



Network Access, Connection and Contract Suite Frequently Asked Questions

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HORIZON
POWER

1 CONNECTION PATHWAYS AND COMMERCIAL MODELS

1.1 What options are available for connecting to Horizon Power's Pilbara Network?

Customers seeking to connect to Horizon Power's Pilbara Network (**Pilbara Network**) may do so via two primary pathways:

- (a) *Retail Wrapped Solution*, where the retail customer contracts with a Retailer (for example, APA Group or Horizon Power's retail business unit (**Horizon Power Retail**)) for both electricity supply and network access. Under this pathway, the Retailer acts as the customer's interface for network access with the Network Service Provider (being Horizon Power's ringfenced Pilbara network business, **Horizon Power Pilbara Network**) to enable network connection and access at the Connection Point. The Retailer will package the network connection and access services with the electricity supply under a single retail arrangement; or
- (b) *Direct Network Contract*, where the retail customer enters into standalone network-related contracts (i.e. Connection Works Contract and Network Access Contract) directly with Horizon Power Pilbara Network. The retail customer will enter into a separate electricity supply agreement with a Retailer.

The appropriate pathway will depend on the retail customer's commercial structure, operational preferences, and appetite for direct engagement with Horizon Power Pilbara Network.

1.2 What is the contract structure under a Retail Wrapped Solution?

Under a Retail Wrapped Solution, the retail customer enters into an electricity supply agreement with a Retailer for the supply of electricity. Rather than the retail customer entering into a separate Network Access Contract directly with Horizon Power Pilbara Network, the Retailer utilises its own Access Contract (or in the case of Horizon Power Retail, a Deemed Associate Arrangement) with Horizon Power Pilbara Network to facilitate the provision of network access services at the Connection Point.

In certain instances (for example, where the retail customer is a significant load), the retail customer may be required to enter into a separate connection-only access contract with Horizon Power Pilbara Network for the purposes of the physical connection to the Pilbara Network.

Depending on retail customer's requirements, the Retail Wrapped Solution may simplify the retail customer's contractual obligations, as the Retailer manages the network interface and network-related contracts on the retail customer's behalf.

1.3 What is the contract structure under a Direct Network Contract?

Under a Direct Network Contract arrangement, the retail customer enters into a full suite of network-related contracts directly with Horizon Power Pilbara Network, separate from any electricity supply arrangements with a Retailer. This includes an Access Contract granting the customer rights to access services at the Connection Point on the Pilbara Network in its own capacity.

A Direct Network Contract arrangement is typically used where the customer wishes to hold a direct contractual right to access services at the Connection Point, rather than accessing or relying on those services through a Retailer's access arrangements. This provides the customer with greater control over its network access rights, including flexibility in relation to its electricity supply arrangements, but requires the customer to manage its own network access obligations.

1.4 Why are connections to the Pilbara Network different from connection in the SWIS/NEM?

The Pilbara Network (and the North-West Interconnected System (**NWIS**), more broadly) is an isolated network with no connection to the South-West Interconnected System (**SWIS**) or National Electricity Market (**NEM**). Connection arrangements, commercial structures, and operational requirements therefore differ from those in the SWIS and the NEM and typically require bespoke consideration.

Connection to the Pilbara Network is governed by the Pilbara Networks Access Code and Pilbara Networks Rules.

1.5 What should be considered when selecting between Retail Wrapped Solution and Direct Access Contract?

Customers should consider, noting this is not an exhaustive list:

- the degree of direct control the customer requires over network access arrangements at the Connection Point;
- their own appetite for managing network interface obligations;
- the complexity of the project (e.g. large load, embedded generation, hydrogen, or mining developments);
- their commercial and risk allocation preferences;
- whether the customer has an existing relationship with a Retailer; and
- whether the customer intends to export generation into the Pilbara Network.

2 NETWORK CAPACITY AND CONSTRAINTS

2.1 Is there sufficient capacity available on the Pilbara Network?

Available capacity on the Pilbara Network is assessed on a case-by-case basis and varies by location, existing load, generation capacity, and network constraints at any given time. The feasibility of a proposed connection is determined through technical studies conducted by Horizon Power Pilbara Network and reviewed by the independent system operator (**Pilbara ISOCo**) in accordance with the Pilbara ISOCo's [Access and Connection Procedure](#).

2.2 Will my project trigger network augmentation?

Depending on the size and location of the connection, customer projects may trigger network upgrades or augmentation works. Where this occurs, the customer is responsible for funding the required works.

2.3 How are constraints managed on the Pilbara Network/NWIS?

The Pilbara Network (and the NWIS, more broadly) operates within system limitations, including generation dispatch constraints and network capacity limits. Such limitations are required to preserve power system safety, security, or reliability.

Constraints are managed through the regulatory framework governing the NWIS, including the Pilbara Networks Rules and applicable procedures administered by the Pilbara ISOCO. Customers may be required to accept and comply with operational constraints as part of their connection and access arrangements.

3 CONTRACT SUITE AND STRUCTURE

3.1 What contracts are typically required for connection to the Pilbara Network?

The connection process will involve a suite of agreements between the customer and Horizon Power Pilbara Network, including a combination of the following depending on the customer's project:

- Pre-Feasibility / Feasibility Study Agreement (if applicable);
- Early Works Agreement (if applicable);
- Preliminary Connection Study Agreement;
- Detailed Connection Study Agreement;
- Connection Works Contract;
- Asset Purchase Agreement (where relevant); and
- Access Contract.

3.2 How do these contracts align with the connection process for the Pilbara Network?

These agreements correspond to key project stages, being:

- studies to assess network feasibility in respect of the connection, which may assist the applicant in determining whether to proceed with the application;
- early works (where accelerated delivery is required by the applicant);
- design and construction of connection assets; and
- ongoing operation under agreed access terms.

3.3 Are connection assets transferred to Horizon Power?

In most instances, connection assets will be designed, constructed, and owned by Horizon Power Pilbara Network, with the connection customer funding the cost of such assets under a Connection Works Contract.

A connection customer may elect to develop and construct the connection assets itself and subsequently seek to transfer those assets to Horizon Power Pilbara Network to own and maintain. In such circumstances, the assets must be designed, engineered and constructed in accordance with Horizon Power Pilbara Network's requirements and specifications. Subject to the assets meeting the purchase criteria, the completed assets may be purchased by Horizon Power Pilbara Network for a nominal fee in accordance with an Asset Purchase Agreement.

4 CONNECTION PROCESS

4.1 When should I engage Horizon Power Pilbara Network?

Early engagement is strongly recommended, particularly for large or complex projects, to identify capacity constraints, study requirements, and potential augmentation triggers.

Horizon Power Pilbara Network offers an optional pre-feasibility / feasibility study, in the form of a desktop assessment, to identify key technical issues at a high level. This may assist applicants in determining whether to proceed with an application.

4.2 Who should I contact to commence discussions?

Customers should contact Horizon Power Pilbara Network's Business Development Team at Pilbara.Network@horizonpower.com.au.

4.3 What is unique about the connection process to the Pilbara Network?

Given the size, remoteness, and configuration of the Pilbara Network (and the NWIS, more broadly), connections often require:

- detailed whole of system impact assessments (i.e. the Pilbara Network and the NWIS, more broadly);
- coordination with existing generators and major loads; and
- consideration of system stability (frequency and voltage performance).

Access to, and connection with, the Pilbara Network are governed by the Pilbara Networks Access Code and the Pilbara Networks Rules. In addition, all applicants and Horizon Power Pilbara Network must comply with the Pilbara ISOCO's [Access and Connection Procedure](#), which prescribes the key steps, requirements and mandatory tasks applicable to all enquiries, applications and connections.

4.4 How long does connection to the Pilbara Network typically take?

Timeframes vary significantly depending on project scale, required augmentations, land access, and relevant approvals. Early engagement is recommended to identify critical-path items and manage programme risk.

5 EARLY WORKS AND DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Can early works be undertaken in the Pilbara environment?

Yes, early works may be undertaken under an Early Works Agreement. This is not a standard agreement within the connection process but may be entered into where appropriate for a given project, particularly where long-lead items are required to facilitate network augmentation or site constraints require early mobilisation.

5.2 What additional risks are associated with Pilbara early works?

Risks may include:

- remote logistics and mobilisation challenges;
- cost escalation due to supply chain constraints;
- exposure to works proceeding ahead of full project sanction;
- committing to early works before all technical studies and delivery requirements have been completed;
- reliance on preliminary scope and high-level cost estimates that may change as the project progresses; and
- commencing early works while the terms of the Access Contract and Connection Works Contract remain under negotiation.

5.3 How do early works integrate with final delivery contracts?

Early works undertaken pursuant to an Early Works Agreement are structured to transition into the Connection Works Contract, where the full scope of delivery is formalised.

6 COMMERCIAL AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 What regulatory framework applies to the Pilbara Network?

Connections are governed by applicable Western Australian regulatory frameworks, including the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* (WA), the Pilbara Networks Access Code, the Pilbara Networks Rules, and the Pilbara Harmonised Technical Rules. Horizon Power Pilbara Network is also bound by its obligations as a network service provider under these regulatory frameworks.

Horizon Power Pilbara Network and applicants are also bound by the Pilbara ISOCO's [Access and Connection Procedure](#).

6.2 How are connection charges determined?

Customers are responsible for all costs associated with enabling their connection to the Pilbara Network (including all studies, designs and works to establish the connection, and all associated Pilbara ISOCO's fees). Connection costs typically reflect:

- the size, type, and location of the proposed connection;
- the manner and type of studies required and engineering designs; and
- the scope of network augmentation required to facilitate network connection.

Charges under the Access Contract for ongoing network access services will typically be determined by reference to the tariffs set out in the 'price list' (as defined in the Pilbara Networks Access Code) published on Horizon Power's website from time to time for the relevant service.

6.3 Are customers exposed to network performance risks?

Customers may be required to accept certain performance or dispatch constraints, depending on system capability, broader network constraints, and contractual arrangements.

7 OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

7.1 What technical requirements must my facility meet?

Customers must comply with all applicable technical standards, including the Horizon Power Technical Rules and the Pilbara Harmonised Technical Rules, to ensure safe and reliable operation of the Pilbara Network and the NWIS, more broadly.

7.2 Will my project need to coordinate with existing generators?

Yes. Due to the configuration of the Pilbara Network and the NWIS, more broadly, new connections often require coordination with existing generators and large loads to maintain power system safety, security or reliability.

8 COMMON CUSTOMER ISSUES AND NEGOTIATION THEMES

8.1 What issues are commonly raised by customers in the Pilbara?

Customers commonly seek clarity on:

- accuracy of cost estimates provided at initial engagement;
- allocation of augmentation costs;
- treatment of spare capacity;
- the roles and responsibilities of the Pilbara ISOCO in the access and connection process;
- exposure to network constraints and curtailment;
- risk allocation under Connection Works Contracts and Access Contracts;
- timing certainty in a constrained delivery environment; and
- the extent to which final connection costs may differ from preliminary estimates.

8.2 How flexible are contract terms in the Pilbara context?

Horizon Power Pilbara Network applies standard contract templates. However, targeted amendments may be considered where justified by project-specific circumstances, subject to regulatory and operational constraints and, in some instances, board/Ministerial approval.

8.3 What are the key risks customers should consider?

Key risks include:

- cost escalation (particularly in remote areas);
- differences between forecast and final actual project costs;
- changes to the regulatory framework;
- competing connection applications and changing network conditions that may affect network capacity, augmentation requirements, and project timing;
- programme delays due to approvals or logistics;
- network capacity limitations;
- interface risks with existing infrastructure; and
- land and environmental constraints.

9 CURTAILMENT AND DISPATCH

9.1 Can my connection be curtailed after energisation?

Yes. Customers connected to the Pilbara Network (and the NWIS, more broadly) may be subject to curtailment or dispatch constraints in accordance with the Pilbara Networks Rules and the terms of their Access Contract.

Curtailment may arise due to system security requirements, network capacity limitations, or generation dispatch priorities established under the applicable regulatory framework. The Pilbara ISOC is responsible for maintaining and improving the security of the power system and facilitating network coordination and planning.

9.2 Is compensation available for curtailment?

No compensation is payable for curtailment arising from system security requirements or network constraints under the applicable regulatory framework, or where Horizon Power Pilbara Network is entitled to curtail under the terms of the Access Contract.