FACTSHEET

New England REZ Access Fees — Existing Network

HAVE YOUR SAY

What is this consultation about?



AusEnergy Services Limited (ASL), acting as the NSW Consumer Trustee, is consulting on its proposed approach to determining access fees under section 26 of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (NSW).

The consultation covers two parts of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Access Scheme:

- the **Early Access Allocation** for eligible projects seeking Access Rights to connect to the existing 330 kV Access Rights Network, and
- the **Access Control Network** for eligible projects seeking access consent to connect to the 132 kV network.

This consultation is for the existing network only and does not include projects connecting to the New England REZ Network Infrastructure Project.

ASL's role

ASL determines the fees payable by Access Scheme participants to the Scheme Financial Vehicle. In doing so, ASL must act independently, in the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity customers, and have regard to the requirements of the EII Act and EII Regulation.

ASL does not design or administer the Access Scheme, set eligibility criteria, allocate network access, grant Access Rights or access consent, or manage the contracts supporting the scheme. These functions sit with EnergyCo as Infrastructure Planner.

What ASL is proposing

Early Access Allocation—330 kV Access Rights Network	Access Control Network—132 kV network
Proposed total annual fee before the Transfer Capacity Benefits Date: about $2,778/MW Community purpose: ~$1,809/MW Employment purpose: ~$639/MW Administration costs: ~$330/MW	**Proposed total annual fee: about $2,606/MW** Community purpose: ~$1,809/MW Employment purpose: ~$639/MW Administration costs: ~$158/MW
From the Transfer Capacity Benefits Date, the total annual fee increases to $4,257/MW a year An Access Rights Benefits component of about $1,479/MW would be added when the relevant contractual milestone is reached and TTCL-related benefits are expected to become available.	**No Access Scheme Benefits component proposed** Projects on this network are not expected to materially benefit from the New England RNIP transfer capacity and do not benefit from a cap on connections or a Target Transmission Curtailment Level.

These amounts are indicative. ASL may change the proposed approach or fee amounts after considering stakeholder submissions, advice from the Employment Purpose Advisory Committee and information provided by EnergyCo. Fees would be calculated using each project's Maximum Capacity. The indicative amounts are stated as at 1 January 2027 and would be indexed by 0.625 per cent each quarter—approximately 2.5 per cent a year—from that date.

How the decision will be made

A transparent, evidence-based process focused on the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity customers

1	**Approach Paper**	**ASL publishes its proposed fee structure, methodology and indicative fee amounts.**
2	**Consultation**	Stakeholders provide evidence and views on the value, level, structure and implementation of the proposed fees.
3	**Assessment**	ASL considers stakeholder submissions, EPAC advice, EnergyCo information, the statutory fee-setting principles and the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity customers.
4	**Independent decision**	The ASL Board, acting as the Consumer Trustee, independently determines the final access fees.
5	**Publication**	ASL publishes the final Access Fee Determinations and Statement of Reasons, including how stakeholder submissions were considered.

Consultation questions

1. For projects planning to connect to the Access Rights Network, how valuable is holding an access right to your project?
2. For projects planning to connect to the Access Rights Network, what are the most significant benefits, and the most significant costs, of participating in the access scheme and compared to connecting under open access?
3. For projects planning to connect to the Access Rights Network, what is the expected impact of the proposed access fee on your project?
4. Should access fees for the early access allocation be broadly consistent with the access fees determined for the South West REZ access scheme, or is a different level appropriate? Why?
5. Should the community purpose and employment purpose components of access fees be set above the prescribed minimum? Why?
6. Are there implementation matters (including notification, billing or contractual arrangements) that ASL should have regard to?
7. For projects intending to connect to the Access Control Network, what costs or benefits do you anticipate compared to connection under open access?
8. For projects planning to connect to the Access Control Network, what is the expected impact of the proposed access fee on your project?
9. Should the community purpose and employment purpose components for the Access Control Network be set at the same level as for the early access allocation, or at a higher or lower level? What factors should ASL take into account?

HAVE YOUR SAY

Submissions close: **19 November 2026**

Make a submission: **asl.org.au/resources/ne-rez**

Questions: **engagement@asl.org.au**

Scope note: This consultation covers Access Fees for projects connecting to the existing transmission and subtransmission network in the New England REZ. It does not cover Access Fees for future allocations of Access Rights to projects connecting to the proposed New England REZ Network Infrastructure Project. ASL will consult separately on those fees following any decision to authorise the New England RNIP. Nothing in this factsheet limits or fetters ASL's statutory discretion.