

Agenda & Minutes

Innovation Advisory Committee | Meeting #16

28 August 2026

Attendees:

Blake Edwards, *Totally Renewable Yackandandah*
 Dean Lombard, *Energesis*
 Emma Chessell, *Independent*
 Jo Witters, *Independent*
 Megan Fisher, *EnergyLab*
 Simon Helps, *Totally Renewable Phillip Island*
 Nando Ochoa, *University of Melbourne*
 Lauren Fetherston, *CitiPower/Powercor/UE*
 Isabella Powell, *Jemena*

Apologies:

Sharon MacDonnell, *Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action*
 David Bryant, *Brotherhood of St Laurence*

AusNet representatives:

Charlotte Eddy, *General Manager Strategy and Regulation (Distribution)*
 Ana Erceg, *Manager, Grid Evolution*
 Shuyi Li, *Lead Engineer Future Networks*
 Kenneth Chew, *Lead CER Integration Engineer*
 Kyle Olsen, *Senior Engagement Specialist*
 Fin Crantock, *Resilience Project Engineer*
 Nanditha Sirigiri, *Network Planning Engineer*
 Zoe Wright, *Manager, Strategic Engagement & Insights*
 Lachlan Webb, *LV Network Engineer*

Item	Time	Topic	Presenter
	9:30am (10 mins)	Welcome Incl. responding to actions from meeting #15	Charlotte Eddy
1	9:40am (10 mins)	Innovation and DMIA pipeline Overview and update for each project	Ana Erceg
2	9:50am (30 mins)	Vehicle-to-X project learnings	Lachlan Webb
3	10:20am (10 mins)	Grid Enhancing Technologies Grant update	Shuyi Li
4	10:30am (5 mins)	Enabling future customer energy participation	Nanditha Sirigiri
5	10:35 (20 mins)	Project updates (EVX, LV BESS, Gippsland Water BESS)	Fin Crantock
	10:55am (5 mins)	Other business and close	Charlotte Eddy

Welcome & open

AusNet's Charlotte Eddy opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and outlined the meeting purpose and agenda. Charlotte noted that the new 2026-31 regulatory period had now started, and AusNet is currently focused on completing and analysing the learnings of the existing innovation projects and trials.

Item 1 | Innovation and DMA pipeline – Overview and update of pipeline

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

Item 2 | Vehicle-to-X project learnings

AusNet's Lachlan Webb provided an update on the Vehicle-to-X (V2X) project, noting that both stage 1 (data analysis) and stage 2 (customer adoption motivation study) have now been completed.

Stage 1 involved developing detailed postcode-level forecasts of passenger EV and electric truck adoption across AusNet's network. Stage 2 was undertaken in partnership with the Australian National University to better understand the factors influencing customer interest in and adoption of V2X technologies. Lachlan highlighted several key findings from the study:

- Participants showed the strongest preference for Vehicle-to-Home, followed by Vehicle-to-Load, with Vehicle-to-Grid being the least preferred application of the technology.
- Preferences were influenced by a range of customer attitudes, motivations and use cases.
- The potential for financial returns was identified as a key factor in customers' willingness to participate in Vehicle-to-Grid programs.
- Customer behaviour and use of EVs during emergency situations and blackouts should not be assumed. The study revealed a diverse range of perspectives and likely responses, reflecting differing household needs, priorities and circumstances.

Discussion included:

- An IAC member observed that customers are generally more familiar with the concept of Vehicle-to-Grid than other V2X applications. However, they suggested that most customers are likely to be more interested in Vehicle-to-Home capabilities, which allow them to use their EV battery to power their home, while only a smaller segment of sustainability minded customers may be motivated to export energy back to the grid.
- One IAC member reflected that while they would be comfortable participating in a Vehicle-to-Grid program, their partner would be more hesitant to give up control of their EV battery, noting that this aligned with themes identified in the study.
- Another IAC member noted that regional customers may place greater value on Vehicle-to-Home technology due to experiencing more frequent outages, with the technology offering potential resilience benefits during outages.
- Action: AusNet advised that it has introduced a CER (two-way) tariff and will present uptake data for the tariff at the next meeting.
- An IAC member suggested that messaging on the use of this technology could also highlight broader community benefits, such as reducing energy consumption during peak demand periods and exporting energy when it is most valuable to the network. They noted that customers often recognise the value of exports but may overlook the impact that reducing their own load can also have on the grid.
- The IAC noted that EVs, solar systems and batteries are customer-owned assets that serve different purposes across households. While greater flexibility in how these resources are used is valuable, solutions should remain simple, practical and easy for customers to understand.

- The IAC also highlighted a distinction between 'energy experts' and the broader community. While some customers may be comfortable optimising exports to the grid while retaining access to their EV when needed, many customers have simpler energy needs and may find more complex arrangements difficult to understand or engage with.
- An IAC member suggested that commercial EV fleets may represent the most significant early opportunity for V2X technologies, with residential uptake likely to increase once fleet applications and supporting infrastructure become more established.
- An IAC member encouraged AusNet to remain focused on initiatives that align with its regulated role and responsibilities, concentrating on areas where it can deliver tangible customer benefits and strengthen network resilience throughout the energy transition.

Item 3 | Grid Enhancing Technologies Grant update

AusNet's Shuyi Li provided an overview of the Grid Enhancing Technologies Grant, a national initiative aimed at accelerating innovative network optimisation projects.

Shuyi highlighted the Network Exchanger project, the first DNSP trial of this technology in Australia. The project will evaluate its potential to increase solar hosting capacity, improve power quality and defer the need for traditional network augmentation. By unlocking additional capacity from existing assets, the technology has the potential to enable more efficient use of the current network.

Shuyi also provided an overview of three additional projects supported by AusNet through the grant program, delivered in partnership with EcoJoule Energy, JET Charge, and RMIT/Ouroboros.

Discussion included:

- The IAC expressed support for the project.

Item 4 | Enabling future customer energy participation

AusNet's Nanditha Sirigiri provided an overview of AusNet's approach to progressing flexible exports as an initial application of Dynamic Operating Envelopes (DOEs).

Nanditha explained that the focus is on developing the network and operational requirements needed to support flexible exports, with this work being undertaken in partnership with the University of Melbourne and CSIRO. The project aims to build the technical and operational foundations required to enable greater customer exports while maintaining network reliability and performance.

Discussion included:

- n/a

Item 5 | Project updates (EVX, LV BESS and Gippsland Water BESS)

AusNet's Fin Crantock provided an overview of AusNet's pole-mounted EV charger trial, including a regulatory update on recent changes that are helping to create a pathway for broader deployment of kerbside and pole-mounted EV charging infrastructure. Fin noted that the next step of the project involves identifying suitable deployment locations, with site selection requiring consideration of a range of technical, operational and customer factors.

Discussion included:

- The IAC expressed support for AusNet's role in enabling the expansion of pole-mounted and kerbside EV charging infrastructure, recognising its potential to support EV adoption and improve access to charging.
- Action: due to time constraints AusNet agreed to share any additional project analysis reports and findings prior to the next meeting.

Other business & close

Charlotte Eddy thanked the IAC for their time and closed the meeting.