

Enhancing community engagement in transmission planning

Energy Charter: Social licence roundtable

20 September 2023

AEMC

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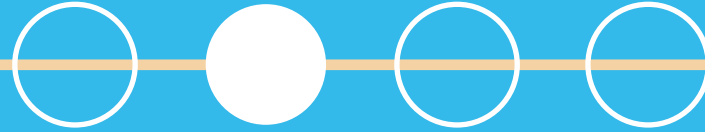
- The AEMC is an independent statutory energy market body.
- We lead, collaborate, adapt and influence in making and amending rules for the national energy markets in the long-term interests of consumers



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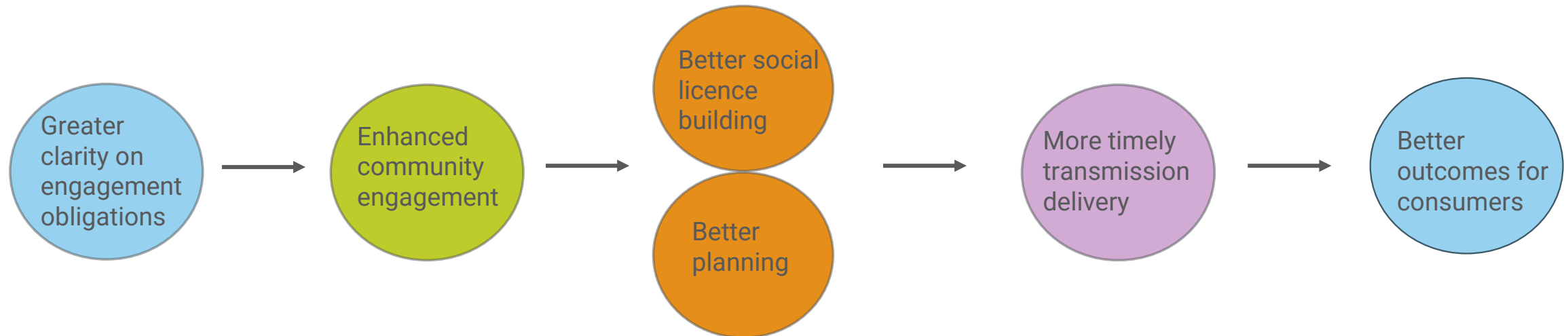
**Our draft rule supports the timely delivery
of major transmission through enhancing
engagement with communities**

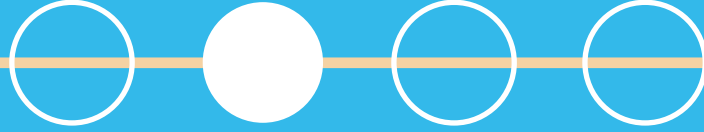
Background to the rule change request

- On 11 April 2023, we received a rule change request from The Hon, Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
- The changes proposed aim to enhance community engagement in transmission building to assist in obtaining social licence.
- The rule change request seeks to implement recommendations made as part of the social licence workstream in our Transmission planning and investment review (TPIR).
- The rule change request has been fast tracked reflecting the extensive consultation carried out on the issues raised in the rule change request during TPIR.
- We have made a more preferable draft rule to enhance community engagement.
- Consultation on our draft rule closes next Thursday 28 September.

Enhanced community engagement is needed for the timely delivery of transmission

- Communities are critical partners in the energy transition.
- The local expertise of communities are critical inputs to improved transmission planning.
- It is important to engage with communities to better understand the local areas where transmission infrastructure may be built including consideration of the impact on communities.





Our draft rule clarifies TNSPs are required to engage with communities earlier in the planning process

Our draft rule ensures community views are considered earlier in the planning process

Our draft rule clarifies community engagement obligations for major transmission projects by specifying:

1 Who must be engaged?	Stakeholders expected to be affected by the project (local communities).
2 When must engagement happen?	Commence early but continue throughout the planning process as part of preparatory activities, including the RIT-T.
3 How must engagement occur?	In accordance with community engagement expectations.

TNSPs would be required to engage with local communities, earlier.

Our draft determination is to amend:

- the definition of preparatory activities
- the definition of interested parties for the purpose of a RIT-T, and
- references to council and stakeholder engagement in the REZ design framework



To clarify that:

TNSPs **are required** to engage with stakeholders:

- who are reasonably expected to be affected by:
 - the development of the actionable ISP project
 - future ISP project
 - or project within a REZ stage
- (including local landowners, local council, local community members and traditional owners)
- in accordance with the community engagement expectations.

Have local community stakeholders been appropriately captured?

TNSPs would be required to engage according to community engagement expectations

Community engagement expectations in relation to actionable ISP projects, future ISP projects, or projects within a REZ stage (as applicable), means using reasonable endeavours to ensure that:

a) stakeholders receive information that is clear, accurate, relevant, timely and explains the rationale for the relevant project

b) engagement materials and methods of communication are tailored to meet the needs of different stakeholders

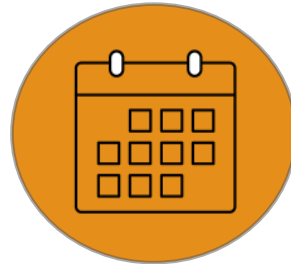
c) the stakeholders' role in the engagement process is clearly explained, including how their input will be taken into account

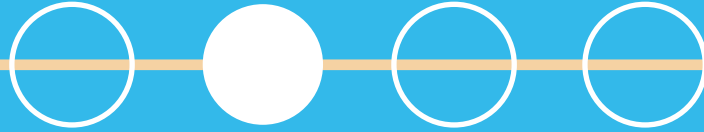
d) stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to consider and respond to the information they receive

e) stakeholder feedback, including potential ways to deliver community benefits, are considered

f) stakeholders are informed about how stakeholder feedback has been taken into account in decision-making and

g) stakeholders are provided the opportunity to be regularly involved throughout the actionable ISP projects, future ISP projects and REZ stages (as applicable).





Next steps

Next Steps



Please feel free to reach out to the project team to set up a discussion by contacting Viashin Govender : Viashin.Govender@AEMC.gov.au

