

Energy Innovation Toolkit Team
Australian Energy Regulator
Submission via email regulatorysandbox@aer.gov.au

22 November 2024

Dear Energy Innovation Toolkit team,

Subject: AER212772 PLUS ES trial waiver application

SA Power Networks is pleased to extend its support and provide feedback on the consultation regarding the trial waiver application by Plus ES to AER's Energy Innovation Toolkit. We perceive this initiative as an innovative and valid application of the toolkit, which aligns with the National Electricity Objectives¹ by fostering the uptake of Electric Vehicles (EVs). It is noteworthy to mention SAPN previously sought a similar waiver however industry readiness was a barrier to being able to progress and we have since placed our trial on hold.


Market research we commissioned in January 2024 indicated less than half (43%) of respondents indicated they were able to charge an EV at home. We believe kerbside charging will become an essential service for drivers who lack the facility to charge their vehicles at home. Furthermore, we recognise kerbside charging will increase visibility and address anxiety around lack of infrastructure, which is an often-cited barrier.

Increasing customers access to-, and cost of-, EV charging is essential to accelerating the electrification of transport. From our experience, the consolidation and streamline of metering is a key step to reducing the cost of deployment, which will be essential to lowering costs to consumers and accelerating the efficient rollout of kerbside infrastructure.

In particular, we support the addendum which proposes to expand the waiver by an additional 500 meters to 1000 meters and include the SA NEM region. The expansion will provide important additional learnings from diversifying the installations to Stobie poles. This means that the learnings developed during the trial will provide realised benefits for customers across Australia². SA Power Networks would welcome the opportunity to partner with PLUS ES and deploy a small number in South Australia to ensure applicability to SA's unique Stobie pole infrastructure.

We're excited to see the positive impact of this initiative. If the AER has any questions, please contact

Regards,


Head of Network Strategy

¹ AER Trial Projects Guidelines, Innovative Trial Principle vi

² AER Trial Projects Guidelines, Innovative Trial Principle xvi