

Flexible connections

Flexible connections offer a better way to make use of available network capacity, enabling greater integration of customer energy resources (CER) into the distribution network.

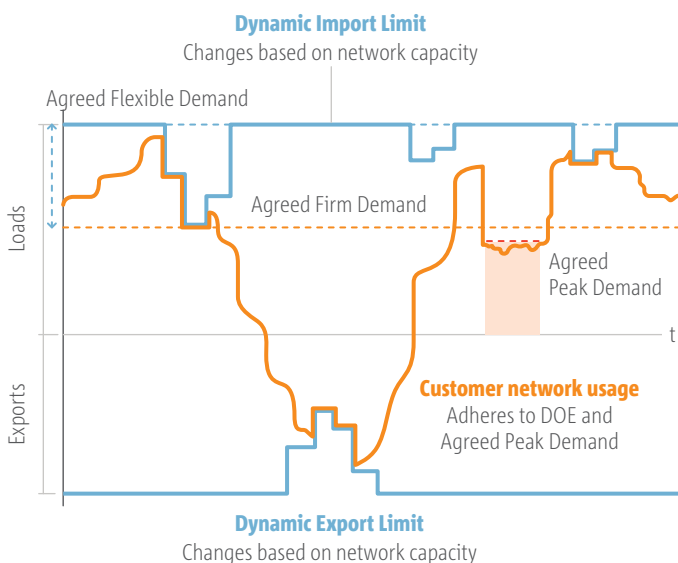
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What is a flexible connection?

A Flexible Connection is a connection option where a customer keeps their site's net flexible imports and exports within time-varying network limits. In return, SA Power Networks offers lower augmentation charges and lower ongoing tariffs designed to reward this flexibility.

While generating systems are already required to be capable of dynamic exports under the [South Australian Government's Office of the Technical Regulator's Dynamic Export Requirements](#), optional flexible load/import offers are newer. After trialling various elements of flexible connections, flexible load is now an option for negotiated connections under our [2025–30 Connection Policy](#).

How does it work?



A flexible connection will enable a portion of a customer's load and all of their export to be responsive to the real-time capacity of the network. This capacity is communicated to the site via a 'dynamic operating envelope' (DOE). The DOE is made up of a net import (load) limit and a net export limit, and sets the guardrails for what the network can safely accommodate at that given moment.

Flexible connections customers are required to have equipment on site that can interpret and respond to the DOE (for example, SCADA) to reduce load or exports as necessary. This signal is dynamic and variable, and will be sent to your site at short, regular intervals. Flexible capacity can be interrupted at any time, for short or extended periods depending on network conditions.

Customers may choose to request a split of both firm and flexible demand for their load component. Your firm demand level should cater for any load required at your site 24/7 (for example, to run security systems, air-conditioning or other essential equipment). Depending on your tariff, minimum flexible load levels may apply. Please refer to our [Tariff Structure Statement](#) for more information

For example, say a customer wanted to run their site at a maximum of 4MVA. If the site could run its basic, essential operations on as little as 100kVA, the customer may wish to have a fixed load component of 100kVA. Then they may opt for a flexible load of 3.9MVA for non-essential operations of the business, noting that the full 3.9MVA may not always be available.

How do I know if my business would be suited to a flexible connection?

As with any kind of negotiated connection offer, customers should carefully consider the options available to them. Not all customers will be suited to a flexible connection. In the first instance, customers who are already used to shifting their load and generation in response to external signals like the dynamic wholesale market price may already have the technology and operations needed for a flexible connection.

Some general example use cases that may suit a flexible connection include:

- Standalone energy systems (eg. solar and battery)
- Electric Vehicle charging
- Data Centres and other fast switching loads
- Sites with instant backup power sources

Over time, we expect more types of customers to take up flexible connections, and we will be refining our offer accordingly.

Availability of flexible capacity may change over time and will vary due to conditions such as, but not limited to, new customer connections, weather, generation limits, planned and unplanned outages, loss of system control and directions from electricity authorities. Flexible capacity may be zero under certain network operating conditions. Depending on network conditions there may be a significant, rapid, permanent reduction in flexible load or export availability

For businesses that require constant supply of their full load at all times, flexible load would not be suitable as it is not reserved for you. Customers should obtain independent engineering or other technical advice before signing up to a flexible connection.

What is the process for getting a flexible connection?

Customers can continue to follow existing SA Power Networks negotiated connections processes. Along the way, we may request additional information from you to assess whether a flexible connection is available for your site, and to help you understand your options. You will also need to enter into specific terms and conditions relating to your flexible load. These terms and conditions are available on request.

Key features and costs

The following up-front and ongoing differences apply when choosing flexible load:

Up-front

- No Incremental Cost of Shared Network (ICSN) fee for the flexible load component of your connection.
- Reduced or no wait times for network augmentation.
- May be eligible to elect to pay an Immediate Network Access (INAC) fee to unlock greater flexible capacity.
- Requirement for customer to install SCADA or similar equipment to enable response to network limits.

Ongoing

- Reduced window of time where Peak Demand is measured.
- Flexible Demand tariff charged at 50% of Anytime Demand tariff.
- Network availability and access to flexible capacity will vary.
- Flexible component must be responsive to network limits at short notice. On-site systems must be operated and maintained to allow for this.

There may be other reasons for choosing a flexible connection, for example accelerating your readiness for other electrification or energy management activities. On a larger scale, flexible connections will contribute to increased utilisation of the distribution network and the efficiency of providing services to customers.

Please carefully review our Connection Policy, Tariff Structure Statement, Technical Standards, your Connection Offer, your Connection Agreement and any applicable terms and conditions to understand whether a flexible connection is right for you.

Find out more

To learn more about flexible connections for commercial and industrial customers, please visit our website:



To understand our negotiated connection options and processes, visit:

sapowernetworks.com.au/connections