

Faster & easier network connections – improving application processes

Webinar

19 September 2025

Allen Davison

Principal Analyst – Network Policy

Overview of the work

Network connections project (stage one)

- Connecting to networks, and amending existing connections, is easier, faster, more consistent and more equitable

Scope

- Part 6 of the Code
- Stage one focused on the connection of larger DG and load

Process

- Consultation paper - October 2024
- Decision paper - July 2025
- Part 6 **technical** consultation – opened 9 September 2025

Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010

Part 6 Connection of distributed generation

Contents

- 6.1 Contents of this Part
- 6.2 Purpose
- 6.2A Application of Part to distributors in respect of embedded networks
- 6.2B Application of Part to distributors in respect of systems of lines not directly or indirectly connected to grid
- 6.3 Distributors must make information publicly available
- 6.4 Process for obtaining approval
- 6.4A Distributor and distributed generator may agree to simpler process for existing connection
- 6.5 Connection contract
- 6.6 Connection on regulated terms
- 6.7 Extra terms
- 6.8 Dispute resolution
- 6.9 Pricing principles
- 6.10 *[Revoked]*
- 6.11 Distributors must act at arm's length
- 6.12 This Part does not affect rights and obligations under Code
- 6.13 This Part does not apply to earlier connections

Schedule 6.1 **Process for obtaining approval**

Preliminary provisions

Part 1 *Applications for distributed generation 10 kW or less in total*

Application process

Post-approval process

Part 1A *Part 2* *Applications for distributed generation above 10 kW in total*

Initial application process

Final application process

Post-approval process

Part 3 *General provisions*

Confidentiality

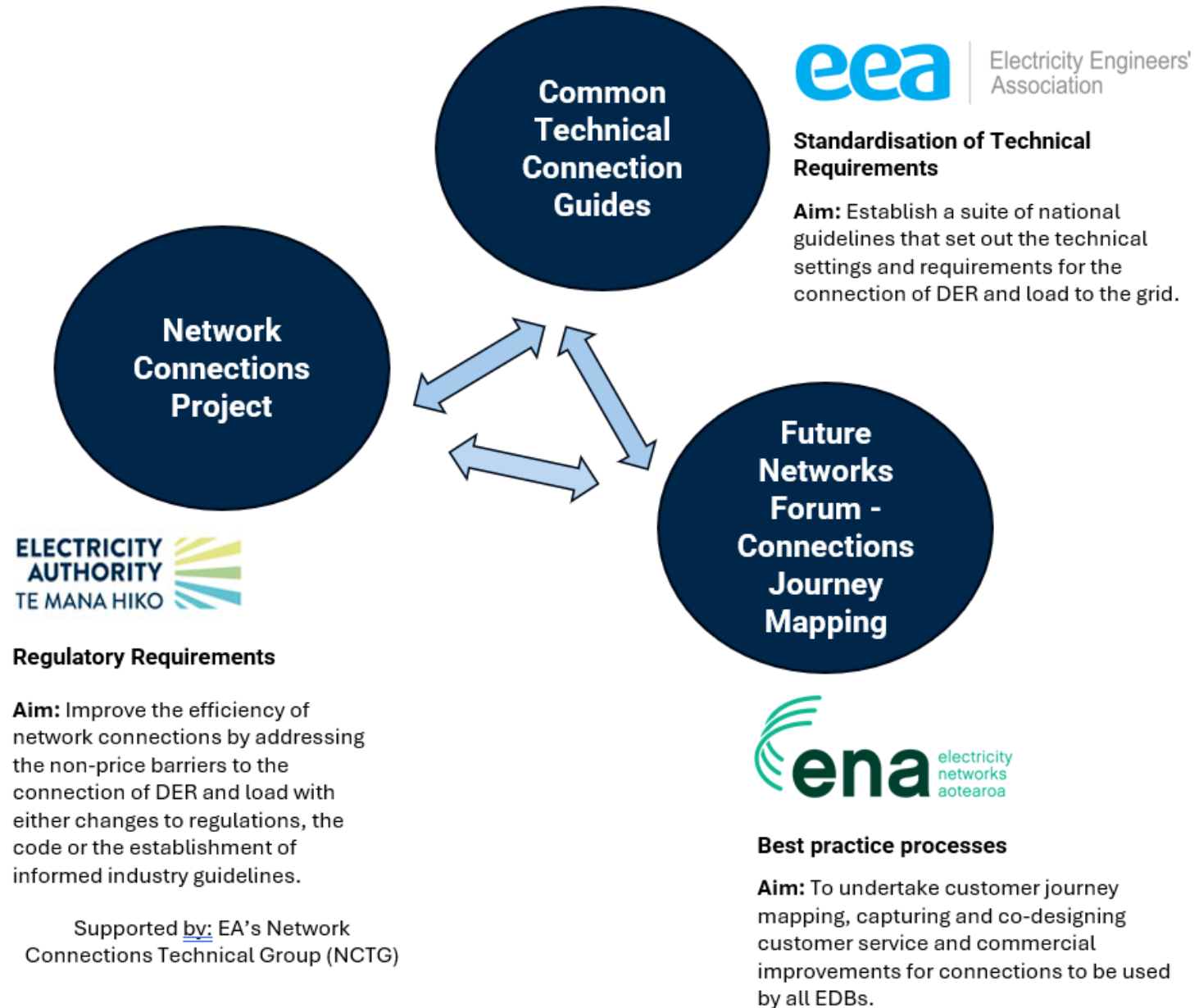
Annual reporting and record keeping

Costs

Schedule 6.2 **Regulated terms for distributed generation**

1 April 2023

This work is part of the Streamlining connections programme



Why we are making changes

Some challenges for efficient network connections:

- Wide variation in distributors' application processes
- Distributor processing and approval times can sometimes be slow
- The Code is weak on queueing and managing applications, and addressing competing applications
- Speculative applications consume distributors' resources, and hinder applications that are more connection-ready
- Limited visibility of available network capacity and no visibility of applications on a network can compromise investment decisions
- Applicants have poor visibility where they sit in the application process, including against other applications

We proposed nine changes and are implementing eight with amendments

Major proposals:

- A. amend the application processes for **larger-capacity distributed generation (DG)** applications
- B. add application processes for **larger-capacity load**
- C. require distributors to publish a network connections pipeline for large-capacity DG and load
- D. require distributors to provide more information on network capacity

Other proposals:

- E. update the regulated terms for distributed generation
- F. add regulated and prescribed terms for load applications (**not progressing**)
- G. increase record-keeping requirements for distributors
- H. introduce new Part 1 definitions and amend existing definitions
- I. make minor and technical amendments.

Key changes to DG application processes

General

- Implemented medium (2-stage) and large (3-stage) DG application processes
- DG applications assessed on maximum export power
- Existing DG - application required when DG components replaced (6.1.2(1)(d))
- Initial application does not need to comply with 'connection and operation standards'

Timeframes

- Finite timeframes to complete tasks
- Set requirements on when extensions can be used (eg, Appendix 3 clause 10)
- Additional extensions in certain circumstances (eg, Appendix 3 clause 10)
- Introduced **clock stop/start mechanism for distributors** (6.12A)

Changes to DG application processes (cont.)

Construction timeframes

- Added 2-year requirement (or longer if both parties agree) to connect medium/large DG (eg, Appendix 2 clause 17)
- Retained the 18-months requirement for small DG only (Schedule 6.2)

Multiple applications for common development

- Treat as one application unless valid reason otherwise (6.2AC)

Priority of all applications (including to same part of the network)

- Now managed through **queueing and management policy for distributors** (eg, Appendix 3 clause 23)

Confidentiality requirements

- Strengthened for network connections pipeline (6.3)

Extended time to negotiate connection contract

- Now 40 business days

Changes to DG application processes (cont.)

Published information

- Network connection pipeline (6.3) – for large DG (and load) only
- Available capacity of distribution feeders and >500kVA transformers (6.3)

Resubmitted applications

- Free if certain conditions are met (eg, Appendix 3 clause 6.8)

Milestones (large DG and load only) to be

- Managed via **queueing and management policy for distributors**

Removed

- Prioritisation on long-term benefit to consumers
- Deemed approval (remains for Part 1A)
- Detailed pipeline reporting to Authority – will become Part 2.16 consultation

Load application processes

General

- New to the Code - requirements similar to DG application processes
- 'Large load' threshold now 500kVA
- Load added to 'connection and operation standards' definition
- Distributor can set conditions to address network stability and safety concerns (eg, Appendix 4 clause 9(2))

Removed

- Obligation to connect
- Prescribed terms (proposed Schedule 6.2B)
- Notification requirements to other applicants

Network connections project - next steps

- Part 6 technical consultation - closes 5pm 7 October
- Gazette final Part 6 (~November 2025)
- DG application processes apply 12 months later (~November 2026), includes:
 - capacity information
 - network connections pipeline for DG
 - queueing and management policy for distributors
 - clock stop/start mechanism for distributors
- Load application processes apply 18 months later (~May 2027)
- Expect further Network connection project papers (eg, export limits, processing fees)
- Expect Part 2.16 consultation on applications pipeline information shortly

Questions?

Allen.Davison@ea.govt.nz