

22 November 2024

NOTICE: Extension of Deadline for Final Decision - Review of Subchapter 7.3 and Subchapter 7.4 of the Pilbara Networks Rules

Background

On 4 October 2024, as part of its review under Rule 178 of the Pilbara Networks Rules (Rules), Pilbara ISOC_{Co} (ISO) published its [Draft Decision: Review of Subchapter 7.3 and 7.4 of the Pilbara Networks Rules](#).

The Draft Decision specified 1 November 2024 as the closing date for submissions and comments. The ISO received four in-time submissions and one late submission.

Under Rule A1.3(c) of the Rules, the ISO must make its Final Decision within 20 Business Days of the closing date, i.e. by 29 November 2024, unless that deadline is extended under Rule A1.12 of the Rules.

Decision

The ISO hereby extends the deadline for making its Final Decision in this review to **30 June 2025**.

Reasons

The ISO considers that this longer time is essential for due consideration of all matters raised in the Draft Decision and submissions in response, because:

- Some stakeholders have submitted that they need more time to consider these matters.
- Some of the issues raised by this review overlap with reforms being considered by Energy Policy WA (EPWA) under its [Evolution of the PNR](#) review. There is a risk that allowing the parallel ISO and EPWA processes to proceed would result in duplication or misalignment.
- For example, it is possible that reforms which emerge from EPWA's review may address some of the issues identified in the ISO's [Issues Paper](#) in this review, and so render some of its Draft Recommendations unnecessary.
- The EPWA review addresses a wider range of topics than this ISO review, including matters related to the governance of the Pilbara regime and the allocation of roles and responsibilities between the ISO, NSPs and others. It would be inefficient to progress the ISO's Final Decision and any subsequent rule changes based on the Rule's current governance and role allocations,

when these might change in ways which also change how notifiable events should be managed.

- Pausing the Final Decision in this review and the development of any subsequent rule changes, will reduce the participation burden for stakeholders and allow them to focus more of their attention on other reform streams.
- In parallel with this review, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has been considering the ISO's [application](#) under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* for authorisation of certain conduct including outage coordination. The ACCC's draft determination proposed to grant authorisation with conditions. If similar conditions were implemented in a final authorisation, they may influence how notifiable events should be managed. The ISO therefore considers it prudent and efficient to wait and see whether an authorisation is granted, and if so on what conditions, before finalising this review. The ACCC's final determination was originally expected in late September 2024 which would have fit within the original timetable of this review, but the ACCC determined, with the ISO's consent, that the ACCC's deadline should be extended to late December 2024. Whatever form the ACCC's final determination takes, the ISO and stakeholders may then need time after its publication to consider how best to frame Subchapters 7.3 and 7.4 in its light.

For the purposes of Rule A1.12(b), the ISO considers that it has taken all reasonable steps to fully utilise the original time and processes. The timetable for EPWA's review and the ACCC's determination extends beyond 29 November 2024, so it is not possible for the ISO to address the above matters within the original deadline.

Further steps

The ISO will monitor the ACCC's response to the ISO's application and EPWA's ongoing review and reforms, and determine in due course whether it will be prudent and efficient to make its Final Decision in this review on or before 30 June 2025, or alternatively whether a further extension of time might be appropriate. The ISO plans to consult further under Rule A1.12 and in due course will announce a consultation period for this purpose.

The ISO will consider what interim measures may be available to improve the planning, coordination and management of notifiable events, pending the completion of the EPWA review and this review.

Please contact the ISO at info@pilbaraisoco.com.au should you require more information.