

Minutes



SA Power Networks Innovation Advisory Group

Meeting Details

Organiser Hiroe Terao

Date Monday 10 August 2026

Time 9.30am to 12.30pm

Location MS Teams

Members

Ed Chan (Chair), CEMA Advisory
Caroline Herman
Joe Clarke, The Energy Project
Jonathon Dore, AEMO
Dani Alexander, UNISW
Gavin Dufty, St Vinnies National Council

SA Power Networks

James Brown, Senior Manager Enterprise Innovation
Michelle Howie, Innovation Development Manager
Alex Lewis, Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Hiroe Terao, Stakeholder Engagement Business
Partner

Guests/ Observers

Emily Hendrix, Sustainability Advisor
Leo Jones, Future Networks Engineer
Eddie Thanavelil, Future Networks Innovation
Manager
Paul Topping, Asset Management & Operations
Innovation Manager

1. Welcome, Governance and IAG Overview

- Members were welcomed to the inaugural meeting of the Innovation Advisory Group (IAG)
- The IAG Terms of Reference were adopted.
- SA Power Networks provided an overview of the Innovation Fund, innovation portfolio, the role of the IAG in providing advice on Innovation Fund initiatives, and how this fits into the overarching Innovation Framework.
- SA Power Networks provided an overview of the Innovation Fund pipeline, including projects identified, considered and progressed through various stages of the innovation framework.
- Members highlighted the importance of maintaining transparency on innovation initiatives, demonstrating customer value, avoiding unnecessary duplication and sharing project learnings where appropriate to maximise broader industry benefit.
- Conflicts of interest were managed in accordance with the Group's governance arrangements.

Action: SA Power Networks will continue to provide the IAG with updates on the Innovation Fund portfolio and emerging innovation initiatives.

2. SA Household Energy Insights – Gate 2

- SA Power Networks sought advice from the IAG on a proposed research project aimed at improving understanding of South Australian household experiences of the energy transition.
- Members acknowledged the importance of a robust and inclusive research approach that reflects the diversity of household circumstances and experiences.

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- Advice focused on ensuring the research is informed by clear assumptions, appropriate expertise and methodologies, and meaningful participation from a representative range of households.
 - Members also encouraged consideration of how the research could provide insights into longer-term trends where practicable, while recognising the importance of privacy and appropriate data governance arrangements.
 - Members acknowledged the value of sharing research findings more broadly where appropriate, to support stakeholder understanding of customer experiences during the energy transition.

Agreed next step: SA Power Networks will consider IAG feedback in refining the research approach, methodology and engagement strategy.

3. Flexibility Marketplace – Combined Gate 1 & 2

- SA Power Networks sought IAG advice on a proposed Flexibility Marketplace initiative, exploring new ways to enable customer energy resources to help address emerging network needs.
- Members acknowledged the potential opportunity to improve network outcomes through greater customer participation and highlighted the importance of clearly demonstrating value for all customers, including those without consumer energy resources.
- Key themes of advice included customer value, market and regulatory alignment, availability of suitable resources, and the design of service and incentive arrangements.
- Members also encouraged consideration of longer-term costs and benefits should the concept progress beyond a trial.

Agreed next step: SA Power Networks to consider IAG feedback as the proposal is further developed, with advice captured through the IAG governance process.

4. Satellite Imagery for Asset Inspection – Expedited

- SA Power Networks sought advice on a trial exploring the use of satellite imagery to support inspection and monitoring of electricity network assets.
- Members highlighted privacy, data governance, information security and community trust as considerations for the trial and any future application of the technology.
- Members also encouraged a measured approach to future use cases, informed by trial outcomes, customer expectations and demonstrated value.

Agreed next step: SA Power Networks to consider the IAG's feedback as trial progress and will share key outcomes and learnings with the group.

5. Reflections & Other Business

- Members provided positive feedback on the meeting format and discussions, and discussed arrangements to support the effective operation of the IAG.
- Members supported a combination of online and in-person engagement to facilitate participation, collaboration and effective advisory input.
- The application of the Chatham House Rule and appropriate confidentiality arrangements was confirmed to support candid discussion while maintaining transparency through the publication of high-level meeting outcomes.

Action: SA Power Networks to continue to refine engagement arrangements and supporting governance process as the IAG matures.

Meeting closed at 12:21pm.

Action List

Meeting Date	Action No.	Action Item	Owner	Status
10 Aug 2026	01	Continue providing Innovation Fund portfolio and project updates to the IAG.	Michelle Howie	Open
10 Aug 2026	02	Continue to refine engagement arrangements and supporting governance process as the IAG matures.	SA Power Networks	Open