



Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender 8: 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 8: NEM – Dispatchable Capacity (**Tender 8**). 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 8 are subject to the Tender Conditions set out in Section 6 of the Tender 8 Tender Guidelines (published November 2025).

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	15/12/2025	Release 1 including 8 responses
2	22/12/2025	Release 2 including 4 responses
3	07/01/2026	Release 3 including 6 responses
4	16/01/2026	Release 4 including 6 responses
5	21/01/2026	Release 5 including 6 responses
6	23/01/2026	Release 6 including 8 responses
7	30/01/2026	Release 7 including 8 responses

Bid Q&As

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 15/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
1	MC5	In relation to MC5 – Social outcomes and community benefits sharing, does Local Content include goods “supplied” by an Australian business (with an ABN), even if the goods are manufactured overseas?	<p>Local Content is defined in Section 8 of the Tender Guidelines as ‘any goods manufactured, services supplied, or resources produced, within Australia and New Zealand’. To claim local content commitments in CIS Tender 8, companies with an ABN or NZBN must include goods produced, services supplied, or resources produced in Australia or New Zealand. Local content commitments support the development of local supply chain opportunities, such as renewable components and materials, local steel and investment and innovation in the local renewable energy supply chain.</p> <p>Proponents should not rely on responses to Q&As from previous CIS tenders as the guidelines, rules and policies may have changed.</p>
2	Project Documents	Is it possible for a Proponent to defer the commencement of support under the CISA to a year after the Project’s COD, or must support always start from the COD?	<p>Proponents should refer to the note in clause 14 of the Proforma CISA, which states that “the Support Period will automatically commence on the earlier of the Commercial Operations Date and the Final Support Commencement Date”.</p> <p>There is no provision for a Proponent to elect a later, discretionary start date for support. However, Proponents may choose to nominate fewer support years in their bid (including by nominating a \$0 Annual Ceiling in initial years), which can make their offer more competitive.</p>

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 15/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
3	Eligibility Criteria	Can a Proponent submit a bid encompassing both stages of a dispatchable capacity Staged Project, if the first stage has been identified as committed in the AEMO “NEM October 2024 Generation Information” page published on 8 November 2024?	<p>For CIS Tender 8, Staged Projects are where the Project expands the dispatchable capacity of an existing dispatchable asset (Existing Project). As outlined in Section 4.2 of the Tender Guidelines, the Project, for which a CISA is bid, must only include the new dispatchable capacity and the Shared Infrastructure and excludes the Existing Project. The Project will need to satisfy all Eligibility Criteria, including EC7, outlined in Table 6 of the Tender Guidelines.</p> <p>Under EC7, a Project identified as committed or existing in the AEMO ‘NEM October 2024 Generation Information’ page published on 8 November 2024, will not be eligible to participated in CIS Tender 8.</p> <p>Where a Staged Project involves;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 which is identified as committed or existing in the AEMO ‘NEM October 2024 Generation Information’ page, and • Stage 2 which expands the dispatchable capacity of Stage 1, and is not identified as committed or existing in the AEMO ‘NEM October 2024 Generation Information’ page, <p>only Stage 2 may be eligible to participate in CIS Tender 8, subject to satisfying all other Eligibility Criteria in its own right.</p> <p>Proponents are advised to carefully review the Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA to inform their bid configuration, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice.</p>

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 15/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
4	Eligibility Criteria	<p>Under CIS Tender 8 EC11, will a Project be eligible to participate in CIS Tender 8, or have its merit assessment score impacted, if the same Project has already bid into SA FERM Tender Round 1?</p> <p>Please confirm if any bid into CIS Tender 8 bid would disqualify the FERM bid for the relevant Project?</p>	<p>Proponents with a South Australian located dispatchable capacity Project considering participating in both SA FERM Tender Round 1 and CIS Tender 8 are advised to carefully review each schemes' Tender Guidelines, as Eligibility Criteria and tender conditions differ.</p> <p>Under CIS Tender 8 EC11, a South Australian Project is ineligible for CIS Tender 8 if a CISA or FERMA is executed, or awarded under SA FERM Tender Round 1, CIS Tender 3, or CIS Tender 4. Participation in the SA FERM tender process will not impact a Project's eligibility or merit assessment in the CIS Tender 8 Process, unless it has been awarded a FERMA.</p> <p>Regarding eligibility for the SA FERM tender process, proponents are advised to review the SA FERM Tender Guidelines and Q&A responses, and where necessary, contact the SA FERM Scheme Administrator through the channel outlined in the SA FERM Tender Guidelines.</p>
5	Eligibility Criteria	<p>With regards to EC10, for a Project in Victoria where Clause 53.22 (Significant Economic Development) of the Victorian Planning Provisions applies, what evidence is acceptable to demonstrate compliance with the Eligibility Criteria?</p>	<p>Where a Project meets the conditions of Clause 53.22 (Significant Economic Development) of the Victorian Planning Provisions and an application has been pursued via an accelerated pathway through the Development Facilitation Program (DFP), acceptable evidence to comply with EC10 includes evidence of lodgement (e.g., acknowledgement of the application to the Minister for Planning for a planning permit under the DFP pathway from the Department of Transport and Planning) or a copy of the planning permit.</p>

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 15/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
6	Eligibility Criteria	Is a Project eligible if it reaches Financial Close after the CIS Tender 8 bid submissions are due (6 February 2026 5pm AEDT) but before successful bid announcement (June 2026)?	<p>A Project's achievement of Financial Close is not an Eligibility Criteria for CIS Tender 8. Projects may be eligible irrespective of whether Financial Close is achieved before or after Bid submission.</p> <p>Projects that have not achieved Financial Close will be asked, as part of their Bid submission, to outline the status of development funding and demonstrate a clear pathway to achieve Financial Close under MC3 - Organisational, resource, and financing capability.</p> <p>Proponents should carefully review the Eligibility Criteria outlined in the Tender Guidelines to ensure compliance. This includes EC7, where the Project must not have been identified as committed or existing in the AEMO 'NEM October 2024 Generation Information' page published on 8 November 2024.</p>
7	Other	As the CIS Tender 8 bid submission period extends over the year-end holidays, can the Bid Closing Date be extended for all Proponents?	To maintain the CIS Tender 8 timeline, an extension to the Bid Closing Date and Time (6 February 2026, 5pm AEDT) cannot be provided at this time.

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 15/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
8	Eligibility Criteria	How should a BESS Project with two DUIDs, sharing a common connection point and progressing under the same connection application, classify its Bid configuration?	<p>In addition to the standard bid configuration of a standalone dispatchable capacity asset behind a single Connection Point, Section 4 of the Tender Guidelines outlines the conditions for different configurations allowable as a single Project, bidding for a single CISA. This includes Hybrid, Staged, and Aggregated Projects, and Projects with separate Connection Points. A BESS Project with two Dispatchable Unit Identifiers (DUIDs) sharing a common Connection Point may meet the requirements to bid as single dispatchable capacity Project for the purpose of CIS Tender 8, subject to meeting the Eligibility Criteria and requirements set out in the Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA.</p> <p>Proponents are advised to carefully review the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA to inform the appropriate bid configuration, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice.</p>

Q&A Release 2		Distributed 22/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
9	MC5	In calculating local content commitments, do interest payments on debt during construction count towards local content if the debt is sourced from a domestic financial institution?	<p>Local Content is defined in Section 8 of the Tender Guidelines as ‘any goods manufactured, services supplied, or resources produced, within Australia and New Zealand’. Local content commitments support the development of local supply chain opportunities, such as renewable components and materials, local steel and investment and innovation in the local renewable energy supply chain.</p> <p>Under this definition for CIS Tender 8, financing costs (such as interest payments on debt during construction) are not to be included as local content commitments in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule, even if the debt is sourced from an Australian bank.</p>

Q&A Release 2		Distributed 22/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
10	Eligibility Criteria	<p>Following changes to Queensland Government’s planning legislation for battery Projects of 50MW or more, with the Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025 which commenced on 12 December 2025, can you please advise how this impact EC10 for Projects located in Queensland?</p>	<p>Eligibility for CIS Tender 8 under EC10 requires Projects to be suitably progressed with the planning application process that applies in the applicable State or Territory, by reference to the requirements set out in Table 7 of the Tender Guidelines.</p> <p>Proponents with Queensland located Projects that can show evidence in their bid submission of a lodged development application under one of the pathways outlined in Table 7 will be eligible to participate in CIS Tender 8, even if further action is required in relation to that previously submitted application following the legislative change that commenced in Queensland on 12 December 2025.</p> <p>Proponents with Queensland located Projects should consider the impact of this legislative change on the information provided in their bid submission, including reflecting any additional time required for planning related development activities in the project schedule provided under Merit Criterion 2.</p>

Q&A Release 2		Distributed 22/12/2025	
#	Category	Question	Answer
11	MC1	Under MC1, will technical attributes such as system strength, voltage support, inertia, and other system services be assessed qualitatively only, or will they also receive a quantitative financial valuation?	<p>The CIS Tender Process aims to attract high merit Projects based on a weighted assessment of the financial and non-financial elements of the Bid as outlined in the Tender Guidelines.</p> <p>As outlined in the MC1 Market Briefing Note, System Security Services is not a modelled Component and is assessed qualitatively as a non-financial element. The System Security Assessment considers the technical attributes of the Project as provided in the MC1 Returnable Schedule responses. Projects are expected to be assessed as higher merit if they can provide essential System Security Services.</p> <p>In contrast, Net Operational Revenue (NOR) calculation, as outlined in Section 4.5.1 of the MC1 Market Briefing Note, is estimated as the sum of revenues of the dispatchable capacity Project including revenue from Potential Energy Arbitrage Revenue and the provision of regulation and contingency Frequency Control Ancillary Services.</p>
12	MC1	Under MC1, should the Bid variables (Annual Floor, Annual Ceiling, Annual Payment Cap) be provided in real terms or nominal terms?	<p>The Annual Floor, Annual Ceiling and Annual Payment Cap should be submitted in nominal dollars in the MC1 Returnable Schedule.</p> <p>Within the MC1 evaluation, Net CISA Costs are assessed by comparing a forecast of Net Operational Revenue (in nominal dollars) to the Annual Floor, Annual Ceiling and Annual Payment Cap (also in nominal dollars). The net present value of the Net CISA Costs is used to develop the Reliability-Cost Ratio, the REC-Cost Ratio, and the Benefit-Cost Ratio.</p>

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 07/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
13	Eligibility Criteria	With regards to EC10, for a Project in Victoria where Clause 53.22 (Significant Economic Development) of the Victorian Planning Provisions applies, is the lodgement of a pre-application request to the Development Facilitation Program (DFP) acceptable evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Eligibility Criteria?	<p>Where a Project meets the conditions of Clause 53.22 (Significant Economic Development) of the Victorian Planning Provisions and an application has been pursued via an accelerated pathway through the DFP, acceptable evidence to comply with EC10 includes evidence of lodgement (e.g., acknowledgement of the application to the Minister for Planning for a planning permit under the DFP pathway from the Department of Transport and Planning) or a copy of the planning permit.</p> <p>Lodging evidence of a pre-application request would not in itself be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with EC10.</p>
14	MC5	With regards to Local Content commitments, would equipment assembled in Australia using imported components be considered "goods manufactured within Australia" and therefore be counted towards local content?	<p>Local Content is defined in the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines as 'any goods manufactured, services supplied, or resources produced, within Australia and New Zealand'. Local Content commitments support the development of local supply chain opportunities, such as renewable components and materials, local steel and investment and innovation in the local renewable energy supply chain.</p> <p>For goods to be included within CIS Tender 8 Local Content commitments as locally manufactured in Australia or New Zealand, the goods need to have been substantially transformed or changed fundamentally in identity due to processing in Australia or New Zealand. To support the assessment of Local Content commitments in Tender 8, Proponents should attach supporting evidence in Section 10.2 of the Bid Form for Local Content commitments included in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule.</p>

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 07/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
15	Eligibility Criteria	How should a Proponent classify its Bid configuration for two co-located BESS assets being developed at the same time, each with its own Connection Point and connecting into the same existing TNSP substation?	<p>In addition to the standard bid configuration of a standalone dispatchable capacity asset behind a single Connection Point, Section 4 of the Tender Guidelines outlines the conditions for different configurations allowable as a single Project, bidding for a single CISA. This includes Hybrid, Staged, and Aggregated Projects, and Projects with separate Connection Points.</p> <p>A BESS Project with two geographically co-located dispatchable assets each with its own Connection Point may meet the requirements to bid as a single Project into CIS Tender 8, subject to meeting the Eligibility Criteria and requirements set out in the Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA.</p> <p>Proponents are advised to carefully review the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA to inform the appropriate bid configuration, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice.</p>

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 07/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
16	Eligibility Criteria	<p>If a BESS Project located in Queensland had lodged a development application via the local council (satisfying condition (a)(i) of the Queensland requirements for EC10 in Table 7 of the Tender Guidelines) and the development application was under council's assessment until the new planning legislation for battery projects took effect in Queensland on 12 December 2025, will the previous lodgement of a development application with the council be considered acceptable evidence for EC10?</p>	<p>Eligibility for CIS Tender 8 under EC10 requires Projects to be suitably progressed with the planning application process applicable to the relevant State or Territory, by reference to the requirements set out in Table 7 of the Tender Guidelines.</p> <p>Proponents with Queensland located Projects that can show evidence in their bid submission of a lodged development application under one of the pathways outlined in Table 7 will be eligible to participate in CIS Tender 8, even if further action is required in relation to that previously submitted application following the legislative change that commenced in Queensland on 12 December 2025.</p> <p>Proponents with Queensland Projects should consider the impact of this legislative change on the information provided in their bid submission, including reflecting any additional time required for planning related development activities in the project schedule provided under Merit Criterion 2.</p>

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 07/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
17	MC1	In the MC1 Returnable Schedule (Table 9), the form produces a validation error when a withstand short circuit ratio above 1 is inserted. How should Proponents complete this when their response is above 1?	<p>For the purpose of completing Table 9 “System Strength” of the MC1 Returnable Schedule, Proponents should enter the Project-specific withstand short circuit ratio in cell I15 even if the completeness check displays a red cross.</p> <p>The red cross indicates a validation inconsistency and does not prevent Proponents from inserting a value or submitting a Returnable Schedule. Values above 1 in cell I15 are acceptable and expected in line with AEMO’s System Strength Impact Assessment Guidelines.</p> <p>Please include further commentary where applicable to support answers provided in Table 9 in Section 5.5 'System Security Services' of the Bid Form.</p>

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 07/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
18	MC4	<p>We request clarification on the implementation of the NSW RESB minimum requirements for First Nations participation for CIS Tender 8.</p> <p>The NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan Addendum (August 2025) indicates that the 3% First Nations participation minimum requirement may be met using one or a combination of the three measures for First Nations participation. Can this 3% be met through a combination of partial contributions across the three First Nations participation measures, or by taking the average of the three First Nations participation measures?</p> <p>If a combination is permitted, how are TPCV-based commitments and workforce-based commitments considered, given Total Project Contract Value (TPCV) is a measure in \$AUD, and Total [Hybrid] Project Workforce (TPW) is a measure in total working hours?</p>	<p>First Nations participation in the Project is assessed as part of Merit Criterion 4. Proponents are referred to the 'Baseline requirements and stretch goals related to MC4 and MC5' table in the 'MC4 Instructions' tab of the CIS Tender 8 MC4&5 Returnable Schedule. As indicated in the table, the 3% First Nations participation criteria, or 10% stretch goal, can be met by one or a combination of the following three measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcontracting to First Nations businesses as a % of Total Project Contract Value (TPCV); • First Nations Employment and Workforce as a % of Total [Hybrid] Project Workforce (TPW); • First Nations Training and Capacity Building as a % of TPCV. <p>This aligns with the NSW First Nations Guidelines and the NSW RESB Plan Addendum (August 2025). Where a combination of the three First Nations participation measures is used, the measures can be summed to constitute the overall 3% mark (or higher) following the RESB approach, recognising this may involve different denominators (TPCV and TPW). In accordance with the explanatory note in the 'MC4 Instructions' tab of the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule, the values listed under 'Baseline requirement' are indicative benchmarks for Bids in CIS Tender 8 that, if met or exceeded, may be considered higher merit.</p>

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 16/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
19	MC1	In the MC1 Returnable Schedule Table 9 'Maximum fault current contribution at the Connection Point' is requested in units of Mega-Volt-Amperes (MVA). Fault Current is typically expressed in kilo-Amperes (kA). Which unit should be used for this response?	<p>Proponents are required to complete the requested information in the MC1 Returnable Schedule using the Units as specified in the relevant table.</p> <p>For Maximum fault current contribution at the Connection Point in Table 9, Proponents should provide the information in MVA, also known as Fault Level contribution. MVA can be converted from kA using the nominal Connection Point voltage</p>
20	MC2	Question 6.2 of the CIS Tender 8 Bid Form requests a letter from the Network Operator outlining the Project stage and last milestone achieved. Would a letter from the Network Service Provider (NSP) outlining the contestable and non-contestable works for a Project be sufficient?	<p>The letter from the Network Operator will need to clearly outline the status of the Project's network connection progress, including the latest milestone achieved in relation to the Project's network connection applications. The letter is required to be headed and signed by the Network Operator.</p> <p>A letter from the NSP that outlines the contestable and non-contestable works for a Project would be considered sufficient provided it clearly outlines the Project's network connection progress, including that of any co-located facilities, to enable tender assessment to progress.</p>

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 16/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
21	Project Documents	<p>The revised Tender 8 proforma CISA has updated the definition of Support Start Date such that if COD is not achieved in the first day of the month, it will be deemed to occur in the first day of the next month (which also impacts on the Support Period timing). This updated timing is not reflected in the definition of Support Year, which occurs from COD.</p> <p>Could ASL please confirm the updated definition of Support Start Date in the Tender 8 Proforma CISA?</p>	<p>The Commonwealth confirms that there is currently an inadvertent misalignment between the definition of 'Support Start Date' and the definition of 'Support Year' in the Tender 8 proforma CISA. The first Support Year which occurs under the CISA is intended to commence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Commercial Operations Date, if the Commercial Operations Date falls on the first day of a calendar month; or • the first day of the calendar month immediately following the calendar month in which the Commercial Operations Date occurs, if the Commercial Operations Date does not fall on the first day of a calendar month. <p>For those Successful Proponents who are invited to enter into Project Documents with the Commonwealth under the CIS Tender 8 Process, further revisions will be made to the CISA to ensure that the definitions of the terms 'Operations Period', 'Operations Year' and 'Support Year' align with the current wording contained in the 'Support Start Date' definition. Minor ancillary changes may also be required in the Reference Details and drafting notes.</p>

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 16/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
22	Project Documents	<p>For the purposes of calculating the Performance Security Amount (being \$20,000 multiplied by the numerical value of the Export Capacity of the Project in MW, up to the \$4,000,000 cap), could you please clarify how “Export Capacity of the Project” is defined where only part of the Project’s capacity is supported under the CISA?</p> <p>By way of example, if a portion of a dispatchable storage Project is operated on a fully merchant basis, a portion is contracted under an Eligible Wholesale Contract, and a portion is supported under the CISA, is the Performance Security Amount calculated by reference to:</p> <p>(a) the total export capacity of the Project as built and registered with AEMO; or</p> <p>(b) only the export capacity supported under the CISA?</p>	<p>Contracted percentage is not a Bid Variable for CIS Tender 8. As per the Reference Details of the Proforma CISA, Proponents will contractually commit to an Export Capacity (MW) and Storage Capacity (MWh) for the ‘Project’. The Proforma CISA’s revenue support arrangements are a function of revenue earned from sent out generation of the whole Project and it is not expected that any Project will be awarded a CISA on the basis of only part of its sent-out generation (other than in circumstances of a Hybrid Project or Staged Project, as described in the Proforma CISA and section 4.2 of the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines).</p>
23	Project Documents	<p>With regards to the Tender 8 proforma CISA, how does the 90% Equivalent Availability Threshold interact with the point at which CISA support is available? How does the 50% Revenue Ceiling Sharing Percentage interact with this calculation?</p>	<p>Item 4 of Schedule 1 of the Proforma CISA sets out the terms which apply in relation to the calculation of any Availability Rebate, and item 10 of Schedule 1 sets out the terms which apply in relation to the calculation of Annual Revenue Sharing Amount. Proponents should seek their own independent legal and financial advice as to how those terms may apply to a particular scenario under the Support Terms within the Proforma CISA.</p>

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 16/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
24	Project Documents	Can Proponents qualify, limit, or otherwise amend any representations, warranties, definitions, or form requirements in the CIS Tender Round 8 Warranties Form (including those relating to Associates or Related Bodies Corporate)?	<p>Proponents should seek independent legal advice in relation to preparation of its Bid, including in relation to the interpretation of terms used in the CIS Tender Round 8 Tender Guidelines and Warranties Form (such as 'Associates' and 'Related Bodies Corporate').</p> <p>Proponents are required to complete and execute a Warranties Form in the form provided within the Returnable Schedule to participate in the Tender Process. Please note that, as set out in section 5.2.3 of the Tender Guidelines, if the Warranties Form provided along with a Proponent's Bid is not correctly completed and executed, the Bid may not be further assessed in this Tender Process.</p>

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 21/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
25	Other: Eligible Wholesale Contracts	Can ASL please clarify if there is a process for assessing the eligibility of wholesale contracts already signed by a project ahead of a CISA being awarded, and if so, outline the process?	<p>Regarding the verification of an Eligible Wholesale Contract under the CIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mechanism in place for verification or approval of any Eligible Wholesale Contract during the Tender Process or before the signing of the CISA. • Please refer to clause 15 of the Proforma CISA and in particular clause 15.4 on verification of Eligible Wholesale Contracts and NSCAS Contracts. It provides that the Commonwealth may, at any time after receiving the information relating to the relevant contract pursuant to clause 15.2(a) or 15.3(a), or becoming aware that it should have received that information, and having regard to any guidance provided by it pursuant to clause 15.1(e) (“Eligibility requirements”), verify whether that contract is an Eligible Wholesale Contract or a NSCAS Contract. The Commonwealth may do such verification in accordance with clause 32.4 (“Right to access and audit”) which provides further details on the process and timeline in respect of the audit exercise. <p>We recommend proponents to seek their own independent legal advice on these matters.</p>

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 21/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
26	Project Documents	<p>Related to CISA clause 3.3 Calculation of Deemed Wholesale Contract Energy Revenue, the Tender 8 CISA has amended the calculation for deemed energy related revenue for an Ineligible Wholesale Contract with the inclusion of the new term 'OER TI'. Under the definition for 'OER TI': 'other energy revenue, being the aggregate of any revenue earned by any other person...', what does 'any other person' relate to and what types of persons could this include?</p>	<p>Deemed Wholesale Contract Energy Revenue relates to revenue received in respect of the Project under an Ineligible Wholesale Contract. This is intended to include revenue earned by any other person if received in respect of the Project (as per the definition of 'Operational Revenue').</p> <p>Proponents should seek independent legal advice in relation to preparation of its Bid, including in relation to the interpretation of terms used in the Support Terms within the CIS Tender Round 8 Proforma CISA.</p>

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 21/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
27	MC1	Could you please confirm that the participation in the optional Network Capacity Support Assessment is not binding if the CISA is executed?	<p>Proponent's may elect to participate in the optional Network Capacity Support Assessment, which may result in a higher score in relation to the Renewable Energy Contribution component of MC1, and therefore position of the Bid on the merit assessment Ranked List. This optional assessment covers credible opportunities to increase the renewable energy hosting capacity in a key network location beyond the Project's normal market operations, including the provision of Network Support Services. A Project can be considered credible in this assessment without having entered into or committing to a Network Support Services contract. Further information is provided in the CIS Tender 8 MC1 Market Brief and Tender Guidelines. Proponents must ensure that all information that they submit is complete, accurate, adequate and current and must not provide false or misleading information.</p> <p>For those Successful Proponents who are invited to enter into Project Documents with the Commonwealth under the CIS Tender 8 Process, the binding obligations on that party are set out in the Tender 8 Proforma CISA. Proponents are advised to carefully review the Tender 8 Proforma CISA, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice.</p>
28	MC1	Should discounting be applied when setting the CISA Bid Variables (Annual Floor, Annual Ceiling, and Annual Payment Cap)?	<p>As per MC1 Returnable Schedule tab '3. CISA terms', CISA Bid Variables (Annual Floor, Annual Ceiling and Annual Payment Cap) should be submitted in nominal dollars for each Financial Year. Proponents should therefore not apply any discounting to their CISA Bid Variables.</p>

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 21/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
29	MC1	How should nameplate capacity, as defined in row 54 of the MC1 Returnable Schedule, be interpreted with respect to Registered Capacity as defined in the Tender Guidelines, and Export Capacity as defined in the CISA?	<p>As per the definition in the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines, Registered Capacity is the amount of electrical output that a Project, Staged Project, Hybrid Project or Project Component is designed to produce under ideal conditions. This is the capacity registered or intended to be registered with AEMO.</p> <p>Nameplate capacity, as requested in row 54 of the MC1 Returnable Schedule, refers to the manufacturer rated maximum output of the Project independent of its connection limits. The Project's Export Limit (row 56), as set-out in the CISA, is automatically calculated as the minimum of the nameplate capacity (row 54) and the connection export limit (row 42).</p> <p>We acknowledge that the guidance note in H54 uses the terms nameplate capacity and Registered Capacity interchangeably. The intention is for projects to enter their nameplate capacity which could exceed their Registered Capacity (e.g. when the connection export limit is smaller than the nameplate capacity).</p>

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 21/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
30	MC1	Declared Sent Out Capacity is not requested in the MC1 Returnable Schedule or Bid Questions. Is this a required Bid Variable and should this be the Maximum Capacity of the Project?	<p>Declared Sent Out Capacity is a defined term in the Western Australian Electricity System and Market Rules (ESM Rules) and is not applicable for CIS Tender 8 – NEM Dispatchable Capacity. Proponents should refer to the definition of Maximum Capacity within the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines for the meaning of that term.</p> <p>‘Basis for the Declared Sent Out Capacity (if known)’ is referred to in ‘Table 12 - Supporting Attachments’ in the MC1 Returnable Schedule. This is an inconsistency and the input to Table 12 (row 15) can be left blank. Table 12 is intended to be used for final completeness checks. The MC1 Returnable Schedule can be considered complete with this request for ‘Basis for Declared Sent Out Capacity (if known)’ left blank.</p>

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 23/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
31	MC2	<p>When “No” is selected for “Is your Project an Aggregated Project?” on page 3 of the Bid Form, Section 6.2 becomes visible, but the following guidance note is shown: “This section is not applicable because of your response to question: ‘Is your Project an Aggregated Project?’ on page 3. As your Project is an Aggregated Project, please complete Section 6.4.”</p> <p>Please confirm that this is an error in the Online Portal, and that non-Aggregated Projects should complete section 6.2.</p>	<p>The guidance note in Section 6.2 of the Bid Form for non-Aggregated Project Bids was displaying an incorrect message. This issue has now been resolved. The guidance note in Section 6.2 should no longer appear once the Project Details section has been completed correctly. Non-Aggregated Project Bids must complete Section 6.2 of the Bid Form. Please continue to follow the guidance provided by ‘Response required’ messages within the Bid Form for any mandatory fields missing inputs.</p>
32	MC4 & MC5	<p>Can employment of Underrepresented Groups also include First Nations peoples for the purpose of satisfying the Employment and Workforce criteria, in addition to meeting the requirements set out under the First Nations Participation criteria?</p>	<p>Yes, First Nations peoples can be counted towards ‘Underrepresented Groups’ as per the ‘Employment and Workforce Development’ sub-criteria in MC5, as well as the First Nations participation criteria in MC4.</p>

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 23/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
33	MC4	<p>Are the commitments entered into Table 2 ('First Nations Community Shared Benefits) of the MC 4 and 5 Returnable Schedule counted towards the calculation of the 3% First Nations participation target?</p> <p>For example, can 'First Nations Initiatives' or 'Work Readiness Programs' be included in Table 2 and will they contribute to the overall % target?</p>	<p>Commitments entered into Table 2 – First Nations Community Shared Benefits of the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule do not contribute toward the First Nations participation criteria calculation.</p> <p>The First Nations participation criteria is calculated from one or a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcontracting to First Nations businesses (% of TPCV) • First Nations Employment and Workforce (% of Total [Hybrid] Project Workforce) • First Nations Training and Capacity Building (% of TPCV) <p>If a commitment is intended to count toward the First Nations participation criteria, it must be entered in Table 1.</p> <p>Table 2 captures commitments to additional investment in First Nations initiatives beyond the commitments in Table 1. While only Table 1 commitments count towards the 3% Baseline requirement indicative benchmark for First Nations participation criteria, both Table 1 and Table 2 are considered as part of a holistic assessment of the MC4 objective.</p> <p>As per the instructions on the 'MC4 First Nations Input' tab, Proponents should ensure the cost of commitments entered into Table 1 and Table 2 are distinct and separate.</p>

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 23/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
34	Other: Bid Form	Can Proponents alter project details (such as Proponent or Bid Entity) from the Registration Form to the Bid Form?	Proponents may alter project details in the Bid Form from those that were submitted in the Registration Form, including, but not limited to Proponent and Bid Entity. A Proponent may not amend its Bid after it has been submitted, unless invited or permitted to do so by the Australian Government or AEMO, in accordance with Sections 6.12 or 6.21 of the Tender Guidelines.
35	Eligibility Criteria	Is a project that has already achieved Commercial Operation Date (COD) eligible to participate in CIS Tender 8 if it was not identified as a committed or existing project in AEMO's "NEM October 2024 Generation Information" publication?	Proponents are advised to carefully review the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA to ensure their Project is eligible with all CIS Tender 8 Eligibility Criteria and compliance with Tender Conditions and Bid configuration requirements, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice. Bids that do not meet all Eligibility Criteria are ineligible and will be excluded from this Tender Process.

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 23/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
36	MC4 & MC5	Can Proponents submit a 'best endeavours' commitment that demonstrates credible actions (e.g., training pathways, partnerships, or staged recruitment plans) to meet Merit Criteria workforce expectations, recognising that some workforce types currently do not exist or are not available at the scale required?	<p>The commitments provided in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule will be incorporated into the Proforma CISA Schedule 2 Social Licence Commitments for Successful Proponents who are invited to enter into Project Documents with the Commonwealth under the CIS Tender 8 Process. Schedule 2 commitments will be subject to the reporting and enforcement regimes set out in the Proforma CISA.</p> <p>Where Proponents are unable to meet baseline requirements, as outlined in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule instructions, within Bid Form responses and attached evidence, Proponents should still demonstrate how their commitments have been designed to address local needs and context and, where possible, align with local and regional initiatives and relevant policies (e.g. NSW RESB, Australian Skills Guarantee). All additional 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 MC4&5 Returnable Schedule.</p>

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 23/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
37	Eligibility Criteria	<p>For a NSW Project located within a Special Activation Precinct (SAP), could you advise what the appropriate planning pathway is to demonstrate compliance with EC10?</p> <p>From discussion with the SAP authority (RGDC), we understand that the SAP pathway replaces both the State Significant Development (SSD) and designated development pathways.</p>	<p>Eligibility for CIS Tender 8 under EC10 requires projects to be suitably progressed with the planning application process that applies in the applicable State or Territory. Suitably progressed, for the purpose of EC10, will be determined by reference to the Tender Guidelines Table 7: State/Territory specific requirements for EC10.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the planning pathway for a NSW Project located within a Special Activation Precinct (SAP) is not considered within Table 7. For the Special Activation Precinct pathway, the equivalent evidential requirements to the other pathways currently included in the Tender Guidelines are expected to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation from RGDC that the Activation Precinct Certificate Application has been accepted; and • Where the project is not a 'exempt development' or a 'complying development', as identified in the Activation Precinct Certificate comprehensive guide February 2024, evidence is required that a development application has been lodged in relation to the Project, for assessment as an integrated development under the EP&A Act. <p>Projects located within a NSW SAP that can provide evidence that they are suitably progressed, with reference to the above requirements, may be considered eligible under EC10 for CIS Tender 8.</p>

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 23/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
38	MC3	<p>In Section 7.1 Track Record of the Bid Form, Proponents are asked to provide details for the three most comparable projects delivered and/or operated by the Proponent and/or key delivery partners involved in the Project in the last five years, and to "provide evidence to support your responses above".</p> <p>Could you please provide examples of evidence we might include?</p>	<p>For the question "provide evidence to support your responses above" in section 7.1 of the Bid Form, Proponents should consider the "what is assessed", "characteristics of higher merit" and "required supporting documentation" tables in Section 3 of the Tender Guidelines to determine what information may be included to support or substantiate your Bid Form responses. For evidence provided, reasonable redactions of sensitive information as required is acceptable.</p>

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
39	Eligibility Criteria	Our utility-scale BESS Project will be delivered in multiple stages over time, with each stage capable of operating on a standalone basis. Please clarify whether proponents of multi-stage BESS developments are permitted to submit a bid for only the initial stage of a broader staged project; and how the bid submission forms should be completed in this scenario?	<p>Where the proposed Project represents the first stage of a multi-stage development, the Project (first stage) may meet the requirements to bid as single dispatchable capacity Project for the purposes of the Tender. The Project must independently satisfy all Eligibility Criteria and be clearly described as a separate project within the Bid, without reliance on the delivery of any future stages (which are not assessed in this Tender).</p> <p>Proponents should also consider the provisions in the Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA that may affect the permitted structure and delivery of later stages, including the obligation to notify of a material change in circumstances (section 6.32 of the Tender Guidelines), the Material Alteration regime (clause 10 of the Proforma CISA) and the requirements for the Bid Entity/SPV/Project Operator to conduct no other business (EC2 in the Tender Guidelines and clause 8.6 of the Proforma CISA).</p> <p>Proponents are advised to carefully review the CIS Tender 8 Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA to inform the appropriate bid configuration, and if necessary, seek independent legal advice.</p>

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
40	CISA	<p>To enable proponents to bid accurately, secure financing, and obtain internal approvals, a high degree of contractual certainty is required. Under the current CIS process, proponents must agree to enter into the CISA before receiving confirmation that a capacity swap agreement qualifies as an Eligible Wholesale Contract, and withdrawal at that point may carry significant commercial or legal consequences.</p> <p>Given this, is the Commonwealth able to provide early confirmation—or a clear set of criteria—that would allow proponents to determine whether a capacity swap agreement would be treated as an Eligible Wholesale Contract? Early clarity on this matter is essential for setting accurate bid parameters, including the floor, ceiling, and payment caps.</p>	<p>Regarding the verification of a capacity swap agreement as an Eligible Wholesale Contract under the CIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mechanism in place for verification or approval of any Eligible Wholesale Contract during the Tender Process or before the signing of the CISA. • Please refer to clause 15 of the Proforma CISA and in particular clause 15.4 on verification of Eligible Wholesale Contracts and NSCAS Contracts. It provides that the Commonwealth may, at any time after receiving the information relating to the relevant contract pursuant to clause 15.2(a) or 15.3(a), or becoming aware that it should have received that information, and having regard to any guidance provided by it pursuant to clause 15.1(e) (“Eligibility requirements”), verify whether that contract is an Eligible Wholesale Contract or a NSCAS Contract. The Commonwealth may do such verification in accordance with clause 32.4 (“Right to access and audit”) which provides further details on the process and timeline in respect of the audit exercise. <p>We recommend proponents to seek their own independent legal advice on these matters.</p>

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
41	MC4 & MC5	<p>Can the CAPEX assumptions underpinning our MC4 and MC5 targets differ from the final negotiated CAPEX figures?</p> <p>We intend to set MC4 (First Nations) and MC5 (Social Outcomes) targets using our current CAPEX estimates, but note that these values may shift as commercial negotiations progress.</p> <p>Could you please confirm whether updated CAPEX figures post negotiation would be acceptable, provided that:</p> <p>a) the percentage-based commitments are maintained and;</p> <p>b) any variance is transparently explained in the returnable schedule?</p>	<p>Updated CAPEX figures may be able to be used when finalising MC4 and MC5 commitments, provided the percentage commitments remain unchanged and the variances are transparent and agreed by the Australian Government. Proponents should note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the definition of ‘Total [Hybrid] Project Contract Value’ (shown in the CISA Schedule 2 Output tab within the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule), which includes CAPEX and OPEX components, is described as an estimate as at the Signing Date; and otherwise, costs in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule are to be expressed in real dollars AU\$ as at the Signing Date. <p>Proponents are also reminded of the following in relation to the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All commitments, Project Documents, Bid Forms and Returnable Schedules and supporting documentation submitted as part of a Proponent’s Bid are binding (see section 6.27 of the Tender Guidelines). The commitments provided in the Returnable Schedule will be incorporated into the relevant Project Document(s) of Successful Proponents that are awarded a CISA, subject to any amendments agreed with the Australian Government (see section 5.5 of the Tender Guidelines). Commitments will be subject to contractual monitoring and enforcement regimes under the CISA, should a Proponent be awarded a CISA.

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
42	Other: Bid Configuration	If a Proponent is considering multiple technology solutions, is it possible to submit multiple bids with different configurations for the same Project?	<p>Proponents are not permitted to submit multiple Bids for the same Project on the basis of different technology solutions, nor can multiple configurations of the same Project be submitted and assessed in parallel or independently in CIS Tender 8.</p> <p>Table 2 of the Tender Guidelines outlines that Proponents may only register and submit one Bid per Project. If a Project has multiple potential technology solutions, configurations or designs, the Proponent must select its preferred configuration and design prior to registering and submitting a Bid.</p>
43	MC2	Do the anticipated dates nominated in MC2 responses need to align with the contractual dates specified in the CISA, or can the CISA dates include a buffer relative to MC2 dates?	<p>Proponents are only to manually insert delivery dates into the Reference Details table of the Proforma CISA where the drafting note indicates. Delivery dates, including COD Target Date and COD Subset Date, where the drafting note indicates 'Proponents are not to manually insert these details', will be populated by the Commonwealth (if a Proponent is invited to enter into the Project Documents in respect of the Project) using information provided in the MC1 Returnable Schedule. The COD Target Date inserted into Section 6.1 of the Bid from for the MC2 assessment must align with the date included in the MC1 Returnable Schedule and be the reference COD within submitted Project development plans and schedules for the MC2 assessment.</p> <p>Delivery dates will be subject to contractual monitoring and enforcement regimes under the CISA, should a Proponent be awarded a CISA.</p>

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
44	MC1	In the MC1 Returnable Schedule, it appears that the Tab 7 (CISA Outputs) does not have a formula to transfer Storage Capacity beyond the first Operations Year as entered in Table 6 of the schedule. How will this Storage Capacity be referenced in the CISA?	In the MC1 Returnable Schedule, Tab 7 (CISA Outputs) uses an array formula to capture the appropriate Storage Capacity from Table 6 of the schedule. Proponents are encouraged to ensure all appropriate entries are made including COD Target Date (Table 2) and Support Period (Table 7) to activate this function. Should the values not transfer for any Proponent, the entries provided in Table 6 will be considered as the Proponent's relevant submission for the purposes of completing a proforma CISA.

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
45	MC1	In the MC1 Returnable Schedule, Tab 5 Figure 1 shows a dashed line representing Export Capacity. Furthermore, Figure 2 also references nameplate export capacity which is used to calculate Storage Duration. How would these figures change where the Connection Point Export Limit is lower than the nameplate export capacity of the dispatchable asset?	<p>Tab 5 - 'Figure 1' illustrates the Project's Export Capacity and Storage Capacity over the expected operational guarantee life, while 'Figure 2' demonstrates the Storage Duration over the expected operational guarantee life.</p> <p>The Export Capacity (Figure 1) and nameplate capacity (Figure 2) both relate to Export Capacity as calculated in (Table 4, row 56) of the MC1 Returnable Schedule. This is the lesser of the Connection Point Export Limit (Table 3, row 42) and the nameplate export capacity of the dispatchable asset (Table 4, row 54).</p> <p>However, both metrics currently reflect the nameplate export capacity of the dispatchable asset. In cases where the nameplate capacity is equal to or lower than the Connection Point Export Limit, there is no consequence and Figure 1 and 2 remain accurate. In cases where a Proponent's Connection Point Export Limit is lower than the nameplate export capacity, Figure 1 and 2 are inaccurate as these should refer to the lower value.</p> <p>For the purpose of submission, Proponents are required to complete the nameplate export capacity of the dispatchable asset correctly (Table 4, row 54).</p> <p>To correctly visualise the chart, Proponents may temporarily set the nameplate export capacity (Table 4, row 54) equal to the lower of the correct nameplate export capacity and the Connection Point Export Limit (Table 3, row 42). This would produce charts that accurately reflect the Project's characteristics. Proponents must remember to correct these values prior to submission of the MC1 Returnable Schedule.</p>

Q&A Release 7		Distributed 30/01/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
46	MC1	Should “Project Minimum Hours” in Table 4 of the MC1 Returnable Schedule be equal to the minimum hours of dispatch at full load at COD, or consider the whole Project life and provide the minimum hours subject to degradation?	<p>For the CIS NEM T8 MC1 Returnable Schedule, the ‘Project Minimum Hours’ field in Table 4 should represent the duration for which the Project is able to dispatch its Registered Capacity continuously at COD.</p> <p>EC5, as outlined in the Tender Guidelines, requires the Project to be able to dispatch its Registered Capacity continuously for a minimum duration of 2 hours at COD, to be eligible to participate in CIS Tender 8.</p>

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.

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