



# Information Sharing Protocol

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## Background

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The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) released its Ring-Fencing Guideline Version 4 on March 1st, 2023 (Guideline). One of the objectives of the Guideline is to prevent Transmission Network Service Providers (TNSPs) from conferring a competitive advantage on their affiliates or Related Electricity Service Providers (RESP) who provide contestable electricity services.

Under the information sharing provisions in clause 4.2.3(d) of the Guideline, Transgrid is required to develop an Information Sharing Protocol ('Protocol'). This Protocol is intended to:

- Clarify the circumstances under which we will provide electricity information to our RESP (Lumea) and other affiliated entities, and
- Set out the terms and conditions for other legal entities to access electricity information.

We must also develop an information register to ensure equal access to information. The operation of the register is described in this Protocol.

This Protocol will consider the circumstances under which we will make various types of information available in accordance with the Guideline. It also provides guidance on how to request information from Transgrid.

## Our Commitment

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Transmission ring-fencing is an important part of the regulatory landscape to ensure fairness, competition and transparency. Transgrid is fully committed to meeting the objectives of the Guideline, including not:

- Giving Lumea or any other related party an advantage over its competitors,
- Using revenue from the Transgrid regulated business to cross-subsidise contestable electricity services, or
- Misusing "ring-fenced" information.

This Protocol forms a key control to ensure that ring-fenced information is appropriately used and shared with the Transgrid Group and externally.

## Information that will be Shared

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Ring-fenced information is information about Transgrid's electricity network, customers and services that has been acquired or generated by Transgrid in connection with the provision of Prescribed Transmission Services.

Transgrid will provide access to eligible legal entities who provide contestable electricity services where this information is not already publicly available and:

- The information was provided to Lumea (or another affiliated entity) on their request,
- The information was provided to another legal entity for the purposes of research and subsequently provided to Lumea, or
- The information was provided following a request from another legal entity and subsequently provided to Lumea.

Transgrid is not required to provide access to ring-fenced information where it has been disclosed to Lumea (or another affiliated entity) because:

- Transgrid obtained explicit informed consent of the relevant customer for disclosure to Lumea only,
- The disclosure is required by law,
- The disclosure is necessary for Transgrid to provide transmission services or approved other services to Lumea,
- The information is requested by or on behalf of a customer of Lumea and is required to enable Lumea to provide non-regulated transmission services or other services to that customer or potential customer, or
- The disclosure is for the purpose of emergency response to an event that is beyond Transgrid's reasonable control.

## Information Sharing Approach

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Where Transgrid shares certain types of electricity information with its RESP and other entities, it will aim to provide access to that electricity information to other legal entities on an equal basis where required.

Transgrid maintains an information register on its website in accordance with the requirements of clause 4.2.4 of the Guideline.

The register details the nature of ring-fenced information that has been shared with a RESP of Transgrid, as well as any other legal entities who provide contestable electricity services and request access to ring-fenced information. The information register identifies the ring-fenced information and describes it to a level of detail that enables other eligible entities to make an informed decision about whether to request that information from Transgrid.

## Information Access Process

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Legal entities requesting access to relevant ring-fenced information must complete the information register application form and submit the form via email to [ringfencing@transgrid.com.au](mailto:ringfencing@transgrid.com.au). The request must:

- Identify the requesting entity,
- Identify the kind of information being requested,
- Describe the kind of information being requested in sufficient detail to enable other legal entities to make an informed decision about whether to also request that kind of information, and
- Include consent that the information request can be made publicly available on the information register.

A sample of the form is provided in Appendix A and copies can be found at <https://www.transgrid.com.au/about-us/regulatory-framework/ringfencing>

Transgrid may reject a legal entity's application if:

- The application form is incomplete,
- The application form is unsigned, or

- The information requested by the legal entity has not been described in sufficient detail to enable other legal entities to make an informed decision about whether to request that kind of information or to allow Transgrid to determine whether access should be provided.

Should we determine that the information is relevant and can be shared, the requesting entity will be required to agree to terms and conditions for the protection of that information. These are to ensure that the information is kept confidential and is only used for the purpose for which it was acquired or generated.

## Definitions

Term	Definition
Affiliated entity	has the same meaning in the Guideline.
Approved other services	means services other than transmission services for which we have an AER waiver
Contestable electricity services	has the same meaning in the Guideline.
Electricity information	means information about electricity networks, electricity customers or electricity services, (other than aggregated financial information; or other service performance information) that does not relate to an identifiable customer or class of customer.
Information register	means the register the TNSP must establish, maintain and keep under clause 4.2.4(a).
Non-regulated transmission services	means services which a TNSP is not obliged under the NEL/NER or other legislation to provide and may be provided on a contestable basis. These may include line modifications, market network services, or non-electricity services associated with the transmission network (e.g. leasing spare property).
Prescribed transmission services	has the same meaning in the National Electricity Rules.
Related electricity service provider (RESP)	has the same meaning in the Guideline.  In Transgrid's context, this includes Lumea.
Requesting entity	means a legal entity who has submitted a completed information sharing application form.
Transmission services	has the same meaning in the National Electricity Rules.
Unregulated market	means a market which is not regulated by the NEL/NER or other legislation. A TNSP can provide transmission services on a contestable basis in an unregulated market.

## Appendix A Sample Information Sharing Application Form

This form must be used to request our confidential electricity information in accordance with our information sharing protocol. Completed forms must be sent via email to [ringfencing@transgrid.com.au](mailto:ringfencing@transgrid.com.au). The current copy of this file can be downloaded at <https://www.transgrid.com.au/about-us/regulatory-framework/ringfencing>

By signing and submitting this form, the Requesting Entity consents to its details and the details of its information request being made publicly available on our information register.

Requesting Entity's Details	
Full legal name:	
ABN/ACN (if applicable):	
Address:	
Email address (where the confidential information will be sent):	
Contact name:	
Position	
Telephone number:	
Email:	
Alternate contact (if applicable):	
Position:	
Telephone number:	
Email:	
Description of requesting entity's business activities (if applicable):	
Information Request	
The kind of information being requested:	
Description of information requested:	

<p>*Describe the kind of information requested in sufficient detail to enable other legal entities to make an informed decision about whether to also request that kind of information</p>	
<p>Proposed use of the information:</p>	
<p><b>Acknowledgement and Authority</b></p>	
<p>Release of information will be subject to accepting Transgrid's terms and condition for data security and confidentiality. These will be provided to the applicant after the initial request is made. The Requesting Entity is responsible for all costs it incurs in relation to registering on the Information Register and accessing the confidential information. You warrant that you have the authority to sign this agreement on behalf of the Requesting Entity.</p>	
<p>Signature:</p>	
<p>Name:</p>	
<p>Position:</p>	
<p>Date:</p>	