



POSITION DESCRIPTION



Network Forecasting Lead

Reports to:

Head of DSO

Group:

Future Energy

Financial Authority:

As per DFA

Direct Reports:

0

Revision (m/y):

7/2026

Purpose

The purpose of the Network Forecasting Lead is to build and improve WEL's forecasting capability through development of scenario modelling capability which translates customer growth, DER uptake, and changing consumer demands into plausible future forecasts which give WEL a clear view on network capacity, including the timing and nature of future constraints that help guide planning, flexibility needs, Distribution Network Options Assessment (DNOA), and investment decisions.

Reporting Structure



Key Accountabilities (Outcomes)

- WEL has a clear, consistent, and repeatable forecasting capability that supports network planning, DNOA, flexibility requirements, and long-term investment decisions.
- Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) are developed, maintained, and improved to reflect plausible future pathways for customer growth, electrification, DER uptake, changing consumer behaviour, and other relevant macro trends.



- DER profiles, uptake models, and other relevant DFES inputs are continually reviewed to ensure scenario modeling is fit for purpose.
- Forecasting outputs provide clear visibility of future network capacity, headroom, and constraints, including where constraints are expected to emerge, when they are likely to occur, and what is driving them.
- Scenario assumptions are well documented, evidence-based, and understood by key stakeholders so that planning and investment decisions are made with a clear view of uncertainty.
- Forecasting models integrate relevant network, customer, DER, smart meter, weather, spatial, and operational data where available, with data limitations clearly identified and managed.
- Forecast outputs are translated into practical planning inputs that support DNOA, flexibility signposting, investment planning, AMP inputs, and future network development priorities.
- Forecast accuracy is monitored, reconciled against actual outcomes, and used to continuously improve model quality, assumptions, data inputs, and forecasting methodology.
- Forecasting governance, reporting, and version control are maintained so that forecasts are trusted, repeatable, auditable, and suitable for use in material planning and investment decisions.
- Forecasting tools, data requirements, and process improvements are clearly scoped and progressed in collaboration with digital, data, planning, asset management, operations, and other relevant teams.
- Network capacity and constraint reporting is clear, accessible, and useful for internal decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and future transparency requirements.
- Forecasting risks, data gaps, assumption uncertainty, or material changes in demand and DER behaviour are identified early and escalated where they may affect planning, investment, or flexibility decisions.
- Forecasting decisions and outputs contribute to safer, more reliable, more efficient, and lower-cost network outcomes by supporting better timing and targeting of future interventions.

Decision Authority and Scope

Scope	Role expectation
Owns	Development, maintenance and continuous improvement of WEL's network forecasting capability, including forecasting methodology, scenario assumptions, Distribution Future Energy Scenarios, governance, reporting outputs, forecast accuracy monitoring, and translation of scenario modelling into network capacity, headroom and constraint forecasts.
Influences	Network planning, DNOA, flexibility requirements, investment planning, AMP inputs, future network development priorities, data and digital priorities, stakeholder inputs, forecasting tools, system integration and related DSO capability development.



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Ways of Working (Enterprise Expectations)

These expectations apply to all roles and should be demonstrated through day-to-day behaviour, decision-making and interactions across the business and with external stakeholders.

- Acts consistently with WEL's values and contributes positively to organisational performance and development.
- Champions health, safety and wellbeing, and models safe behaviours in all aspects of the role.
- Maintains a strong customer and service focus, supporting reliable delivery and positive stakeholder outcomes.
- Builds effective relationships across the business, with contractors, utilities, authorities and other stakeholders to support coordinated operational delivery.

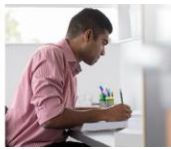
Capabilities That Matter Most

The role requires a technically credible, analytical and collaborative forecasting specialist who can develop WEL's network forecasting capability and translate complex scenario modelling into clear, practical planning insights. Success depends on strong judgement, data and systems literacy, electricity sector awareness, clear communication, and the ability to work across planning, asset management, digital, data, operations and stakeholder environments.

- Forecasting and scenario modelling judgement, with the ability to develop plausible future scenarios and translate uncertainty into practical forecasts that support planning and investment decisions.
- Analytical capability, including the ability to interpret complex data, identify trends, test assumptions and convert analysis into clear, usable insights.
- Network planning awareness, including understanding of how demand growth, DER uptake, electrification, capacity, constraints and asset limitations affect distribution network planning.
- Data and systems literacy, with the ability to work with multiple data sources, identify data quality issues and help shape the tools and data flows required for scalable forecasting.
- Communication and influence, including the ability to explain forecasting outputs, assumptions, uncertainty and limitations clearly to technical and non-technical stakeholders.
- Continuous improvement mindset, actively improving forecasting quality, model accuracy, data inputs, governance and reporting over time.

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- Relevant tertiary qualification in engineering, data science, statistics, economics, mathematics, energy, technology, planning or a related discipline; or demonstrated equivalent experience.
- Experience developing, maintaining or using forecasts, scenarios, models or analytical outputs to support planning or investment decisions.



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- Experience within an electricity distribution, utility, infrastructure, energy, planning or asset management environment.
- Experience working with complex datasets, identifying data quality issues and producing clear insights for decision-making.
- Experience translating technical analysis into practical recommendations for business, planning, operational or investment stakeholders.
- Experience working across multiple internal and external stakeholders to gather inputs, test assumptions and build alignment around analytical outputs.

Desirable Qualifications & Experience

- Post-graduate qualification in engineering, data science, analytics, energy, economics, technology or a related field.
- Formal training or certification in forecasting, data analytics, geospatial analysis, power systems or related modelling disciplines.
- Experience with demand forecasting, DER modelling, electrification modelling, smart meter data, network capacity analysis or constraint forecasting.
- Experience using analytical, modelling, data visualisation or geospatial tools to support forecasting and reporting.
- Experience contributing to planning standards, forecasting methodology, governance frameworks or continuous improvement of analytical processes.

Role Evolution

This role may evolve as strategy, structure and priorities change.

Our Purpose

Enabling our *communities to thrive*

Our Vision

To create and support an *innovative and sustainable energy future*

Best in Service

So we have the *trust of our community*



Best in Safety

Every Day - *Home Safe*



Our Values



Agile

We listen to ideas, we explore opportunities and we adapt to changing situations with an open mind. When change is needed we make sure we understand why and we make it work. We're flexible and we respond professionally to change.



Build the business

We make sure our day to day activity is sound while exploring ways to improve the way we work or things we do. We often ask "is there a better way to do this?" and we investigate options.



Care for each other, the customer and our assets

We work as a team across the business to do things the right way. We treat others with respect, listening to their needs so we can deliver a reliable and safe service to our communities.



Do the right thing

We make decisions with integrity and when we can, we help others make the right decision for their situation. We're open, honest and trustworthy. We speak up if we feel we should and we listen to others.



Every Day - Home Safe

We lead by example to keep ourselves, our workmates and our communities safe. We use the right equipment, we challenge unsafe acts and we say no if we think it's not safe.