

Agenda & Minutes

Innovation Advisory Committee | Meeting #12

11 August 2025

Attendees:

Dean Lombard, *Energesis*
 Damian Sullivan, *BSL*
 Jo Witters, *Independent*
 Lara Kruk, *Independent*
 Maxime Di Petta, *Clean Energy Council*
 Nando Ochoa Pizzali, *University of Melbourne*
 Scott McKenry, *Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action*

Apologies:

David Bryant, *BSL*
 Emma Chessell, *Independent*
 Isabella Powell, *Jemena*
 Theodora Karastergiou, *Jemena*
 Tom Bakker

AusNet representatives:

Charlotte Eddy, *General Manager Strategy and Regulation (Distribution)*
 Lucy Holder, *Manager Customer Engagement*
 Asal Ahmadi, *Future Network Engineer*
 Kenneth Chew, *Lead CER Integration Engineer*
 Shuyi Li, *Lead Engineer Future Networks*
 Kyle Olsen, *Senior Engagement Specialist*
 Nanditha Sirigiri, *Network Planning Engineer*
 Rafi Muneer, *CER Integration Engineer*
 Fin Crantock, *Resilience Project Engineer*
 Lachlan Webb, *LV Network Engineer*
 Luke Ireland, *Graduate Future Network Engineer*
 Jonathan Yip, *Graduate Engineer*

Item	Time	Topic	Presenter
	2:00pm (5 mins)	Welcome Incl. responding to actions from meeting #11	Charlotte Eddy
1	2:05pm (10 mins)	Innovation pipeline Overview and update for each project	Asal Ahmadi
2	2:15pm (35 mins)	Data-driven strategic low-voltage planning	Luke Ireland Nanditha Sirigiri
3	2:50pm (30 mins)	Vehicle to Grid Update	Jonathan Yip
4	3:20pm (5 mins)	EV pole charger update	Fin Crantock
	3:25pm (5 mins)	Other business and close	Charlotte Eddy

Welcome & open

AusNet's Charlotte Eddy opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed participants then outlined the meeting purpose and agenda.

Item 1 | Innovation pipeline – Overview and update of pipeline

AusNet's Asal Ahmadlou updated members on the innovation pipeline, and projects funded by the Demand Management Innovation Allowance (DMIA).

This included an update on recent customer engagement for the ElectriFAIRcation project.

Discussion included:

- The IAC appreciated the update on ElectriFAIRcation and noted that rental properties present a unique challenge in this energy transition. They noted that tenants often have limited control over upgrades or replacements in the property, which are typically at the discretion of landlords. If a landlord chooses to replace appliances or systems, the tenant may not have a say. The IAC questioned how AusNet sees this dynamic between rental providers and tenants in the electrification space.
- It was discussed that for the case study provided, the rental provider was enthusiastic about the project and replacing appliances in his rental properties. AusNet noted that they would minimise any impacts to the renters and would engage directly with them to complete the upgrades at their properties.
- The IAC noted there may be issues and barriers identified through this program, they questioned that given the relatively low number of participants, is it possible to assess the impacts on specific feeders or parts of the network from this project and electrification in general?
- AusNet is currently working on the data and impacts from its ElectriFAIRcation project, and will **report these insights back at the next IAC meeting.**

Item 2 | Data-driven strategic low-voltage planning

AusNet's Luke Ireland gave an overview of the low-voltage network and the data that is used to plan, operate and optimise the grid. Luke highlighted that more granular, data-driven modelling is now required for the low-voltage network due to the rapid growth in rooftop solar PV installations, residential electrification, and electric vehicle adoption, which is introducing significant variability and complexity into the low-voltage networks.

AusNet's Nanditha Sirigiri gave an overview of low-voltage network complaints, and the data-driven low-voltage strategic project between AusNet and University of Melbourne.

Discussion included:

- The IAC noted that different phases on the low-voltage network may have varying customer loads, raising the question of whether a balanced load across all phases is the ideal scenario. They questioned whether there is guidance on how to connect new installations - such as solar systems - to the appropriate phase to help manage issues like voltage rise, and whether AusNet would prefer solar connections to be distributed evenly across phases within a street to support network stability and performance.
- Another IAC member noted that phase balancing can be a great approach, but other solutions may also need to be considered for different circumstances.
- The IAC questioned whether rooftop solar and home batteries were included in the modelling for this project, noting the difficulties these technologies pose to accurate modelling.
- It was discussed that home batteries were not included in stage 1 of the project, and that stage 2 would focus more on community batteries, rooftop solar, and how these CERs can help refine planning and strategies to manage the network.

- It was discussed that while forecasting isn't currently within the scope of the program, it was suggested that multiple scenarios, such as the impact of EV uptake on the distribution network, can be modelled using existing network data. It was noted that this is an innovation project aimed at exploring new modelling approaches, which could evolve into a more sophisticated forecasting method to better anticipate future network requirements and effective planning strategies.

Item 3 | Vehicle-to-Grid Update

AusNet's Jonathan Yip provided an update on a vehicle-to-grid project following the workshop held with IAC members in May to brainstorm a potential project. He provided a recap of the workshop discussions and overview of the rationale for this type of project, as well as international case studies to draw learnings from.

The suggested vehicle-to-grid project roadmap shifts the focus to vehicle-to-X given the current limitations of vehicle-to-grid technology and availability. Jonathan gave an overview of the potential project roadmap.

Discussion included:

- The IAC were encouraged that the first phase of the potential project has a customer focus, where there has traditionally been a gap in defining the customer problem that is trying to be solved through this technology.
- The IAC noted that not many in the community are currently considering vehicle-to-grid, but may be looking at using this technology in other ways. The IAC were comfortable with the project scope moving towards a vehicle-to-X focus.

Item 4 | EV pole charging update

AusNet's Fin Crantock provided an update on the EV pole charger trial being undertaken with EVX, where EV chargers will be installed on existing distribution poles across AusNet's network.

Discussion included:

- The IAC questioned if the contracts developed for this project and partnership with EVX are consistent across each DNSP.
- It was noted that each DNSP operates under its own access arrangements and manages its assets independently. As a result, each DNSP maintains separate contractual relationships with suppliers, tailored to their specific operational needs.
- The IAC questioned whether learnings from the contract process can be shared with other DNSP's.
- It was noted that even though each DNSP might take a different approach, there is value in sharing learnings so there may be some consistency in approach.
- The IAC noted that there has already been installation of pole mounted chargers in the CitiPower/Powercor distribution network, they questioned which type of infrastructure these chargers can be installed onto and if there are any learnings to take from this project.
- AusNet noted that they are looking to find out details of the CitiPower/Powercor project and share any learnings at a future IAC meeting.

Other business & close

Charlotte Eddy noted that at the next IAC meeting we will cover future project prioritisation and give a further update on the ElectriFAIRcation analysis. Charlotte then closed the meeting.

Action items			
Agreed action	Assigned to	Status	Due date
AusNet to report back to the IAC on its analysis of demand impacts as a result of its ElectriFAIRcation project	Grid Evolution Team	In progress	November 2025