

Ref: AER212772:AW:HP

18 November 2024

Regulatory Sandbox Team
Australian Energy Regulator
regulatorysandbox@aer.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

Essential Energy Submission to PLUS ES Trial Waiver Application – AER212772

Essential Energy is New South Wales' largest Distribution Network Service provider by land area, servicing 95% of the state or 737,000 km² of network area, with approximately 880,000 customers.

Essential Energy supports PLUS ES's Trial Waiver Application, including the proposed expansion to 1000 EV charger installations and to include the South Australian National Electricity Market Region.

Electric Vehicle uptake in New South Wales relies heavily on the availability and timely deployment of charging infrastructure. Present requirements around the location and sizing of approved type 4 meters are prohibitive to the efficient deployment of charging infrastructure, particularly those that are located on Essential Energy's timber pole assets. Innovation in this space would allow Essential Energy to accelerate deployment of compact charging units prior to the expected rule implementation proposed by the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) around flexible trading benefits. Successful infrastructure deployments of this type are key to providing more choice of charging at lower costs, which in turn further encourages EV uptake.

The proposed waiver will enable Essential Energy to collaborate with PLUS ES as a metering provider and metering co-coordinator and PLUS ES's third-party retailer to deploy at least 302 EV chargers on Essential Energy's composite distribution poles and composite streetlight columns. The waiver will provide invaluable learning to us, our customers, market bodies and other market participants.

We endorse the benefits and learnings identified in the addendum, including on diversifying installation and electrical connection methods across the pole types, and understanding charging use and meter/charger function in different climates and regional areas.

Essential Energy welcomes the opportunity to discuss its submission further. Please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or via email: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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