APA
Australia's energy infrastructure partner

Victorian Transmission System stakeholder engagement plan V2.3

2028–2032 access arrangement

November 2025

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Version control

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	March 205	Incorporate Co-creation workshop feedback and outcomes
1.1	May 2025	Incorporate feedback from RRG meeting #1
2.0	June 2025	Alter reference to independent consumer report, include Energy Australia in the reference groups and update timeline to reflect confirmed meeting and workshop dates and the change to a combined workshop with reference group members and wider stakeholders in June 2026 rather than separate sessions in June and August.
2.1	June 2025	Alter RRG meeting #8 date to work around likely ACCC conference clash and correct to Teams meeting (not face-to-face)
2.2	August 2025	Update planned 2026 meeting dates (up to publication of draft Overview of Access Arrangement) with actual dates and push back VTS TRG Meeting 3 from early November to early December 2025.
2.3	September	Include Vopak and Amplitude Energy as an RRG member and Beach Energy as a member of both the RRG and TRG. Alter RRG meeting #6 and Stakeholder Workshop 2 dates so that latest VGPR data can be incorporated into the workshop.

Acknowledgement of Country

At APA, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we live and work throughout Australia.

We acknowledge their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. And we commit to ensuring APA operates in a fair and ethical manner that respects First Nations peoples' rights and interests.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to outline our approach to engagement with customers and stakeholders for the 2028 to 2032 Victorian Transmission System (VTS) access arrangement including a review of VTS tariff structures.

APA is committed to embedding quality stakeholder engagement into our business to ensure our actions are directly underpinned by the views of the consumers and communities we serve.

We are committed to fully consulting with customers and stakeholders ahead of the submission of the proposed VTS access arrangement to the regulator in December 2026. Quality stakeholder engagement will help us to ensure our submission directly reflects consumer and stakeholder needs and preferences.

We aim to engage respectfully, proactively, and comprehensively to deliver a shared understanding, alignment and mutual value for all.

This Plan provides an overview of our engagement approach, our key stakeholders, the principles that guide our engagement, our engagement priorities and our plans for ongoing engagement. This plan been developed following the co-creation workshop held with stakeholders on 5 March 2025. The Plan will be updated on an ongoing basis during the VTS engagement.

We welcome customers and other stakeholders' views on this engagement plan and throughout our engagement for the VTS 2028 to 2032 access arrangement. Please share your views with us by emailing yoursay@apa.com.au

2. About APA

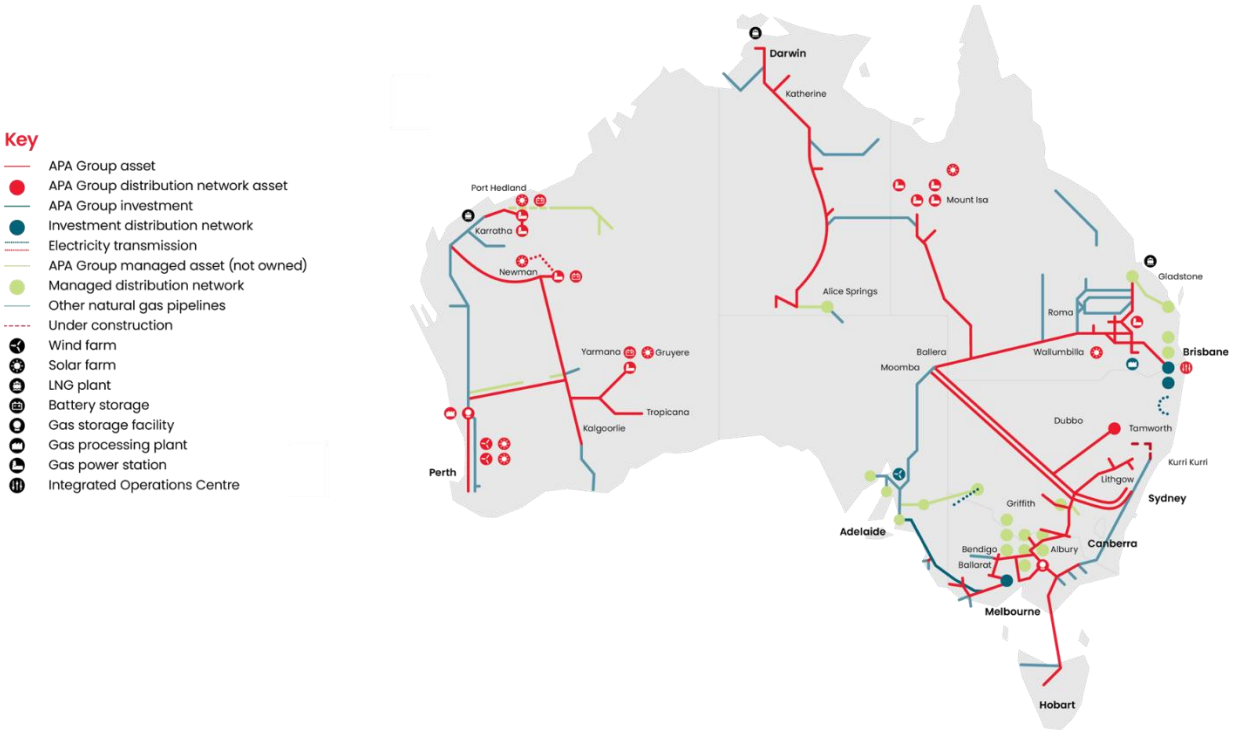
APA operates in every state and territory in Australia, employing more than 2,700 people across Australia. We are a strong Australian business, with deep connections across the country and an exciting future.

We are proud of the leadership role we are playing in Australia's energy transition. We are also proud of the important role we play in our economy and our communities.

We own and operate a $22 billion portfolio of gas, electricity, solar and wind assets. Our assets include:

— 15,000km of gas transmission pipelines
— 29,500km of distribution gas mains and pipelines
— 600MW of renewable energy generation (wind and solar)
— 880MW of gas-fired power generation
— 800km of HV electricity transmission (including of 290km deep sea cable).

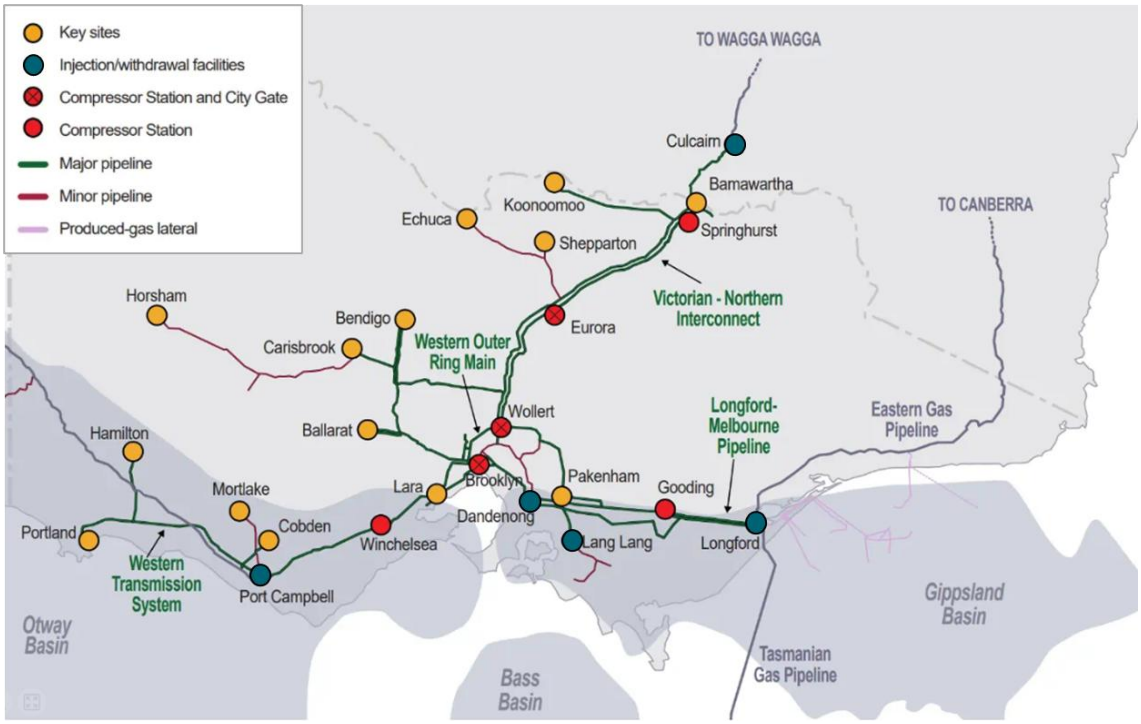
We know we have a critical role to play delivering energy security.



3. Victorian Transmission System

3.1. Features

The Victorian Transmission System (VTS) is a vast network of pipelines transporting natural gas throughout Victoria, supplying the Melbourne metropolitan area and country areas. The VTS also supplies gas to NSW via the interconnect with the Moomba Sydney Pipeline (MSP) at Culcairn, and to South Australia via the SEA Gas Pipeline at Port Campbell.



Construction of the VTS began in the mid-1950s supplying gas from Bass Strait gas fields to Longford – Melbourne pipeline.

The capacity of the VTS has been progressively expanded over the years, to transport additional gas between NSW and Victoria at Culcairn; more capacity added to the South West Pipeline and the SEA Gas Pipeline; a new connection at Lara, the Western Outer Ring Main (WORM) project, and the Victorian Northern Interconnect Expansion (VNIE).

The major pipelines that make up the VTS are:

— Longford-Melbourne pipeline (from Longford to Dandenong and Wollert)
— Western Outer Ring Main (connecting the South West Pipeline at Plumpton to the Longford-Melbourne Pipeline at Wollert)
— South West Pipeline (from Iona to Lara and Brooklyn)
— Victorian Northern Interconnect (from Wollert into New South Wales at Culcairn)
— Western Transmission System (from Iona to Portland).

2000+ km pipelines (including laterals)	**~200 PJ** average annual throughput, but trending down	**92%** residential customers have gas in Victoria	**~$140M** annual revenue

3.2. Operation

APA proudly owns and maintains the VTS. The VTS is operated by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) under a market-based centrally coordinated carriage system under the National Gas Rules.

VTS operates under the unique Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market (DWGM) market model. The DWGM is the market that enables competitive and dynamic trading of gas injections and withdrawals from the Declared Transmission System (DTS).

The Victorian Retail Gas Market (VRGM) is the market which enables customers connected to distribution pipelines and systems in Victoria to buy gas from a licensed retailer of their choice. The VRGM also allows large customers to directly participate in the market and the DWGM whereby they are responsible for sourcing their own gas, via commercial arrangements rather than buy the gas from a retailer.[1]

The DWGM operates to sets a gas wholesale market price for end users of the VTS (also referred to as the Declared Transmission System (DTS)).

[1] AEMO Declared Wholesale Gas Market (DWGM) Technical Guide, July 2024, p.9

4. VTS access arrangement

4.1. Regulatory requirements

The VTS is a scheme pipeline under the National Gas Law and National Gas Rules which means that the rules for third party access are set out in a regulated access arrangement.

The access arrangement governs use and access to pipelines by setting minimum levels of:

— Services
— Terms and conditions for access
— Allowed revenue and tariffs.

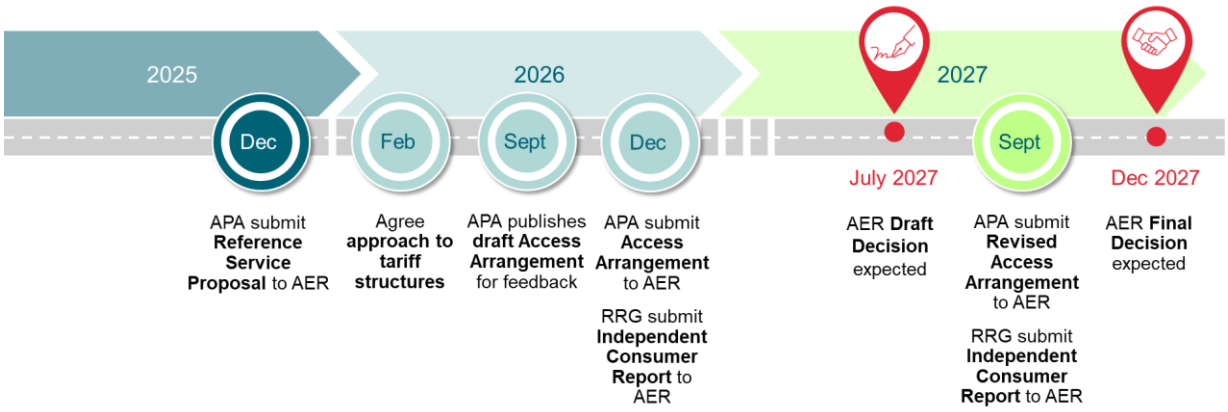
Access arrangements are usually set for five years. The current VTS access arrangement period is 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2027. The next access arrangement period is 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2032.

The access arrangement is subject to review and approval by the AER in accordance with the National Gas Law (NGL) and National Gas Rules (NGR).

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) as the economic regulator under the NGL expects that access arrangements should be prepared in a way where customers and stakeholders are engaged in the development and review process.

4.2. Timeline and milestones

The estimated milestones for the AER's review of the 2028-32 access arrangement proposal are set out below.



In terms of engagement a multiphase approach is proposed, as shown below:

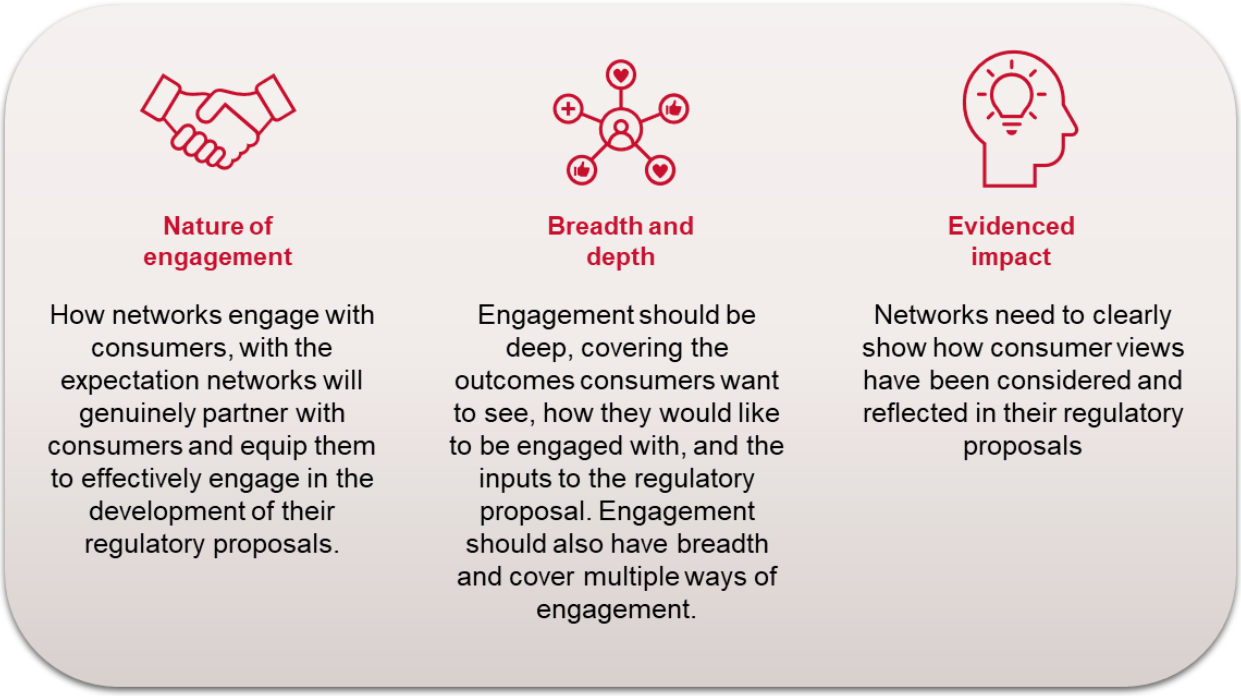
Planning	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Submission
Dec 24 – Mar 25	**Apr 25– Sep 25**	**Oct 25 – Feb 25**	**Mar 25 – Jun 26**	**Jul 26 – Dec 26**	**Dec 26**
Develop draft engagement plan	Develop key themes and customer priorities for the review	Gather insights to inform options / decision making and pricing preferences	Deep dive into areas that matter and develop pricing strategies	Develop and test a Draft Proposal	Submit the access arrangement supported by customers and stakeholders

5. Stakeholder engagement

5.1. AER 'Better Resets Handbook'

The AER has set clear expectations on how network operators should engage with customers and stakeholders in its Better Reset Handbook. This handbook sets out the principles, processes and methodologies the AER uses to assess network businesses' revenue proposals. Ultimately, the handbook aims to achieve better consumer outcomes by encouraging networks businesses to own their engagement with customers and stakeholders and tailor engagement to best suits the needs and circumstances of their consumers.

The Better Reset Handbook sets out three core expectations:



5.2. Engagement principles

We understand the critical role we play in the energy supply chain and the broad impact of our operations. We know that it is not only what we do, but the way we do it that is important.

We recognise that every community has insights, knowledge and experiences that can add value to, or improve the outcomes of, our projects or activities. By tapping into these insights, knowledge and experiences, we can improve our decision-making processes and develop better and more sustainable solutions.

We understand the importance of supporting the delivery of affordable and reliable energy to Victorian communities, as well as the role we can play in supporting the Victoria's economic development.

APA's approach to stakeholder engagement will be guided by the following principles:

Early engagement

We will engage customer and stakeholders early and consistently throughout the access arrangement process, providing ample time to contribute and influence the outcome. APA will respond to all stakeholder contact in a timely manner and make every effort to resolve issues to the satisfaction of all involved.

Listening

We will listen, be open to new ideas and demonstrate a willingness to change direction. We will incorporate feedback throughout the engagement journey and access arrangement development process. We will Explain rationale for decisions and how feedback influenced the outcomes.

Act with integrity

We will always use facts and speak the truth. If the answer is not known then the question will be taken on notice, the appropriate parties spoken with, and a response provided promptly.

Inclusive

We will always use facts and speak the truth. If the answer is not known then the question will be taken on notice, the appropriate parties spoken with, and a response provided promptly.

5.3. Approach to designing this engagement plan

APA invited 52 individual stakeholders to participate in the March 2025 Co-creation workshop. About 30 participants from 20 organisations participated in the co-creation workshop.

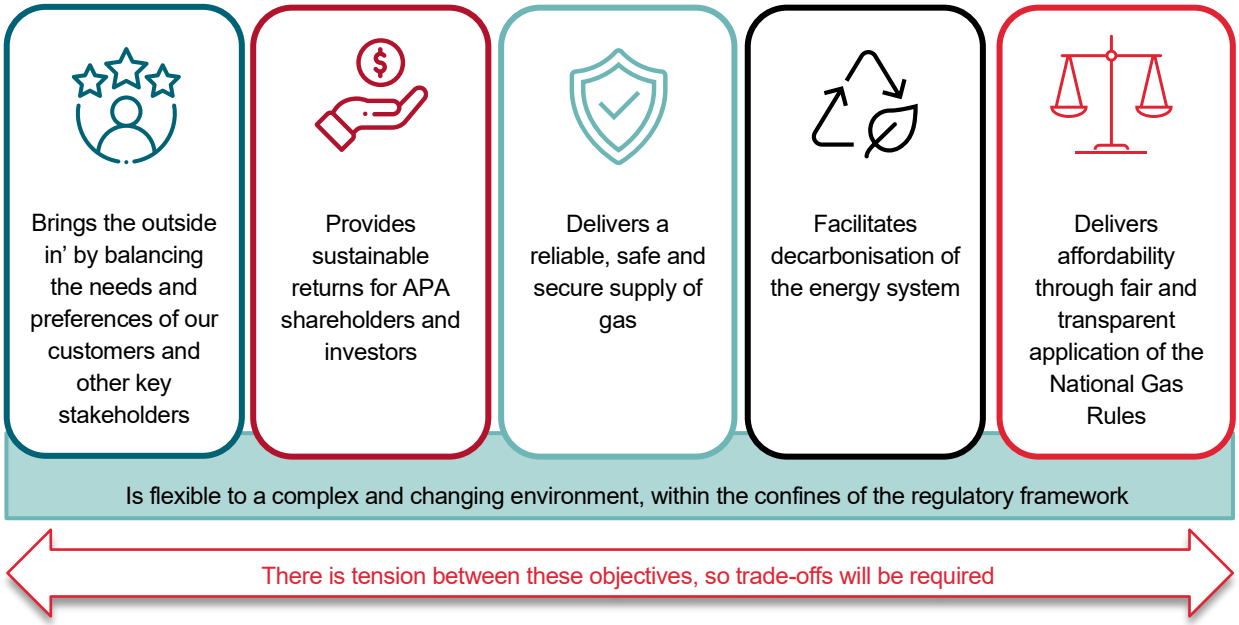
This plan encompasses the outputs of the co-creation workshop and a subsequent review by the Regulatory Reference Group (RRG). The RRG approved plan will be shared with stakeholders who attended the workshop.

5.4. Objectives for our regulatory submission

APA is committed to fully consulting with stakeholders during the development of the 2028 to 2032 access arrangement submission to the AER. Our aim is to understand customer and stakeholder views and ensure its submission reflects customer and stakeholder needs.

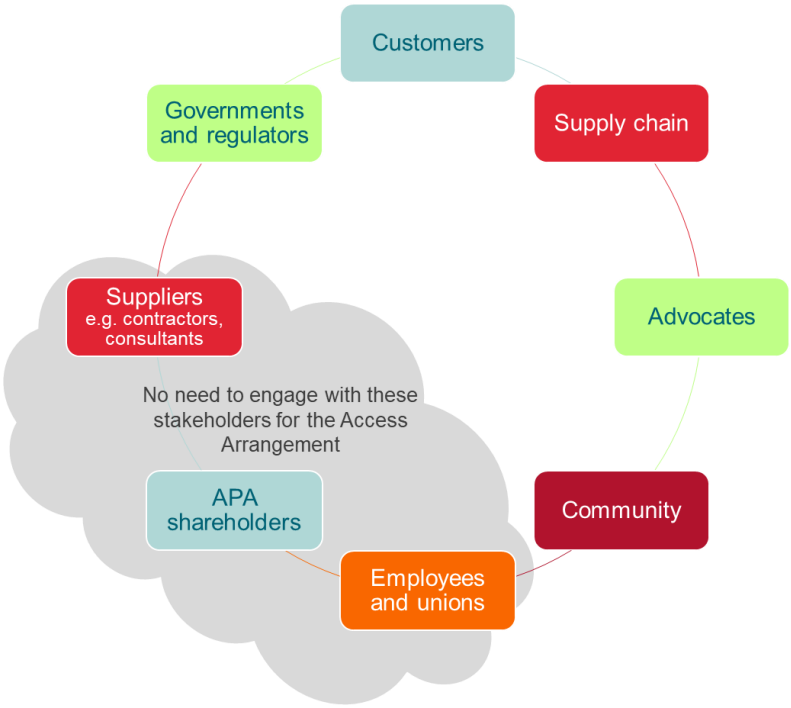
We tested our engagement objectives as part of the co-creation workshop. The revised objectives are shown below and include a new objective related to affordability, recognition that engagement will need to be nimble to accommodate a complex and changing environment and the fact that there is tension between the objectives that will necessitate trade-offs in some circumstances.

APA's stakeholder engagement aims to deliver an access arrangement that is capable of acceptance and:



5.5. Key stakeholders

APA has many stakeholder groups who will bring diverse and sometimes differing views on issues. Some of APA's important stakeholder groups in the context of regulatory determination and access management processes are shown below.



Stakeholder groups identified at the co-creation workshop that are considered relevant to the access arrangement comprise:

- Customer advocates
- Gas distributors
- Transmission
- Retailers
- Gentailers
- Shippers
- Producers
- Market bodies (AER & AEMO)
- Safety regulator
- Storage
- LNG terminal proponents
- Generators
- State government (DEECA)
- Large business advocates
- Large customers
- Small customers
- First Nations people
- Disabled groups
- Renewable developers given shifting gas usage
- Renewable gas proponents
- DCCEW (Federal government)
- Related entities (government and non-government) such as South East Water, biomethane
- Hydrogen Council
- Emergency management services e.g. resilience of transport infrastructure

5.6. VTS regulatory reference groups

To support the development of the VTS 2028 to 2032 access arrangement, stakeholders supported the establishment of:

- a VTS Regulatory Reference Group (RRG), and
- a VTS Tariff Reference Group (TRG).

5.6.1. Role of the VTS RRG

The RRG is an advisory group comprised of a cross-section of representatives across residential, business and large energy users and energy supply chain participants in Victoria.

The objective of the RRG is to work collaboratively with APA under a principle of co-design on the development and implementation of APA's engagement plan for the VTS.

The functions of the RRG will include, but are not limited to:

- Providing **independent feedback** and **challenge** APA on the degree to which its access arrangement addresses the needs and preferences of customers.
- **Co-designing** the **engagement program**, including scope, timing, themes and engagement activities.
- **Providing input into the development of the access arrangement** and challenging key components including operating expenditure and capital expenditure.
- Assisting in **improving APA's understanding of the needs and expectations** of different **customer segments**, including vulnerable groups.
- Providing **advice on engagement materials** to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Writing and delivering up to two Stakeholder Reports to the AER – the first commenting on the engagement program for the initial proposal to the AER and the second on engagement for the revised Access Arrangement.
- Encouraging a culture of continuous engagement at APA.

However, the primary role of the RRG will be to provide input and challenge to APA's proposed plans.

As noted above, RRG members will report separately to the AER on APA's access arrangement submission and the success of its engagement program. The Stakeholder Reports will be authored by a subset of RRG members on behalf of the group. One member of the sub-group will act as the lead and coordinator for the reports. More details on the Stakeholder Reports can be found in section 7.3.

Each report is expected to be provided to the AER shortly after APA provides its submission. The reports will identify areas where there was consensus between members of the RRG and any areas where consensus was not obtained.

Representatives from the below organisations have expressed an interest to participate as a RRG member:

Organisation	Stakeholder group
Shell Energy	Producer/ retailer
Beach Energy	Producer
Amplitude Energy	Producer
AusNet Services	Gas distributor
Lochard Energy	Storage
Energy Users Association of Australia	Large business advocate
Energesis	Customer advocate
St Vincent De Paul	Customer advocate
Energy Australia	Retailer
Lumo Energy/Red Energy	Retailer
Hydro Tasmania/ Momentum Energy	Retailer, Renewable generator
Viva Energy	LNG terminal proponent
Vopak	LNG terminal proponent

Staff from the AER and the Victorian Government will be invited to observe RRG meetings. AEMO will also be invited to attend sessions where relevant topics are being discussed.

Additional members may also join the RRG throughout the process.

5.6.2. Role of the VTS TRG

The TRG is an advisory group comprised of a cross-section of representatives across residential, business and large energy users and energy supply chain participants in Victoria with a specific interest in VTS tariffs.

There will be members who sit on both the RRG and TRG, to help facilitate communication between the two groups.

The objective of the TRG is to work collaboratively with APA under a principle of co-design on the design of new tariff structures for the VTS.

The functions of the TRG will include, but are not limited to:

- Determining the **principles and criteria** for developing new tariff structures.
- Providing **ideas** for tariff structures that meet the requirements of the National Gas Rules and the agreed tariff principles.
- **Participating in robust discussions** to challenge the pros and cons of different tariff structure suggestions and how they will impact different user groups.
- **Advising where broader engagement is required** in relation to proposed tariff structures and how best to obtain feedback.
- Providing **advice on any engagement materials** to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Providing thoughts and feedback to the RRG sub-group members responsible for writing the Stakeholder Reports as to the merits of the engagement program and how the engagement program delivery aligned to the requirements of the 'Better Resets Handbook'.

Representatives from the below organisations and stakeholder groups have expressed an interest to participate as a TRG member:

Organisation	Stakeholder group
Shell Energy	Producer/ retailer
Beach Energy	Producer
Lochard Energy	Storage
Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA)	Large business advocate
Energesis	Customer advocate
St Vincent De Paul	Customer advocate
Energy Australia	Retailer
Lumo Energy/Red Energy	Retailer
Hydro Tasmania (representing Momentum too)	Retailer, Renewable generator
Viva Energy (shell) (refinery)	LNG terminal proponent
SEA Gas	Transmission

Staff from the AER and the Victorian Government will be invited to observe RRG meetings. AEMO will also be invited to attend sessions where relevant topics are being discussed.

Additional members may also join the TRG throughout the process.

6. Priority areas for stakeholders

One objective of the co-creation workshop was to determine the relevant IAP2 spectrum level of engagement to be applied to the issues considered important to stakeholders. The IAP2 spectrum of engagement, developed by the International Association for Public Participation, is a guiding tool for organisations to determine and implement the appropriate level of public involvement in decision-making processes.[2]

The IAP2 spectrum of engagement is presented below.

Level of engagement (IAP2 Spectrum) and description	
Empower	To place final decision-making in the hands of customers and stakeholders
Collaborate	To work together with our customers and stakeholders to formulate alternatives and incorporate their advice into final decisions to maximum possible extent
Involve	To work directly with customers and stakeholders to ensure their concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed
Consult	To obtain feedback on alternatives and draft proposals
Inform	To provide balanced information to keep customers and stakeholders informed

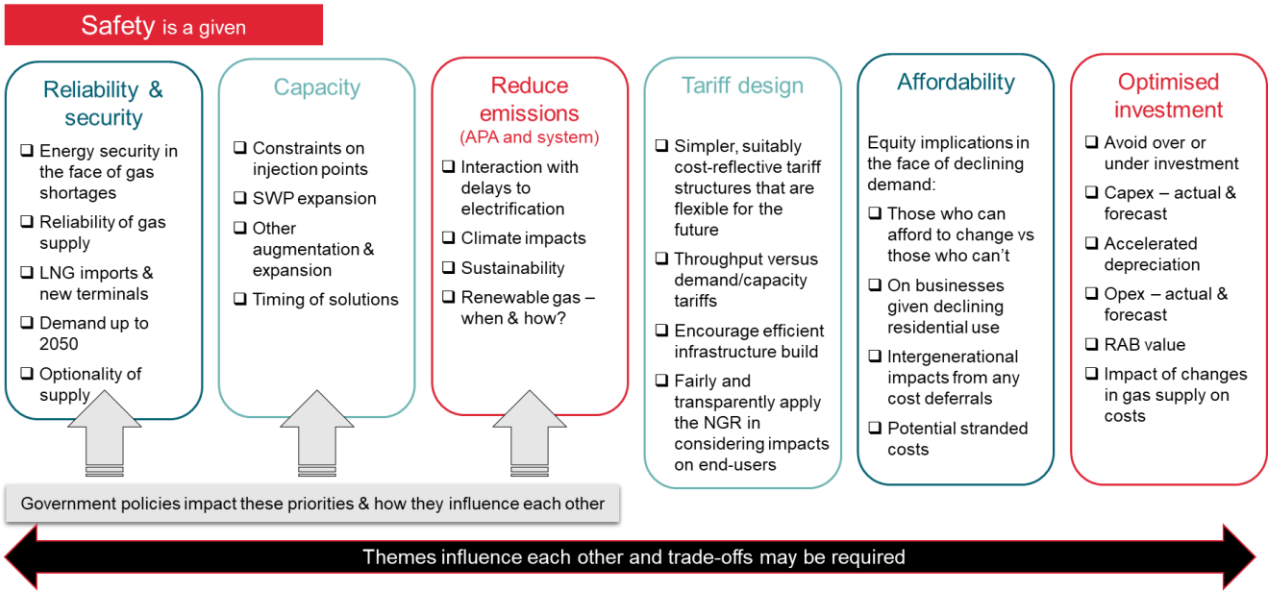
6.1. Stakeholder priorities

Stakeholders were asked to identify:

— What issues in this review are most relevant to you and the stakeholders you represent?
— What issues do you consider important to other stakeholder groups?
— What is most important to you when thinking about the services VTS provides?

All the issues were noted down and stakeholders were then given 15 stickers to highlight these issues that were most important to them and the stakeholders they represent.

Themes and topics were derived from the results along with the following visual which will be used as a checklist for discussions with the RRG and TRG. In addition, it was recognised that a potential rule change may be required to ensure the regulations for access arrangements remain fit-for-purpose.



[2] For more information refer SpectrumEvolution - International Association for Public Participation

Stakeholders were then asked to consider the issues against two axes, the first being the ability to influence the outcome and the second being the impact on revenue or customer risk outcomes. The greater the ability for stakeholders to influence the outcome and the greater the impact on revenue/risk, the higher the level of IAP2 engagement that will be undertaken.

A summary of this feedback is shown below, noting this graphic includes the addition of some core issues that were not raised by stakeholders, namely:

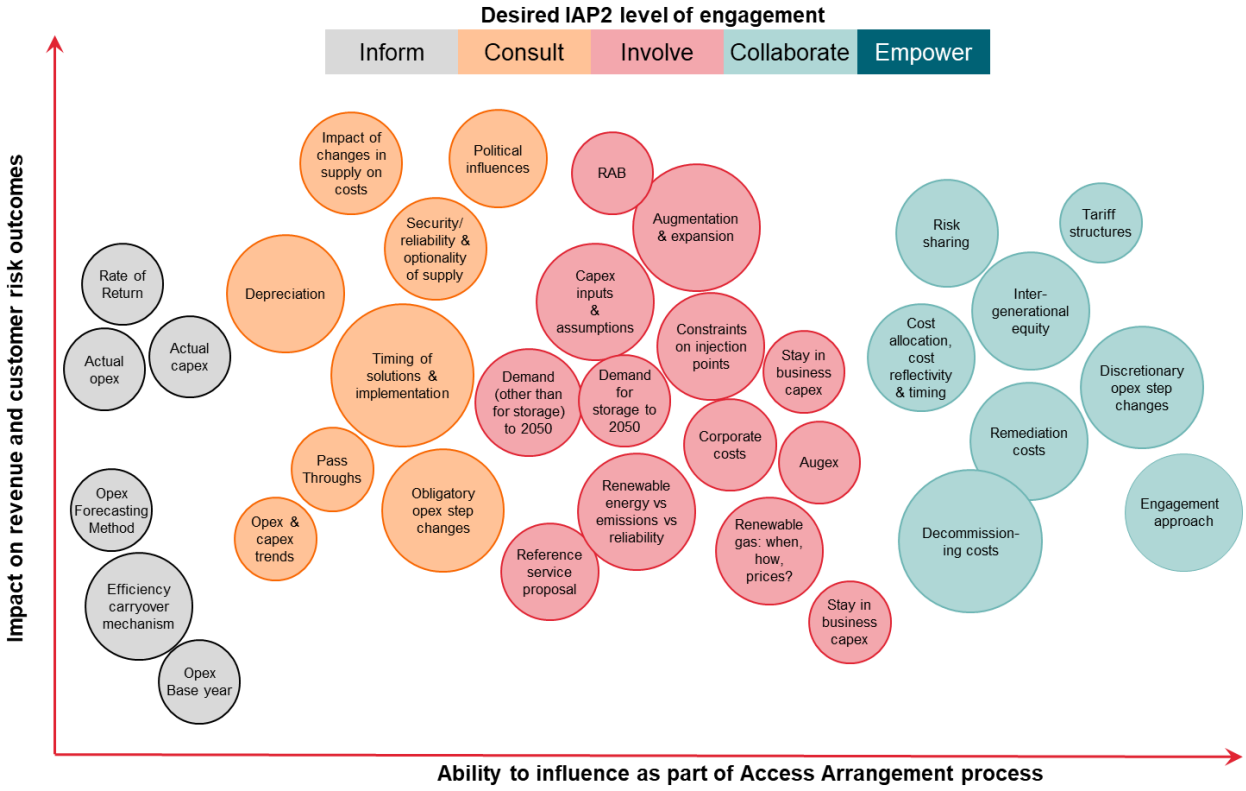
- rate of return
- opex forecasting method
- tariff variation mechanism
- efficiency carryover mechanism
- expenditure governance
- historic asset performance
- pass throughs
- corporate costs.

It also includes a breakdown of some issues into their respective components as recommended by a customer advocate, namely:

- 'Opex' has been separated into five components: historic opex, opex base year, forecast opex trends, obligatory step changes due to, say, new regulations and discretionary step changes
- 'Capex' has been broken down into historic capex, capex inputs and assumptions, stay in business capex, and augmentation (augex).

Feedback from the first RRG meeting led to the following changes:

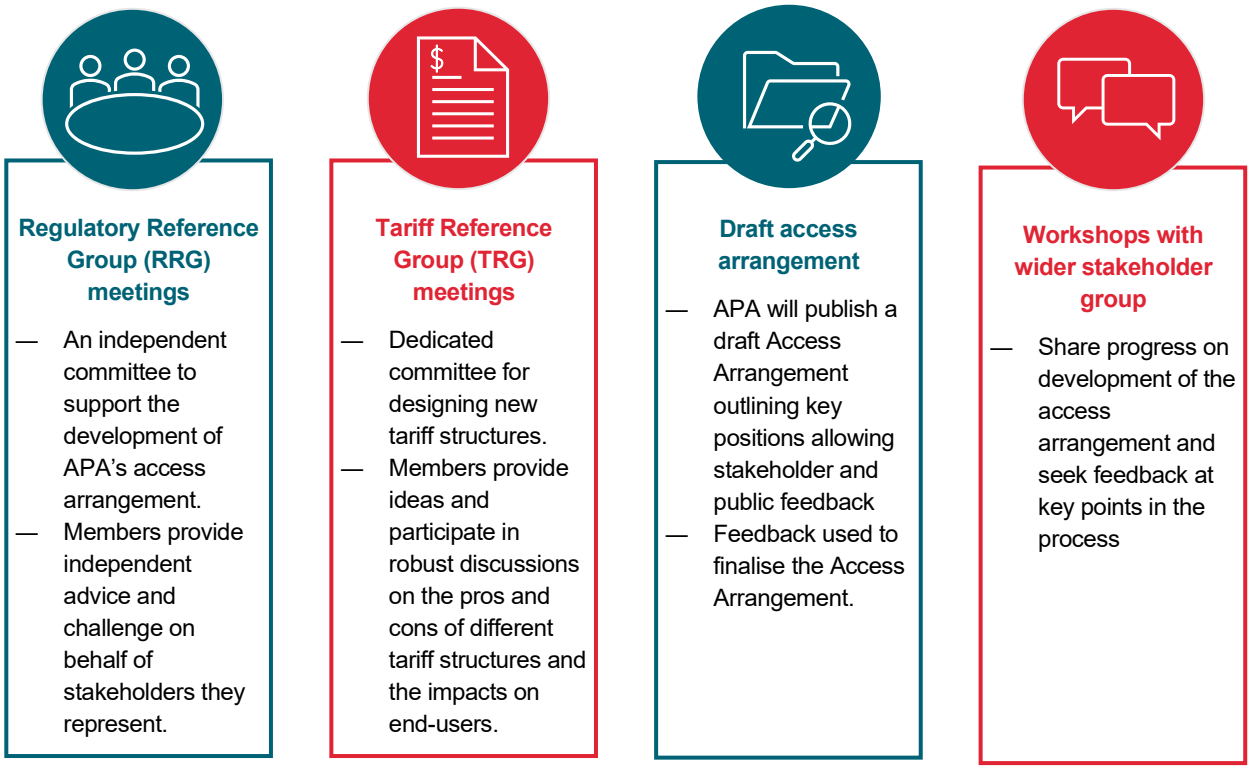
- Demand forecasts for storage were separated from other demand forecasts given it will tie to deeper engagement on any augex related to storage
- 'Affordability & equity for end users' was adjusted to 'Cost allocation, cost reflectivity and timing' to better represent the factors relevant to affordability and equity that stakeholders can influence
- 'Political Influences' was raised to the Consult/Involve level given there is scope for APA and stakeholders to place pressure on politicians.
- 'Accelerated depreciation' was expanded to 'Risk sharing' as there are other tools available to assist asset stranding, for example, Victorian Government support or APA accepting greater risk.



7. Engagement approach for VTS

7.1. Engagement activities

The engagement approach will largely focus on four core engagement activities, with additional engagement sessions with specific stakeholder groups or one-on-one meetings, to be undertaken as recommended by the RRG.



At this stage, ten RRG meetings are planned ahead of the December 2026 submission of the access arrangement to the AER – four in 2025 and six in 2026. The TRG is expected to meet three times in 2025 with up to a further two meetings in 2026 (including February 2026).

Three face-to-face workshops with the wider stakeholder group are planned to take place ahead of submitting the access arrangement to the AER. Additional stakeholder meetings will be organised at the request of either the RRG or through APA identifying additional engagement needs.

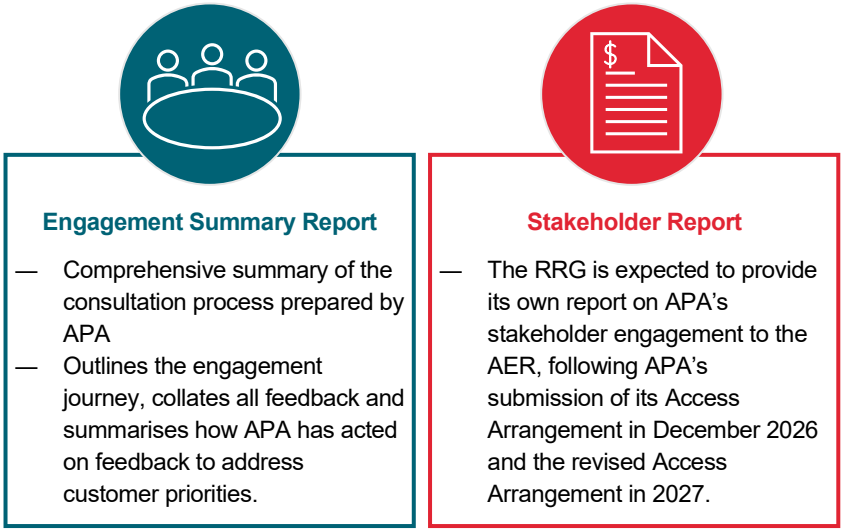
7.2. On-going engagement evaluation

Following each RRG and TRG meeting (or other engagement) a survey will be sent to participants to ensure feedback and evaluation is captured. Consistent with previous engagement on regulatory resets and to align with the requirements of the 'Better Resets Handbook', the following questions will be asked, and the results shared with the RRG on a regular basis:

1. How would you rate APA's performance in the following areas:
2. Overall quality of the engagement event
3. Clearly explaining the purpose of the engagement and how your feedback will be used
4. Providing clarity about the issues you can influence
5. Fulfilling the purpose of the engagement established at the outset
6. Making sure everyone has an opportunity to participate
7. Demonstrating genuine interest in your opinion
8. Quality of the facilitator
9. What did you most enjoy about today? Is there anything you thought APA did well?
10. What could APA do better in future sessions?

7.3. Engagement outputs

The results of the engagement program will be captured in two documents submitted as part of the initial Access Arrangement proposal and the revised Access Arrangement:



Where the results of the on-going engagement evaluation surveys are statistically valid, they will be included in the Engagement Summary Report. A fair and objective summary of stakeholders' comments from these surveys will also be included.

The Stakeholder Reports will:

— comment on the engagement journey from a stakeholder perspective
— encompass engagement with both the RRG and TRG
— fairly represent the views and opinions of all members, including any dissenting views.
— assess APA's performance against the expectations of the 'Better Resets Handbook', noting that this assessment is from a consumer perspective, not a stakeholder perspective.

Drafts of the reports will be shared with RRG and TRG members for comment and feedback before finalisation.

In line with APA's focus on efficiency and affordability, and the intended 'no surprises' approach to engagement, a Stakeholder Report is not planned to accompany the publication of the draft Access Arrangement and associated Overview document. This is because APA would prefer to work collaboratively with stakeholders ahead of submitting the Access Arrangement to the AER and receive regular, informal feedback, suggestions and comments throughout the process, including in response to the draft Access Arrangement and draft Overview documents.

8. Engagement plan

Regulatory Reference Group (RRG)

Timing	Proposed activity	Objective	Stakeholder issues addressed	Stakeholders	Channel
5 March 2025	Co-creation workshop	• Provide an overview of the VTS and regulatory framework • Co-design an engagement plan including principles, issues and priorities • Outline and agree key next steps	• Overview VTS, operating and regulatory environment • Overview of engagement • Identify core issues and priorities • Mapping stakeholders and issues	30+ people from 20 organisations	**Face-to-face workshop in Melbourne**
22 April 2025	Share **draft Engagement Plan**	• Document output from co-creation workshop • Share with the RRG for finalisation in RRG meeting #1	• Strategy to be modelled on previous approaches and documented workshop outcomes	RRG	Email
29 April 2025	RRG Meeting #1	• Review draft Terms of Reference • Confirm co-creation workshop outcomes and initial engagement plan • Ensure stakeholders have a common understanding of the regulatory framework, operating context and historic performance and costs for VTS • Introduce reference services • Gather stakeholder thoughts on the tariff review approach	• Engagement approach • Historic asset performance • Historic opex & capex • Tariff structures • VTS access arrangement • Cost allocation, cost reflectivity & timing	RRG	MS Teams (online)
May	Share updated Terms of Reference and Engagement Plan	• Shared updated Terms of Reference with RRG and TRG • Share updated engagement plan, incorporating stakeholder feedback, with all stakeholders • Placeholder for September workshop	• Engagement approach	RRG, TRG and wider stakeholder group	Email
1 July 2025	RRG Meeting #2	• Deep dive into factors informing demand forecasts – invite AEMO to present on GSOO & VGPR and share APA considerations • Explain the building block approach and current form of price control • Deep dive into risk sharing: o form of price control o depreciation, accelerated depreciation o intergenerational equity Share outcomes from first TRG meeting	• Demand to 2050 • Form of price control • Risk sharing • Inter-generational equity • Tariff structures, • Cost allocation, cost reflectivity & timing	RRG	MS Teams (online)
2 September 2025	RRG Meeting #3	• Ensure stakeholders understand reference services and whether changes are required to the reference service proposal • Ensure stakeholders have a common understanding of VTS access arrangement terms and conditions, capacity and expansion and what this means for augmentation and injection point constraints	• Reference service proposal • VTS access arrangement • Political influences • Remediation costs and decommissioning costs • Renewable gas: when, how, prices? • Renewable energy vs emissions vs reliability	RRG	MS Teams (online)

Timing	Proposed activity	Objective	Stakeholder issues addressed	Stakeholders	Channel
		• Deep dive into the future of gas to ensure stakeholders have a common understanding of: ○ The political influences impacting the VTS ○ Renewable gas and the potential consumer and asset impacts ○ Security, reliability and optionality of supply ○ When and how remediation and decommissioning costs are to be considered • Share outcomes from second TRG meeting	• Security/reliability & optionality of supply • Tariff structures • Cost allocation, cost reflectivity & timing		
17 September 2025	All stakeholder workshop	• Share progress with wider stakeholder group, advise of impending draft reference service proposal and seek feedback	• All relevant issues to date	Interested stakeholders	**Face-to-face workshop in Melbourne**
31 October 2025	Share draft reference service proposal for comment	• Allow stakeholders to review and comment on the draft reference service proposal	• Reference service proposal	RRG	Email
18 November 2025	RRG Meeting #4	• Ensure all stakeholders understand the context for decisions around operating and capital expenditure • Ensure all stakeholders understand the opex forecasting method • Gather feedback on proposed base year, base year adjustments, proposed opex trends and any step changes • Ensure stakeholders understand proposed stay-in-business capex programs. • Share outcomes from third TRG meeting	• Expenditure governance • Opex forecasting method • Opex base year • Opex trends (forecast) • Opex step changes (obligatory & discretionary) • Stay-in-business capex • Tariff structures • Cost allocation, cost reflectivity & timing	RRG	MS Teams (online)
1 December 2025	Reference service proposal due to the AER	• Submit the reference service proposal to the AER with support from stakeholders	• Reference service proposal	AER	Submission
24 February 2026	RRG Meeting #5	• First look at VTS demand and capex forecasts • Deep dive into the interplay between demand and capex ○ Timing of solutions and implementation ○ Constraints on injection points ○ Augmentation and expansion and associated costs ○ Security/ reliability & optionality of supply ○ Impact of changes in supply on costs • Seek feedback on initial capex inputs & assumptions • Share forecast capex, supply change impacts and capex options and seek feedback • Share outcomes from fourth TRG meeting	• Demand for storage to 2050 • Demand (other than storage) to 2050 • Constraints on injection points • Augmentation and expansion • Timing of solutions & implementation • Capex inputs & assumptions • Capex (Augex & Stay in business) • Tariff structures • Cost allocation, cost reflectivity & timing	RRG	MS Teams (online)

Timing	Proposed activity	Objective	Stakeholder issues addressed	Stakeholders	Channel
24 March 2026	RRG Meeting #6	• Share how feedback from the stakeholder workshop has informed any changes • Seek feedback on corporate costs • Share the current rate of return forecast • Explain the efficiency carryover mechanism and forecast outcome • Explain the tariff variation mechanism and seek feedback on proposed cost pass-throughs • Share refinements to opex and capex forecasts • Revisit building block approach and share initial forecast RAB, revenue and prices • Ensure stakeholder understand how tariffs have been derived and share initial tariffs • To discuss any other matters or issues raised in prior meetings	• Corporate costs • Rate of return • Efficiency carryover mechanism • Tariff variation mechanism • Cost pass throughs • RAB • Operating and capital expenditure • Cost allocation, cost reflectivity & timing • Other outstanding issues	RRG	MS Teams (online)
21 April 2026	All stakeholder workshop	• Share progress with wider stakeholder group and seek feedback	• All relevant issues to date	Interested stakeholders	**Face-to-face workshop in Melbourne**
19 May 2026	RRG Meeting #7	• Share any refinements to core elements based on previous feedback or updated data • Resolve any other matters or issues raised in prior meetings • To gather feedback on presentation ideas for sharing the engagement journey and outcomes with the wider stakeholder group	• TBD	RRG	MS Teams (online)
23 June 2026	All stakeholder workshop	• Share how the engagement journey to date is shaping the draft access arrangement – what we heard and how we have responded	• All relevant issues to date	Interested stakeholders	**Face-to-face workshop in Melbourne**
28 July 2026	RRG Meeting #8	• To seek stakeholder views on APAs draft positions on all core elements of the proposed access arrangement including revenue requirement and tariffs	• All relevant issues to date	RRG	Teams
4 September 2026	Publish draft access arrangement and draft engagement summary report for comment	• Publish draft positions on all elements of the proposed Access Arrangement and customer risks and benefits • Publish draft stakeholder engagement findings – how engagement is aligned to the expectations in the AER's 'Better Resets Handbook' and influenced the outcomes – what we heard and how we responded • Seek final stakeholder views on the Access Arrangement total package	• All relevant issues to date	Interested stakeholders	Email and website

Timing	Proposed activity	Objective	Stakeholder issues addressed	Stakeholders	Channel
w/c 19 October 2026	RRG Meeting #9	• Optional meeting to discuss any substantive changes between the draft access arrangement and the proposed access arrangement • Finalise stakeholder engagement findings – what we heard and how we responded	• All relevant issues to date	RRG	MS Teams (online)
2 December 2026	Finalise and share engagement summary report	• Seek confirmation that stakeholders agree with the engagement summary report (including meeting #9 write-up) – what we heard and how we responded	• Engagement approach	RRG	Email
December 2026	Access arrangement proposal due to the AER	• Submit the access arrangement with support from stakeholders	• 2028 to 2032 access arrangement	AER	Submission
TBC	Stakeholder Report	• Stakeholder view of APA's engagement program and how APA performed against the 'Better Resets Handbook'	• Stakeholder view of engagement program	RRG	Email
July 2027	Draft decision	• AER publishes draft decision	• AER publishes draft decision	AER	AER website
TBC	TBC - pre revised proposal – RRG Meeting	• Seek stakeholder views on key elements of the revised access arrangement	• To be determined	RRG	MS Teams (online)
September 2027	Revised access arrangement due to the AER	• Submit the revised Access Arrangement with support from stakeholders	• 2028–32 revised access arrangement	AER	Submission
December 2027	Final decision	• AER publishes final decision	• AER publishes final decision	AER	AER website
1 January 2028	New Access Arrangement Commences				

Engagement activities to be determined pending draft decision outcome and any other material changes

Tariff Reference Group (TRG)

Timing	Proposed activity	Objective	Stakeholder issues addressed	Stakeholders	Channel
4 June 2025	TRG meeting #1	• Agree objectives of tariff review • Discuss current tariffs & form of price control • Review regulatory framework & revenue and pricing principles • Discuss and develop criteria for assessing tariff design • Agree how tariffs will be ranked / balanced against principles & criteria • Discuss tariff issues paper	• Stakeholder priority objectives and criteria • Simpler, suitably cost-reflective tariff structures that are flexible for the future • Fairly and transparently apply the NGR in considering impacts on end-users	TRG	MS Teams (online)
30June 2025	Tariff issues paper	• Release Issues Paper	• Feedback on stakeholder priority objectives and criteria • Feedback will influence tariff design	TRG	Email APA website
19 August 2025	TRG meeting #2	• Feedback to issues paper • History of the VTS tariffs • Discuss who pays what - cost allocation approaches • Present local and international tariff structures • Discuss tariff structure options • Discuss pros and cons of new tariff structures • Approach to customer impact analysis • Discuss tariff options paper	• Simpler, suitably cost-reflective tariff structures that are flexible for the future • Throughput versus demand/capacity tariffs • Encourage efficient infrastructure build • Fairly and transparently apply the NGR in considering impacts on end-users	TRG	MS Teams (online)
End July 2025	Tariff options paper	• Release Options Paper	• Feedback on stakeholder priority tariff design options • Feedback will influence tariff design	TRG	Email APA website
End September 2025	Draft Tariff Structure Report	• Release draft Tariff Structure Report	• Feedback on preferred tariff structures design	TRG	Email APA website
2 December 2025	TRG meeting #3	• Discuss feedback from options paper • Discuss preferred tariff structure option(s) • Revisit assessing options against principles & criteria • Discuss customer impact analysis • Discuss options for transitioning customers who may be worse off • Discuss draft tariff structure report	• Weigh up tariff options against objectives, principles and criteria • Preferred tariff options confirmed	TRG	MS Teams (online)
4 February 2026	TRG meeting #4	• Discuss feedback from draft Tariff Structure Report • Determine preferred tariff structures • Finalise pros and cons of proposed tariff structures • Confirm approach for presenting outcomes to the workshop group • Finalise VTS tariff structure report • Discuss next steps	• Confirm preferred approach to tariff design • Transparency about customer impacts (indicative) • Approach to transitioning to new tariffs	TRG	MS Teams (online)

Timing	Proposed activity	Objective	Stakeholder issues addressed	Stakeholders	Channel
November	Tariff Structure Report	• Release final Tariff Structure Report	• Tariff structures reflect preferences of TRG	TRG	Email APA website
Early 2026	VTS Tariff model	• Develop VTS Tariff model	• Advise of tariff model progress • Assess customer impacts	TRG	Email
2026	Future activities to be confirmed				