

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Access Fees Update



EnergyCo as the Infrastructure Planner has conducted the application process for Access Rights for the Central-West Orana (CWO) Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). In its role as the Consumer Trustee, AEMO Services (ASL) has the function under section 26 of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (NSW) (EII Act)* of setting Access Fees that are payable to the Scheme Financial Vehicle (SFV) by Access Right Holders in an Access Scheme.

ASL has updated the Access Fee Guidelines, Access Fee Determination and Access Fee Calculator to provide further clarity to NSW electricity customers and potential Access Right Holders in CWO REZ.

This document sets out a high-level summary of the key changes between the April 2024 and current versions of the Access Fee Guidelines, Access Fee Determination and Access Fee Calculator. It does not identify all changes to those documents that may be relevant to NSW electricity customers and potential Access Right Holders. Reference should be made to the current versions of the documents to identify the detailed changes that have been made to the previously published versions.

The revised positions reflect the expected approach to CWO REZ Access Fees, however the Consumer Trustee has not yet formally set Access Fees for CWO REZ, and the Access Fee Guidelines, Access Fee Determination and Access Fee Calculator remain subject to the Consumer Trustee's discretion.

Access Fee Guidelines

Summary of key changes:

- Further detail provided around Variation Events including the Centralised System Strength (CSS) Fee Reduction Event, the Hub to Project (H2P) capex change and asset sharing events, and Payment Delay Event.
- The CSS Fee Reduction Event provides a methodology that enables Access Right Holders to seek a reduction to their CSS Fees via self-remediation of system strength costs.

- Removal of references to the CSS Capex Change and Scheme Term Extension Variation Events.
- Further detail provided about H2P amortisation and the H2P contingency allowance.
- Updates to cost inputs and assumptions including CSS and H2P capex costs and the removal of the CSS contingency allowance. These updates reflect the change from estimated input costs to actual input costs provided to the Consumer Trustee by EnergyCo as the Infrastructure Planner.
- Updates to key definitions.

Access Fee Determination

Summary of key changes:

- Updated drafting to improve clarity and precision.
- Clauses added to address the possibility of errors in, and inconsistency between, the Access Fee Determination and the Access Fee Calculator.
- The removal of the CSS Capex Change and Scheme Term Extension as Variation Events. A new Access Fee Determination will be made if the Access Scheme Term were to be extended.
- Inclusion of the CSS Fee Reduction Event and Payment Delay Event as Variation Events.
- Clarification that except for an Approved Maximum Capacity Change Variation Event, variations to Access Fees under Variation Events may only occur for Variation Events notified or confirmed before the Payment Term Start Date.

Access Fee Calculator

Summary of key changes:

- Inclusion of Variation Events to align with the Access Fee Determination, enhancing the functionality of the Access Fee Calculator over the term of the Access Scheme.
- Improved user instructions and refined navigation for improved usability.
- Resolution of issues identified during the QA process along with implementation of integrity checks to strengthen the model's robustness.