

Network Services Technical Group

Minutes of meeting held on 30 July 2026

Meeting held online

Members present: Grant Benvenuti (Chair), Astad Kapadia, Bernie Coster, Gareth Williams, Jevon Carding, Keith Scoles, Matthew Waters, Neil Wembridge, Ron Beatty, Ruahine Hemara, Sharlene Mayer, Shaurya Duggal, Steven Cooper, Trent Tscheuschler

Authority attendees: Allen Davison, Stuart Johnston, Gary White, Louise Stumbles, Andrew Zielinski, Lydia Ayto

Observer: Brian Fitzgerald (EECA)

Introduction

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting.

Plug-in generation

- 1.1 Louise/Allen presented on key issues under consideration, which are being developed for a discussion paper on plug-in generation, which is planned for September release pending Board feedback and decision.
- 1.2 Discussion focused on the role of technical standards and whether Code requirements should reference AS/NZS standards, noting that electrical safety requirements are expected to be addressed through the broader regulatory framework. There was general agreement on the need for standards within the Code, including whether the initial focus should be on identifying an international standard (eg, the German standard VDE-V 0126-95 (pre-standard) or VDE-AR-N 4105) and identifying gaps, then seeking feedback on the gap analysis. Staff noted they are seeking high level feedback at this stage.
- 1.3 NSTG discussed the challenges of regulating emerging technologies, including whether any proposed requirements should apply consistently across all equipment capable of exporting electricity to the network.
- 1.4 Discussion considered the implications of gifting arrangements, including whether a requirement for gifting could discourage multiple generation installations at a single ICP. It was noted that smaller-scale generation should not be disadvantaged relative to larger installations. Mandating bidirectional metering where two-way power flows exist was discussed but noted as outside of the current scope for the discussion paper.
- 1.5 Participants discussed responsibility for updating ICP information where plug-in generation is identified. Views varied on whether responsibility should sit with distributors or retailers, with distributors considered well placed to manage network information, while the portability or plug-in generation supports consideration of a retailer-led approach.

Improving information on high-voltage network capacity

- 1.6 Lydia/Gary updated NSTG on what had been presented to the Authority Board earlier in the week, including what was learned via submissions and how the Authority intends to respond to the issues raised in submissions.
- 1.7 There was discussion with NSTG covering supporting a staged approach to capacity map and network visibility requirements, noting that a clear minimum baseline would help build a business case and avoid the costs of implementing full solutions from the outset.
- 1.8 NSTG members noted that the benefits of network visibility may be limited in isolation but increase when considered as an enabler for future automation and DSO-type capabilities. There was recognition that significant differences between distributors may make it difficult to prescribe a minimum common requirement.

ELAM/BELAM update

- 1.9 Stuart presented an update on the work to develop the Export Limits Assessment Methodology (ELAM) and Bespoke ELAM (BELAM), which distributors will be required to apply from 11 November 2026.
- 1.10 Stuart outlined the proposed tiered approach, with the ELAM providing a relatively simple and consistent methodology for smaller residential-scale distributed generation, and the BELAM providing for assessment of larger or more complex connections. Work is continuing on the appropriate thresholds and level of assessment required for different connection sizes.
- 1.11 The group discussed the proposed ELAM/BELAM templates and the importance of achieving a nationally consistent approach while allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect differences between distribution networks and circumstances.
- 1.12 It was noted that the methodologies and supporting guidance are still being developed and will be tested with industry before being finalised. NSTG members will have a further opportunity to review and comment on the draft material as it progresses.

Next meeting

The meeting concluded at 12.00pm

Confirming that the NSTG has approved that the meeting minutes are a true and correct record.

Dated: 8 September 2026

Signed Chair:

