

IPART - Northmore Gordon

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/glossary/ipart/>

Details:

[Home](#) > [Glossary](#) > IPART

IPART

IPART stands for Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. It is the regulatory body that administers and describes the requirements of the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) and the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme (PDRS). IPART defines PIAM&V; standards-Project Impact Assessment with Measurement and Verification-which establish how energy efficiency improvements are measured and verified for certificate creation. The organisation also describes business battery activities BESS4 and BESS5 and their eligibility requirements. IPART's authority means that scheme-specific definitions in its applicable rules take precedence over plain-language glossaries, and practitioners must refer to the current rule version relevant to their project's implementation date.

Related guidance

[Carbon advisory](#)

[Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions](#)

[Certificates](#)

[Government schemes](#)

[Certificate trading](#)

[Measurement and verification](#)

What does IPART stand for and what is its role in NSW energy schemes?

IPART stands for Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. It is the regulatory body that administers and describes the requirements of the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) and the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme (PDRS). IPART defines PIAM&V; standards - Project Impact Assessment with Measurement and Verification - which establish how energy efficiency improvements are measured and verified for certificate creation. The organisation also describes business battery activities BESS4 and BESS5 and their eligibility requirements. IPART's authority means that scheme-specific definitions in its applicable rules take precedence over plain-language glossaries, and practitioners must refer to the current rule version relevant to their project's implementation date.

What are the key implementation dates for IPART's energy schemes?

The Energy Savings Scheme Rule commences on 7 September 2026, with transition provisions allowing earlier implementations. BESS4 and BESS5 business battery activities begin on 1 September 2026. Importantly, 1 July 2026 is a cutoff date after which certain gas-fired equipment - including steam boilers, water heaters, hot-water boilers and space heaters - cannot create Energy Savings Certificates under the PIAM&V; method. These dates are specific to those activities and the PIAM&V; method; they do not apply universally to every gas-saving measure in every scheme. Projects must establish their exact implementation date and verify it against the applicable method requirements.

What does IPART require for PIAM&V; projects and who must approve them?

IPART describes PIAM&V; as a project-based method that compares modelled pre-project consumption with modelled or measured post-commissioning consumption. A critical requirement is that an independent Measurement and Verification professional must deem the project appropriate and approve baseline measurement procedures with written explanatory reasoning before the implementation date. This professional must be approved under IPART's framework. The practical consequence is establishing the project boundary and modelling approach while meaningful baseline data can still be obtained. Projects must use the applicable Energy Savings Scheme Rule document along with method-specific guidance to establish current requirements - older case studies or supplier brochures cannot establish today's requirements.

What record-keeping requirements does IPART impose on Accredited Certificate Providers?

IPART publishes method-specific record-keeping guidance that Accredited Certificate Providers (ACPs) must follow rather than substituting generic checklists. This guidance varies by calculation method and is essential to maintaining compliance and supporting certificate claims. For each project, practitioners should record the activity, rule version, energy calculation methodology, certificate assumptions, commercial pricing date and any outstanding conditions. IPART requires that engineering savings, scheme-recognised savings, created certificates and customer proceeds be kept as separate quantities. Practitioners should request IPART's method-specific guidance directly rather than relying on assumptions about record-keeping from other sources or projects.

What are the eligibility exclusions for BESS4 and BESS5 under IPART's rules?

IPART describes both BESS4 and BESS5 business battery activities with specific eligibility exclusions: both exclude residential buildings and data centres. Schedule C, Activity BESS5, Eligibility Requirement 1 explicitly states these restrictions. Capacity alone does not determine eligibility - equipment, siting, installation, approvals and all other activity requirements must be checked against the full activity requirements in the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme Rule dated 7 September 2026. Projects must be assessed in detail against these requirements rather than relying on battery size or marketing descriptions. We can assist by screening battery projects against IPART's current activity specifications and identifying which conditions require verification.

How should practitioners use IPART's rule versions when assessing projects?

IPART's applicable rule version and implementation date are critical to project assessment. The Energy Savings Scheme Rule effective 7 September 2026 differs from earlier versions; using an older case study, supplier brochure or previously published guidance cannot establish today's requirements. When preparing a project assessment, practitioners must identify the exact equipment and energy-saving activity proposed, determine the correct implementation date under the applicable method, and consult the current Energy Savings Scheme Rule document alongside method-specific guidance from IPART. A preliminary certificate estimate should be labelled as such until assumptions have been verified against the governing rule. Connect the applicable IPART rule to project-specific assessment and evidence gathering.

What is the relationship between IPART's PIAM&V; method and energy measurement planning?

IPART's PIAM&V; method requires that baseline measurement procedures be deemed appropriate by an independent M&V; professional before implementation. This creates a practical imperative to establish the project boundary and modelling approach while meaningful baseline data can still be obtained - ideally before equipment selection is final. The NSW M&V; guide explains the role of baselines and adjustments in determining project savings; a lower electricity bill alone is not sufficient evidence. Practitioners must plan measurement early, identify which baseline and operating variables are necessary, and secure the relevant data before works commence. This early planning prevents gaps that can emerge if measurement is delayed until immediately before installation, when baseline conditions may no longer be representative.

How do IPART's definitions relate to energy efficiency certificates and funding eligibility?

IPART's scheme-specific definitions in the ESS and PDRS rules establish what constitutes an eligible activity and how certificates are created and valued. These definitions take precedence over plain-language glossaries or generic descriptions. An energy-efficiency certificate claim must satisfy IPART's activity and method requirements; an installer invoice by itself does not establish a certificate entitlement. When assessing funding eligibility, practitioners must separate the engineering question (whether an upgrade could save energy) from the scheme question (whether the proposed activity meets IPART's current eligibility and evidence requirements). Before equipment selection is final, current approved-product, installation and activity requirements should be verified directly with IPART's applicable documents, as rule changes can affect quotations prepared weeks earlier.

What questions should be addressed when assessing a project under IPART's schemes?

IPART's framework requires practitioners to address several key questions: What equipment and energy-saving activity are proposed? What is the exact implementation date and is it correct under the method? Who is the energy saver and how will nomination be documented? Which baseline and operating variables are necessary for the assessment? What equipment, installation, disposal and commissioning evidence is required for this method? Which professional review and scheme audit steps apply? Answers should be recorded in a single project file. A preliminary estimate should state the activity, rule version, energy calculation, certificate assumptions, commercial price date and outstanding conditions. Keep engineering savings, scheme-recognised savings, created certificates and customer proceeds as separate quantities. This structured approach prevents the common error of treating rule versions as interchangeable or omitting conditions that may affect eligibility.