



## Fact Sheet

This document is for connecting applicants to help understand AEMO's fees and charges related to the connections and registrations processes.

### AEMO's connections role

Across the National Electricity Market (NEM), AEMO performs an advisory role in assessing and negotiating performance standards for connecting assets to assure the stable and secure performance of the power system. AEMO also assesses simulation models of power system plant and associated control systems, and performs commissioning and post-commissioning activities. This is the case for all connections in the NEM (inside and outside Victoria), across both transmission and distribution networks. AEMO is also responsible for approving the registration of connecting plant into the NEM.

In Victoria, AEMO also manages the process of connecting to the Declared Shared Network, performing many of the responsibilities carried out in other states by the connecting transmission network service provider (TNSP). This includes processing transmission connection enquiries and applications, preparing functional specifications, assessing and negotiating performance standards, assessing simulation models of power system plant, negotiating connection contracts, and facilitating first energisation and practical completion.

### AEMO's revenue and fees model

AEMO is a not-for-profit organisation, operating on a full cost-recovery basis. As a member-based organisation, funded by registered participants, we are committed to transparent and accountable financial and risk management.

Annually, AEMO establishes revenue requirements for performing its functions and delivering its priorities, and publishes this in its Budget and Fees document.

AEMO's revenue requirement is determined by establishing efficient and prudent levels of expenditure for the functions and services it provides. Revenue requirements are applied to established fees and charges structures, which apply to market participants that benefit from the relevant functions or services.

Connection and registration fees are charged to the connecting/registering market participant.

### Connections charge-out rates

The charge-out rates (hourly) which apply for AEMO's connection role (as System and Market Operator and as connecting TNSP for Victoria) are reviewed and updated each year. These rates reflect both direct (e.g., labour cost) and indirect (e.g., management, legal, digital, training and travel) costs. Fees are charged on a time and materials basis using these charge-out rates and invoiced monthly.

In FY25, AEMO's charge-out rates for activities related to assessing and progressing connections have increased on average by 6.5% across all roles, primarily reflecting consumer price index changes and labour costs.



Fact Sheet

Table 1 AEMO connection charge-out rates FY25

Description	\$/hour rate (excl. GST)	% Increase
Office Intern	\$295	5%
Analyst/Engineer	\$345	4%
Senior	\$380	8%
Principal	\$425	11%
Manager, Specialist	\$495	5%
Third Party Labour <sup>1</sup>	Cost+15%	-
Site Visits <sup>2</sup>	Rate per hour + (15% for third-party labour) including travel time and travel expense	-
Connections Reform Initiative <sup>3</sup>	\$30	-

<sup>1</sup> Applies to contractors, consultants or specialist advisors that AEMO engages on a fixed fee basis to support its activities.

<sup>2</sup> AEMO employees and/or contractors may attend site to oversee testing (in accordance with clause 5.8.5(a) of the NER)

<sup>3</sup> AEMO and the Clean Energy Council established the Connections Reform Initiative (CRI) to address concerns with delays and increasing complexity in connections to the NEM. To recover costs for dedicated work undertaken for the CRI, a \$30/hour uplift will be applied to AEMO Onboarding and Connections (AEMO advisory function) charges. This uplift is not applied for activities undertaken in Victoria as the connecting TNSP.

## Connection enquiry fees (Victoria)

Transmission connection enquiries in Victoria incur a fixed fee.

The enquiry fee increase for FY25 is driven by increases in labour costs and increases in the complexity of the assessment, including the [additional system strength assessments](#) that are now required to be carried out at time of enquiry. This is the first time this fee has increased since it was first introduced in 2023.

Table 2 Enquiry fixed fee for Victoria FY25

Item	FY24 fee	FY25 fee
Connections enquiry	\$15,000	\$18,000

## Registration fees

Since 2020, the NEM registration fee has increased solely to reflect annual indexation. Over this period, AEMO has seen the complexity of requirements and scope of assessments increase substantially, driven by increasing connection volumes and the introduction of new technologies. For AEMO to continue supporting onboarding and registration activities effectively, it was important to establish a cost reflective fee structure for registration.

AEMO has completed a detailed, bottom-up review and updated its registration fees to ensure they appropriately reflect the effort expended for each registration type. This ensures that costs are being recovered from the appropriate party.

Third party costs incurred by AEMO in the process of registering a participant are included within the registration fee.

A complete list of registration fees, and information on how they have changed from FY24, is within AEMO's [FY25 Budget and Fees](#).

## Share your feedback and find out more

AEMO is committed to continuously improving its services and engagement with its stakeholders. If you have questions about the connections process or feedback about how we can improve, we would love to hear from you.

For enquiries about:

- the connections process and fees for the NEM (excluding Victoria), please email AEMO's Connections team at [NEM.Connections@aemo.com.au](mailto:NEM.Connections@aemo.com.au).
- connections in Victoria, please email AEMO's Victorian Planning and Connections team at [VIC.Connections@aemo.com.au](mailto:VIC.Connections@aemo.com.au)
- registrations please email [onboarding@aemo.com.au](mailto:onboarding@aemo.com.au)