

Call for nominations – Network Services Technical Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority) is calling for nominations for ordinary members of the Network Services Technical Group.

2. Introduction and background

The Network Services Technical Group

The Authority established the Network Connections Technical Group (NCTG) in 2024 and provided valuable advice to the Authority, through to the Authority's release of its stage one 'Network connections project' decisions in July 2025.

Given the valuable contribution of the NCTG and the challenging work programme the Network Policy team is delivering over the next two years, the Authority is updating the terms of reference and broadening the scope and purpose of the group to assist in its networks work programme delivery.

- 2.1 The NCTG has therefore been renamed the 'Network Services Technical Group' (NSTG), and terms of reference updated to reflect that projects it will assist with now cover stage two of the 'Network connections' project, as well as improving network visibility and facilitating more consumer choices.

Membership criteria

- 2.2 The Authority will appoint members to the NSTG based on their level of knowledge and experience of, for example:
 - (a) the challenges to an efficient distribution sector and how the Code could help to address those challenges, particularly for small-scale DG
 - (b) the customer journey from beginning (eg, looking to connect) to end (eg, permanently disconnecting) and how the Code may assist this journey
 - (c) the roles and responsibilities of distributors, access seekers and other parties (eg, meter equipment providers, DG installers) and how the Code can assist these parties to improve network services
 - (d) the Code, including Part 6 *Connection of distributed generation*, Part 6A *Separation of distribution from certain generation and retailing*, Part 12A *Distributor agreements, arrangements and other provisions*
 - (e) distributor processes and procedures that are outside the Code that may influence network connections, maximise the benefits of DG, or enhance visibility over networks (eg, congestion policies, connection and operation standards, load management protocols).

Term of appointment

- 2.3 The Authority intends to appoint members of the NSTG for a period of two years.
- 2.4 The Authority will appoint members by written notice to the relevant nominee. The notice will state the date the appointment takes effect and the term of the appointment.
- 2.5 The Authority will appoint members after calling for nominations and considering nominees against the membership criteria set out in clause 2.2.

Remuneration

- 2.6 Should a member of the NSTG be financially disadvantaged by their participation in the NSTG, the Authority will remunerate them and reimburse their actual and reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their office as a member.
- 2.7 Any such remuneration will be determined by the Minister for Energy in accordance with the Government's fees framework for the remuneration of such bodies. Fees are to reflect an element of public service and community commitment, the personal contribution and recognition of the intangible benefits to the member, balanced by:
- (a) the complexity of the functions and expertise required
 - (b) recruitment and retention issues
 - (c) the extent to which an individual member needs to insure against personal liability
 - (d) the potential risk to reputation
 - (e) the degree to which the role is in the public eye
 - (f) affordability and
 - (g) the period since the fees were last reviewed.
- 2.8 The first NSTG meeting will be face to face. Members will have the option to connect virtually to the second and subsequent meetings.

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The terms of reference for the NSTG are on the NSTG webpage.

4. Nominations process

- 4.1 Any organisation or individual can make nominations. Nominations are to be in writing and should include:
- (a) a brief summary of the relevant expertise of the person being nominated
 - (b) contact details for both the person being nominated, and for the individual or organisation making the nomination and
 - (c) evidence that the person being nominated agrees to the nomination (eg, an email from the nominee, agreeing to be nominated).
- 4.2 Nominations should be emailed to distribution.feedback@ea.govt.nz with 'Nomination for Network Services Technical Group' in the subject and must be received by the Authority by 10 February 2026.
- 4.3 The Authority intends to appoint the members of the NSTG by end February 2026. The first meeting of the NSTG is anticipated to take place by mid-March 2026.