

Meeting	Independent Stakeholder Group	
Date	15 July 2026	
Location	Inveralmond House, Perth	
Attendees – Panel Members		
Sharon Darcy (SD) (Chair)	Tamar Bourne (TB)	
Claire Whyley (CWh) (Vice Chair)	Keith Gardner (KG)	
Chris Watts (CW)	Andrew McMunnigall (AM)	
Barbara Whiting (BW)		
Apologies		
Barry Coughlan (BC)	Fayza Benlamkaden (FB)	
Attendees – SSEN, Distribution		
Hollie Wilson (HW), Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SSEN Distribution	Chris Burchell (CB), Managing Director, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Lyndsey Stainton (LS), Head of Stakeholder Engagement, SSEN Distribution	Patrick Erwin (PE), Director of Commercial, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Christoph Grafe (CG), Head of ED3 Strategy, SSEN Distribution	Graeme Keddie (GK), Director of Corporate Affairs, SSEN Distribution	
Emily Gavin-Wilson (EGW), Head of Corporate Affairs, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Ryan Mckay (RM), Senior Strategy Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Rachael Robertson (RR), Head of Finance, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Ewan Baillie (EB), Asset Strategy Engineer, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Rodger Yuile (RY), Asset Strategy Engineer, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Monisha Gower (MG), Director of Large Capital Delivery (Partial Attendee)	
Matthew Thomas (MT), Director of Asset Management, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Colin Pirie (CP), Head of Region, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	

Minutes

Item No.	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome and Introductions – Sharon Darcy The ISG reviewed progress against previous actions and challenges and discussed the importance of ensuring that challenge logs clearly demonstrate why challenges remain open and what evidence is required to support closure. Members welcomed progress made on several outstanding actions and noted the value of detailed evidence provided to support review and assurance activities.
2.	Stakeholder Engagement Update – Lyndsey Stainton and Graeme Keddie SSEN provided an update on stakeholder engagement activity supporting ED3 development. Members noted the transition into the next phase of engagement, focused on refining proposals, undertaking further testing and gathering additional stakeholder feedback.

	The ISG welcomed progress across the research programme, including the Fair Future Panel and planned research with business customers. Members highlighted the importance of ensuring that engagement remains inclusive, representative and clearly linked to decision-making. The Group also discussed future engagement events designed to test proposed commitments, alongside plans for further review of the Connections Strategy.
3.	ED3 Strategy, Regulation, and Programme Update – Christoph Graph and Patrick Erwin SSEN provided an overview of the evolving regulatory environment and the challenges associated with developing a long-term business plan amid ongoing uncertainty. The ISG discussed the importance of maintaining flexibility in plan design while ensuring that proposals remain evidence-based and aligned to customer and stakeholder priorities. It was emphasised that there is a need for a strong evidence base, clear stakeholder support and transparent decision-making across the business plan. The Group also highlighted the importance of understanding strategic investment needs, resilience requirements and the relationship between affordability and long-term value for customers and communities.
4.	ED3 Workstream 9: Finance and Efficiency – Rachael Robertson The ISG received an update on the development of the Finance and Efficiency element of the business plan and discussed how affordability, efficiency and investment needs are being balanced within the emerging ED3 plan. Members explored how financial assumptions, benchmarking and cost-benefit analysis support investment decisions and highlighted the importance of robust assurance processes. The Group welcomed ongoing work to strengthen assurance and noted the value of transparency in demonstrating how financial decisions are developed and challenged.
5.	ED3 Workstream 10: Affordability – Graeme Keddle and Emily Wilson-Gavin Affordability was discussed as a key theme emerging from stakeholder engagement and considered how investment needs, customer value and long-term outcomes can be communicated effectively. Members noted the importance of helping stakeholders understand the trade-offs between affordability, resilience and future network investment. The Group welcomed the development of an Affordability and Value Framework and emphasised the need to clearly articulate the customer benefits associated with proposed investments.
6.	ED3 Workstream 6: Network Integrity and Reliability – Ewan Baillie and Rodger Yulie SSEN presented its developing approach to network integrity, reliability and asset management for ED3. The ISG discussed lessons learned from ED2, the importance of resilience and reliability for customers, and how network investment can be delivered efficiently while minimising disruption. Members highlighted the need to clearly explain the relationship between asset condition, risk management, resilience and customer outcomes, alongside the importance of balancing affordability with long-term network performance.
7.	A.O.B – All The ISG reviewed progress against several outstanding challenges, including innovation and public acceptance. Members welcomed evidence demonstrating how innovation activity is embedded across the business and discussed the importance of clearly communicating innovation outcomes and learning. The Group also considered progress on public acceptance, emphasising the need to

	understand and address customer and community perspectives as network investment and low-carbon technologies continue to develop. The ISG noted continued progress on actions and challenges and welcomed the ongoing focus on assurance, evidence quality and transparency throughout the ED3 process.
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