

EirGrid Network Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026

Consultation Response Paper

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1 Introduction

EirGrid is committed to continuously improving our engagement with all stakeholders including customers, industry, the public and local communities, while reporting on our engagement methods in an open and transparent way. This approach underpins our engagement activities and allows us to engage in a process of continuous improvement.

EirGrid's Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026 outlines our planned stakeholder engagement for 2026 as Ireland's transmission system operator. It also details the planned outcomes for each of these engagements.

On the 15th October 2025, EirGrid published its Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026 and it became available for viewing and consultation on the EirGrid website. Stakeholders were then invited to submit their consultation responses via the EirGrid Consultation Portal. The portal was open until the 13th of November 2025, when the consultation period ended. This document, the Consultation Response Paper, details EirGrid's response to submissions received via the consultation process.

Thank you to those who responded to this consultation. Where relevant and appropriate to do so, feedback from this consultation has been incorporated into our final Stakeholder Engagement Plan for 2026. Feedback that was not included in this plan has been noted and will be considered in future plans, where appropriate, as we continue to strengthen and enhance our engagement approach.

Formal feedback via the EirGrid consultation portal was received from the following organisations:

- **Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)**
- **Cork Chamber**
- **Next Generation Energy Systems (Nexsys)**

We would like to note that EirGrid also received feedback from one other consultee in addition to the above. However, because this response was marked confidential/internal, we have not included the response in this consultation response document. We have, however, shared all of the consultee responses with the relevant parties internally.

As per the EirGrid Consultation Portal Terms and Conditions, all submissions not marked 'confidential' are published in full on the [consultation portal](#) along with this consultation response document and the Final 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

2 Feedback and EirGrid Responses

As part of the consultation process in relation to the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026, EirGrid posed the following questions for stakeholders to consider:

1. Do you have any suggested amends or additions to EirGrid's Draft 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan?
2. Are there other stakeholders that you think that EirGrid should be undertaking in order to deliver on our core remit and deliver Government renewable energy targets?
3. Do you have any feedback on EirGrid's focuses for effective stakeholder engagement?
4. Is there any feedback you would like to provide on EirGrid's methods of engagement including this consultation?

All of the submissions received welcomed the opportunity to give feedback on the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026 and the overall collaborative nature of the process.

2.1 Overall Commentary from Contributors

Over the course of 2024, EirGrid greatly enhanced our stakeholder engagement documentation to make it much more structured and detailed, and this was positively received by our stakeholders. In 2025, EirGrid has continued to develop our stakeholder engagement strategy in line with EirGrid's corporate strategy as well as the evolving strategic priorities driven at a Government and EU level, in particular the need to accelerate grid delivery alongside other objectives. This work is currently ongoing.

It's important to note that EirGrid's current Corporate Strategy period of 2020-2025 is coming to a close and EirGrid Group is currently developing its Corporate Strategy 2026-2030, expected to be launched in 2026. As part of the development of this strategy, EirGrid has been working closely with stakeholders to ensure that stakeholder needs and views are captured and taken into account as we develop our plans. The new corporate strategy will help to shape our work for the next five years and will highlight the key focus areas for the organisation for this period.

In anticipation of the PR6 Final Determination from CRU and the new EirGrid Corporate Strategy, it's important to highlight that EirGrid is in a period of transition and that further information regarding our corporate strategy and aligned approach to stakeholder engagement will be available in 2026.

We understand that effective stakeholder engagement is essential to allow EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations and that collaboration is key. As we continue to enhance and augment our stakeholder engagement strategy, we recognise the importance of stakeholder engagement while welcoming support and feedback from all of the individuals, groups and organisations that we engage with. Looking ahead, we will continue to actively seek new and innovative ways to engage, ensuring that our engagement practices remain robust, responsive, and aligned with our strategic objectives.

Extracts from consultation responses which are positive in nature are highlighted below with further consultee comments along with the EirGrid responses in the following section.

Wind Energy Ireland commended EirGrid regarding our Future Power Market Workshops, while expressing appreciation in response to EirGrid's work to facilitate WEI's feedback to further tailor these engagements.

Wind Energy Ireland also extended their sincere thanks "for EirGrid's ongoing commitment to engaging with industry," adding, "we appreciate the open dialogue that allows us to work together towards improving processes, addressing challenges and achieving shared goals."

Cork Chamber commented that EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement Plan makes "a number of welcome commitments to ongoing engagement and collaboration across sectors," adding, "the emphasis on grid upgrade projects and an accompanying programme of proactive stakeholder engagement is particularly welcome."

Next Generation Energy Systems (Nexsys) expressed appreciation regarding the initiatives that EirGrid provides, particularly through co-funding major research programmes as well as the provision of letters of support for research proposals.

Nexsys also commented, "The detailed information EirGrid already makes available in its many reports is of significant assistance to academic research. The detail of the information is greater than what might be available from other system operators and is very much appreciated."

We once again would like to thank all consultees for their valuable feedback.

2.2 Themes and Areas of Feedback

Consultation responses received relating to the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026, commented on a range of areas including:

- Planning and reporting
- Offshore
- EirGrid's approach to stakeholder engagement

Consultee comments are provided below, followed by EirGrid's response.

2.2.1 Planning and reporting

EirGrid received several comments from respondents with regard to EirGrid's planning and reporting which we have addressed below:

WEI welcomed the continuation of the annual customer survey and requested information on how the feedback from this survey is integrated into EirGrid's future engagement strategies.

WEI also asked for more information on how the quality of EirGrid's engagement is measured, and how lessons learned are applied to refine work practices.

EirGrid appreciates WEI's interest in the annual customer survey and its role in shaping our approach.

The insights gathered from the survey are a key input into EirGrid's engagement strategies across the organisation. They help us identify areas for improvement and inform the development of future initiatives to better meet stakeholder needs. In addition, lessons learned from these evaluations are reviewed and incorporated into our existing processes to refine work practices and enhance the overall effectiveness of our engagement.

For example, it was identified in the 2024 customer survey that overall satisfaction in relation to Dispatch Down levels had decreased compared to previous years. This feedback, along with other inputs, helped drive the establishment of the Dispatch Down Working Group.

EirGrid is currently reviewing the customer survey to understand how we can further enhance our approach.

As part of their feedback, WEI requested the development of a PR6 Dashboard.

EirGrid acknowledges the above comment from WEI. The PR6 Dashboard is a CRU-led initiative and is subject to the PR6 Final Determination which EirGrid is feeding into.

As outlined in the CRU's PR6 Draft Determination, the CRU intends to publish a dashboard that summarises key metrics and performance indicators. The details of this dashboard will be finalised in the PR6 Final Determination expected at the end of 2025.

WEI also highlighted the need for transparent delivery plans, project monitoring and transparency regarding project costs and progress.

They also commented: EirGrid reports on the dispatch down of wind farms each month, which is very useful information. However, what is lacking is the provision of explanations for changes in trends to constraints and curtailment - referencing the Min Gen and SNSP limit and further analysis on the impact of interconnectors.

EirGrid acknowledges the need for continued focus on this highly complex matter.

The level of dispatch down is affected by a number of factors which can vary, such as the amount of energy scheduled via markets, weather patterns, system demand, interconnector flows, scheduled grid maintenance works, and the capacity factor of the renewable generation.

EirGrid publishes details of the levels of wind and solar dispatch down via our monthly, quarterly and annual reports. These help to keep customers and the broader industry, informed regarding dispatch down levels while contextualising reported figures regionally and nationally.

We also note the ongoing collaboration between EirGrid and industry representatives which is taking place via the Dispatch Down Working Group. This is a key forum for inviting open dialogue and knowledge sharing, as well as greater alignment as we work with stakeholders to navigate this highly complex topic.

We also await further direction regarding reporting in CRU's PR6 Final Determination.

In terms of transparency around our planning, we would like to highlight the regular publication of the following documents on the EirGrid website:

- [Transmission Development Plan \(TDP\)](#) - The TDP reports the planned transmission infrastructure projects that need to be built or upgraded over the ten years (updated and published every two years).
- [Network Delivery Portfolio \(NDP\)](#) - The NDP provides a quarterly status update on 3 key milestones, EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB and Energisation for these projects (updated and published every quarter).

WEI also requested that the EirGrid Dispatch Down Working Group is jointly held with SONI.

EirGrid and SONI are working collaboratively to address the range of dispatch down challenges. While some focus areas operate on an all-island basis, others remain jurisdictional to meet the needs of each TSO.

The Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council, conducted jointly with SONI, continues to be the most appropriate forum for sharing all relevant updates with industry members – including those related to dispatch down – as it provides an inclusive platform for updates across all sectors and topics.

WEI highlighted the importance of the multi-year look ahead to future Transmission Outage Programmes and requested that this is made available for industry review.

EirGrid acknowledges the above comment from WEI. In Q1 2026, EirGrid will publish the first two years (2027, 2028) of the Multi Year Transmission Outage Programme. Information contained will be based on the best available information at the time.

WEI requested that the Contracted List be published on a monthly basis, commenting that with the shift to two ECP batches per year, it is important to increase the frequency to monthly to maintain transparency and ensure stakeholders are well-informed.

EirGrid appreciates the importance for customers to have information on contracted projects published on a regular basis, particularly with the move to two ECP batches a year. Although we are currently unable to facilitate a monthly publication, EirGrid will formalise our approach regarding the publication dates and will be committing to publishing this information on a quarterly basis. We believe this will provide customers with timely information to maintain transparency and ensure stakeholders are well-informed.

We await further direction and detail regarding the ECP-GSS Performance Incentive in the CRU's PR6 Final Determination.

In their response, WEI referenced the scoping exercise which is mentioned in the Customer and Connections chapter of the 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, adding, "to provide stakeholders with greater confidence, we recommend that the final Stakeholder Engagement Plan include a specific timeline for the full rollout of the portal".

EirGrid acknowledges the above comment from WEI. Defining the scope for the Customer Information Portal is a critical first step with many variables. At this stage, we are unable to provide a definitive timeline for the portal's delivery. However, EirGrid will endeavour to share updates with industry as this project advances.

In their response, WEI made reference to the Firm Access Reports and commented that “the reduced transparency in the published material remains a concern”.

As part of the new Firm Access Methodology, EirGrid has carried out a series of firm access reviews of contracted generators. Prior to 2025, these firm access runs were carried out annually and the results were published in a report that also summarised the key issues in an area.

As part of the new ECP-GSS process, the CRU has directed EirGrid to conduct two firm access runs per year. The increased frequency of the firm access runs is to align with the bi-annual ECP-GSS process which is being introduced to meet the RED III requirements. 2025 is the first year that EirGrid has conducted two runs in a year. Given the complexities of the analysis and the time required to complete two runs, there has been a change to the format of the published results.

We recognise the industry's need for detail and as a result, we will continue to conduct the industry information sessions after each run where we give an overview of the results, analysis and key findings where stakeholders will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the results.

In addition, EirGrid will also publish an annual detailed results report. This report will be similar to the previous firm access reports and will focus on the key issues in each area in order to provide context to the firm access results, while supporting industry stakeholders.

2.2.2 Offshore

EirGrid received several comments from respondents with regard to offshore which we have addressed below:

In their response, WEI referenced the Offshore Asset Owner (OAO) commenting that it is critical that Phase 1 projects receive priority over the next 5 years.

EirGrid's role as TSO was expanded in 2021 to incorporate new functions related to the development and ownership of offshore renewable activity. EirGrid has expanded and will continue to expand its offshore resources, as provided for in its Price Review 6 business plan as well as the CRU's draft determination. This includes resources associated with Phase 1 engagement.

WEI commented that they believe there should be greater involvement by the EirGrid Phase 1 Director and Function Leads in meetings and workshops, adding that when functional leads did attend, meaningful progress was made.

WEI also commented that one of the main aims of the Phase 1 projects is to get a detailed tri-party plan agreed between EirGrid, CRU and the Phase 1 projects before the end of 2025, adding that, “having an agreed detailed tri-party plan will be critical to get the connection agreement, functional specification and asset transfer process being finalised by the end of 2026.”

EirGrid acknowledges the above comments from WEI. In Q1 2025, EirGrid introduced a new engagement framework for Phase 1, known as the 'Phase 1 Coordination Group'. The aim of this initiative is to ensure that key grid actions required by Phase 1 Project Promoters (P1Ps) are addressed well in advance of their final investment decisions.

The framework is supported by a detailed delivery plan comprising 72 actions, identified in collaboration with P1Ps, and organised across five specialist EirGrid / industry working groups. Each action has a defined completion date and an assigned EirGrid owner.

The Phase 1 Coordination Group operates through a three-tier engagement structure:

- Specialist Group Owner Meetings.
- Monthly Management Oversight.
- Director/Executive-Level Escalation Meetings.

All three levels work together to drive progress on the plan. This structure has been agreed with the P1Ps.

For more information on our planned engagements relating to offshore, please refer to the offshore chapter within EirGrid's 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Ongoing engagement between EirGrid and the industry on Phase 2 offshore wind plans is essential for ensuring the successful development of Ireland's offshore wind capacity. As Ireland works towards maximising the South Coast DMAP, WEI would like to call out the need for continued engagement with EirGrid on the plans for the remaining sites.

EirGrid acknowledges the productive ongoing engagement with WEI in regard to Phase 2 and we look forward to continuing this in the coming year, while building on the good work to date.

2.2.3 EirGrid's approach to stakeholder engagement

EirGrid received several comments from respondents with regard to our approach to stakeholder engagement which we have addressed below:

WEI commented that they were happy to see the continued support for the JOTP programme saying that they have found these meetings to be "very informative and productive in identifying key areas for collaboration between EirGrid and Industry".

WEI also commented that there is a need to formalise the frequency of these meetings so as to maintain momentum in key areas where actions have been taken. They also suggested EirGrid hosts a JOTP workshop on a quarterly basis, while inviting engagement via subgroups such as a Technical Specifications group.

EirGrid welcomes WEI's positive commentary regarding the JOTP programme.

Over recent months, the JOTP Customer and Industry workstream has committed to implementing an enhanced communications plan with the aim of further developing collaboration and alignment across industry, ESB Networks and EirGrid. This new approach was shared with industry on the 13th November 2025 for review and feedback, as well as to develop next steps.

A part of this programme of work, specific breakout groups have been created to review the issues raised in the JOTP workshops while focusing on driving solutions. The topics of the working groups are as follows:

- Getting Connected Document.
- Lessons Learned on Design Review & Quality Assurance.
- Lessons Learned (Programme Sequence) & Programme Management).

EirGrid is currently planning a workshop to be held with industry in Q1 2026. We will also be issuing placeholders for regular quarterly meetings.

WEI asked for an update regarding EirGrid's Tomorrow Energy Scenarios System Needs Assessment (TESSNA) document and requested that the document is published without further delay, or that a clear and near-term publication date be provided.

EirGrid acknowledges the above comment from WEI and we understand continued collaboration with all of our stakeholders is vital for allowing EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations.

EirGrid is working closely with Government departments on validating the assumptions feeding our network modelling. We expect to be able to share this analysis in Q1 2026.

Nexsys commented that the commitment that EirGrid shows to hosting work placement students in masters programmes is very much appreciated. Opportunities for research internships or industry placements for relevant PhD students could also be considered.

Meeting our decarbonisation targets, while providing secure and affordable electricity, will be very challenging and means we will need to redefine the way our energy systems work. Research and practical innovation regarding key areas of focus are therefore vital in supporting Ireland's climate ambitions.

EirGrid welcomes the above comment from Nexsys while noting the Energy Research engagements highlighted in our 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Cork Chamber commented that regional organisations are considered in EirGrid's stakeholder engagement activities, particularly those in locations where EirGrid is undertaking significant projects, such as the South Coast. Cork Chamber also commented that particular consideration should be given to engagement with SMEs, ensuring that they have access to relevant information on local and national developments.

EirGrid agrees with the above comments from Cork Chamber. It is only with public and stakeholder support that we can achieve our climate action targets and secure a sustainable supply of electricity for future generations.

Our [Public Engagement Strategy](#) outlines how we develop relationships on-the-ground and get feedback on projects before they start so that we can achieve better outcomes for all.

Before we develop or upgrade the grid, we engage with landowners, community representatives, interest groups and local stakeholders including businesses, to better understand both their needs and the local area, while also sharing information in a timely and inclusive manner.

Through our Community and Industry Forums, we help to ensure that those being impacted have regular opportunities to directly feed into the planning of the work proposed in their area.

Each community forum is independently chaired, and membership includes representatives of local community groups as well as local county councillors and chamber of commerce members.

Additionally, we proactively work with specialist environmental groups, and other relevant statutory stakeholders such as Government departments and agencies, planning authorities and other prescribed bodies.

A key example of this is EirGrid's engagement with fishing and marine communities, specifically on offshore projects. The fishers are a key stakeholder in the development of offshore energy, and our Fisheries Liaison Officer engages with marine communities all year round.

You can find out more about our community and business forums in EirGrid's 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Cork Chamber also commented that continued emphasis on community meetings and effective, accessible communication strategies will be important. Further development of digital engagement

methods could be explored in this regard to ensure a multi-channel approach to engagement that reaches a wide range of target audiences.

As EirGrid continues to enhance and augment our stakeholder engagement strategy, we welcome the support and feedback from all of the individuals, groups and organisations that we engage with. As we look to the future, we will continue to evolve our approach while looking for new ways to engage.

3 Conclusion

EirGrid thanks all those who responded to this consultation, which was specifically to receive feedback on our stakeholder engagement plans for 2026 as set out in the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2026.

Please note, since the publication of the Draft 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, EirGrid has made the following amendments to the 'Operating and developing the grid and market' chapter of the Final 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan:

- **References to the cadence of the Future Power Market Industry Workshops have been amended to 'regular' (rather than 'monthly')** - EirGrid welcomes the positive stakeholder feedback received to date regarding these workshops and we recognise the importance of these fora. As a result, we would like to reassure stakeholders that EirGrid will endeavour to hold at least 10 workshops over the course of 2026.
- **Addition of the Multi-Year Transmission Outage Plan:** In Q1 2026, and in response to stakeholder feedback, EirGrid will publish the first two years (2027, 2028) of the Multi-Year Transmission Outage Plan, which will be published on an annual basis going forwards.

We would like to once again thank all of the consultees for their responses. For more details with regards to our engagements for 2026, please refer to [EirGrid's Final 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#).