

Solar & Battery Connections: Embedded Network FAQs for Contractors & Installers

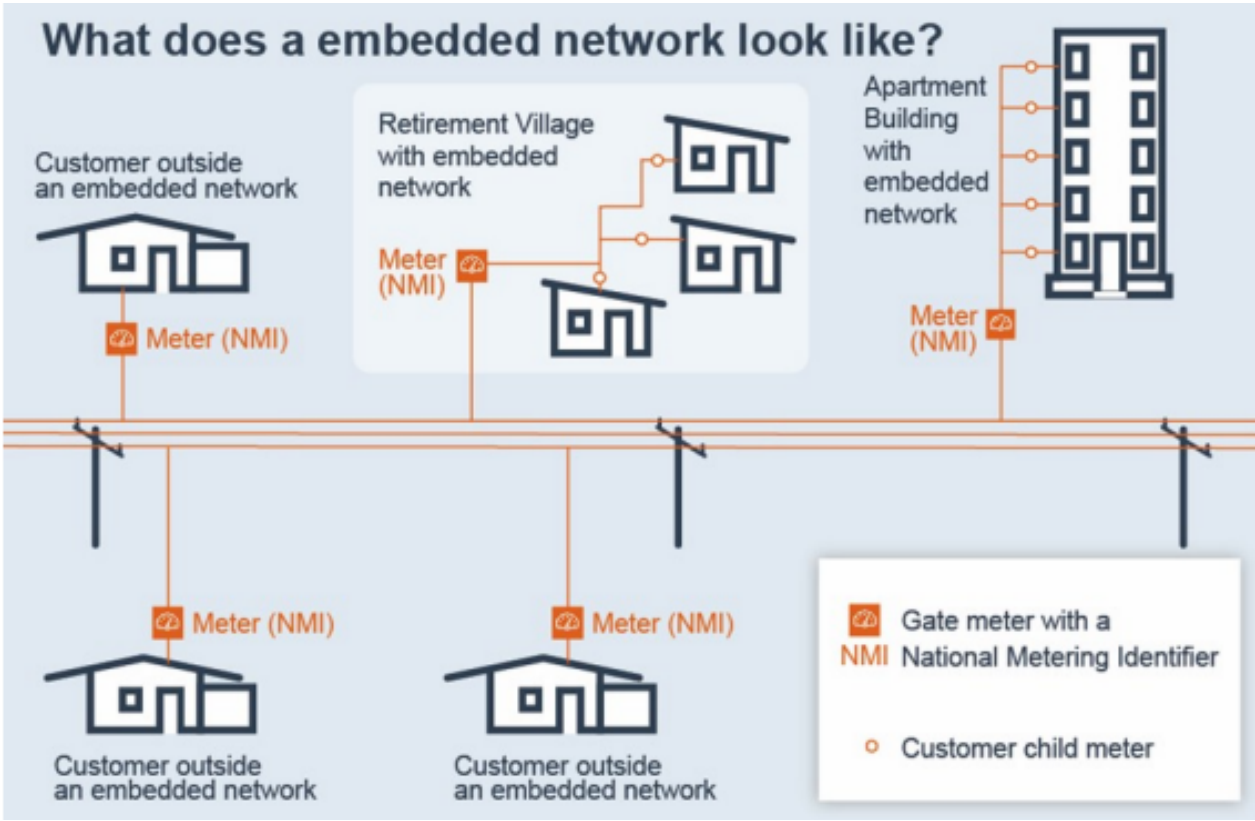


Part of the Energy Queensland Group

What is an Embedded Network?

Embedded networks are formed when there is one 'parent' point of connection to our electricity distribution network with multiple child meters within it.

In the example below, the embedded network is configured so the owner or operator of the site can on-sell electricity to the residents within the embedded network.



Source: AER Guideline - Factsheet: How to access an authorised retailer of your choice if you live in an embedded network

Who is the electricity retail customer for an embedded network?

The electricity retail customer for an embedded network will likely be the embedded network owner or operator e.g., the company who owns or operates the embedded network. They will receive the power bill from the electricity retailer.

Who is responsible for the connection application of solar/battery installations within an embedded network?

The embedded network owner, operator or their approved authorised agent (eg: electrical contractor) is responsible for the submission of a connection application to us for any solar or battery installations within the embedded network.

Why is the embedded network owner/operator responsible for solar/battery installations at residents' dwellings?

An embedded network has one point of connection to our electricity distribution network. The National Electricity Rules state that the owner/operator of that connection point must be the connection applicant and the party whom we enter into the connection contract with.

How do residents of an embedded network apply for solar or batteries at their dwelling?

Approval from the embedded network owner/operator must be obtained and included within the connection application for the proposed solar or battery installation.

The electrical contractor must provide the embedded network owner's/operator's details within the application (not the residents), as we will assess the application and provide an offer to the embedded network owner/operator to accept.

Once the offer has been accepted by the embedded network owner/operator, the electrical contractor can commence the installation of the system and submit the relevant paperwork, including an Electrical Works Request (EWR) where required, to us to complete the application process and form the connection contract.

What happens where solar or batteries are installed at a residents dwelling and the embedded network owner/operator was not consulted?

It is the responsibility of the embedded network owner/operator to ensure a valid connection contract is in place with us for any solar or batteries installed within an embedded network.

The electrical contractor also has a responsibility to provide correct embedded network owner/operator information within a connection application.

If you believe there are solar or batteries installed without your approval, we recommend you engage an electrical contractor to carry out an audit of your site and submit an application to us asap to ensure you have a valid connection contract in place.

What happens when the embedded network site reaches generation of 30kVA, and a sole resident requests to install solar/battery at their dwelling?

As the process, cost and technical requirements are greater for capacities over 30kVA, it is recommended the embedded network owner/operator asks all residents if they are interested in installing solar/batteries within a 12-month period. Then a connection enquiry and application for the larger capacity can be submitted to us, the cost can be shared, and the residents have 12 months to install their solar/battery systems.



How do electrical contractors apply for solar or batteries for a resident within an embedded network?

Where the site will be under 30kVA of embedded generation

Each connection application must include the written approval from the embedded network owner/operator. The written approval must include details for the dwelling of the proposed installation and the total generation capacity and export limit already existing at the site (entire site).

Embedded generation connection application 'Service Selection' options:

- Initial Installation – this connection application applies where no existing generation systems exist within the embedded network site.
- Replacement Current System / Inverter – this connection application applies where an existing generation system is being physically removed and replaced with a new system. It is imperative the existing generation equipment being removed is decommissioned by clicking on 'Decommission' within the application form. If there are multiple systems onsite and you cannot determine which equipment should be decommissioned, please email the LV Generation team for assistance (see below).
- Increase Generator Capacity – this connection application applies where the embedded network owner/operator has approval for any existing generation systems at the site. The application form will automatically display the approved equipment, which should not be 'Decommissioned'. If the existing generation listed in the form does not match what is physically installed, please email the LV Generation team for assistance (see below). Please complete the application form with the proposed total generation for the site and all relevant equipment details.

Where the site will be over 30kVA of embedded generation

Once the inverter capacity within the embedded network reaches 30kVA, the process for over 30kVA applies. For more information contact us at ergongeneration@energyq.com.au or energexgeneration@energyq.com.au

IMPORTANT – Connection application details

Applicant details – This section is to be completed with the details of the party submitting the connection application form. Please complete in full including ABN/ACN (if applicable), address and contact details.

Retail Customer – This section is to be completed with the embedded network owner/operator details. We require the same entity listed on the retail contract. Please complete in full including ABN/ACN (if applicable), address and contact details.

Generation – Each connection application must show the total generation capacity proposed for the site. Where there is existing generation at the site, it must be included.

Export – Each connection application must reflect the proposed export for the site. Where there is existing generation at the site, it must be included.

How to contact us

For further support, please contact us at the below email addresses or call us on (07) 4789 5959.
ergongeneration@energyq.com.au or energexgeneration@energyq.com.au.

