

Q&A Responses

16 October 2025 Webinar

Tender Round 7



ASL is publishing this document to provide written answers to questions received in the Tender Round 7 webinar Q&A session on 16 October 2025.

A significant volume of questions were received in the Tender Round 7 webinar. Due to this, all questions were not able to be answered in the allocated time. Table 1 below outlines all questions received during the Tender Round 7 webinar and the associated responses. Duplicate questions have been consolidated. All further questions for ASL with respect to Tender Round 7 should be directed through the formal Q&A process which is available after registering for the tender.

Tender Round 7 is currently live. Proponents are required to adhere to the communication protocols outlined in section 5.40 of the [Tender Guidelines](#).

Important notice: These responses are for information purposes only. They do not necessarily represent the views of the decision maker for and on behalf of the Consumer Trustee (being the board of ASL) and should not be construed as binding the Consumer Trustee or limiting its statutory discretion. These responses are not intended to provide any advice. These responses may include assumptions about future policy outcomes and generalisations. They may not include important qualifications, details or legal requirements. The Consumer Trustee does not guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of any information contained in these responses and (to the maximum extent permitted by law) will not accept any responsibility for any loss caused by reliance on them.

To the extent of any inconsistency between these Q&A responses and the content of the Tender Guidelines, the Tender Guidelines will prevail.

Table 1 Q&A Responses

Question	Response
1. What is the COD cutoff date?	Projects must be able to demonstrate that they will be operational by 30 November 2027. This is to ensure that Projects successful in this Tender Round can contribute towards the EST capacity shortfall forecast in summer 2027-2028, identified in the 2024 ESTM Report. For more information, please see Merit Criteria 2 in Section 4.2 of the Tender Guidelines.
2. My Project can be modified to run at varying capacity or duration. Can Projects be configured this way, or can I submit a Bid with different options in it?	Proponents must register and submit one set of configurations per Project. Projects with multiple potential configurations or designs (such as capacity or storage duration) should select the preferred configuration prior to registering and submitting a Bid as outlined in Section 3.1.2 – Registration of the Tender Guidelines.
3. My Project is not in the SNW sub-region, but I am in NSW. Am I still able to participate?	While participation is open to all Projects in the NSW region of the NEM, priority will be given to Projects located in the SNW sub-region and to those in areas with relatively high Locational Reliability Factors in the near term. For more information, please see Merit Criteria 1 in Section 4.2 of the Tender Guidelines.
4. My Project was awarded an LTESA contract in a different storage round. Can I still bid?	Participating Projects cannot have previously been awarded an LTESA as per EC3 outlined in section 4.1.1 of the Tender Guidelines.
5. My Project consists of some batteries that are under 5 MW and therefore they don't all need a CER, am I still allowed to bid?	As per Section 3.4 of the Tender Guidelines there are special assessment considerations for Aggregated Projects – including the removal of the requirement to provide a CER. Instead, Aggregated Projects should provide relevant agreements with the NSP for each component (or the most similar documentation). For more information, please see Section 3.4 of the Tender Guidelines.
6. Am I still able to participate if my Demand Response Project is already registered in the WDRM but I do not receive any financial support?	As per Section 3.4 of the Tender Guidelines, participating Projects cannot already be scheduled in the WDRM or participating in the NSW Peak Demand Response Scheme (PDRS).
7. My Demand Response Project will have minimal community impact – do I still need to respond to MC4 at all?	As per Section 3.1.1 of the Tender Guidelines, all Proponents are required to submit a complete and accurate Bid to avoid their Bid being assessed as Non-Compliant. However, Proponents should note that the Tender Guidelines outline special assessment considerations for Demand Projects (e.g. removal of the requirement to provide a Community Engagement Plan) in Sections 3.4 and 4.2.
8. Can I get a firming LTESA for an Aggregated Project which consists of both batteries and gas peaker plants?	For the purposes of this Tender Round, an Aggregated Project must consist of components of the same technology type. Please refer to Section 3.4 of the Tender Guidelines.
9. I have a hybrid Project with both a solar and battery storage element. Do both generation	As per Section 3.4 of the Tender Guidelines, Proponents may submit an assessed or non-assessed Hybrid Bid. To be assessed as a Hybrid Project in MC1 (i.e. to have the benefits of the generation component considered in assessment), a Proponent must commit to deliver both components of the Hybrid Project under the PDA by 30 November 2027.

Question	Response
and storage components need to be up and running by November 2027?	
10. When will the Tender Process Deed get released?	The Tender Process Deed is available on the ASL website .
11. Under MC4 (Social Value), in all the relevant questions what is the definition of “Local”? (i.e. Within km radius; NSW; Australia)?	Local Content means goods, services, and resources produced, manufactured, or supplied within Australia and New Zealand, as defined in the MC4 Returnable Schedule.
12. Can the Energy Security Corporation support these deals with low-cost debt? They say they can, but your slide guidance suggests otherwise.	<p>ASL is unable to answer this question on behalf of the Energy Security Corporation.</p> <p>From a Tender Round 7 eligibility perspective, participating Projects cannot be in receipt of multiple avenues of revenue support from government programmes such as the LTESA or the CIS program, as per the Eligibility Criteria outlined in Section 4.1.1 of the Tender Guidelines.</p>
13. The initial market briefing noted that the tender size was indicative and based on derated capacity. Is this still the case?	The tender size is indicative because the Consumer Trustee may exercise discretion to recommend a greater or lesser volume of LTESAs than the indicative size of 500MW as per the Infrastructure Investment Objectives (IIO) Report (2025), and where consistent with the EII Act, to address the forecast reliability gap in the ESTM Report.