 KW and 1MW) connecting to AusNet's LV network and which are likely to provide network support by importing or exporting to the distribution network at certain times. Customers are required to opt in to participate and may opt out at any time during the trial period in which case AusNet will reassign them onto an alternative tariff based on their load profile/usage characteristics.

2.3.3 Proposed pricing for Neighbourhood Storage Tarriff Trials

Tariff code: NSSM01T (Medium neighbourhood storage customers)

Tariff component	Description	Unit	Indicative NUOS price
Standing charge	Fixed charge	$/year	264.99
Peak import	Imports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	14.3696
Peak export	Exports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	2.10
Solar soak import	Imports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	0.00
Solar soak export	Exports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	4.0307
Off-peak import	Imports at all other times	c/kWh	4.0307
Off-peak export	Exports at all other times	c/kWh	0.00

Tariff code: NSSM01T (Large neighbourhood storage customers)

Tariff component	Description	Unit	Indicative NUOS price
Standing charge	Fixed charge	$/year	3503.36
Peak import	Imports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	11.9430
Peak export	Exports between 4pm and 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	1.20
Solar soak import	Imports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	0.00
Solar soak export	Exports between 11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	3.6263
Off-peak import	Imports at all other times	c/kWh	3.6263
Off-peak export	Exports at all other times	c/kWh	0.00

2.4 Kerbside EV charging tariffs

3 Name of trial	Kerbside EV charging
Objectives of trial	The primary objective of the trial is to incentivise kerbside EV charging (KEVC) operators to connect to AusNet's infrastructure in order to gain valuable insights into the impact that KEVC has on the network and how it may benefit our customers.
Retailer engagement	If the trial tariff is approved, engagement with other retailers will continue up until trial commencement, and for the duration of the trial period.
Consumer engagement	Eligible customers who qualify will automatically be placed on the trial tariff. AusNet has previously heard from public EV charging proponents that its current commercial tariffs are not suited to this infrastructure's likely demand profile. We will define a customer communications plan as part of the initiaitve, which may include website messaging.
Expected consumer and/or retailer response	We expect retailers to pass through the signals to customers directly. The tariff structure is likely to encourage customers to use KEVC during the solar soak or off-peak times and potentially make use of vehicle-to-grid technology during peak network times.
Proposed tariff (structure and pricing)	The tariff structure would be similar to AusNet's residential time of use tariff structure, however it would also include the addition of an export reward for vehicle-to-grid export during the peak import window in the summer and winter months. To encourage take-up of this trial tariff, we have decided not to levy a fixed charge. The same rates will apply on all days. Refer to the next section for the tariff structure and indicative pricing.
Links to TSS strategy and Export tariff transition strategy (if applicable)	This trial aligns with the pricing objectives outlined in our current TSS and the pricing principles in the NER. Findings from the trial will also inform future TSS development.
Forecast revenue ($ and % AAR)	Approximately $0.01M, equivalent to ~0.01% of the AAR in the upcoming regulatory year.
Trial start date	1 July 2026
Duration of trial	The duration of the 2026-31 regulatory control period.
Potential changes and triggers	AusNet will review the customer take up over the duration of the trial. Any adjustments to the trial parameters will be made in collaboration with affected consumers and stakeholders.
Notification date	29 January 2026
Optional information	
Forecast volumes	25 charging stations
Potential additions	N/A
Location of trial	AusNet's distribution area.

Other	To be eligible for the trial, customers must connect a dedicated pole-mounted EV charger to AusNet's infrastructure with its own NMI and a maximum capacity of 44 kW.

2.3.4 Proposed pricing for kerbside EV charging trial

Below is the proposed structure and pricing for the KEVC trial tariff.

Tariff code: NEV10

Tariff component	Description	Unit	Indicative NUOS price
Peak import	4pm to 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	28.9390
Solar soak import	11am to 4pm Monday to Sunday (local time)	c/kWh	1.000
Off-peak import	All other times	c/kWh	5.7646
Vehicle-to-grid export	4pm to 9pm Monday to Sunday (local time), Dec, Jan, Feb, Jun, Jul, Aug	c/kWh	10.0000

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