

DER Register: Information for Installers in Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is responsible for the efficient operation of the Australian power system and market, ensuring all Australian energy consumers can access a reliable and secure electricity supply.

Australia is the world's fastest adopter of rooftop solar power (photovoltaics or PV) and new technologies, such as batteries and electric vehicles, are quickly emerging. These Distributed Energy Resources (or DER) have been so successful in Australia that their combined effect is changing the way that AEMO needs to plan and operate the energy system. Getting this right for everyone requires better visibility of DER devices installed across Australia.

What are DER and why do we need to keep track of all the DER devices?

Distributed Energy Resources or DER includes all forms of small generation and storage connected to the electricity grid. For installers and electrical contractors this includes rooftop solar PV and batteries in homes and businesses. But it also includes other generation types, such as cogeneration, that operate in a grid-connected mode and larger stand-alone generators that connect directly to the grid¹.

Knowing the locations and specifications of all the DER connected to the electricity grid is critical for sustaining a secure and reliable electricity supply for all Australians. With the help of energy sector participants, AEMO is establishing an online DER Register to record and hold this data so we can map out where all the DER devices are across Australia.

The DER Register will assist AEMO to safely and effectively integrate all DER devices into the electricity grid and market, which will enable AEMO to build innovative new markets for customers to participate in with their DER devices.

When will the DER Register open?

The DER Register will officially be in operation from 1 March 2020. All installations after this date must be recorded in the DER Register.

What is changing with the DER Register?

From 1 March 2020, a regulatory requirement will mandate that your electricity network service provider (NSP) provide data to AEMO on every generator or battery device connected to the grid within 20 days of the DER device being turned on. This information will be collected during the grid connection application process from customers or DER installers acting on the customers' behalf, as a condition for connecting small generating units to the electricity network. This will include information about the equipment installed on site.

Electrical contractors who are installing DER equipment, such as rooftop solar PV will be required to provide information about what has been installed on site to the DER Register. Depending upon your local network this may involve providing information direct to them or direct to the AEMO DER Register via existing smart phone applications or the AEMO DER Register portal. Your local NSP will provide instructions for what to do in the lead up to 1 March 2020.

What does this mean for DER Installers?

The new regulations require networks to collect up to 13 additional pieces of information about DER equipment installed on site. This includes inverter manufacturer, model and serial numbers. AEMO's systems will support data entry by using existing data sets, such as those from the Clean Energy Council's approved product database. AEMO's system will also enable the smartphone applications solar installers already use to gather this information. So, it should be a simple process for installers.

¹ Generators or batteries that are only used as standby or back-up power, and generators or energy storage that registers with AEMO for market participation are exempt.
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How can DER Installers access information about the new requirements?

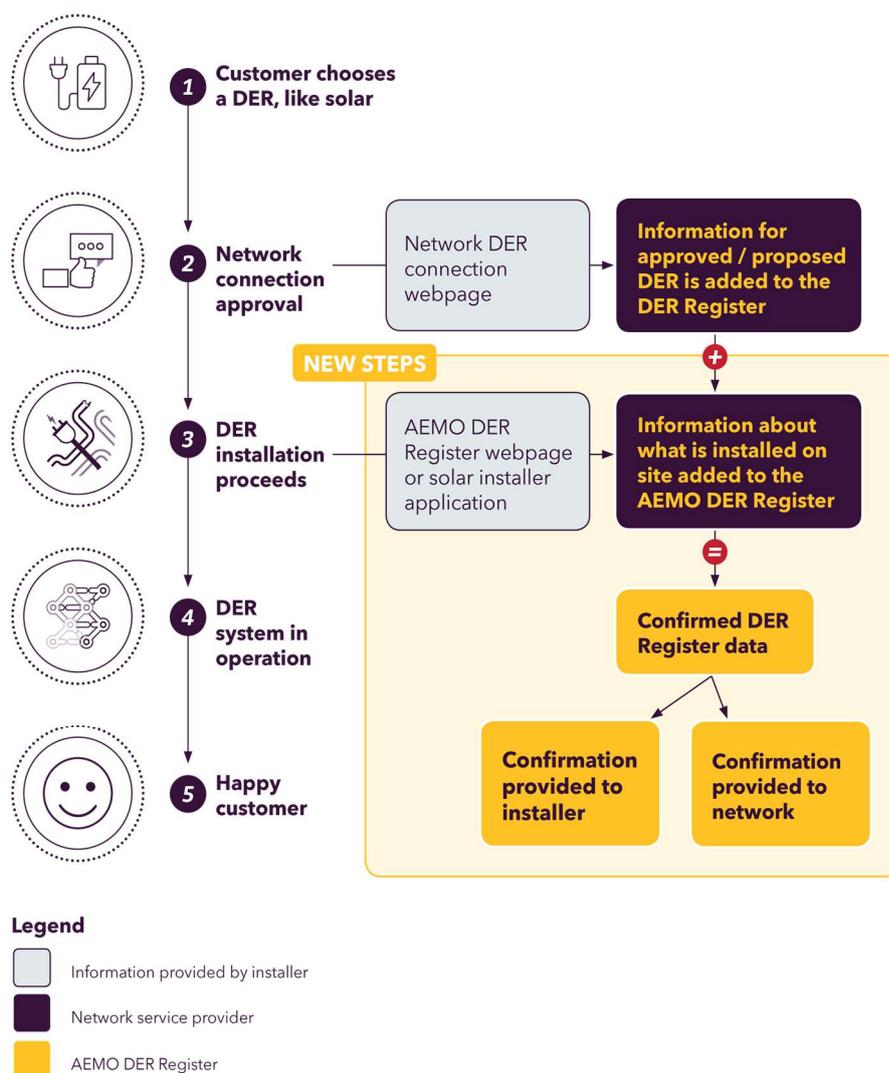
Before 1 March 2020, AEMO is liaising with stakeholders and will have information available on the AEMO website to ensure a seamless transition to the new requirements.

Your NSP also has more information available on its website.

How does the new system change the DER connection process from 1 March?

The connection process will remain unchanged for customers, and the local network service provider should always be the first place to go to get connected. But the local network will be required to provide information into the DER Register and AEMO's systems will enable qualified electrical contractors and/or DER installers to provide information about what is installed on site into the DER Register.

AEMO will generate a confirmation receipt once the DER installation is registered in the DER Register. This confirmation receipt will be issued to the account holder that provided AEMO with the information within 20 business days of the installation being turned on.



Want more information?



Ask your local network service provider, or check the [AEMO website](#) for more information
You can also email us at DERRegister@aemo.com.au