Summary of changes to Queensland to New South Wales Interconnector (QNI) upgrade – program for inter-network tests – Draft inter-network test program document

The publication of the Final inter-network test program document concludes the consultation by AEMO on the QNI upgrade program for inter-network tests.

Please see below a summary of the changes made to the Draft inter-network test program document:

- Updated description of the consultation, including reference to the submission received from CS Energy.
- Updated Single Line Diagram (SLD) of overall QNI upgrade works.
- Confirmation of the size and distribution of reactive plant being installed as part of the QNI upgrade.
- Updates to indicative test program dates and confirmation that participants will be advised about final dates for the commencement of tests via market notices.
- Confirmation that constraint equations that represent voltage and transient stability will be included in NEM dispatch systems.
- Understanding that modelled outcomes can differ from system measurements for a number of reasons, references to the cause of differences between models and actual behaviour have been removed.
- Added to test plan that the final location of tests along the Bulli Creek – Dumaresq – Armidale corridor will be subject to staff availability.
- Administrative amendments, minor clarifications and wording changes.

A mark-up of the changes between the draft and final test program is also published with this document.

AEMO received one submission from CS Energy on the draft inter-network test program document consultation. AEMO noted two questions raised by CS Energy in this submission; please see below AEMO's specific responses to these questions.

CS Energy question	AEMO response
It is noted that there will be on occasions a requirement for the removal from service of one of the two parallel AC circuits connecting NSW and Queensland albeit for short period of time of around 60 seconds to conduct scheduled tests. Will AEMO treat the short outage of one of the two parallel AC circuits as a potential separation event and invoke the relevant separation constraints (energy and FCAS) or will it accept the risk for the short time of the outage?	These scheduled tests will be carried out within a single Dispatch Interval. As such the line will trip and be reinstated before any relevant network separation constraints are required. This approach is consistent with existing practices for "in service protection auto-reclose checks". AEMO has updated section 6.4, Line Switching Tests of the final QNI upgrade inter-network test program to address this question.
Does AEMO anticipate the occurrence of counter price flows occurring during the tests and what would AEMO's response be in this case?	Suitable test conditions will include an expectation of minimal disruption to normal market and system outcomes. The tests are planned to be completed within a single Dispatch Interval and in such a way that there is minimal impact on any of the dispatch processes (including pricing and negative settlement residue processes). Although AEMO does not anticipate these tests impacting dispatch processes, if there is an impact AEMO will follow normal procedures. AEMO has updated section 4, Principle 2 of the final QNI upgrade inter-network test program to address this question.