

ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CODE OF PRACTICE AMENDMENT 2026

Amendments made by the Essential Services Commission

1 Nature and commencement of this instrument

- (1) This instrument amends the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice.
- (2) This instrument comes into operation on 1 January 2026.

2 Table of Amendments

Clause 1.2.1 – Date of effect

- (1) In clause 1.2.1, omit 'This code of practice came into effect on 1 October 2022 and was last amended on 1 May 2023.' and substitute with:

This Code of Practice came into effect on 1 October 2022 and was last amended on 1 January 2026.

Clause 2.1 – Glossary

- (2) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

CMS or Central Management System means a device or system that collects electronic signals from measurement elements and packages it into trading intervals. The device or system may contain energy data storage and display capability for a metering installation.

- (3) In clause 2.1, omit definition of '*distribution system*' and substitute in alphabetical order:

distribution system in relation to a *distributor*, means a system of electric lines and associated equipment (generally at *nominal voltage* levels of 66 kV or below) which that *distributor* is licensed to use to *distribute* electricity for *supply* under its *distribution licence* or exemption granted under the *Act*, including *public lighting assets*:

- (4) In clause 2.1, omit definition of '*Electricity Customer Metering Code of Practice*'.

- (5) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

fault report means the time when a licenced *distributor's* 24 hour call centre or *electronic communication* reporting system receives a report of a fault (from any source)

- (6) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

lamp means the generic term for the light source in a luminaire.

- (7) In clause 2.1, omit definition of '*large customer*' and insert the following in alphabetical order:

large customer means:

- (a) a *business customer* to whom peak *demand* of not less than 500kVa, or consumption of not less than 160MWh per annum is *distributed*, supplied or sold for commercial or industrial purposes; or
- (b) a *public lighting customer*

(8) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

luminaire means an apparatus which distributes, filters or transforms the light transmitted from one or more *lamps* and which includes, other than the *lamps* themselves, all the parts necessary for fixing and protecting the *lamps* and where necessary circuit auxiliaries together with the means for connecting them to the *distribution system*.

(9) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

major road means a road designated by the Department of Transport and Planning such as 'M', 'A' or 'B'.

(10) In clause 2.1, omit definition of '*metering code*'.

(11) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

non-major road luminaire means a *luminaire* installed other than on *major road* and includes the installed *lamp* and *luminaire* that a licenced *distributor* has responsibility for in off street locations including car parks, pathways and parks.

(12) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

non-standard fitting means a fitting other than a *standard fitting*.

(13) In clause 2.1, omit definition of '*public lighting assets*' and insert the following in alphabetical order:

public lighting assets means all assets of a licenced *distributor* which are dedicated to the provision of public lighting including *lamps*, *luminaires*, mounting brackets and poles on which the fixtures are mounted, supply cables and control equipment (for example, photoelectric cells, *smart control nodes* and control circuitry), but not including the licenced *distributor's* protection equipment (for example, fuses and circuit breakers).

(14) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

public lighting customer means:

- (a) The Department of Transport and Planning or a municipal council in its municipal district, as the case may be, in respect of public lighting of freeways or arterial roads within the meaning of the *Road Management Act 2004*;
- (b) a municipal council in respect of all other public lighting assets and services in its municipal district.

(15) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

public lighting standards means the current version from time to time of the AS/NZ 1158 and AS/NZ 60598 series of *Australian Standards*.

(16) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

public lighting technical standards means standards published by a licenced *distributor* which are consistent with the *public lighting standards* and deal with technical requirements for connection to the licenced *distributor's distribution system*.

- (17) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

smart control node means an electronic control equipment which can have communication capabilities to interact with a *central management system*.

- (18) In clause 2.1, omit definition of '*special meter read*' and insert the following in alphabetical order:

special meter read means the physical collection of *metering data* created by way of a scheduled meter reading.

- (19) In clause 2.1, insert the following in alphabetical order:

standard fitting means a standard product such as a *lamp, luminaire*, mounting bracket, public lighting pole, photo-electric cells, supply cable or control equipment, normally used by, approved or acceptable to a licenced *distributor*.

Section 6 - Metering

Clause 6.1 – Simplified outline

- (20) In clause 6.1, omit 'Simplified outline', and substitute with:

Deleted.

- (21) In clause 6.1 highlight box text, omit 'This clause 6 confirms that distributors and customers must comply with the metering code, which includes the National Electricity Rules, the Metrology Procedure and the Electricity Customer Metering Code of Practice.' and substitute with:

This section has been deleted to reflect the revocation of the Electricity Customer Metering and the Electricity Customer Transfer Codes of Practice on 12 September 2025. Metering is regulated under the National Electricity Rules.

Clause 6.2 – Compliance with applicable metering code

- (22) In clause 6.2.1, omit 'A *distributor* and a *customer* must comply with the applicable *metering code*.' and substitute with:

Deleted.

- (23) In clause 6.2.2, omit 'For the avoidance of doubt, if a *distributor* is appointed as the Metering Coordinator, Metering Provider and/or Metering Data Provider for a *supply address* or *connection* point under the *NER*, the *distributor* must comply with its obligations as Metering Coordinator, Metering Provider and/or Metering Data Provider, in addition to its obligations as a *distributor*, under the *NER*.' and substitute with:

Deleted.

- (24) In clause 6.2.3, omit 'Clause **Error! Reference source not found.** applies to an *exempt distributor* to the extent that the applicable *metering code* imposes obligations on an *exempt distributor*.' and substitute with:

Deleted.

Section 14 - Guaranteed service levels

Clause 14.5 – Supply restoration, public lighting and low reliability payments

- (25) In clause 14.5, after 'restoration', insert 'public lighting'.

- (26) After clause 14.5.1, insert the following:

14.5.1A Where a licensed *distributor* does not repair a *public lighting asset* within 2 *business days* of a *fault report* or a period otherwise agreed between the licensed *distributor* and the *customer*, it must pay the first *customer* who reported the fault a minimum of \$25 if:

- (a) that *customer* is the occupier of an immediately neighbouring residence or is the proprietor of an immediately neighbouring business, and
- (a) the public light is a licensed *distributor*-owned *public lighting asset* for which the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement is regulated by the Australian Energy Regulator as an alternative control service under Chapter 6 of the National Electricity Rules.

not counting the period of an event to which clause 14.5.3, 14.5.4 or 14.6 applies or any period of *interruption* on a *major event day*.

Section 19 - Asset management and planning

Clause 19.7 – Public lighting minimum standards

- (27) After clause 19.6.1, insert 'Clause 19.7 – Public lighting minimum standards'.

- (28) After clause 19.7, insert the following:

19.7.1 A licenced *distributor's* plans under clause 19.2.1 must include performance targets. The licenced *distributor* and the *public lighting customer* must negotiate in good faith to agree upon such performance targets. As a minimum, the licenced *distributor* must (or must ensure that a person responsible for it must):

- (a) operate a 24 hour call centre and *electronic communication* system to receive *customer* and *public lighting customer fault report*; and
- (b) repair or replace *standard fittings* within 7 *business days* of a *fault report* and use best endeavours to repair or replace *non-standard fittings* within 7 *business days* of a *fault report* subject to the availability of fittings;
- (c) replace *lamps* and *luminaires* in accordance with industry best practice or as required by the *public lighting standards*;

- (d) clean, inspect for damage and repair *lamps* and *luminaires* during any re-lamping;
- (e) replace photo-electric cells and *smart control nodes* in accordance with industry best practice or as required by the *public lighting standards*;
- (f) routinely patrol *major roads* at night to inspect, replace or repair *lamps* and *luminaires* in accordance with:
 - (i) industry best practice as agreed with the *public lighting customer*; or
 - (ii) when a *central management system* is established to serve a geographic region in agreement with the *public lighting customer* for *major roads luminaires*; or
 - (iii) at least 3 times per year.
- (g) replace *lamps* and *luminaires* with appropriate new *lamps* and *luminaires* at the end of their useful life.

Note: Clause 19.2.1(c) does not apply to clause 19.7.1.

- (29) After clause 19.7.1, insert the following:

19.7.2 A licenced *distributor* is relieved of its obligation to meet the minimum standards for *public lighting services* set out in clause 19.7.1 during any period in which a *public lighting customer* unreasonably withholds payment for *public lighting services* provided by the licenced *distributor*. The relief does not extend to allowing such a low standard as would compromise public safety. To avoid doubt the relief does not extend to clauses 19.7.1(a), 19.7.1(b) and 19.7.1(c).

Clause 19.8 – Standard fitting

- (30) After clause 19.7.2, insert 'Clause 19.8 – Standard fitting'.

- (31) After clause 19.8, insert the following:

19.8.1 A licenced *distributor* must maintain a list of *standard fittings*. A licenced *distributor* must provide a copy of its list of *standard fittings* to a *public lighting customer* on request, or upon any change to the list of *standard fittings*.

19.8.2 If a *public lighting customer* proposes the addition of a new item to the list of *standard fittings* the licenced *distributor* must add the new item if it complies with the licenced *distributor's public lighting technical standards*.

19.8.3 The licenced *distributor* must not unreasonably refuse the addition of a new item to the list of *standard fittings* if the *public lighting customer* has agreed to pay a fair and reasonable charge for operation, maintenance and repair of the proposed new *standard fitting* if used in public lighting.

19.8.4 The licenced *distributor* is not required to assess the compliance of a proposed new *standard fitting* unless the *public lighting customer* has agreed to pay any fair and reasonable fee to the licenced *distributor* for assessing such compliance

Clause 19.9 – Non-standard fitting

- (32) After clause 19.8.4, insert 'Clause 19.9 – Non-standard fitting'.

- (33) After clause 19.9, insert the following:

19.9.1 If a *public lighting customer* specifies the use of *non-standard fittings* or light types with *non-standard fittings* the licenced *distributor* must offer to install the lighting on fair and reasonable terms. In considering the acceptability to it of *non-standard fittings*, the licenced *distributor* must have regard to its *public lighting technical standards*.

Clause 19.10 – Public lighting use of distribution system

- (34) After clause 19.9.1, insert 'Clause 19.10 – Public lighting use of distribution system'.

- (35) After clause 19.10, insert the following:

19.10.1 A licenced *distributor* must use best endeavours to ensure that *public lighting assets* remain connected to the licenced *distributor's distribution system* to enable the supply of energy for their operation.

Section 25 - Provision of information

Clause 25.2 – Publication of information to customers

- (36) In clause 25.2.1(f), omit 'information relating to new *connections* or *connection* alterations' and substitute with:

information relating to new *connections*, *connection* alterations or public lights.

Clause 25.3 – Information to customers about quality of supply and public lights

- (37) After clause 25.2.4, omit 'Clause 25.3 – Information to customers about quality of supply' and substitute with:

Clause 25.3 – Information to customers about quality of supply and public lights.

- (38) After clause 25.3.3, insert the following:

25.3.4 A licenced *distributor* must provide to a *public lighting customer*:

- (a) an electronic copy of public lighting data held by the licenced distributor on request at reasonable intervals, using either csv or dxf format (or other format and type of data as agreed with the *public lighting customer*); and
- (b) ongoing access to public lighting data held by the licenced *distributor* through its internet web site.
- (c) upon any material change, an up-to-date report and map in electronic format as requested by the *public lighting customer*, conveying the asset records insofar as they detail location, type and rated power of the *public lighting assets* relevant to that *public lighting customer*;
- (d) upon any material change, a current copy of its plans for the operation, maintenance, refurbishment, replacement, repair and disposal of its *public lighting assets*;
- (e) a quarterly report of progress against the maintenance plan including identification of the number of fault repairs and preventative maintenance

activities;

- (f) a quarterly report containing analysis of performance against any performance targets referred to in clause 19.7.1 and the guaranteed service level set out in clause 14.5.1A;
- (g) an annual report of operations and maintenance, including refurbishment, replacement, repair and disposal expenditure for the licenced *distributor* allocated by the *public lighting customer*. The report should be provided at a time to align with the *public lighting customer's* annual budgeting requirements;
- (h) not less often than annually, a report on its work program providing details of the timing and extent of works to be undertaken on the *public lighting assets* relevant to that *public lighting customer*;
- (i) upon request, any other reports which a *public lighting customer* may reasonably require.
- (j) the service billing information that separately identifies charges for each type of *public lighting service* provided and must contain at least the following information:
 - (i) detail of the number and type of public lights operated and maintained; and
 - (ii) any other information necessary for the *public lighting customer* to verify the accuracy of an amount charged on the service bill.

(39) After clause 25.3.4, insert the following:

25.3.5 Reports under clause 25.3.4 paragraphs (a) to (h) will be provided at no additional charge. A fair and reasonable charge may be made for other reports the licenced *distributor* must provide to a *public lighting customer*:

25.3.6 A licenced *distributor* must promptly provide to the *public lighting customer* or *public lighting customer's retailer* any information held by the licenced *distributor* which a *public lighting customer* or a *public lighting customer's retailer* needs in order for the *public lighting customer* to purchase the electricity required for the operation of the public lights directly from a *retailer* or the wholesale electricity market.

(40) In clause 25.5.1(a), insert 'public lighting assets' after 'supply extensions'.

Schedules

Schedule 1 – Civil Penalty Requirements

(41) In Schedule 1, Part 2: Relations with customers and retailers, insert the following in numerical order:

14.5.1A.

(42) In Schedule 1, Part 3: Technical obligations, insert the following in numerical order:

19.7.1, 19.8, 19.9, 19.10.

- (43)** In Schedule 1, Part 4: Administrative provisions, insert the following in numerical order:
- 25.3.4, 25.3.5, 25.3.6.

Schedule 6 – Electricity distributor reporting obligations and performance indicators

- (44)** In Schedule 6, Part 1: Table 3: Type 2 breaches – electricity distributors, insert the following in numerical order:
- 14.5.1A.