**Please note**: The information contained within this document is based on current understanding at this point in time and is subject to change as a result of experience, new information, changes in process requirements and availability of key resources.



# Major Customer Connection Process (MCCP) Program

**Industry Update** 

September 2023

EDM# 64894636

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#### Need for change

- The Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) is currently undergoing a significant change, driving a major uplift in customer connection enquiries
- Customers are experiencing longer than normal wait times
- Customers' expectations are also changing, putting more pressure on our already stretched delivery teams
- An alternative, fit for purpose approach is required to meet the changing energy needs and expectations of our customers



#### **Connection Process Review**



End-to-end review to identify opportunities for improvement:

- Enhance customer experience
- Reduce the timeframe
- Identify alternate process pathways & delivery approaches

#### **Connection Process Review Outcomes**

- Customer engagement helped shape the outcomes of this review
- The review recommended a number of improvement initiatives to enable a future state process that will be fit for purpose. These opportunities are grouped under five key themes:
  - 1. Reorganise process to eliminate unnecessary work & reduce waiting times
  - 2. Give customers more choice to proceed with higher uncertainty and risk
  - 3. Enable customer self-service to de-constrain studies, design and construction
  - 4. Enable cross-functional collaboration to reduce handovers and re-work
  - 5. Refresh underlying frameworks to enable process change improvements

#### Process Improvement Initiatives



Mandated Enquiry phase

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Detailed Assessment Report



- Optional Enquiry phase with collaborative workshop format
- Customer self-service info available

#### Process Improvement Initiatives



- All customer data and models required with application
- Several customer contract/payment points
- Multiple study, design and estimate iterations

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- Min. customer data & models required for next steps
- One customer contract with standardised fees
- Customer self-service study options
- Reduced design and estimate iterations

#### Process Improvement Initiatives



- Dynamic studies sequentially upfront using unreliable data
- Access Offer on planning design and Class 3 estimate
- Western Power complete Design & Construct of assets

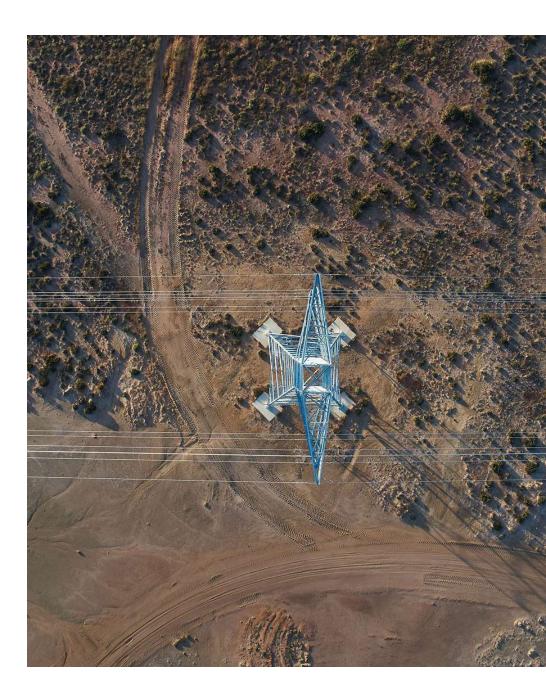
## • Dynamic studies paralleled with detailed design and only performed using confirmed vendor data

- Access Offer on concept design and Class 4 estimate
- Customer self-service Design & Construct options

**Implementation Program** 

- Critical enabler for our Strategic
  Priority Transmission network growth
- Business investment approved and a dedicated program is being established to deliver process improvement initiatives
- Once fully implemented, the total connection process timeframe is expected to reduce by up to 2 years\*
- Future ERA reporting on process timeframes will be available on a quarterly basis

\*Depends on customer project requirements, risk appetite and pathways chosen.



Working with key stakeholders

- Great support from EPWA and the ERA to implement some early process related AQP changes
- Ongoing customer, industry and Government engagement to ensure the success of this program
- We will be seeking involvement from key customer groups as we begin to develop and trial the new process before implementation and transition to the new 'Business As Usual'



Next steps

- Continue development of process improvement initiatives and supporting artefacts
- Work with key stakeholders to assess and manage the change impact when rolling out these process improvement initiatives
- Phased delivery of process improvement initiatives until June 2024
- Monitor and refine the new process until June 2025, to ensure the objectives are achieved and performance benefits are sustained





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