

Meeting Minutes

Consumer Advisory Panel Meeting #36

Date: 13 February 2025

Meeting Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review key feedback items (CAP ToR, Storm update and CPA1)• Share progress on Revenue Reset project and mid North REZ project• Deliberate and 'sign up' to Terms of Reference for Reference (Working) Groups
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Attendance	Refer Attachment 1
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1. Welcome + General Updates

Leanne Muffet (CAP Facilitator) opened the meeting and led the Acknowledgement of Country.

- Andrew Richards was noted as an apology.
- The minutes and actions from the meeting held on 27 November 2024 were accepted.
- It was noted that the working groups are now referred to as "Reference Groups".
- Estha van der Linden will be stepping down from the CAP due to other work commitments. Estha expressed her gratitude to ElectraNet and the CAP members for their engagement and contributions. A small thank you gift was presented.

2. CAP Terms of Reference + Membership update

Chris Hanna (ElectraNet) noted a name change to the Mid North REZ Expansion Project. It will now be referred to as Northern Transmission Project (NTx)

Chris Hanna & Leanne Muffet met with several CAP members last year to discuss the CAP Terms of Reference (ToR), which are reviewed every two years.

Members noted that the current CAP ToR are generally effective and broad enough to allow exploration of various topics yet focused enough to provide clear direction.

Proposed changes by the CAP to the ToR were:

- the term 'genuine, transparent, and effective' in the purpose section.
- a reference to proposed work program and access to external expertise funded by ElectraNet (Role + Governance)
- CAP remuneration for working/reference groups or similar (Remuneration section)
- Prepare an annual report and where possible to present to the board (Role + Governance section)
- include role of independent facilitator in CAP induction sessions
- indicative annual budget for CAP (Role of ElectraNet section).

Given the workload ahead with the Revenue Reset and the NTx Project ElectraNet is proposing to increase the number of CAP members by one or two, noting:

- ElectraNet welcomes CAP suggestions for potential new members for consideration.
- to date Chris has had preliminary conversation with Kelly-Anne Saffin (Former CE Adelaide RDA, and recently appointed as the Cross Border Commissioner in DPC)
- Chris is also considering possible candidates with a First Nations connection.

Action: Leanne Muffet to email CAP Members seeking suggestions.

3. Storm Update Event

Jeremy Tustin (ElectraNet) provided an update on the storm event that occurred on 17 October, noting:

- ElectraNet transmission lines impacted by severe weather will be re-energised on Friday, 14 February.
- ElectraNet will consider the long-term future electricity supply to Leigh Creek and Hawker
- ElectraNet may collaborate with SA Power Networks to develop a longer-term supply solution
- this could be a stand-alone power system rather than replacing or restoring the existing transmission line, as the cost of building a new transmission line is difficult to justify.

4. Contingent Project Application (CPA1)

On 22 January, a special meeting was held with the CAP to discuss CPA1 for the Northern Transmission Project (NTx).

The final CPA1 is under development and the final version will be submitted to the AER with a copy to the CAP.

Action: ElectraNet to email the CAP a final copy of the NTx CPA1

5. Hot Topics

Rebecca Knol

- Raised concerns about the Government's Hydrogen plans and the challenges facing GFG Alliance.
- SACOME supports the government's ambitions, but they believe it's important to communicate openly about what is and isn't working.

CAP suggested to have Rebecca speak at a future CAP meeting.

Chris Hanna mentioned that SA Power Networks are interested in holding a joint session with the CAP, and SA Government could participate and present on the State Prosperity Project in the joint meeting

Simon Maddocks

- Concerns have been raised that the Eyre Peninsula has already exceeded the sustainable delivery of water for human use, with primary industries frequently addressing these concerns with the SA Government. However, there has been no update on the proposed desalination project.

Mark

- The process for AEMO's ISP Draft 2025 Inputs, Assumptions, and Scenarios Report stage 1 is underway
- A recent meeting with ESOCSA took place, focusing on the engagement process around the regulatory framework. It was suggested that ESOCSA will organise a session that will bring together all four major infrastructure groups (ElectraNet, SA Water, SAPN, and gas) for a meeting.

Cathi

- Presented to the SAPN Consumer Advisory Board regarding the impact of energy and equity costs on small businesses, including those in rented and leased spaces
- the presentation highlighted the challenges small businesses face with embedded networks, energy costs, and the overall effect of these rising costs on energy users
- Net-Zero Economy Authority engaged with the Business Chamber about the Energy Industry Jobs Plan in relation to the planned closure of Torrens Island Power Station B.

Actions:

- Rebecca to send through an article of the complexity of the green steel ambition
- Leanne to speak with Rebecca about presenting at a CAP meeting
- ElectraNet to organise a joint CAP meeting with SAPN Consumer Advisory Board

5.5 Overview of CAP's Role Revenue Reset & Northern Transmission Project

Reference groups have been established to support engagement for Revenue Reset and Northern Transmission Project (NTx). The following members are in each group:

Revenue Reset	Northern Transmission Project (NTx)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew• Cathi• Georgie• Greg• Vikram	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craig• Mark• Rebecca• Simon

Leanne Muffet provided an overview of the two Projects:

The Revenue Reset determines how much revenue a network service provider, can recover from consumers over a specified period, typically five years. This is largely based on forecasts of ElectraNet's capital and operating expenditure requirements and is driven by a regulatory process through the AER.

The CAP is the primary stakeholder group for this process.

The Northern Transmission Project (NTx) aims to enhance the energy transfer capacity between the northern fringes of Adelaide and Whyalla, improving resilience by providing an alternative supply to Adelaide. Further details included:

- The CAP is only one of the many stakeholders being engaged on the project
- At the previous CAP meeting on 27 November, Aurecon presented an engagement strategy
- Following this, ElectraNet began a process to hire a consultant and Joined Thinking, led by Josephine Telfer was engaged, local South Australian business to implement the draft engagement strategy.

A timeline will be developed to outline how both reference groups will interact and how regular CAP meetings will be scheduled.

Action: ElectraNet to create a visual timeline to be created and sent to CAP of Reference Group meetings

6. Revenue Reset Project Update

Bec Malhotra (ElectraNet) advised that ElectraNet has established an internal reset committee, with a reporting framework in place for the Executive and Board. This committee, in collaboration with the Executive, will work closely with the Revenue Reset Reference Group (RRRG).

ElectraNet's Revenue Reset engagement process has commenced six months earlier than the previous reset.

Key points raised during the presentation:

- ElectraNet aims to maintain reliable infrastructure, operate efficiently, and make investments that can meet growing demand and support the integration of renewable energy.
- The purpose of the proposal is to determine the maximum revenue ElectraNet can **collect over the next five years**, considering both standard infrastructure replacements and additional projects.
- ElectraNet will submit a Revenue Proposal in January 2027 for a five-year period starting 1 July 2028. This proposal will need to reflect customer and stakeholder outcomes from the reset journey.

ElectraNet recommends the RRRG members to read the AER's **Better resets handbook**, the key message is that we need to ensure that customer preferences drive outcomes to ensure the long-term interests of consumers are met.

Action: AM / LM redistribute the Better Reset Handbook to all RRRG members

<https://www.aer.gov.au/documents/better-resets-handbook-december-2021>

Chris Hanna presented the objectives for the revenue reset engagement. ElectraNet aims to develop a Revenue Proposal that is capable of being accepted by the AER, and this proposal must be guided by consumer preferences.

The draft Engagement Plan for the revenue reset is currently being developed. Key components of the plan include:

- Information sessions
- Co-designed engagement
- Deep dives and development of the primary proposal

ElectraNet engagement objective is the CAP makes a submission that ElectraNet's revenue proposal is capable of being accepted by the AER. The RRRG will serve as the key vehicle for this process.

There will be a co-design process to development an engagement plan determining what can be influenced and what has the greatest impact.

Action: ElectaNet to resend to Better Reset handbook to working group.

7. Northern Transmission Project (NTx) Update

Ralf Riccardi (ElectraNet) presented on Northern Transmission Project (NTx) project formally known as "Mid North SA REZ Expansion". Key points from the presentation:

- The project team have identified to pursue the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC) (<https://www.iscouncil.org/>) accreditation
- The NTx project approval is set for mid-2027, with the target ISP delivery date is 2029, which is expected to be challenging

- A Route Selection Plan was presented, and the following key items noting the development of an initial area of interest (project area)
- The final route decision is expected by Q4 2025.

The CAP raised concerns about route selection strategy in relation to the future load demands and project locations.

The CAP requested an overlay that illustrates the project locations and anticipated connection points.

Ralf (ElectraNet) explained that the project options must be a part of the Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR), which is expected to determine the optimal route selection.

The CAP (reference group) will be engaged with on the route selection options and provide input on the process and the multi-criteria analysis.

It was suggested that a briefing for the NTx reference group (NTx RG) could be organised, with AEMO presenting on demand forecasting and involving, the SA Government.

Jo Telfer (NTx Stakeholder Engagement Lead) provided an update on the engagement approach, with planning focused on the near-term actions related to the route selection strategy timeframe and the longer-term project.

In the near term, the focus is on introducing the project in the regions. The goal is to provide sufficient information while avoiding causing unnecessary anxiety.

CAP members suggested that leveraging support from the Rural Business Support could be a valuable opportunity to build trust within the community.

Action: ElectraNet to invite AEMO and or SA Government to a future meeting CAP meeting to speak about demand forecasting.

8. Reference Groups – Terms of Reference

Revenue Reset Terms of Reference was reviewed the following feedback was received:

- CAP members were happy with the flow of the document
- Duration of the process to be updated to a three-year process to April 2028, to align with the final revised proposal
- independent external support should be explicit and expanded on in point 9 of the ToR
- The current outcomes are framed with layered and generic statements. These should be clarified to clearly define what we aim to achieve and the specific deliverables. There should be a clear distinction between "Aims" and "Outcomes."

Simon Emms (ElectraNet) suggested a site visit to view substation assets, both old and new, and better understand asset management practices. This visit would also highlight challenges and solutions related to substation and line assets. ElectraNet can share lessons from previous projects, such as tower safety, cybersecurity, and key cost drivers from the previous reset.

Proposed Meeting Agenda for Revenue Reset Working Group:

- Scene-setting information sessions.
- Sign-off on the terms of reference.
- Strategy and challenges around renewable transition and the interface with large renewable developments.

CAP meeting should include a brief update from each reference group to ensure CAP members are well-informed.

It was noted that the two projects have distinct milestones, and there was a request to receive information on the impact on the average consumer and the industry.

Demand forecasting was raised and a briefing to be organised by AEMO to present to the two difference reference groups.

The Northern Transmission Project ToR was reviewed, and the following feedback was received:

- The ToR provides a solid starting point through to the operational phase. A review is suggested in 4-6 months within the reference group. There is general agreement to move forward and address any issues that may arise along the way
- The core purposes should include a stronger focus on the consumer perspective. Point 2 of the revenue reset reference group should be incorporated into the document
- CAP members noted the 4-hour meetings may be challenging to cater for and should be limited to 3 hours and scheduled bi-monthly, with online options available for easier attendance
- Leanne Muffet will facilitate each reference group meeting, alongside technical experts. CAP members will collaborate with Leanne on presentations
- Reference group members will be responsible for presenting progress to the relevant Executive Groups, with this process to be discussed at the first reference group meeting.

Action: Chris with input from Leanne and others will update the Reference Group ToR
Alycia will arrange for the Reference Group meetings to be scheduled.

9. Action Items

No	Action	Responsible
1.	CAP to provide recommendations regarding new members. Leanne Muffet to email CAP Members seeking suggestions. Chris to continue conversation with Kelly-Anen Saffin and compile a list of possible First Nation candidates	LM CH
2	AM to update the final CAP ToR and email to all CAP	AM
3	Leanne to liaise with Rebecca re a presentation to the CAP	LM
4	ElectraNet to email the CAP a final copy of CPA1	AM
5	Rebecca to send through an article of the complexity of the green steel ambition	RK
6	ElectraNet to organise a joint CAP meeting with SAPN Consumer Advisory Board	CH/AM
7	ElectraNet to create a visual timeline to be created and sent to CAP of Reference Group meetings	CH/AM
8	ElectaNet to resend to Better Reset handbook to RRRG	AM / LM
9	ElectraNet to invite AEMO and state planning department to a future meeting CAP meeting to speak about demand forecasting.	CH/AM
10	Chris with others will update the Reference Groups ToR LM to email ToR to the CAP for review and sign-off. Alycia will arrange for the Reference Group meetings to be scheduled.	CH with input from others

Attachment 1

ATTENDEES		
Name	Affiliation / Title	Attendance
CAP Members		
Leanne Muffet	CAP Independent Facilitator	
Andrew Richards	Energy Users Association Australia	Apology
Craig Wilkins	Consumer Representative	
Estha van der Linden	Ai Group	
Georgina Morris	SACOSS	
Greg McCarron	Central Irrigation Trust	
Cathi Buttfield	SA Business Chamber	
Mark Henley	Consumer Representative	
Rebecca Knol	SA Chamber of Mines and Energy	
Simon Maddocks	Primary Producers SA	
Vikram Kenjle	University of Adelaide	
ElectraNet Representatives		
Simon Emms	CEO	
Claus Repenning	Executive Corporate Development	
Jeremy Tustin	Head of Regulation + Corporate Affairs	
Chris Hanna	Manager Corporate Affairs	
Simon Appleby	Director of Energy Policy	
Alycia Martin	Stakeholder Coordinator	
Bec Malhotra	Manager Regulation	
Ralf Ricciardi	Head of Major Projects	
Jo Telfer	NTx Stakeholder Engagement Lead	

