

# Q&A Responses

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 Webinar

Tender Round 8



## **ASL is publishing this document to provide written answers to questions received in the NSW Roadmap Tender Round 8 webinar Q&A session on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.**

A significant volume of questions were received in the Tender Round 8 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 8 webinar and the associated responses. Duplicate questions have been consolidated. All further questions for ASL with respect to Tender Round 8 should be directed through the formal Q&A process which is available after registering for the tender.

Tender Round 8 is currently live. Proponents are required to adhere to the communication protocols outlined in Section 5.41 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.

#	Question	Answer
1	If a hybrid project has a BESS with less than four hours' duration, can it still participate in Tender Round 8?	Yes, if the project otherwise meets the Eligibility Criteria. However, as outlined in Section 2.3 and Table 7 of the Tender Guidelines, a BESS with less than 4 hours at COD is not eligible for the Hybrid Generation LTESA. It can only bid under the Generation LTESA structure as either an Assessed Hybrid or Non-Assessed Hybrid Project.
2	If a project can bid for both LTESA types, how should it choose between them?	Proponents should choose the structure that best fits the project configuration, storage duration, operational approach, financing needs and delivery obligations. For eligible Assessed Hybrid projects, this may include bidding the Generation LTESA product as the Default Bid and the Hybrid Generation LTESA as the Alternative Bid. An Alternative Bid can vary permitted Bid Variables, but it cannot be used to change the underlying Project configuration — whether the two Bids are for the same product or different products.
3	For the Hybrid Generation LTESA, what does it mean that storage export capacity must not exceed generation export capacity?	If a Proponent is bidding for the Hybrid Generation LTESA, the storage export capacity must be less than or equal to the generation export capacity, as measured (in AC) at the connection point. Proponents should ensure that the relative sizing requirement is reflected consistently across the Bid form, connection information and Project Documents.
4	For an Assessed Hybrid Project, do both the generation and storage components need to reach COD?	Assessed Hybrid Projects are assessed on the merit and benefits of both the generation and storage components and as such the Projects are contractually obligated to deliver both as stated in Sections 2.3 and 4.2.2 of the Tender Guidelines. COD Conditions under the Project Documents will require both the generation and storage assets to be operational to unlock the ability to exercise options.
5	How does settlement differ between the Generation LTESA and Hybrid Generation LTESA?	The Generation LTESA is settled against sent-out generation. The Hybrid Generation LTESA is settled against sent-out net exports and includes a price risk sharing mechanism. The Hybrid Generation LTESA reflects the combined operation of the generation and storage assets and is designed to relate to the operation of the two components acting together in response to similar price signals.
6	Are separate documents needed if bidding both the Generation LTESA and Hybrid Generation LTESA?	Separate Project Documents are required for the Default and Alternative Bid whether bidding for the same or different products in a Proponent's Bid as set out in Sections 3.2.3 and 3.4.1 of the Tender Guidelines. Note that the Project Documents submitted for a default and an alternative bid may be identical (excluding bid variables). The Guidelines also require separate MC1 Returnable Schedules for the Alternative Bid where relevant.
7	Can existing operational solar farm add a new BESS and bid the combined facility for a Hybrid Generation LTESA?	This Tender Round is for new generation infrastructure only as stated in Section 1.3.1 of the Tender Guidelines. The storage capacity portion of a Hybrid Project is not considered as generation infrastructure because it does not contribute to the achievement of the tender size. As such, a Project which consists of only new BESS added to existing generation infrastructure would be ineligible to bid.

#	Question	Answer
		<p>Section 3.2.5 of the Tender Guidelines states that if a Proponent proposes a Staged Project, then the Project must exclude the existing generation or hybrid asset for the purposes of eligibility and merit assessment, must increase the energy delivered to the NSW energy system, and cannot consist only of additional BESS.</p>
8	<p>How will ASL assess a Project's proposed COD in Tender 8?</p>	<p>Projects should nominate a COD that is credible. The Tender Guidelines make clear that a credible pathway to the elected COD is critical and will be assessed under MC2. Section 3.4 of the Tender Guidelines outline that achievement of the development pathway set out in the IIO report will be considered when shortlisting projects. As such, a COD before 2030 may be preferred because it contributes to meeting the minimum generation objective under the EII Act. However, an earlier COD will only be valuable if the delivery pathway is credible. A Project with a pre-2030 COD but weak delivery evidence may not perform as well as a Project with a later COD and a stronger, more credible pathway.</p>
9	<p>Why has the Generation LTESA swap period been reduced from two years to one year?</p>	<p>The Generation LTESA Swap Period has been reduced from two years to one financial year. As explained in Section 2.2 of the Tender Guidelines, this change is intended to provide LTES Operators with greater flexibility through the contract term and increase the value of the LTESA option.</p>
10	<p>How does negative price treatment differ between the Generation LTESA and Hybrid Generation LTESA?</p>	<p>In the Hybrid Generation LTESA, for trading intervals where the Floating Price (which is the NSW spot price) is less than zero, the Notional Quantity is then deemed to be zero. That is, the volume of the swap is set to zero. In the Generation LTESA, during these same periods where Floating Price is below zero, then the Floating Price is deemed to be zero which limits the extent of swap payments.</p>
11	<p>What are the key changes to the Generation LTESA since Tender Round 4?</p>	<p>Key changes include the shorter one-year Swap Period and repayment mechanism for Operators and Early Termination Amount mechanism, all of which we see as being more favourable for Proponents and hopefully helping to drive competitive bidding as described in Section 2.2, Table 3 of the Tender Guidelines. Proponents should review the T8 Project Documents carefully before submitting departures or bid variables. We have also provided a compare version of the Project Documents from this Tender against the proforma for Tender Round 4 to assist Proponents understand the changes since the last Generation LTESA tender.</p>
12	<p>For a hybrid project with a joint LDS and non-assessed hybrid Generation bid, what happens if only 1 of the bids are successful, are they jointly assessed?</p>	<p>Hybrid Projects can bid into the Tender Round 8 and 9 concurrently, where the Generation and Storage components of their project are able to be split out into two separate Projects for the purposes of Generation Tender Round 8 and LDS Tender Round 9. These Projects will need to individually and separately meet the requirements of, and progress as a Non-assessed Hybrid Project in, the relevant tender. In this instance, the Generation Project and the Storage Projects would not be assessed together but separately in Tender Round 8 and 9 respectively. This could result in only one of the Projects that make up the hybrid project being awarded. The Consumer Trustee recommends Proponents consider how the Tender Round 8 and Tender Round 9 Project Documents would interact with a single connection point, should both Projects be awarded an LTESA. Such amendments to the Generation and LDS LTESAs should be reflected in the Project Documents provided in the respective Bids.</p>

#	Question	Answer
13	Is there a 95% steel local content mandate on the steel substructure for utility scale solar in this tender round?	<p>Proponents should consider the RESB Plan requirements, as summarised in the Social Value Market Briefing Note, including the use of locally milled steel where appropriate.</p> <p>Local content commitments are assessed as part of Merit Criteria 4, which looks at both quantitative commitments and qualitative inputs. In particular, the Local Needs Analysis informs quality and confidence factors—so stronger bids clearly demonstrate how commitments are shaped by local context, supported by evidence, and backed by credible delivery pathways and track record.</p> <p>Importantly, commitments captured in tabs 4-8 of the MC4 Returnable Schedule are mandatory and become contractually binding on award.</p>
14	Can you please give some more guidance on what is required to meet the “outstanding merit” requirement for non REZ projects?	<p>Section 48 of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (NSW) provides that the Consumer Trustee can only recommend an LTESA for a generation Project that relates to generation infrastructure outside the geographic boundary of a REZ if it shows ‘Outstanding Merit’. Per clause 26A of the Electricity Investment Regulation 2020 (NSW) (EII Regulations), this means a circumstance where the Consumer Trustee is satisfied the LTESA shows more merit than other LTESAs for generation infrastructure recommended by it. Clause 26A of the EII Regulations also states that in considering Outstanding Merit for generation infrastructure that is not part of a REZ, “the Consumer Trustee must take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity customers;</li> <li>• how the LTESA contributes to achieving the infrastructure investment objectives;</li> <li>• the non-financial value criteria of the LTESA; and</li> <li>• the impact of the generation infrastructure under the LTESA on congestion in the NSW region.”</li> </ul> <p>Proponents should address the published Eligibility Criteria and Merit Criteria and provide clear evidence of how the Project performs against those matters.</p>
15	If say 3 GW was awarded in this tender, would the target for the next tender round be say 2 GW? Ie is the sum of the two rounds 5 GW or can this be increased	<p>The Consumer Trustee’s 2025 Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report (IIO) sets an ambitious development pathway for NSW—a stretch target of 16 GW of new generation by 2030. Tender Round 8 has an indicative target of 2.5 GW (or 7,000 GWh) of eligible generation infrastructure and the Consumer Trustee intends to set the same indicative 2.5 GW target for another Generation Infrastructure tender launching end-2026.</p> <p>Where consistent with requirements in the EII Act, the Consumer Trustee may exercise discretion to recommend a greater or lesser volume of LTESAs than the indicative size as set out in the IIO Report. Proponents should refer to the published Tender Guidelines and any formal ASL announcements for future tender information.</p>

#	Question	Answer
16	The proforma LTESA considers Repayment of Access Fee. Please clarify how this will impact a project in NE REZ connecting to existing Access Right network?	<p>The Repayment of an Access Fee in the proforma LTESA relates to a circumstance where a) the SFV is satisfied that, at Tender Date, the LTES Operator reasonably expected that it would not be required to pay Access Fees and b) a change of law has occurred after Tender Date where the LTES Operator becomes required to pay the Access Fees to the SFV.</p> <p>As noted in the LTESA, this clause is intended to provide comfort to a project connecting to existing infrastructure in a REZ which subsequently becomes subject to an access scheme declaration that it will not become subject to access fees, but if it does, they will be repaid by the SFV under the LTESA.</p>
17	What are the differences between restrictions on entering into offtake agreements between the Generation and Hybrid Generation LTESA?	<p>In comparison to the Generation LTESA, the Hybrid Generation LTESA includes additional requirements with regards to eligible offtake contracts. These requirements stem from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the fact that the Hybrid Generation LTESA is settled based on the Project's Sent Out Net Exports (i.e. considering charging and export behaviour), measured at the connection point in comparison to the Generation LTESA which is settled on Sent Out Generation.</li> <li>• The broader range of Offtake contracts that a hybrid project may enter into than a standalone generation project.</li> </ul> <p>Proponents should refer to clause 4.3 of the Hybrid Generation LTESA, which clarifies requirements with respect to the proportion of Actual Export Capacity that can be contracted under an Offtake Contract in a Swap Period and use of best endeavours to maximise market revenues irrespective of offtake agreements Operators may have entered into.</p> <p>Regarding the Generation LTESA, a strict requirement that total contracting (including other offtake agreements) be capped at 100% of the Project's capacity is not imposed. Rather, the LTESA applies only to the Swap Percentage in a given Swap Period. The Swap Percentage is the proportion of generation covered by the Generation LTESA in any given swap period and is determined by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contracted Percentage</b> – the share of the Project's output that is covered under the Generation LTESA (set at bid stage). This affects swap payments and repayments.</li> <li>• <b>Nominated Percentage</b> – the portion of that maximum share of the Project's output the Proponent elects to nominate for a specific swap year (set in the Exercise Notice when the option is exercised and must be one of 25/50/75/100 percent). This affects swap payments.</li> <li>• <b>Swap Percentage</b> – calculated as Contracted Percentage × Nominated Percentage.</li> </ul>

#	Question	Answer
		<p>An LTES Operator can therefore optimise its Swap Percentage alongside its other offtake and hedging arrangements to achieve an appropriate overall revenue position for each year during the Generation LTESA term.</p>
18	<p>For hybrid, are BESS imports during negative price periods treated as zero volumes for the purpose of LTESA settlement? Or is that just for exports.</p>	<p>Under Schedule 2 Item 3.5 ('Negative Price Events') of the Hybrid Generation LTESA, the Notional Quantity during a Negative Pricing Event is taken to be 0 MWh. That is, the volume of the swap (which may relate to the export or import of electricity) is set to zero in a Negative Pricing Event.</p>
19	<p>Projects that have won but not signed a CIS can bid into the LTESA. Is there any consideration to CIS winners when awarding an LTESA?</p>	<p>A project must not in receipt of financial support in the form of project capital support, periodic payments or revenue underwriting from State or Commonwealth government as stated in Section 4.1.1.4 of the Tender Guidelines. This includes, without limitation, any Capacity Investment Scheme Agreements (CISAs). This means Projects cannot hold both an executed LTESA and an executed CISA.</p> <p>Section 5.36 of the Tender Guidelines also outlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a Project has an executed LTESA or CISA, and wants to participate in this Tender Round, the executed LTESA or CISA needs to be terminated before the Bid Submission Date and Time.</li> <li>• A Project that has been awarded a CISA, but has not executed it, is eligible to participate this Tender Round.</li> </ul>
20	<p>Are proponents permitted to vary the Contracted Capacity for each FY under an Alternative Bid? Or does this need to be fixed?</p>	<p>Contracted Export Capacity is a Bid Variable and is expected to be a single value across the LTESA contract term. If a Proponent wishes to vary the volume of Project contracted to the LTESA and during swap periods, they could consider the flexibility provided through Contracted Percentage and Nominated Percentage. Notional Quantity under the LTESA scales with Swap Percentage, which is the product of Contracted Percentage and Nominated Percentage.</p> <p>Proponents nominate a Contracted Percentage as a Bid Variable set upfront in a Bid. The Contracted Percentage may differ between the Default and Alternative Bid but does not change over the LTESA term.</p> <p>An LTES Operator provides a Nominated Percentage (one of 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%) in its Exercise Notice for an upcoming swap and this may be different for each swap period.</p>
21	<p>For a Hybrid Generation LTESA, are separate DUIDs required for the generation and storage components, and can net sent out energy for settlement / assessment be calculated using multiple DUIDs or special metering arrangements, including where the storage export capacity is higher than the generation export capacity?</p>	<p>For the Hybrid Generation LTESA, the LTESA requires the LTES Operator to be a special purpose vehicle established for the sole purpose of carrying on the Project, and own the Project, including all assets, legal rights and Authorisations reasonably required to carry on the Project.</p> <p>Proponents are encouraged to consider the following clauses from the Hybrid Generation PDA and LTESA respectively.</p> <p>Clause 5.2 (a)(i) (Hybrid project connection and metering) of the Hybrid Generation PDA:</p>

#	Question	Answer
		<p>(a) LTES Operator must ensure that:</p> <p>(i) the Generation Project and the Storage Project are connected to the Network through a single “connection point” (as defined in the NER); ...</p> <p>Part 4, Clause 4.2 (Registration) of the Hybrid Generation LTESA:</p> <p>(a) On and from the Commercial Operations Date, LTES Operator must ensure that either:</p> <p>(i) each of the DUIDs of the Generation Project and the Storage Project are registered for “aggregated dispatch conformance” (as defined in the NER); or</p> <p>(ii) the Generation Project and the Storage Project are otherwise configured and registered such the Project responds to dispatch signals in an aggregate manner...</p>
22	Can a portion of the capacity of the BESS/PV be bid?	<p>For a Generation or Hybrid Generation LTESA, the Bid can relate to some, or all, of the Project’s capacity through the Contracted Percentage.</p> <p>For a Hybrid Generation LTESA, the Bid must still meet the Hybrid Generation LTESA requirements, including relative sizing, connection and registration requirements.</p>
23	Why does ASL require proponents to bid a Default bid in a restrictive structure?	The Default Bid provides a more consistent basis for assessment across Projects. The Alternative Bid pathway gives Proponents flexibility to vary permitted Bid Variables, where allowed by the Tender Guidelines.
24	Regarding BCR, how are wholesale benefits assessed? Say there are say 4 different projects, similar scale, similar area but different market modelling driving outcomes.	<p>BCR is calculated as the ratio between Wholesale Market Benefits and Net LTESA Costs. Wholesale Market Benefits for each Project are forecast based on the difference in cost of meeting NSW electricity demand between a Project-specific Case and the same Counterfactual Case. Net LTESA Cost is determined by applying the LTESA payment mechanics with each Bid’s Bid Variables and each Project’s forecast revenues.</p> <p>Wholesale Market Benefits are based on electricity market modelling and consider project parameters for the Project. Proponents should refer to the <a href="#">MC1 Market Briefing Note</a> for further information on how Wholesale Market Benefits is forecast and the impact of project parameters on Wholesale Market Benefits outcomes.</p>
25	Will there be any preferential treatment for projects that have been awarded REZ Access Rights, in ASL’s assessment?	For a project located in South West REZ and connecting to REZ infrastructure, a project must hold the relevant Access Right and satisfy the exceptional circumstances applied by ASL for this tender to be eligible under EC 3. For Tender Round 8, this means the project holds a South West REZ Access Right and has not achieved the Finance and Construction Criteria.

#	Question	Answer
		<p>For a project located in Central-West Orana REZ and connecting to REZ infrastructure, the project must have been awarded an Access Right through the EnergyCo Access Rights tender and must not have achieved the Finance and Construction Criteria to be eligible under EC 3.</p> <p>If a REZ Access Scheme has yet to be announced on a declared REZ, a project may still bid, but any LTESA award may be contractually conditional on the project later being able to connect under the access scheme, such as by receiving an Access Right or qualifying for another permitted access pathway.</p> <p>Projects geographically located outside of a REZ must satisfy the Consumer Trustee that it shows ‘outstanding merit’ in accordance with EII Act and Regulations. See Question 14 for more information regarding ‘outstanding merit’.</p>
26	Does the definition of a non-assessed hybrid project include a project that is co-located but has two connection points?	<p>As outlined in Section 2.2. of the Tender Guidelines, the Generation LTESA is available to the following Project types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>generation-only Projects</b>, which is a standalone generation asset with no co-located storage asset;</li> <li>• <b>non-Assessed Hybrid Projects</b>, where only the Project is assessed against the Merit Criteria and the LTESA will allow but not contractually require the delivery of the Associated Project.</li> <li>• <b>Assessed Hybrid Projects</b>, where both the Project and Associated Project are assessed against the Merit Criteria and are contractually required to be delivered as further set out in Table 6.</li> </ul> <p>Proponents should note Section 3.2.5 of the Tender Guidelines, which outlines indicators of a Hybrid Project (which apply to non-Assessed and Assessed Hybrid Projects) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Project is comprised of a generation asset, storage asset and shared connection infrastructure;</li> <li>• <b>the generation and storage assets share the same connection point;</b></li> <li>• the generation and storage assets are owned by the same SPV.</li> <li>• the Project will be an integrated resource system operated by an Integrated Resource Provider.</li> </ul> <p>Proponents are encouraged to review the above and Eligibility Criteria to determine which of the project definitions may best align with their circumstances. Proponents should note that the Consumer Trustee may make exceptions, at its discretion, in undertaking the Eligibility Criteria Assessment, as per Section 3.3.1 of the Tender Guidelines.</p>

#	Question	Answer
27	What is the definition of a hybrid project? Would a solar farm and BESS, each with separate connection points be classified as a hybrid project?	<p>Also refer to Q26.</p> <p>For the Hybrid Generation LTESA, the Project must be configured with a single point of connection to the transmission or distribution network.</p> <p>Additionally, for the Hybrid Generation LTESA, the Tender Guidelines describe the product as being for Projects comprising both generation and storage that are assessed together as an Assessed Hybrid Project. The Tender Guidelines identify specific requirements for that product, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the export power capacity of the Generation Project must be at least the same size as the export power capacity of the Storage Project,</li> <li>• and that at COD the Storage Project must be able to provide at least 4 hours of continuous output at the Storage Project's export power capacity.</li> </ul>
28	Can the PV be less in capacity than the BESS?	<p>This depends on whether you are bidding for the Generation LTESA or the Hybrid Generation LTESA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When bidding for a Generation LTESA, there are no size requirements between the generation and the associated storage asset.</li> <li>• However, if bidding for a Hybrid Generation LTESA, the Storage component must have a MW capacity less than or equal to the Generation component.</li> </ul>
29	What is the reasoning behind the requirement that the PV be equal to BESS capacity?	<p>The requirement applies to the Hybrid Generation LTESA and supports the product design: the project is assessed as a hybrid generation project, with the storage component sized relative to the generation component. The requirement helps ensure the storage component does not exceed the scale of the Generation Project being supported under the Hybrid Generation LTESA.</p>
30	How should the Local Needs Analysis be submitted, and how will it inform the MC4 assessment?	<p>The Local Needs Analysis (<b>LNA</b>) is a key component that will inform the quality and confidence discount factors applied in assessment and is a mandatory component of the MC4 returnable schedule. In practice, it provides the structured evidence base that explains how a proponent's social value commitments have been shaped by local context, stakeholder engagement, and data. These qualitative inputs are then assessed alongside quantitative commitments.</p> <p>Quality focuses on how clearly commitments are linked to identified local needs, including the strength of engagement and evidence used. Confidence focuses on the feasibility of delivery, including the credibility of strategies and demonstrated track record.</p> <p>Together, this means the LNA does not score independently but directly influences the overall MC4 outcome by strengthening - or discounting - the assessed value of commitments.</p> <p>Further information is provided in the <a href="#">Social Value Market Briefing note</a>.</p>

#	Question	Answer
31	Does a connection enquiry response have to be valid (within 12 months of issue from NSP) to be eligible for the LTESA?	EC8 does not specify a 12-month validity requirement. An expired CER may satisfy EC8 if it accurately reflects the Project being bid. If the CER has expired or the Project has changed materially, the Proponent should explain why the CER remains relevant, including any NSP engagement. EC8 compliance will be assessed case-by-case.
32	Why does the Default Bid prescribe an LTESA term of 20 years, rather than allowing for both the Default and Alternative Bid to set a value? Is there a preference for a 20-year tenor?	The Default Bid has a set Contract term of 20 years while the Alternative Bid may have any term length up to 20 years, as outlined in Table 8 of the Tender Guidelines. The Default Bid is more prescriptive than the Alternative Bid to provide a contracting arrangement which is consistent across all Projects participating in the tender. The Alternative Bid is available to provide Proponents with additional flexibility and encourage commercial innovation when setting Bid Variables.
33	Are tabs 1-3 (Local Needs Analysis) binding or just the commitments carried over into Schedule 1?	No, the Local Needs Analysis tabs 1-3 are used for assessment purposes only. Commitments in tabs 4-8 will be reflected in Schedule 1 of the PDA and become contractually binding upon award.
34	Do you have indication of when results will be released? Specific date. And also, are successful participants informed earlier?	The Tender Guidelines state an indicative date for the Announcement of Selected Bids as November / December 2026. Proponents should also take into account any updates issued by ASL through the tender process.