AusNet



GridView Improvement Group

Terms of Reference

Friday, 17 October 2025

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1. Background

AusNet established the GridView Improvement Group (GIG) in response to growing interest from community energy groups, local councils and other stakeholders seeking to explore opportunities on the AusNet network for renewable energy, community energy, electric vehicle charging and other opportunities.

GridView is a publicly available self-service tool designed to give users greater visibility of, and enable greater utilisation of, our medium and low voltage networks. By supporting the integration of more distributed energy resources (DERs), along with mid-scale renewable generation and storage, GridView is helping accelerate and support the efficient transition to a renewable energy future.

The GIG plays a central role in guiding the ongoing development of GridView, ensuring it remains a fit-for-purpose tool that provides relevant, accessible network data to support communities in achieving their renewable energy goals.

AusNet will seek the GIG's input on how GridView can better support:

- the development of Community Energy (CE) projects
- the identification of optimal sites for renewable generation and storage, including community batteries
- the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- local efforts by communities and councils to electrify and reach net zero emissions.

The GIG is a key voice in ensuring that customer and community perspectives inform the design and prioritisation of the GridView roadmap.

This document outlines the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the GIG.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. Role of the GIG

The GIG serves as a collaborative forum for representatives from community energy (CE) groups, local councils, and other external stakeholders actively involved in CE projects across AusNet's distribution network.

The GIG will:

- provide a regular platform for AusNet to seek advice on which **new data sets** should be added to GridView, and how to **prioritise** them
- offer input on **usability enhancements** to GridView, making it easier for **non-technical users** to identify opportunities for CE projects
- recommend strategies to **improve energy literacy** among CE groups through the use of GridView
- support the development of a GridView strategy that delivers **long-term benefits** to CE proponents and councils working to **electrify and achieve net zero emissions**
- help identify opportunities to **raise awareness** of GridView among a broader audience of individuals and organisations engaged in CE initiatives.

2.2. Level of engagement

The level of engagement for the GIG will be to '**involve**', as defined by the **IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation**. This means AusNet commits to ensuring that the perspectives and requirements of GIG members are meaningfully reflected in the development of GridView improvements.

To support this, the GIG will be provided with a clear framework outlining which potential new datasets for GridView are **negotiable** and which are **non-negotiable**.

The GIG is an **advisory body** and does not hold any formal decision-making authority. AusNet will present a proposed program of GridView initiatives – including new datasets – for feedback and discussion. GIG members are also encouraged to suggest additional data sets and usability improvements for consideration.

However, final decisions regarding GridView remain the responsibility of AusNet.

2.3. Guiding principles

Proposed GridView enhancements – including new datasets, the prioritisation of these datasets, and usability improvements – are expected to be assessed against the criteria set out by AusNet's GridView team.

Enhancements and improvements to GridView and associated resources and tools must:

- make it easier for community energy groups and councils on our network to identify suitable locations for community energy projects on our network, including community batteries and EV chargers
- be driven by needs and expectations of community energy groups, councils and the communities they represent
- support aspects of the proposed NER rule change, where appropriate and any direction from the Victorian Government.

2.4. Governance

The GIG operates as a standalone committee, overseen by AusNet's Grid Evolution team.

When relevant, the Grid Evolution team will update the Innovation Advisory Committee (IAC) on the GIG's activities and outcomes, in line with project developments and progress.

AusNet will chair and provide secretariat services for the GIG. Meeting minutes will be shared publicly on AusNet's Community Hub site.

2.5. Membership

Membership of the GIG will be decided by AusNet. Members will have a professional and/or personal interest in the GridView portal and have exposure to the portal and users' requirements in their day-to-day activities. That is, GIG members will be well-placed to act as a voice for GridView users and stakeholders in discussions on its evolution.

It is expected that the GIG will include:

- **Community energy advocates** - community energy representation is crucial given the evolving nature of community energy on our network. The community energy input will guide the future direction of GridView. This will ensure the GridView roadmap continues to be directed to achieving outcomes desired by community energy groups.
- **Council representatives** – representation from interested council officers and the greenhouse alliance networks who are involved in supporting communities to achieve their community energy goals, including greater electrification, uptake of EV charging and transition to a renewables-led grid.
- **AusNet staff members**
- **Advisors/observers** – including technical experts (e.g. academics), universities, Department of Energy and Environment and Climate Action (formerly Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning).

2.6. Confidentiality and information sharing

As a member of the GIG, members may be privy to information of a confidential nature.

To encourage open discussion at meetings, members are required to adhere to the following media protocols:

- Prior to releasing information to the public, including via the media or on social media, members are required to gain approval in writing from AusNet's General Manager Regulation (Distribution) or General Manager Communications & Brand.

- Members must first obtain written approval from the AusNet's General Manager Regulation (Distribution) or General Manager Communications & Brand before providing written or verbal statements to the media about matters discussed by the GIG.
- Any media enquiries received by a member about the GIG or a matter it has discussed are to be referred as soon as possible to the AusNet media line, +61 (0)3 9483 0989.

3. Administration

3.1. Meetings

The GIG will meet twice per year, with the first meeting to be held in late 2025. Additional meetings may be arranged at the request of AusNet or members.

Meetings will be held virtually and will last 1-3 hours. An agenda for each meeting will be circulated approximately one week prior to the meeting.

A forward meeting schedule will be distributed to the membership once it is confirmed.

Membership of the GIG is a voluntary (unpaid) position for parties interested in helping steer the direction of publicly available data on GridView.

All correspondence within GIG meetings will be documented and minutes will be taken by AusNet. Minutes will be shared via Community Hub, following the meeting.

3.2. Member commitments

There is an expectation that GIG members will:

- have read, understood and agree to be bound by these Terms of Reference
- behave ethically, honestly and with integrity at all times
- act with care and diligence, in line with the GIG purpose and objectives
- treat fellow members, staff and stakeholders of the GIG with respect and courtesy
- disclose any relevant interests and take reasonable steps to avoid any conflict of interests or perceived conflicts of interests
- attend all meetings (or nominate a proxy on occasion)
- actively contribute to the discussion at GIG meetings
- disseminate relevant information within their community, organisation or network, and share feedback at GIG meetings
- restrict issues and debates to matters relevant to AusNet
- review and make comments on minutes of meetings if required.

A member may be removed or asked to resign by GIG if the member's public or private action/s reflect negatively on AusNet or the GIG.

3.3. Review of terms of reference

The GIG ToR will be reviewed annually to ensure currency and effectiveness. Any recommendations or suggestions will be circulated to members for consideration prior to incorporation. AusNet will also seek regular feedback on the performance of this forum at meetings and encourage members to provide feedback directly to AusNet out of session as required. Administrative changes will be made as necessary

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