

What are Distributed Energy Resources (DER)?

DER refers to often smaller generation units that are located within the community, as differentiated from centralised generation sources such as coal- or gas-fired power plants. DER can also be known as embedded generation (EG) or local generation.

What is the DER Register?

The Australian Energy Market Commission, the rule-maker for the National Energy Market (NEM), has made a National Electricity Rule determination that obligates Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to establish a register of DER in the NEM.

What types of DER will be recorded in the DER Register?

The DER Register will capture a record of all generating units up to 30MW that are not required to be formally registered as a generator with AEMO.

Some examples include:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, whether on the building or the ground
- Battery Energy Storage Systems
- Small wind turbines
- Small hydro-electric turbines
- Other renewable energy generating systems
- Gas turbines
- Diesel or petrol generators (grid-connected)

What is the goal of the DER Register?

The DER Register will give network businesses and AEMO enhanced visibility of where DER are connected and help in planning and operating the power system as it transforms. The improved information on the static characteristics of DERs represents an important first step towards increasing system visibility over DER.

Who owns the DER Register?

The national DER Register is owned by AEMO.

When does the DER Register become operational?

1 December 2019.

What are my obligations as an applicant and/or installer?

The new regulations mean applicants will be asked to provide the network business with specific information about what is being installed on site. We are also asking applicants to be diligent in lodging a new Connect application if there's any change to the key attributes of the DER such as:

- Inverter brand, model, quantity, or export or other settings;
- Panel brand or quantity;
- Battery system; or
- Number of phases the inverter capacity is connected to.

This will mean that there can be no deviation from the connection agreement without a new application being lodged and approved.

When does Ergon EnergyNetwork or Energex send the DER information to AEMO?

Within 20 days of the system commissioning or activation.

Is personal information about me or other customers being collected for the DER Register?

While Ergon Energy Network and Energex take the privacy and security of customer information very seriously, AEMO does require network businesses to provide the DER Register with a National Metering Identifier (NMI) and valid CEC accreditation number for each installation. This information is required to ensure the integrity of data provision within the Register, and will be used as a means of validation should an installer wish to view a record for an installation linked to their accreditation number.

All information collected via your Connect application will be done so in line with our privacy policies.

ELECTRICAL PARTNERS PORTAL CHANGES

Ergon Energy Network and Energex are making changes to our EG connection application forms (online and electronic copy) to collect the mandatory DER information, **for both new installations and changes to existing installations**. This will come into effect from **1 December 2019**.

You will be required to provide up to 11 additional pieces of information, but notably less for a standard solar PV installation.

Some of the key changes include:

- Our Service Selection options have been updated to better reflect the Connect application requests we offer.
- You can now add devices (panels or batteries) to a specific inverter.
- The Power Quality Response Mode can now only be Volt-Var / Volt-Watt Voltage response mode as per Energy Queensland's connection standards.
- The Proposed Export Limitation options list has been expanded to include full, partial or minimal/non export.
- The inverters and panels included in the drop-down boxes are devices from the Clean Energy Council approved lists and those that meet Ergon Energy Network and Energex's grid connection standards.
- Whenever replacing an existing inverter, you will be required to indicate which inverter is to be removed and provide details of the new/replacement system.
- The total inverter capacity will be automatically calculated.
- Where a NMI has an existing solar installation on site, the new EG Connect form will display this information. For some historical solar records, you may see the Manufacturer/Model of 'UNKNOWN' if this information was not initially provided. You are not required to update this information.
- Applicants will be shown an alert in the Portal to advise that the DER information provided as part of the application was submitted to the AEMO DER Register. This will disappear after you log out.

What is not changing?

The collection of the additional DER data **does not impact or change**:

- Our EG application processes, associated fees or timelines.
- Energex applications greater than 30kW. You are still required to submit an Enquiry before the request for a connection can be made.
- Electrical Work Requests. They are required, except in the following scenarios:
 - Ergon Energy Network – if adding panels or batteries to an existing solar PV installation (application still required).
 - Energex – if increasing inverter capacity, replacing an inverter, or adding panels or batteries to an existing solar PV installation (application still required).
- The requirement to submit an application to install a bi-directional charger for an electric vehicle with vehicle-to-grid capability.
- The issuing of Contracts. Contracts will continue to be granted after satisfactory assessment of your application, when relevant.
- The applicant's obligations to lodge a new Connect application if any attribute of the proposed installation changes, and await our approval before proceeding to install.

Our Electrical Partners Portal Guides will be updated and available from the support section on the Portal from 1 Dec 2019. You can always refer to them if you need more assistance.

Alternatively you can email DERRegister@energyq.com.au

Or contact us on our Electrical Contractors Hotlines

Ergon Energy - 1800 237 466 (option 2, option 2)

Energex - 1300 762 397 (option 4)