



MINUTES

MEETING: Information Exchange Committee
DATE: Tuesday 11 September 2018
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE: MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY

MEMBER ATTENDEES: Mr John Pittard, AEMO director (IEC Chair)
Mr Peter Van Loon, Powershop (discretionary retailer representative)
Mr David Markham, AEC (retailer member)
Mr Marco Bogaers, Metropolis (discretionary, metering representative)
Mr Robert Lo Giudice (metering member)
Mr David Havyatt, Energy Consumer Australia (consumer member)
Mr Peter Price, Energy Queensland (distributor representative)

ALTERNATES: Nil

APOLOGIES: Mr Adrian Hill, Ausnet (discretionary, distributor representative)

IN ATTENDANCE: Violette Mouchaileh (IEC Secretariat), Michelle Norris (AEMO),
Aakash Sembey (B2B Working Group member).

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:35 PM

1. Apologies

Mr Adrian Hill was an apology for the meeting. A quorum was present for this meeting.

2. Member's Declarations of Interests

The Committee noted there were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2018 were accepted.

4. Matters Arising and Actions from Previous Meetings

The Secretariat provided an updated on the action from previous meetings. These updates were noted by the IEC. The updated actions are provided as **Attachment 1** to these Minutes.

5. Outcomes of IEC Election

The Secretariat confirmed that AEMO had undertaken an election process to fill the Elected Member roles on the Committee. The Chair congratulated the returned retailer (David Markham) and network (Peter Price) members and welcomed Robert Lo Giudice as the new metering member. The Secretariat also confirmed that David Havyatt would continue as the consumer representative on the Committee.

It was noted that this concludes the current IEC election process.

6. Matters for Decision

The Secretariat confirmed that there were no matters for decision at this meeting.

Matters for Discussion

7. Action 1607-01 Outcome of small retailer meeting to discuss options for LVI solution

AEMO provided an update on Action 1607-01. AEMO confirmed that it held a meeting with interested retailers on 10 September 2018 with the following high level meeting outcomes:

- AEMO was not in support of a piecemeal / interim solution, but was looking to put in place a more permanent solution to reduce the cost associated with future B2B changes;
- AEMO confirmed that there were no additional system solutions which could be delivered before 1 February 2019;
- AEMO was seeking to engage with small market participants to understand what their issues are associated with schema updates; and
- Peter Van Loon confirmed that small participants were looking for a solution which is scalable – current processes relating to the LVI are either full automated, or fully manual. Participants are looking for a solution which is scalable as required and where the participant could determine when a process was to be automated as volumes grew.

Action 1607-01 is now closed.

Based on the outcomes of the retailer meeting on 10 September 2018 the following new actions have been agreed by the IEC (**Action 1109-01**):

- AEMO to hold a workshop in October with a broad representation of small and large market participants to explore the issues associated with scheme updates and to understand the flexibility that is being sought; and
- Peter Van Loon has agreed to assist AEMO in engaging with small market participants to ensure that appropriate representation and input is provided as part of this process.

Given the lack of a system options available prior to 1 February 2019, Peter Van Loon has asked for assistance from AEMO and the distributor representative of the IEC in advocating to distributors in the NEM to agree to requests for bilateral arrangements for small retailers.

There was discussion on different options and Peter Van Loon indicated that the general consensus among small participants he has spoken with is for distributors to send life support information in an email. There was also discussion and in-principle agreement that there was merit in considering a standardised bilateral agreement to be developed for distributor and small retailer participants to use to expedite agreements across different jurisdictions and to reduce efforts in developing bespoke arrangements.

The IEC members agreed to support the development of bilateral approaches between smaller retailers and distributors during this interim period until a longer-term solution is able to be worked out between AEMO and industry and delivered. Further the IEC agreed in-principle to standardising (as far as possible) the bilateral arrangements, with further discussions to occur with the ENA to outwork the process.

The following Actions have been agreed by the IEC (**Action 1109-02**):

- Peter Van Loon has offered to develop a draft of a proforma bilateral arrangement which may include a volume cap so that this arrangement is limited to small retailers only;
- Peter Van Loon will provide this proforma bilateral arrangement to the Secretariat as soon as available;
- The Secretariat will send the proposed proforma bilateral arrangement to Peter Price on behalf of the IEC to facilitate his discussion with the ENA;
- The Secretariat has agreed to update the AER and gain feedback on any potential concerns regarding the proposal for bilateral arrangements for small retailers; and
- The Secretariat will report back to the IEC in November on the outcome of these actions.

Given the timeframes, this information and actions will be pursued as soon as possible, with updates provided by the Secretariat as progress occurs.

8. Action 1607-03 Centralised Life Support Database

The Secretariat provided an overview of the paper that was prepared to examine the issues and opportunities associated with the potential development of a Life Support Centralised Database.

The IEC discussed the two options that were considered by the paper – that being either:

- Development of a centralised database by AEMO for storing and accessing life support information; or
- The inclusion of life support information as part of Standing Data.

The IEC noted that neither process would likely result in an optimally efficient process in the medium term with retailers and distributors still required to maintain local datasets in order to meet their obligations as required by the NERR.

The IEC agreed that there were greater obstacles to the development of a centralised database to store and access life support information compared with the inclusion of life support information as part of Standing Data. In particular there was an immediate barrier in that AEMO currently has no powers to either collect life support information or obligate retailers or distributors to provide information on life support to it, nor maintain

this information. This presented an immediate barrier which would require a rule change to address.

However, it was noted that in the longer term, a rule change may still be needed to streamline the data sharing process for distributors and retailers if life support information was collected as part of Standing Data.

Rober Lo Giudice also noted that a potential benefit of collecting life support information as part of Standing Data would mean that this information was also accessible to meter coordinators and meter providers as an additional protection measure for life support customers.

There was general consensus by the IEC that there was merit in examining whether life support information could be collected as part of Standing Data.

The Secretariat noted that AEMO would be commencing a review of NEM Standing Data before the end of 2018. The IEC requested that AEMO provide a verbal update to the IEC in the November meeting on its NEM Standing Data Review (**Action 1109-03**).

Action 1607-03 is now closed.

9. B2B Working Group - Future Arrangements

AEMO as current Secretariat and Chair of the B2B Working Group requested that the iEC consider future arrangements of the B2B Working Group. The IEC discussed:

- B2B Working Group Chairperson;
- B2B Working Group membership; and
- B2B Working Group meeting operations.

The Secretariat confirmed that the current members had been nominated by the respective peak bodies (AEC, ENA, CMIG), but that there were generally at several (or more) additional observers who also attended the meetings.

There was broad discussion about each of the above items in relation to the B2B Working Group. It was also suggested by Peter Van Loon that the Terms of Reference which had been developed specifically for the Power of Choice Project need to be reviewed. This was supported by the IEC.

AEMO also suggested that an IEC member take on the role of Chairperson, however, the IEC believed there was strong merit in having AEMO continue in the Chair and Secretariat roles given their independence and technical skills. However, the IEC agreed that for at least the next several months, a representative of the IEC would attend the Working Group meeting.

The IEC requested that the Secretariat update the Terms of Reference for review at the next meeting (**Action 1109-04**).

The IEC also agreed that the current working group nominations had been in place for some time and the AEC, ENA and CIMG should consider calling for renewed nominations for the B2B Working Group. The Secretariat will contact the AEC, ENA and CIMG to request that there is a call for nominations for the future B2B Working Group once the new Terms of Reference have been endorsed by the IEC (**Action 1109-04**).

Peter Van Loon also noted that a number of small market participants have requested better engagement during consultative processes, noting their challenges of limited time.

Given these issues, the IEC requested that the Secretariat conduct a survey as soon as possible which seeks feedback on the following aspects of the B2B Working Group:

- How the B2B Working Group is currently operating (what is working well, and opportunities for improvement);
- Membership; and
- Engagement with smaller participants (opportunities to improve).

The Secretariat is to provide a summary of the survey feedback to the IEC at its November meeting (**Action 1109-04**).

10. Change Request from Acumen Metering

Robert Lo Giudice introduced the Change Request that he lodged on behalf of Acumen Metering which was to seek a change / addition to the One Way Notification (OWN) Process where no meter read is available when undertaking a meter exchange.

The challenge is that there is not a consistent process within the NEM as to what LSNPs will accept in the NOMW as a valid response to prevent the rejection of this field by the LNSP.

The IEC discussed the options presented in the change request and Peter Price noted the challenges of system changes likely for different LNSPs across different jurisdictions and questioned the frequency of this issue. Marco Bogaer affirmed that this process had been a challenge for a number of years, but had particularly been a challenge since the introduction of PoC.

The IEC agreed that there was merit in referring this Change Request to the B2B Working Group. The Chairperson emphasised that the brief to the IEC must be specific, and the Secretariat noted that the B2B Principles must be considered in the assessment of the Change Request.

The IEC agreed that the B2B Working Group is to be tasked with developing a solution to alert the LNSP to notify the MDP if there is no read in the case of a meter exchange (NOMW) and to provide a final substitute reading. The B2B Working Group are to consider the B2B Principles and Objectives in assessing the solutions. The IEC require a recommendation to be provided to the IEC at the November meeting (**Action 1109-05**).

11. IEC Forward Plan

The Secretariat noted that the following items would be required to be considered by the IEC at its November meeting (**Action 1109-06**):

- A (draft) Report which should include the key activities of the IEC for 2018, the key priorities that it is planning to consider for 2019, and other matters as required by the *AEMO Election Procedures and Operating Manual*; and
- A (draft) budget for 2019.

The IEC requested that the Secretariat prepare the draft Report and budget for its consideration (and decision) at the November meeting. The IEC indicated that the 2019 key priorities should include the following:

- NEM Standing Data Review;

- Customer Access to Data;
- Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Register; and
- 5 Minute Settlement.

12. Other Business

The IEC was also interested in understanding any potential B2B impacts from the 5 Minute Settlement (5MS) Project. AEMO indicated that it was too early in the program to determine this impact, but that AEMO would provide a verbal update on the 5MS Project in early 2019 **(existing action from 16 May 2018 meeting)**.

Meeting Close

The Chair confirmed that the final meeting for 2018 will be held on 30 November.

The Chair closed the meeting at 3.10 PM.

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John Pittard
IEC Chair

Date: 18 September 2018