



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

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>

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#	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>

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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>

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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.

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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>

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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