Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender 10: National Electricity Market (NEM) – Dispatchable Capacity Q&A Responses

This document provides a compilation of responses to de-identified questions received from Registered Proponents for CIS Tender 10: NEM – Dispatchable Capacity (**Tender 10**). New Q&As are added to this document in chronological order and shaded in pale green. All Q&As are allocated to categories aligning with the Q&A form: Eligibility Criteria; Merit Criteria (MC) 1 – Financial value, system reliability and system benefits; MC 2 – Project deliverability and timeline; MC 3 – Organisational, resource, and financing capability; MC 4 – First Nations participation and benefits sharing; MC 5 – Social outcomes and community benefits sharing; Project Documents; and other.

All responses and correspondence by AEMO regarding the Q&A Process in Tender 10 are subject to the Tender Conditions set out in Section 6 of the Tender 10 Tender Guidelines (published June 2026).

Important notice: Registered Proponents are reminded of Sections 6.5 (No representations), 6.6 (No warranty), 6.13 (Requests for clarification and further information) and 6.19 (Proponent to perform own due diligence) of the Tender Guidelines. AEMO and the Australian Government reserves its rights not to respond to any question or request. The responses provided are for information purposes only and neither AEMO nor the Australian Government make any warranties or representations with respect to the completeness, accuracy, adequacy or currency of the responses. The responses do not take into account individual circumstances and Registered Proponents should ensure they perform their own due diligence.

Version Release

Version	Release date	Changes
1	03/07/2026	Release 1 including 1 response
2	09/07/2026	Release 2 including 1 response
3	15/07/2026	Release 3 including 1 response
4	17/07/2026	Release 4 including 1 response
5	22/07/2026	Release 5 including 3 responses
6	24/07/2026	Release 6 including 1 response
7	27/07/2026	Release 7 including 3 responses
8	31/07/2026	Release 8 including 1 response
9	04/08/2026	Release 9 including 2 responses
10	06/08/2026	Release 10 including 3 responses

Bid Q&A

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 03/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
1	Eligibility Criteria	For Projects that have been placed on the Reserve List in a previous tender process, can you please confirm that: - The provisions in clause 5.2.2 from the Tender Guidelines in relation to Duplicative Bids is not intended to refer to Bids involved in a previous Tender process and would not cause the Project to be disqualified from that previous Tender process. - The Proponent may submit a Bid in Tender 10 in respect of the same Project.	As set out in section 5.5.1 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, Proponents that have been placed on a Reserve List in a previous tender process may, subject to the requirements of the Tender Guidelines, submit a Bid for this Tender 10 Process in respect of the same Project, Existing Project (if it is a Staged Project), or Associated Project (if it is a Hybrid Project) even if the relevant Reserve Period from the previous tender process has not concluded. If a Proponent that has been placed on a Reserve List in a previous tender process is selected at any point as a Successful Proponent in the previous tender process, the Proponent is not permitted to submit, or continue with, a Bid in respect of the same Project in any other tender process, including this Tender 10 Process. In such circumstances, it is at the discretion of the Proponent to decide which tender process to proceed with. Proponents should review the Tender Guidelines in detail to understand their options and obligations in relation to submitting a Bid in respect of a Project which has been placed on a Reserve List in a prior tender process.

Q&A Release 2		Distributed 09/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
2	Eligibility Criteria	Where a project comprises two separately registered DUIDs (and is not an Aggregated Project) and one component of the project assigned to one DUID is already contracted under a CISA, LTESA, or FERMA contract from a previous Tender round, can the component of that project assigned to the other DUID be eligible (particularly with regard to EC8 and EC11) to independently participate in the Tender 10 Process?	As set out in the Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, a Project which is the subject of a long-term revenue underwriting agreement, as described in Eligibility Criterion 8 (EC8), with the Australian Government or a State or Territory of Australia, is not eligible to participate Tender 10. The Proforma CISA defines the 'Project' in Item 1 of the Reference Details, which provides guidance as to which components are considered part of the 'Project'. In determining whether a project with two Dispatchable Unit Identifiers (DUIDs) may be considered two separate Projects for the purpose of the uncontracted Project submitting a Bid in CIS Tender 10 (which is compliant with the Eligibility Criteria including EC8 and EC11 requirements), Proponents are encouraged to: • consider the technical features of their Project(s), including the asset configuration as it relates to the Connection Point, alongside the requirements of the Proforma CISA and the Tender Guidelines (in particular Section 4.2); and • if necessary, seek independent legal or technical advice in structuring their Bid. Proponents should also confirm that their Bid configuration complies with the requirements of EC2 in relation to the Bid Entity. If an uncontracted Project shares a Connection Point and is held under the same SPV as an additional Project component which is already contracted under a CISA, LTESA or FERMA, it is expected that the already contracted component may be deemed an Existing Project (if both components are storage projects) or an Associated Project (if the other component is a generation project), subject to the Tender Guidelines. A Project is not expected to be eligible for CIS Tender 10 under EC11 where the Existing or Associated Project holds a CISA, LTESA, or FERMA.

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 15/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
3	Other: Bid configuration	Where a project will be delivered in two separate stages which are geographically co-located and the project has two separate connection points, can the Proponent submit Bids in Tender 10 for both: a) a single Bid in relation to the entire project (including both stages), and b) separate Bids for each project stage individually?	As set out in Section 5.1 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, Proponents may only register and submit one Bid per Project. If a Project has multiple potential configurations or designs, the Proponent must select its preferred configuration and design prior to submitting its Bid. Subject to the requirements set out in Section 4.2 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, geographically co-located dispatchable assets of the same technology type which do not share a Connection Point may be eligible to be the subject of a Bid as a single Project. Projects that have separate Connection Points for generation and dispatchable assets are considered to be separate Projects for the purposes of this Tender 10 Process. Accordingly, the dispatchable assets of the Project may be eligible to be the subject of a Bid in this Tender Process, and any generation assets of the Project are excluded from this Tender 10 Process.

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 17/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
4	Other: Bid Form	There are no questions relating to “network connection approval process” or “planning and environmental approvals” visible in the MC2 section of the Bid form via the Online Portal. Is this an error?	When completing the Bid form in the Online Portal, certain questions are conditional and will only be visible in the Bid form based on a Proponent’s answers to previous questions. In the case of questions relating to network connection and planning and environmental approvals within the section of the Bid form titled *Merit Criterion 2: Project deliverability and timeline*, these questions are conditional on the Proponent’s response to the question ‘Is your Project an Aggregated Project?’ in the *Project Details* section. The Bid form in the Online Portal has now been updated so that the questions relating to network connection and planning and environmental approvals are visible even if the Proponent has not entered a response to the prior ‘Aggregated Project’ question.

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 22/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
5	Project Documents	If the Project is altered after the Project has reached COD (e.g. to add additional storage capacity), how does this impact the operation of the CISA support terms?	Clause 10 of the Proforma CISA sets out the requirements a Project Operator must comply with if it proposes to alter the Project during the term of the CISA. Subject to the terms of the CISA, amendments may be required to be made to the CISA to accommodate certain alterations, which may include amendments to the Reference Details. The operation of the CISA support terms may be impacted by an alteration to the Project after COD depending on the nature, scope and materiality of the relevant alteration. Proponents should consider seeking independent legal advice on questions concerning the application of the Proforma CISA in their particular circumstances.
6	Other: Legislative and CIS	1. Is there any legislative or other constraint preventing indexation or application of an escalation factor of the Annual Floor or Annual Ceiling values? 2. Is the 15-year maximum CISA term mandated by legislation, or is it a policy setting that could be varied (i.e. extended) under the CISA? 3. Does the CISA permit staged CODs for modular or multi phase projects and is the Commonwealth willing to consider contractual amendments to enable multi phase commissioning for modular BESS projects?	1. As set out in *Table 5: Key commercial terms* in the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines and per the Reference Details in the Proforma CISA, Proponents are required to submit Annual Floor, Annual Ceiling and Annual Payment Cap Bid Variables which are based on either: a. a fixed nominal amount for each Financial Year of the Support Period, which does not vary during the Support Period; or b. a schedule of fixed nominal amounts for each Financial Year of the Support Period, which may vary from year to year during the Support Period. The Proforma CISA does not include a mechanism for indexation or escalation of Bid Variables. 2. As set out in *Table 5: Key commercial terms* in the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, Proponents are required to submit the term of the CISA as a Bid Variable, which is to be a maximum of 15 years after the Support Start Date. Subject to the terms of the Proforma CISA, the CIS Tender 10 Process does not allow for a CISA term which exceeds this timeframe.

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 22/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
			3. The Proforma CISA is structured to operate on the basis that the Project has a single COD Target Date. Proponents are encouraged to closely consider whether their Project that requires multi-stage commissioning meets the definition of a Hybrid Project, Staged Project or Aggregated Project per the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, as this may have implications for the treatment of a Project's COD in this CIS Tender 10 Process. Please refer to Sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines for further information. Proponents' Bids should only include departures from the proforma Project Documents which are strictly necessary for the specific requirements of the Project.
7	Eligibility Criteria	Can two materially similar BESS Projects which are geographically co-located be the subject of separate Bids in this Tender 10 Process, and enter into separate CISAs, where they: • have separate Connection Points, • are owned by separate SPVs, • each independently satisfy the Eligibility Criteria, and • share certain infrastructure and arrangements (e.g. transmission infrastructure, access, land, control systems, balance of plant)?	Subject to the requirements set out in Section 4.2 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, geographically co-located dispatchable assets of the same technology type that each independently satisfy the Eligibility Criteria may be bid as separate Projects for separate CISAs. When submitting a Bid, Proponents should consider seeking independent technical and legal advice on whether their Project configuration meets the eligibility requirements set out in the Tender Guidelines.

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 24/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
8	Other	Where a proponent submits multiple projects into the CIS tender, is it possible to cap the number of projects that may ultimately be awarded a CISA, while still allowing all projects to be assessed competitively? If yes, what is the mechanism for doing so?	There is no mechanism for a Proponent to place a cap on the number of its Bids that could be made successful in the Tender. Each Bid is assessed and ranked individually on its own merits. Proponents should note that each Bid must constitute a binding bid in accordance with section 6.27 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines. Proponents submitting Bids for multiple Projects should carefully consider whether they have the organisational, resource and financing capability to deliver all of the Projects they bid into the Tender. As set out in section 5.4 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines, in developing the Recommended Bids, ASL has may consider certain factors, including geographical, supplier or proponent concentration.

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 27/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
9	Eligibility Criteria	If a BESS Project will be co-located with an existing generation project and the BESS Project has a Registered Capacity of not less than 30 MW to dispatch continuously for a minimum duration of 2 hours, but is constrained at the connection point from doing so, can the Project satisfy EC5(b)?	As set out in section 4.2 of the CIS Tender 10 Guidelines, a Project which has co-located generation and dispatchable assets can register and bid in CIS Tender 10 as a Hybrid Project. If proposing a Hybrid Project: • the Project that is the subject of the Bid will include the dispatchable assets and the Shared Infrastructure, and will exclude the generation assets (Associated Project); • the Project will need to, in its own right, satisfy the Eligibility Criteria outlined in section 2 Table 7 of the Tender Guidelines; and • benefits against each of the Merit Criteria will be assessed only for the Project, and not the Associated Project. Accordingly, the Project must satisfy EC5 based on the Registered Capacity of the Project which is the subject of the Bid, being the dispatchable asset. As per EC9, it is anticipated that grid connection and access arrangements may not be finalised as at the Bid Closing Date and Time. Provided the proposed dispatchable Project itself has the ability to dispatch continuously for a minimum duration of 2 hours at its Registered Capacity, this will be sufficient to satisfy EC5(b). This is not assessed with reference to the capacity of the point of connection. Proponents should review the treatment of the ‘export capacity’ and ‘Connection Point Export Limit’ in the Proforma CISA and consider seeking independent legal advice on questions concerning the application of the Proforma CISA in their particular circumstances.
10	Other: Registration Form & Final Bid	Is it possible to change certain details in the Bid Form from those provided in the Registration Form, such as the Proponent Entity, Bid Entity, Registered Capacity (MW) and Dispatchable Capacity (MWh)?	Proponents may alter project details in the Bid Form from those that were submitted in the Registration Form, including, but not limited to Proponent, Bid Entity, Registered Capacity and Dispatchable Capacity. Please note that details in the Bid Form will supersede information submitted in the Registration Form once the Bid Closing Date and Time has passed. A Proponent may not amend its Bid after it has been submitted, unless invited

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 27/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
			or permitted to do so by the Australian Government or AEMO, in accordance with sections 6.12, 6.21 and 6.32 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines.
11	MC1 – Financial value, system reliability and system benefits	The "System Strength Node" drop-down in Sheet 4 (System Security) of the MC1 Returnable Schedule does not contain any NSW system strength node options. Can ASL please confirm whether this is an issue with the Returnable Schedule?	We confirm that the MC1 Returnable Schedule does not include any NSW system strength nodes as drop-down options in Cell I21 of Sheet '4. System Security details'. This is an error and we ask that Proponents who need to specify a NSW system strength node leave this cell blank and instead specify their response in Cell J119 of Sheet '6. Checks'. The NSW system strength nodes are provided in AEMO's latest Transition Plan for System Security report and include; Armidale, Buronga, Darlington Point, Newcastle, Sydney West and Wellington.

Q&A Release 8		Distributed 31/07/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
12	Other: MC4 and MC5	For Projects that have already progressed significantly through the construction phase, the social licence and First Nations commitments metrics requested in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule may not have been a contractual reporting requirement at the time that EPC contracts were executed. As a result, the relevant metrics may not have been formally tracked or reported during project delivery and cannot be retrospectively verified, even if certain outcomes were achieved. In these circumstances, how should Proponents approach completing the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule?	The commitments that are provided within MC4&5 Returnable Schedule will be incorporated into the Proforma CISA Schedule 2A Social License Commitments for Successful Proponents who are invited to enter into Project Documents. Schedule 2A commitments will be subject to the reporting and enforcement regimes set out in the Proforma CISA. As outlined in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule instructions, where a Project is under construction or at an advanced stage of development, Proponents should still demonstrate within their Bid (including Bid Form responses and attached evidence) any previous efforts and experience of the Bid Entity in respect of demonstrating First Nations and Social Licence outcomes. Information provided in the Bid Form and supporting attachments will be incorporated into a holistic assessment of MC4 and MC5 alongside commitments provided in the MC 4&5 Returnable Schedule. Proponents may wish to refer to the CIS Tender 8 Assessment Summary Market Briefing Note for insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses demonstrated by Projects in the CIS Tender 8 process regarding MC4&5.

Q&A Release 9		Distributed 04/08/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
13	Other: Bid Form	Section 3.1 of the Bid form includes questions relating to the Proponent or Bid Entity's ownership of the 'assets of the Project'. Does the word 'assets' in this question include the land tenure required for the Project?	Section 3.1 of the Bid Form seeks to clarify the Proponent or Bid Entity's ownership interests in the assets of a Project, to confirm that the Proponent or Bid Entity (as applicable) has, or will have, the legal right to enter into the Project Documents in respect of the Project, in accordance with the requirement to submit a binding Bid under section 6.27 of the Tender Guidelines. The 'assets' of a Project in this context refers to any Project related asset that must be owned by, or otherwise held in the name of, the Bid Entity under clause 8.6(a)(iii) of the Proforma CISA as at the date of execution. It is not necessary for the Proponent or Bid Entity to own the land on which the Project is situated in order for the Proponent or Bid Entity (as applicable) to participate in CIS Tender 10 or to enter into the Project Documents in respect of the Project. The land tenure details for the Project should be set out clearly in section 6.2 of the Bid Form and the Real Property Returnable Schedule submitted as a part of a Proponent's Bid. The securing of all Tenure required for the Project is Milestone No. 1 of the Proforma CISA.
14	Eligibility Criteria	EC10 requires a Project to be suitably progressed with the planning application process applicable in the Project's jurisdiction, with relevant criteria specific to each State/Territory set out in Table 8 in the Tender Guidelines. If a Proponent does not meet the requirements for the State/Territory in which their Project is located, but considers that their progress is materially equivalent to, or more advanced than, the EC10 requirements for a Project in a different State/Territory as set out in Table 8, can the Project still satisfy EC10?	Bids submitted in CIS Tender 10 must satisfy all Eligibility Criteria set out in Table 7 of the CIS Tender 10 Tender Guidelines. This includes satisfying the State/Territory-specific requirements for EC10 set out in Table 8 of the Tender Guidelines. A Project must satisfy the requirements applicable to the State or Territory in which the Project is located in order to comply with EC10.

Q&A Release 10		Distributed 06/08/2026	
#	**Category**	**Question**	**Answer**
15	MC5 – Social outcomes and Community Benefits Sharing	In MC 4 & 5 Returnable Schedule, local workers are defined as people from the Relevant Jurisdiction. Can ACT projects consider NSW workers as part of their Relevant Jurisdiction?	The MC 4 & 5 Returnable Schedule and Schedule 2A of the Proforma CISA define Local Worker as jobs for people from the Relevant Jurisdiction. Relevant Jurisdiction is defined as the jurisdiction in which the Project is located. Accordingly, a Local Worker must be a person from the same jurisdiction (namely, the same state or territory) as the one in which the Project is located. Notwithstanding the above, given the size of the ACT, Projects located in the ACT may include workers from NSW in their commitments relating to Local Workers in the MC 4 & 5 Returnable Schedule.
16	Project Documents	"Remedial Action Scheme" is defined in the Proforma CISA as a scheme or arrangement provided or implemented in respect of the Project in which the Project Operator is required to operate the Project in a certain manner in response to a "Contingency Event" (as defined in the NER). There is a concern that, by limiting the definition to schemes or arrangements that require the Project to operate in a certain manner in response to a Contingency Event, the types of schemes or arrangements that meet the definition of a Remedial Action Scheme will be limited. For example, AEMO's Minimum System Load Framework and VicGrid's REZ Curtailment Abatement Service are examples of schemes that have a similar intent to a Remedial Action Scheme (i.e. managing system security), but do not fall within the definition of a Remedial Action Scheme as these schemes are not triggered in response to a Contingency Event. Can you please explain how the CISA will treat schemes or arrangements that are similar to a Remedial Action Scheme but are not triggered by a Contingency Event?	Treatment of RAS contracts in the Tender 10 CISA is intended to not disadvantage those Projects entering in contracts which: • require significant augmentation of the Project in order to provide fast response time services; • require capacity to be held in reserve for significant periods to respond to certain events, affecting the Project's ability to respond to normal market signals. Should a Proponent wish to modify the treatment of RAS contracts in the CISA, in a manner consistent with this intent, they may propose commercial departures during the tender process, which may be considered by the Commonwealth. Proponents' Bids should only include departures from the proforma CISA that are strictly necessary for the specific requirements of the Project. Bids may be excluded from this Tender Process and no longer assessed if any proposed departure is considered to increase the risk allocation to the Australian Government, increase the administrative burden and cost to the Australian Government or deviate from the Policy Objectives.
17	Project Documents	Is there a Departures Table template document for CIS T10?	Proponents can access the CIS Tender 10 Departures Table template through a link provided within the Bid Form in section 12.1 *Project Document Departures*.

	Please note section 12.1 is conditional on the Proponent's response to the question 'Is your Project an Aggregated Project?' in the *Project Details* section and will only become visible once a response to this question has been provided.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.