



THE HON CHRIS BOWEN MP
MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

MS26-000945

Mr Daniel Westerman
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director
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Dear Mr Westerman

On behalf of Ministers who supported the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC) decision to progress data centre regulatory reforms, I request that the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) work closely with the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) as it progresses the rule change process on *Operational Integration and Visibility of Large Inverter-Based Loads*.

This rule change may deliver the ECMC objective that data centres be treated as market participants in the National Electricity Market (NEM), and I want to ensure this requirement can be implemented as quickly as possible following the AEMC's final determination.

As you are aware, ECMC met on 28 July 2026 and welcomed the AEMC's advice on regulatory options for data centres, including the proposal that data centres in the NEM be required to register as market participants. ECMC agreed, with Queensland and the Northern Territory opposing, the Commonwealth would develop a rule change request to progress this proposal in collaboration with states and territories and energy market bodies.

I have written to Ms Anna Collyer, Chair of the AEMC, requesting they consider whether the operational integration rule change process could also support the ECMC reform objective regarding market participation.

I have encouraged the AEMC to work closely with AEMO to identify opportunities for streamlined implementation throughout its assessment of the rule change request. I similarly encourage AEMO to continue working closely with the AEMC so requirements that data centres register as market participants can be implemented as quickly as possible following the final determination.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance in progressing the data centre reforms. I look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the regulatory framework keeps pace with the growing role of data centres in Australia's energy system.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS BOWEN

10/09/2026