



Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender 9: National Electricity Market (NEM) – Generation Q&A Responses

This document provides a compilation of responses to de-identified questions received from Registered Proponents for CIS Tender 9: NEM – Generation (**Tender 9**). 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.

This document also includes the following clarification:

- Clarification #1 published 14 July 2026 – in relation to the MC1 Returnable Schedule (available to registered Proponents via the Online Portal). Please also refer to the mailout sent to Registered Proponents on 14 July 2026. Registered Proponents are advised to take this clarification into account when preparing their Bid.

All responses and correspondence by AEMO regarding the Q&A Process in Tender 9 are subject to the Tender Conditions set out in Section 6 of the [Tender 9 Tender Guidelines](#) (published 25 May 2026).

Important notice: Registered Proponents are reminded of Sections 6.6 (No warranty), 6.5 (No representations), 6.13 (Requests for clarification and further information) and 6.19 (Proponents 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	17/06/2026	Release 1 including 2 responses.
2	25/06/2026	Release 2 including 2 responses.
3	03/07/2026	Release 3 including 2 responses.
4	06/07/2026	Release 4 including 2 responses.
5	14/07/2026	Release 5 including 1 clarification and 7 responses.
6	15/07/2026	Release 6 including 4 responses.

Clarifications

Clarification Release 1		Distributed 14/07/2026
#	Category	Clarification
1	MC1 Returnable Schedule	Important information relating to Tender 9 - Clarification to MC1 Returnable Schedule for Non-Assessed Hybrids A formatting issue has been identified in Table 5(a) of the MC1 Returnable Schedule. Proponents must disregard any formatting that indicates Non-Assessed Hybrid Project details are not required or should not be provided in Rows 76-84 of Column I. Proponents must complete Rows 76–84 of Column I, where relevant, to provide the Non-Assessed Hybrid Project details required for the Reference Details table in the Proforma CISA. Please note that due to the formatting issue, the Non-Assessed Hybrid Project details from Rows 76-84 of Column I will not automatically populate the '7. CISA output' tab within the MC1 Returnable Schedule. The information that is provided in Table 5(a) of the MC1 Returnable Schedule will be incorporated into the relevant Project Document(s) of Successful Proponents that are awarded a CISA.

Bid Q&A

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 17/06/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
1	MC5	Can you please confirm the definition of 'steel' to be applied when calculating the Local Steel percentage under the CIS Tender 9 documentation. Please also clarify whether wind turbine tower sections are included within this definition.	Please refer to the 'MC5 Instructions' tab and the 'CISA Schedule 2A Output' tab of the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule for the definitions of Steel and Locally Milled Steel. Specifically: • 'Steel' is defined as 'all steel intensive components, such as anchor cages, wind turbine tower sections, racking and mounting for solar, transmission towers, piling, and civil and structural works for substations, but excludes steel components integral to a component not available locally at the time of bidding, such as steel inside a solar module, and miscellaneous small hardware items such as nails and bolts'; and • 'Local Milled Steel' is defined as 'Steel that has been milled within the geographic boundaries of Australia and New Zealand'. Accordingly, wind tower turbine sections are explicitly included within the definition of 'Steel' and should be included when calculating the total steel cost base and local steel percentage as set out in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule.

Q&A Release 1		Distributed 17/06/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
2	Project Documents	Regarding clause 32 of the Warranties Form, not all Options (1, 2 and 3) are available for selection. Please confirm whether this is an intended feature of the Warranties Form.	The Warranties Form has been designed such that the Options available for selection for clause 32 are based on the Options selected in clauses 30 and 31. The Warranties Form has been updated to ensure the appropriate options are displayed depending on which option is selected for clauses 30 and 31.

Q&A Release 2		Distributed 25/06/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
3	MC1	Could ASL please explain how the methodology to calculate Forecast Net CISA Cost may include consideration of any Power Purchase Agreement that the Project has signed.	The existence of a PPA is not directly assessed under MC1; however, Proponents may take their specific PPA arrangements into account when determining their Bid Variables MC1 evaluates financial value, system reliability and system benefits using a range of benefit and cost metrics. Please refer to the MC1 Market Briefing note for more information on the assessment of MC1. As outlined in section 1.1 of the Tender Guidelines, Proponents should aim to structure their Bid in a way that it is both: a) competitive, to enhance their prospects of success in this Tender Process; and b) sufficient to enable their Project to reach Financial Close, considering the Project's financing structure, realistic expectations of debt and/or equity requirements, and the technology type proposed. Each Proponent is responsible for determining its Bid Variables considering the above.

Q&A Release 2		Distributed 25/06/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
4	MC4 / First Nations Set Aside	If a Proponent is not yet able to provide binding commitments for First Nations revenue sharing or equity participation, can non-binding information (such as a letter of intent) be submitted as part of the Bid?	Proponents should include any relevant supporting information as part of their Bid to demonstrate their approach to MC4 – First Nations participation and benefits sharing, including in respect of proposed First Nations equity sharing or revenue sharing arrangements. First Nations equity sharing and / or revenue sharing arrangements may be proposed as part of MC4 (under First Nations Community Shared Benefits) and may also be relevant for the First Nations Set Aside should Proponents elect to participate. For more information, please refer to sections 3.1 – Merit Criterion 4 – First Nations participation and benefits sharing and 4.3 – First Nations Set Aside in the Tender Guidelines.

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 03/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
5	Eligibility Criteria 2 (“EC2”)	Does the Bid Entity specified in the Bid need to be owned by the Proponent?	The Bid Entity does not need to be owned by the Proponent, provided that: a) the Bid Entity is incorporated or existing prior to the Bid Closing Date and Time; and b) the Bid Entity is proposed in the Proponent’s Bid. The requirement to comply with the ‘Bid Entity Criteria’ under EC 2 only applies if the Proponent proposes the Bid Entity <i>after</i> submission of a Bid (but prior to execution of Project Documents). In those circumstances, the Bid Entity Criteria specifies certain ownership requirements that must be satisfied at the time the Bid Entity is proposed and at the time of execution of the Project Documents. Where a Proponent does not own the Bid Entity proposed in their Bid, the Proponent should also note the Bid Form questions relating to ownership of the Project and the requirement for the Bid to be a binding bid under Section 6.27 of the Tender Guidelines. Bids which are subject to conditions which prevent the Bid constituting an offer open for acceptance may not be considered to have complied with Section 6.27.

Q&A Release 3		Distributed 03/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
6	Other: Project Details	Can a Proponent submit a Bid for a project as a Hybrid project where the project was not nominated as a Hybrid project at the time of registration?	As outlined in the CIS Tender 9 Registration Form, registration is intended to provide indicative Project and entity details, identify authorised contacts, and indicate the product(s) intended for inclusion in the Bid. As per section 5.1 of the Tender Guidelines, registration must be completed before a Bid may be submitted. A Proponent may subsequently submit a Bid for a Project as a Hybrid Project where the Project was not identified as a Hybrid Project at the time of registration. As outlined in section 5.2.1 of the Tender Guidelines, the Bid Form, relevant Returnable Schedules and supporting documentation submitted at Bid stage form the basis on which satisfaction of the Eligibility Criteria and Merit Criteria is assessed.

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 06/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
7	Eligibility Criteria (“EC9”)	Where a project configuration has changed since a network service provider response to a connection enquiry was obtained, can the original connection enquiry response be provided for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with EC9?	Eligibility Criterion 9 (‘EC9’) requires that, as at the Bid Closing Date and Time, a Project must: - have received a network service provider response to a connection enquiry; - have executed a connection agreement; or - have received a network service provider response to a request to amend an existing connection agreement. Proponents should submit all available documentation relevant to EC9 that demonstrates the network connection pathway for the Project that is the subject of the Bid. Where a Project configuration has changed since a connection enquiry response was obtained, Proponents should provide all available supporting evidence, including communication with the relevant network service provider, demonstrating that the connection pathway remains relevant to, and continues to support, the network connection pathway for the Project that is the subject of the Bid. AEMO may verify compliance with the Eligibility Criteria at any time during the Tender Process and may request further information from a Proponent for the purpose of assessing compliance with the Eligibility Criteria. Proponents are referred to EC9 in section 2 of the Tender Guidelines and section 5.3.1 of the Tender Guidelines for further information regarding Eligibility Criteria compliance and verification.

Q&A Release 4		Distributed 06/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
8	Other: Rebid Projects	How does the Tender Process treat Projects or Proponents that have previously been awarded a CISA but did not execute Project Documents? Further, would this be considered a 'Significant Event' under the Tender Guidelines / CISA?	If a Project has been awarded a CISA under any previous CIS tender process, that Project will be ineligible to participate in CIS Tender 9 (under Eligibility Criteria 11) unless at the Bid Closing Date and Time, the Successful Proponent from the previous tender process has: - formally notified the Australian Government in writing that it has withdrawn from that tender process; or - received formal notification from the Australian Government that the Australian Government has ceased negotiations in relation to that CISA for that previous CIS tender process. Additionally, AEMO may, at its discretion, have regard to a range of factors when developing Recommended Bids as outlined in Section 5.4 of the Tender Guidelines. This includes consideration of a Proponent's or its Related Bodies Corporate's record of executing, or not executing, its binding commitments and entry into the Project Documents with the Australian Government following announcement as a Successful Proponent in a prior CIS tender. Proponents should seek their own independent legal advice in relation to whether a certain event will be considered a "Significant Event" under the provisions in the CIS Tender 9 Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA.

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 14/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
9	Other: Bid Form	The Bid Form contains certain questions that appear to be conditional on the Project's nominated location. Can you please confirm whether Proponents are only required to respond to the questions that are visible in the Bid Form for their Project? Additionally, are there any state-specific questions within the Bid Form that are only displayed when a particular jurisdiction is selected?	Proponents are only required to complete the questions and provide the information that is displayed in the Bid Form based on the characteristics of their nominated Project. The Bid Form includes a number of conditional questions that are displayed only where relevant to a Project's nominated jurisdiction or other Project attributes. For example, certain questions relating to Victorian Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) and the Victorian Access Regime are only applicable to Projects located in Victoria and will not be displayed for Projects located in other jurisdictions. The Bid Form is designed so that Proponents are presented with the questions relevant to their Project. Different jurisdictions may have different requirements reflected in the Bid Form, including in relation to planning and approvals requirements.
10	Eligibility Criteria ("EC9")	Can you please clarify the intended operation of Eligibility Criterion 9 ('EC9')? In particular, is a Project required to satisfy one or all of the conditions listed in paragraphs (i), (ii) or (iii)?	A Project satisfies Eligibility Criterion 9 ("EC9") if it meets any <i>one</i> of the conditions set out in paragraphs (i), (ii) or (iii). That is, Proponents may demonstrate compliance through whichever limb is applicable to their Project.
11	MC4&5	Can ASL clarify the period that should be used when calculating post-COD workforce hours and operational expenditure (OPEX) inputs in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule? In particular, should this information reflect the expected life of the Project or only the term of the CISA?	As per the 'MC4 Instructions' and 'MC5 Instructions' tabs in the MC4&5 Returnable Schedule, 'Total [Hybrid] Project Workforce' (TPW) is defined as 'the total working hours that the Proponent will engage to deliver the [Hybrid] Project. a) in the case of pre-COD (hours), the total working hours that the Proponent will engage to achieve COD; and

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 14/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
			b) in the case of post-COD (hours), the total working hours that the Proponent will engage between the period of achieving COD until the end of the life of the Project’. Accordingly with regards to TPW post-COD hours, Proponents should provide information based on the life of the Project rather than limiting the response to the CISA support period.
12	MC2	Can you please clarify the information Proponents are expected to provide in response to the Victorian project-specific question: "Describe how the Project will manage its network connection and, if applicable, meet the requirements of the relevant REZ Access Scheme, including any necessary access authorities. Provide expected dates for key milestones and outline any achievements to date"?	This question in the Bid form is intended to address the requirements of section 4.5.2 of the Tender Guidelines. As stated in section 4.5.2 all Victorian Projects must demonstrate (under MC2) how the Project is expecting to comply with the relevant requirements of the Victorian Access Regime. This includes requirements related to: - the REZ Access Scheme for Projects seeking to connect to network infrastructure within a Proposed Victorian REZ; or - Grid Impact Assessments, for Projects seeking to connect to network infrastructure outside a Proposed Victorian REZ or with technologies not covered under the Victorian Access Regime. Accordingly, Proponents should ensure that the information provided in response to this question in the Bid Form is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Victorian Access Regime requirements described in section 4.5.2 of the Tender Guidelines.

Q&A Release 5		Distributed 14/07/2026	
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13	MC1	We have selected our project as a solar hybrid in the MC1 Returnable Schedule, however, notice that in tab 4, Table 11.3 is greyed out. Are Proponents expected to input this information for solar hybrid projects?	Table 11.3 of the MC1 Returnable Schedule is used to provide the DC Profile for DC-coupled generation component(s) only. Proponents are only required to complete this table where the proposed Project includes a DC-coupled arrangement. For Hybrid Projects, the MC1 Returnable Schedule uses the technology and coupling type selections made by the Proponent in Tables 4 and 5(a) to determine which sections are applicable. In this circumstance, Proponents should ensure that 'Solar PV' has been selected in cell I51 of Table 4 and that 'DC-coupled' has been selected in cell I91 of Table 5(a). Table 11.3 is only applicable where a DC-coupled configuration has been selected.
14	MC1	Our DC nameplate rating of the generation asset of our project differs to the maximum transfer capacity at the point of connection. Referring to Table 4 of Project Details sheet in the CIS Tender 9 MC1 Returnable Schedule Excel file, could ASL please advise which value should be used as the nameplate rating of the generation asset for the Project?	Table 4 of the MC1 Returnable Schedule is used to provide technology-specific Project specifications. For Solar PV Projects, proponents should provide the following inputs in Table 4: - the effective nameplate capacity in MW (AC) in cell I53; and - the maximum DC capacity in MW (DC) in cell I62.
15	MC1	Could ASL please update the MC1 Returnable Schedule such that non-assessed hybrid details are able to be included within Table 5a of the Project details tab, and subsequently be shown on the CISA Output tab correctly (for the Associated Project details items 5-9).	Please refer to clarification #1 above and the mailout sent to Proponents on 14 July 2026 regarding completion of the MC1 Returnable Schedule for Non-Assessed Hybrid Projects.

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 15/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
16	Project Documents	For a hybrid project, if the project operator has entered into an offtake arrangement that does not meet the criteria for an Eligible Wholesale Contract because it is structured as a shaped, firming, or energy-shifting product rather than a generation-following profile, how is that arrangement intended to be treated under the CIS? In particular, where the contract value reflects the combined output and flexibility of both the generating asset and the co-located battery, and there is no straightforward basis to apportion value between the two assets, could you clarify whether: - the CIS settlement would exclude that contract from Eligible Wholesale Contract treatment; - the relevant contracted quantities would instead be treated as spot or uncontracted revenue for CISA purposes; or - the arrangement could be treated as Other Market Revenue, even though part of its value is attributable to the battery? It would also be helpful to understand if the Commonwealth expects proponents to adopt a specific apportionment methodology in this type of case.	Proponents should seek independent legal advice on questions concerning the application of the Proforma CISA to their particular circumstances. Please refer to clause 15 of the Proforma CISA for guidance on the criteria for determining whether a Wholesale Contract is an Eligible Wholesale Contract. Clause 15(a)(i)(B) provides that a contract that relates to electricity must have a generation-following profile, in order to be an Eligible Wholesale Contract. If the offtake arrangement is not an Eligible Wholesale Contract, the Notional Quantity from the Project will be used to calculate Spot Market Revenue (or Uncontracted Spot Market Revenue, if there are other Eligible Wholesale Contracts), for the purposes of the Quarterly Net Operational Revenue and the Annual Net Operational Revenue calculations in Schedule 1 of the proforma CISA. The Commonwealth may decide to waive the Eligible Wholesale Contract eligibility requirements, in accordance with clause 15.1(c). The Project Operator may request a waiver under clause 15.2(a).

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 15/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
17	Eligibility Criteria ("EC11")	For projects that are subject to an existing CISA or similar arrangement, could you please confirm the process requirements that would need to be satisfied for the project to be eligible to participate in CIS Tender 9?	Per Eligibility Criterion 11 "EC11" of the Tender Guidelines, a CISA in respect of the Project, the Existing Project (if it is a Staged Project), or the Associated Project (if it is a Hybrid Project) must not have been: a) executed under any previous CIS tender process; or b) awarded under any previous CIS tender process, unless at the Bid Closing Date and Time, the Successful Proponent from a previous tender process has formally notified the Australian Government in writing that it has withdrawn from that tender process or has received formal notification from the Australian Government that the Australian Government has ceased negotiations in relation to that CISA for that previous CIS tender process. Proponents with Projects that have been successful in previous CIS tender rounds are encouraged to contact their nominated Australian Government representative with respect to the specifics of their Project and CISA status.

Q&A Release 6		Distributed 15/07/2026	
#	Category	Question	Answer
18	Project Documents	Due to the technical design of our Hybrid Project configuration and metering arrangement, our Hybrid Project configuration cannot meet the accuracy requirements specified by AEMO for meters under clause 4.2 of the Proforma CISA. Can ASL please clarify if an alternative metering arrangement would be acceptable?	Clause 4.2 of the Proforma CISA sets out the metering requirements applicable to Hybrid and Staged Projects. Proponents are responsible for ensuring that their proposed metering arrangements comply with all requirements of clause 4.2 of the Proforma CISA. When submitting a Bid, Proponents are encouraged to obtain independent technical and legal advice on whether their Project configuration, including their metering arrangements, meets the requirements of the Tender Guidelines and Proforma CISA. Proponents' Bids should only include departures from the proforma Project Documents that are strictly necessary for the unique technical requirements of the Project. Proponents should consider the impacts of changing the proposed risk and administrative position in the proforma Project Documents. 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.

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#	Category	Question	Answer
19	Project Documents	For Hybrid Projects, how will AP Redirected Quantities in Schedule 1, Item 3.11 of the Proforma CISA be determined where an Associated Project is capable of importing electricity from both the Project and the Network? Will the methodology used to determine AP Redirected Quantities be made available prior to execution of the CISA?	The methodology for determining AP Redirected Quantities is a matter for Commonwealth determination during the term of the CISA and accordingly cannot be confirmed as a part of this Q&A process. Proponents should seek independent legal advice on questions concerning the application of the Proforma CISA to their particular circumstances.

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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