APA DEWAP Pty Ltd

1 July 2024

Queuing Policy

Contents

Contact details

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Further information can be found here:
Webpage: North West Interconnected System (NWIS) | APA Group

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

APA DEWAP Pty Ltd (ADEWAP) owns and operates the APA Network[1] in the Pilbara. This document is the ADEWAP Queuing Policy prepared in accordance with the Pilbara Network Rules (PNR) and Pilbara Network Access Code (PNAC).

This ADEWAP[2] Queuing Policy establishes the framework for creating customer queues when multiple applicants apply to connect generation or load at congested locations on the APA Network. This policy aims to ensure that all prospective connections are treated equitably as far as possible.

1.2. Legislative requirement

ADEWAP is required to prepare, publish, and maintain a range of instruments in respect of the light regulation network.[3] Section 42(2) of the PNAC establishes the requirement for a queuing policy:

42(2) In particular, a user access guide must —

…

(f) set out a process ("queuing policy") for managing multiple or competing applications in accordance with the Pilbara electricity objective and, if applicable, section 42(11).

Section 42 (11) further sets out the following requirements:

42(11) A queuing policy may (but is not required to) adopt an approach by which some or all rights of competing access applications are determined by reference to the time at which the access applications were lodged or satisfied some other requirement, but if so, the queuing policy:

(a) must also provide transparent information to each affected applicant about its position in the queue; and the position in the queue of all other applications whose satisfaction, delay or progression might affect the timing or terms of access; and

(b) ensure that applications which are in a position to progress are not blocked or unreasonably delayed or disadvantaged by access applications which are not in a position to progress.

The ADEWAP Queuing Policy has been prepared in line with the requirements of the PNAC, including the objective and the requirements of s42(11).

1.3. Effective policy

This Policy applies from 1 July 2024 until no later than 30 June 2027.

[1] For the purposes of this document, references to "APA Network" have the same meaning as Alinta Port Hedland Network as defined in the PNAC.
[2] The term "ADEWAP" in this document refers to the Network System Provider (NSP) for the Alinta Port Hedland network as set out in the PNAC.
[3] Section 36(1) of the PNAC

1.4. Application

This policy applies when an applicant has applied for, or intends to apply for:

- a new connection; or
- to alter a connection to the ADEWAP Network (as defined by the System Description).

ADEWAP's access and connection process is set out in the ADEWAP User Access Guide (UAG).

1.5. Other relevant information

Other documents prepared in relation to PNAC information requirements and that should be read in conjunction with the Queuing Policy include:

- ADEWAP System Description
- ADEWAP User Access Guide
- ADEWAP Contributions Policy
- ADEWAP Planning Standard & Criteria
- ADEWAP Services and Pricing Policy.

These documents can be found here North West Interconnected System (NWIS) | APA Group

2. Connection principles

A principle underlying new connections (or upgrades to existing connections) to a network is to provide all applicants with the opportunity to form a connection to and have access to the network. The terms and conditions of that connection must be fair and reasonable and agreed between ADEWAP (acting as the NSP) and the connection applicant.

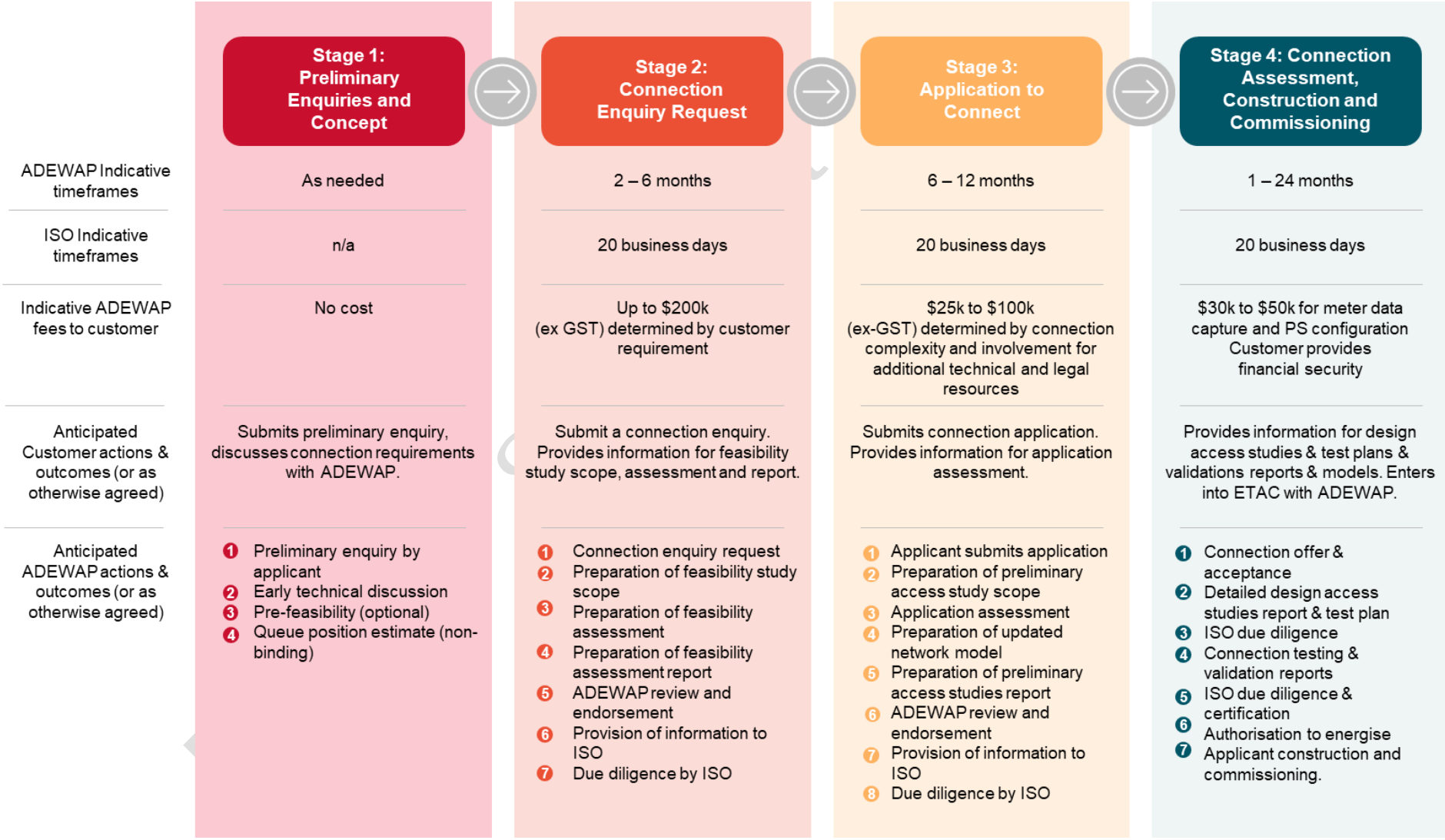
The PNAC and the ADEWAP UAG contain a number of processes that a connection applicant and NSP must follow when a new connection, or modification of an existing connection, is sought. The process developed by ADEWAP in accordance with these requirements, is outlined in Figure 111.

Full detail of the ADEWAP connection process is contained in its UAG.

Connections are often complicated by the specific requirements of the connecting generator or load, the configuration of the connection, the impacts of the connection on system strength in the relevant area and the interaction of the connection applicant's equipment with other existing and new connections. These factors can all affect the mechanisms needed to meet the requirements specified in the HTR.

This queuing policy describes the process for ADEWAP to manage multiple applications for access under its UAG.

Figure 11: ADEWAP connection process overview



3. ADEWAP Queuing Policy

The ADEWAP UAG contains a number of processes that a connection applicant and NSP must follow when a new connection, or modification of an existing connection, is sought. The process developed by ADEWAP in accordance with these requirements, is outlined in Figure 111 and full detail of the ADEWAP connection process is contained in the ADEWAP UAG.

Under the ADEWAP queuing policy, an applicant will be placed in a queue based on the date of its connection application. The existence and composition of the queue is largely dependent on the 'studies' process and power system modelling[4] outlined below (the ADEWAP UAG contains further details).

Upon lodging a formal connection application and the payment of a deposit for undertaking the modelling works described below, an applicant will be advised by letter of:

1. their position in the queue; and
2. all other applications whose satisfaction, delay or progression might affect the timing or terms of access.

A sample of this letter is included in Appendix A.

ADEWAP will seek to provide to an applicant an estimate of its queue position at the Stage 1 Preliminary enquiry stage of the connection process described in the ADEWAP UAG. This will assist the applicant to determine whether to proceed.

At this early stage, the queue position estimate provided by ADEWAP will be non-binding.

3.1. Multi-Party negotiation process

ADEWAP will seek to give applicants the opportunity to decide how augmentation costs will be allocated when it receives two or more applications to a shared transmission network connection. This occurs through the negotiation process set out in the ADEWAP Contributions Policy.

ADEWAP will take all reasonable steps as circumstances permit to ensure that applications in a position to progress are not blocked or unreasonably delayed or disadvantaged by applications that are not.

3.2. Studies

ADEWAP, in conjunction with the ISO's processes, will undertake a system strength impact assessment in line with the requirements of the HTR during the Connection Options Study. This is set out in ADEWAP's UAG.

An Optional Pre-Feasibility Study will be recommended where the connection project is either large in scale, or complex in terms of the augmentation works required to the ADEWPA Network.

All studies are undertaken at the cost of the applicant.

[4] A system model is managed by a third party due to confidentiality restrictions preventing any single NSP conducting power system studies of the whole interconnected network (due to the confidentiality of the three NWIS NSP's network information). The timing of studies and the length of the connection process is therefore dependent on the third party's availability as a consequence.

Modelling studies can include some or all of the following information depending on the project(s) being connected to the ADEWAP network:

a) load flow studies;

b) power system harmonics studies;

c) credible contingency modelling;

d) fault level assessments; and

e) other modelling deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the HTR.

There may be more than one applicant in the same area, proceeding through the connection process at a similar time. Where this occurs, it may be more efficient to conduct a combined assessment of all connections, provided that all applicants agree to the sharing of assessment costs and confidential information (if and as required).

Further details on this process are outlined in the ADEWAP Contributions Policy.

Appendix A Sample letter queue position

Ref: XXXX
Date
Proponent
Address
By email: john.smith@company.com.au

Dear [insert name],

RE: Company Connection Application dated dd/mm/yy for Sandpiper Wind Farm

Thank you for your application dated dd/mm/yy (Enquiry).

The connection point for the connection of Sandpiper Wind Farm would be the new Bird Street Balancing Point.

Sandpiper Wind Farm is currently second in the queue for the current available capacity at the Bird Street Balancing Point. The other applicant for connection (before Sandpiper Wind Farm) in the queue is further progressed in the connection process.

ADEWAP believe that there is an opportunity for both projects to share costs. Should you be interested in discussing a cost sharing arrangement with the other party, please provide permission for ADEWAP to approach the applicant ahead of Sandpiper Wind Farm in the queue to commence an information sharing arrangement and initial discussion. Please confirm by written correspondence.

ADEWAP will advise you in writing should your position in the queue change.

Please contact me by email or by phone to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

[insert name]
Project Sponsor
ADEWAP
Email address
Phone number