



Proposed Data Strategy legislative amendments

The Energy Security Board (ESB) has finalised for consideration by Ministers the proposed *National Energy Laws Amendment (Data Access) Bill 2023*, implementing key reforms agreed within the ESB Data Strategy.

These reforms seek to improve outcomes for all energy consumers by better informing policy, planning and research in the energy market transition. They will support more efficient, safe and transparent processes to share data, including data held by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), which is increasingly critical as the energy market rapidly adapts to new technologies and more innovative services.

These reforms will be supported by complementary arrangements being developed through the Data Strategy, including a proposed new Data Services Unit, that the ESB has recommended to be implemented within AEMO. This new unit will build expertise on robust, safe data-sharing practices and support greater access to a wide range of analytics and publicly released data. It will be supported by a Stakeholder Advisory Group. ESB and AEMO are also developing supporting Guidelines to be published to provide greater transparency, consistency and streamlining in data sharing.

Through these arrangements the ESB expects more effective data-sharing arrangements, supporting new consumer benefits, to be in place by the end of 2023.

The ESB thanks stakeholders for their active engagement in progressing the Data Strategy, including through public consultation processes, extensive workshops and ongoing participation in advisory groups and the Consumer Energy Resources (CER) stakeholder working group. The forward Stakeholder Advisory Group is recommended to ensure that stakeholders have continued visibility and engagement as new data-sharing arrangements are implemented and to ensure data-sharing remains focused on stakeholder needs and ultimately consumer benefits. The Stakeholder Advisory Group will also seek to ensure that, as technologies and the energy market change, emerging data needs are identified for action in a timely way.

Going forward, as the ESB transitions to the new Energy Advisory Panel (EAP), ongoing workstreams under the Data Strategy will continue to be progressed by market bodies and officials. This includes:

- **Electric Vehicles (EV) Supply Equipment Standing Data:** In line with earlier consultation, the ESB has agreed that AEMO should develop proposed Rule Changes and supporting measures to include EV chargers within the Distributed Energy Resources Register. This seeks to support better energy system planning for EV charging. Further complementary work is underway by the AEMC and recommended to officials, to improve management of related technical compliance and installer arrangements.
- **Network Visibility for Markets:** The ESB will next week release the first stage of consultation, exploring use cases and network data needs for market and policy stakeholders making decisions to optimise CER. Stakeholder views on this consultation and options to deliver this data will be considered by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).
- **Overvoltage Impacts:** The AER will also take forward new research into estimating the impacts of overvoltage on consumers, to ensure efficient investment in supporting network monitoring arrangements.
- **Billing transparency:** The ESB will release a consultation paper in the coming weeks, to seek stakeholder views on what data on customer bills is needed to ensure better consumer outcomes through more informed consumer policy protections, and options to streamline reporting burdens on market participants. The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) will take forward consultation and further work to design these options.
- **Consumer metrics:** Energy Officials, led by the Commonwealth and working with the AER and wider stakeholders, will begin work over the second half of 2023 to develop a more coordinated approach for consumer research and metrics. This work remains a priority to understand changing consumer needs and impacts in the market transition and will build on complementary work across the strategy, including AEMO data sharing and billing transparency.

The coordinated delivery of these reforms will support informed decision-making that improves consumer outcomes across the sector and supports a smooth transition to new technologies.

The ESB acknowledges that data reforms must continue to evolve as data needs and uses evolve. The ESB recommends that these new data arrangements and the need for further data reforms are reviewed within three years (prior to 2026), to ensure that they are meeting the sectors evolving needs.