# Statement in support of application for merger authorisation Annexure 'TH-2'



Statement of: Thomas Andrew Hallam

Address: 31/2 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank VIC 3006

Occupation: General Manager, Regulation & Network Strategy, AusNet Services Limited

Date: 26 May 2023

Service Provider and when that information is made publicly available is to be disregarded.

**CHAPTER 6A** 

- (k2) Where the AER gives a notice to the Transmission Network Service Provider under paragraph (k) or (k1), it must:
  - as soon as is reasonably practicable make available on its website a notice stating when the period referred to in paragraph (k) or (k1), as the case may be, has commenced;
  - as soon as is reasonably practicable make available on its website a notice stating when the period referred to in paragraph (k) or (k1), as the case may be, has ended; and
  - if the information specified in that notice is required from an Authority, promptly request that information from the relevant Authority.
- (k3) Paragraphs (k) and (k1) do not apply if the AER gives the notice specified in those paragraphs to the Transmission Network Service Provider later than 10 business days before the expiry of the time limit fixed in paragraph (d).

#### Amendment of revenue determination

Amendments to a revenue determination take effect from the commencement of the next regulatory year.

#### Part D **Negotiated Transmission Services**

#### 6A.9 Negotiated transmission services

#### 6A.9.1 Principles relating to access to negotiated transmission services

The following principles constitute the Negotiated Transmission Services *Principles*:

- the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be based on the costs incurred in providing that service, determined in accordance with the principles and policies set out in the Cost Allocation Methodology for the relevant Transmission Network Service Provider;
- subject to subparagraphs (3) and (4), the price for a negotiated transmission (2) service should be at least equal to the avoided cost of providing it but no more than the cost of providing it on a stand alone basis;
- if the negotiated transmission service is the provision of a shared *transmission service* that:
  - (i) exceeds the network performance requirements (if any) which that shared transmission service is required to meet under any jurisdictional electricity legislation; or

(ii) exceeds the *network* performance requirements set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1,

then the differential between the price for that service and the price for the *shared transmission service* which meets (but does not exceed) the *network* performance requirements under any *jurisdictional electricity legislation* or as set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1 (as the case may be) should reflect the increase in the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* incremental cost of providing that service;

- (4) if the *negotiated transmission service* is the provision of a *shared transmission service* that does not meet (and does not exceed) the *network* performance requirements set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1, the differential between the price for that service and the price for the *shared transmission service* which meets (but does not exceed) the *network* performance requirements set out in schedules 5.1a and 5.1 should reflect the amount of the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* avoided cost of providing that service;
- (5) the price for a negotiated transmission service must be the same for all Transmission Network Users unless there is a material difference in the costs of providing the negotiated transmission service to different Transmission Network Users or classes of Transmission Network Users;
- (6) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be subject to adjustment over time to the extent that the assets used to provide that service are subsequently used to provide services to another person, in which case such adjustment should reflect the extent to which the costs of that asset is being recovered through charges to that other person;
- (7) the price for a *negotiated transmission service* should be such as to enable the *Transmission Network Service Provider* to recover the efficient costs of complying with all *regulatory obligations or requirements* associated with the provision of the *negotiated transmission service*;
- (8) any access charges should be based on the costs reasonably incurred by the Transmission Network Service Provider in providing transmission network user access and (in the case of compensation referred to in rules 5.4A(h) (j)) on the revenue that is likely to be foregone and the costs that are likely to be incurred by a person referred to in rule 5.4A(h)-(j) where an event referred to in those paragraphs occurs;
- (9) the terms and conditions of access for a negotiated transmission service should be fair and reasonable and consistent with the safe and reliable operation of the power system in accordance with the Rules (for these purposes, the price for a negotiated transmission service is to be treated as being fair and reasonable if it complies with principles (1) to (7) of this clause 6A.9.1);
- (10) the terms and conditions of access for a negotiated transmission service (including, in particular, any exclusions and limitations of liability and

indemnities) must not be unreasonably onerous taking into account the allocation of risk between the *Transmission Network Service Provider* and the other party, the price for the *negotiated transmission service* and the costs to the *Transmission Network Service Provider* of providing the *negotiated transmission service*; and

(11) the *terms and conditions of access* for a *negotiated transmission service* should take into account the need for the service to be provided in a manner that does not adversely affect the safe and *reliable* operation of the *power system* in accordance with the *Rules*.

## 6A.9.2 Determination of terms and conditions of access for negotiated transmission services

- (a) A Transmission Network Service Provider must comply with:
  - (1) the provider's negotiating framework; and
  - (2) the provider's Negotiated Transmission Service Criteria,

when the provider is negotiating the *terms and conditions of access* for *negotiated transmission services* to be provided to a person.

- (b) The *Transmission Network Service Provider* must also comply with Chapters 4, 5, and this Chapter 6A, including the requirements of:
  - (1) rules 5.3 and 5.4A, when negotiating for the provision of *connection* services and the associated *connection service* charges; and
  - (2) rule 5.4A when negotiating the *use of system services charges* and *access charges* to be paid to or by a *Transmission Network User*.

#### 6A.9.3 Negotiating framework determination

The determination specifying requirements relating to the *negotiating framework* forming part of a *transmission determination* for a *Transmission Network Service Provider* is to set out requirements that are to be complied with in respect of the preparation, replacement, application or operation of the provider's *negotiating framework*.

## 6A.9.4 Negotiated transmission criteria determination

- (a) The determination by the AER specifying the Negotiated Transmission Service Criteria forming part of a transmission determination for a Transmission Network Service Provider is to set out the criteria that are to be applied:
  - (1) by the provider in negotiating:
    - (i) the terms and conditions of access for negotiated transmission services, including the prices that are to be charged for the

- (3) be issued as equal monthly instalments.
- (c) A *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* must promptly pay any amounts properly calculated as owing by it and billed under paragraph (b).
- (d) Subject to paragraph (b), *Co-ordinating Network Service Providers* may agree to such terms and conditions for billing as they consider appropriate.
- (e) Each Transmission Network Service Provider whose transmission network is located in the region of the Co-ordinating Network Service Provider referred to in clause 6A.29A.2 must provide that Co-ordinating Network Service Provider with such information as the Co-ordinating Network Service Provider reasonably requires to estimate modified load export charges.

# 6A.29A.5 Allocation and billing process where multiple Transmission Network Service Providers in a Region

Where there is more than one *Transmission Network Service Provider* in a *region*:

- (a) the *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* for that *region* must allocate any amounts receivable by or payable to it for *modified load export charges* under this rule to each *Transmission Network Service Provider* in its *region* in accordance with its *pricing methodology*;
- (b) the *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* must issue a bill to each *Transmission Network Service Provider* in its region the net amount of *modified load export charges* allocated as payable or receivable by the *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* under paragraph (a) including reasonable details of the calculation of those amounts;
- (c) a *Transmission Network Service Provider* must pay any amounts properly charged and billed to it by a *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* under paragraph (b); and
- (d) the *Co-ordinating Network Service Provider* must pay any amounts properly allocated as payable to a *Transmission Network Service Provider* under paragraph (b).

# Part K Commercial arbitration for disputes about terms and conditions of access for prescribed and negotiated transmission services

# 6A.30 Commercial arbitration for prescribed and negotiated transmission services

This Part K applies to any dispute which may arise between a *Transmission Network Service Provider* (a **provider**) and a *Service Applicant* (an **applicant**) as to *terms and conditions of access* as referred to in clause 6A.1.2, for the provision

of prescribed transmission services or for the provision of negotiated transmission services (a transmission services access dispute).

### 6A.30.1 Notification of transmission services dispute

- (a) A provider or an applicant may notify the *AER* in writing that a *transmission* services access dispute exists.
- (b) On receiving a notification under paragraph (a), the AER must give notice in writing of the dispute to the other party to the dispute.
- (c) A provider or an applicant who has given notice of a dispute under paragraph (a) may withdraw notification of the dispute at any time by written notice to the *AER* and the other party to the dispute.
- (d) If the notification of a dispute is withdrawn under paragraph (c), it is taken for the purposes of this clause 6A.30.1 to never have been given.

## 6A.30.2 Appointment of commercial arbitrator

- (a) On receiving a notification under clause 6A.30.1(a), the AER must request the provider and the applicant, by a time specified by the AER, to nominate to the AER two persons each for appointment as the commercial arbitrator to determine the transmission services access dispute. The provider and applicant may make the nominations.
- (b) As soon as practicable after the expiry of the time specified by the AER under paragraph (a), the AER must appoint:
  - (1) one of the persons (if any) nominated to the AER by the provider or the applicant under paragraph (a); or
  - (2) if neither the provider or the applicant nominate any such person within the time specified by the *AER* under paragraph (a) or all of the persons so nominated do not qualify for appointment under paragraph (d) or are not eligible for appointment under paragraph (e), a person determined by the *AER*,

as the *commercial arbitrator* to determine the dispute, and must refer the dispute to that *commercial arbitrator*.

- (c) A decision of the AER as to the appointment of the commercial arbitrator is final and binding on the provider and the applicant.
- (d) The AER may only appoint a person as the *commercial arbitrator* if that person is experienced or trained in dispute resolution techniques.
- (e) A person is not eligible for appointment as the *commercial arbitrator* if that person has any interest that may conflict with, or which may be seen to conflict with, the impartial resolution of the dispute. Where the person who is appointed as the *commercial arbitrator* becomes aware of such conflict

after that person commences the hearing of the dispute, the person must advise the parties to that effect.

#### (f) Where:

- (1) the provider or the applicant believes that the person appointed as the *commercial arbitrator* has an interest which may conflict with the impartial resolution of the dispute; or
- (2) the person appointed as the *commercial arbitrator* discloses the existence of such an interest,

the person must not continue to hear and determine the dispute, except with the written consent of the provider and the applicant.

#### 6A.30.3 Procedures of commercial arbitrator

- (a) The *commercial arbitrator* may give to the parties such directions as it considers necessary:
  - (1) for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including in relation to the provision of documents and information to the other party and the making of oral and written submissions;
  - (2) relating to the use and disclosure of information obtained from the other party to the dispute (including a direction to keep information confidential); and
  - (3) in relation to the participation (if any) of legal representatives of the parties in the proceedings.
- (b) The *commercial arbitrator* must observe the rules of procedural fairness, but is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself in any manner it thinks fit.

# 6A.30.4 Powers of commercial arbitrator in determining transmission services access disputes

- (a) In determining a *transmission services access dispute* in relation to the *terms and conditions of access* for the provision of *prescribed transmission services* the *commercial arbitrator* must apply:
  - (1) in relation to price, the *pricing methodology* of the relevant *Transmission Network Service Provider* approved by the *AER* under Part E and Part J of this Chapter 6A of the *Rules*;
  - (2) in relation to other terms and conditions, Chapters 4, 5 and this Chapter 6A of the *Rules*; and
  - (3) in relation to all *terms and conditions of access* (including price) the decision of *AEMO* or the *AER* where those decisions relate to those

terms and conditions and are made under Chapters 4, 5 and this Chapter 6A of the *Rules*.

- (b) In determining a transmission services access dispute in relation to the terms and conditions of access for the provision of a negotiated transmission service the commercial arbitrator must apply:
  - (1) in relation to price (including *access charges*) for the provision of that service by the provider, the *Negotiated Transmission Service Criteria* that are applicable to that dispute, in accordance with the relevant *transmission determination*;
  - (2) in relation to other terms and conditions, the *Negotiated Transmission Service Criteria* that are applicable to that dispute, and Chapters 4, 5 and this Chapter 6A of the *Rules*; and
  - (3) in relation to all *terms and conditions of access* (including price) the decision of *AEMO* or the *AER* where those decisions relate to those terms and conditions and are made under Chapters 4, 5 and this Chapter 6A of the *Rules*.

#### and must have regard:

- (4) to the relevant *negotiating framework* prepared by the *Transmission Network Service Provider* under clause 6A.9.5 and approved by the *AER*.
- (c) In determining a *transmission services access dispute* in relation to the *terms and conditions of access* for the provision of *negotiated transmission services* a *commercial arbitrator* may:
  - (1) have regard to other matters which the *commercial arbitrator* considers relevant.
  - (2) hear evidence or receive submissions from AEMO and Transmission Network Users notified and consulted under the Transmission Network Service Provider's negotiating framework.
- (d) In determining a *transmission services access dispute* in relation to the *terms and conditions of access* for the provision of *prescribed transmission services* a *commercial arbitrator* may:
  - (1) have regard to other matters which the *commercial arbitrator* considers relevant.
  - (2) hear evidence or receive submissions from *AEMO* in relation to *power* system security matters and from *Transmission Network Users* who may be adversely affected.

## 6A.30.5 Determination of transmission services access disputes

- (a) Subject to paragraph (c), the *commercial arbitrator* must determine the dispute as quickly as possible, and in any case it must do so within 30 business days after the dispute is referred to the *commercial arbitrator*.
- (b) The determination of the *commercial arbitrator*:
  - (1) may direct the provision of *prescribed transmissions services* and *negotiated transmission services* in accordance with Chapters 4, 5 and this Chapter 6A of the *Rules*;
  - (2) may specify, for a *negotiated transmission service*, a price or charge in such a way that it is or is to be adjusted over time.

#### Note:

An adjustment as referred to in subparagraph (2) may, for example, be appropriate where the cost of providing the *negotiated transmission service* to a *Service Applicant* changes because the assets used to provide that service are subsequently used to provide a service to another person and the payment for the service by that other person enables the *Transmission Network Service Provider* to recoup some of those costs from that other person.

- (c) The *commercial arbitrator* may extend the period referred to in paragraph (a) if the provider and the applicant so agree in writing.
- (d) The *commercial arbitrator* may at any time terminate the proceedings without making a decision if it considers that:
  - (1) the dispute is misconceived or lacking in substance;
  - (2) the notification of the dispute to the *AER* under clause 6A.30.1(a) was vexatious; or
  - (3) the party who notified the dispute to the *AER* under clause 6A.30.1(a) has not negotiated in good faith or has notified the dispute prematurely or unreasonably.
- (e) The *commercial arbitrator* must terminate the proceedings without making a decision if at any time, whether on application by the provider or the applicant or otherwise, the arbitrator determines that the *transmission service* is capable of being provided on a genuinely competitive basis by a person other than the *Transmission Network Service Provider* or an entity which is associated with the provider.

### 6A.30.6 Costs of dispute

- (a) The fees and costs of the *commercial arbitrator* must be borne equally by the provider and the applicant unless:
  - (1) paragraph (b) applies; or
  - (2) otherwise agreed between the provider and the applicant.

- (b) The costs of determining the dispute (including the legal costs of either of the parties) may be allocated by the *commercial arbitrator* for payment as between the parties as part of any determination.
- (c) In deciding to allocate costs against one of the parties to the dispute, the *commercial arbitrator* may have regard to any relevant matters including (but not limited to) whether the conduct of that party unreasonably prolonged or escalated the dispute or otherwise increased the costs of resolving the dispute.

## 6A.30.7 Enforcement of agreement or determination and requirement for reasons

- (a) Where the provider and the applicant reach agreement (whether or not the matter is before a *commercial arbitrator*), the parties may execute a written agreement recording their resolution of that dispute.
- (b) The *commercial arbitrator* must give its decision determining the dispute, together with its reasons for that decision, in writing and must provide a copy of its determination:
  - (1) to the provider and to the applicant; and
  - (2) (except to the extent that it contains confidential information) to the *AER* for publication.
- (c) An agreement that is executed under paragraph (a) and a determination of the *commercial arbitrator* under paragraph (b) are binding on the provider and the applicant, and any failure to comply with such an agreement or determination is a breach of the *Rules* in respect of which the *AER* may take action in accordance with the *National Electricity Law*.

#### 6A.30.8 Miscellaneous

- (a) To the extent permitted by law, a person who is appointed as a *commercial* arbitrator is not liable for any loss, damage or liability suffered or incurred by any person as a consequence of any act or omission of that person which was done in good faith in connection with the dispute.
- (b) A person who is appointed as a *commercial arbitrator* may, before acting in relation to the dispute, require the parties to the dispute (or any one of them) to execute a release and indemnity in relation to any loss, damage or liability that that person would, but for the release or indemnity, suffer or incur as a consequence of any act or omission done in good faith in connection with the dispute.