

Revenue Proposal Reference Group Meeting No.13

Details of Meeting	
Date and time of meeting	16:00 – 17:00, Wednesday March 26 2026
Location	Powerlink Offices, Virginia
Attendees	Organisation
RPRG members – customer representatives	
Katie-Anne Mulder	Queensland Renewable Energy Council (QREC)
Mark Grenning (Independent Chair)	Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA)
Robyn Robinson	Council on the Ageing (COTA)
Stephanie McKechnie	Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)
RPRG members – Powerlink representatives	
Gerard Reilly	General Manager Communications, Customer and Engagement
Jenny Harris	General Manager Network Regulation
Roger Smith (RPRG Chair)	Director Revenue Reset
Guests and speakers	
Aidan Lawlor	Capex Lead Revenue Reset
Eleonore Bridier (Convenor)	Customer Engagement Specialist
Linda Whatman	Executive General Manager Network Investment (Acting)
Martin Pavelka	Finance and Modelling Analyst Revenue Reset
Michelle Beavis	Opex Lead Revenue Reset
Simon Hendry	Governance, Assurance and Estimating Coordinator Revenue Reset
Invited stakeholders	
Ben Fu (online)	Australian Energy Regulator (AER)
David Prins (online)	AER Consumer Challenge Panel No.34
Mike Swanston (online)	AER Consumer Challenge Panel No.34
Kirk Zammit (online)	Australian Energy Regulator (AER)
Apologies	
Chris Hazzard	St Vincent de Paul Society
Jacqui Bridge	Executive General Manager Network Investment
Michael Brothers (online)	Australian Energy Regulator (AER)
Nardia Yeates	Aurizon

Meeting agenda

1. Overview
2. AER Issues Paper
3. Communication of the RPRG submission
4. Other business

Meeting notes

Overview

Roger Smith opened the meeting and outlined the purpose of the session. The meeting was convened as an informal briefing to allow the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to provide an overview of its forthcoming Issues Paper ahead of publication, and to discuss arrangements for the AER public forum and the timing and communication of the Revenue Proposal Reference Group (RPRG) submission.

AER Issues Paper

Kirk Zammit (AER) introduced the Issues Paper and outlined its role as the first stage of consultation in the AER's revenue determination process. He noted that feedback received through this process will inform the AER's Draft Decision. Kirk then noted areas of particular interest for stakeholder feedback.

Discussion, questions and responses

RPRG members sought clarification on whether deliverability of the capital and operating expenditure programs is a focus area in the Issues Paper. The AER confirmed it is.

Questions were raised about how the AER assesses deliverability. The AER advised that this is a qualitative assessment and offered to arrange a separate session with members of the AER capital expenditure team to discuss the approach in more detail.

RPRG members asked about the treatment of potential ex post review. The AER confirmed that the Issues Paper includes consideration of this and noted that the AER has not formed a view at this stage.

Roger advised that Powerlink would provide the AER with a factual accuracy check on the Issues Paper prior to publication.

The AER also outlined the proposed format for the public forum on 9 April 2026, to be held online from 10am to 11am Australian Eastern Standard Time:

- AER introduction and overview of the proposal
- Powerlink presentation, including engagement planned through to the revised Revenue Proposal
- RPRG presentation (approximately ten minutes) outlining key views and feedback
- Consumer Challenge Panel contribution
- Questions and discussion.

The AER requested confirmation of RPRG and Powerlink speakers as early as possible.

Post meeting note: *Speakers confirmed as Darryl Rowell, interim Chief Executive, and Nardia Yeates, RPRG member.*

Communication of the RPRG submission

The group discussed how and when the RPRG submission should be shared beyond the RPRG to support broader customer participation in the consultation process.

Key points raised included:

- the RPRG submission reflects detailed engagement over an extended period, earlier access to the submission may assist other customers and stakeholders to prepare informed submissions to the AER
- the importance of fairness and consistency in how information is shared with different stakeholder groups.

Following discussion, it was decided that:

- the RPRG will aim to bring forward finalisation of its submission to late April 2026, following one round of feedback from the Customer Panel
- the finalised submission will be published and made available to all interested stakeholders at the same time, ahead of the 12 May 2026 submission deadline
- this approach balances transparency, fairness and the opportunity for broader stakeholder participation
- stakeholders will also have the opportunity to provide feedback on Powerlink's Revenue Proposal and the AER's Issues Paper as part of the AER's consultation.

Roger confirmed that there are no confidentiality issues preventing publication of the RPRG's draft submission as it currently stands.

Other business

Roger noted that presenters for the AER public forum will be confirmed by early the following week, and that the next RPRG meeting is scheduled for 7 May 2026.

Actions

	Action	Responsible person	Due
12.1	Provide clarification on the treatment of deferred capital projects from the current regulatory period identified in Table 4.4 of the Revenue Proposal, including the indicative value of deferred projects and confirmation of the reasons for deferral.	Aidan Lawlor	Complete
12.2	Provide further information on changes (from the draft proposal to the January 2026 proposal) to forecast Next Generation Network Operations (NGNO) costs, including whether changes reflect timing shifts or changes to total programme cost.	Aidan Lawlor	Complete
12.3	Include written explanations identifying which contingent and ISP identified projects are excluded, and the reasons for their exclusion, in the Revised Revenue Proposal.	Roger Smith	December 2026
12.4	Confirm when an embargoed copy of the AER Issues Paper may be provided to Powerlink, subject to AER processes.	Roger Smith	Complete
12.5	Present draft Submission, and content for Customer Panel meeting slides	Mark Grenning	Complete
12.6	13 questions received from the RPRG via email on the Revenue Proposal and responded to by Powerlink between 20 February and 20 March.	Reset Team	Complete
13.1	Confirm Powerlink and RPRG presenters for the AER public forum	Mark Grenning Roger Smith	Complete
13.2	Lodge RPRG Submission with the AER and notify Powerlink and Customer Panel	Mark Grenning	30 April 2026