



Register of distributed energy resources

Consultation starts on rule change request

The AEMC is seeking stakeholder feedback on a COAG Energy Council rule change request that aims to improve the collection and sharing of information about small-scale behind the meter distributed energy resources in the national electricity market.

Rule change request

The COAG Energy Council has submitted a rule change request to the AEMC that proposes to establish a national register of distributed energy resources, including small-scale battery storage systems and solar. The proposal seeks to achieve this by placing obligations on:

- the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to administer the register
- distribution businesses to collect information about distributed energy resources connected to their network, and provide this information to AEMO.

Prior to submitting the proposal, the COAG Energy Council conducted consultation on a national register of small-scale battery storage systems and commissioned a cost-benefit analysis that found the benefits of a register were greater than the costs. The Finkel Review also recommended a data collection framework be developed for distributed energy resources.

Visibility of distributed energy resources

Small-scale behind the meter batteries are being installed in homes and businesses across Australia and deployments are expected to accelerate as costs fall. Bloomberg New Energy Finance has projected that 100,000 batteries could be installed by 2020, and one million by 2030.

The COAG Energy Council is concerned that, as batteries and other distributed energy resources increase in coming years, system management challenges and safety risks may also rise if current information gaps about these installations are not addressed.

The rule change request cites three main problems that can occur if current information gaps relating to small-scale batteries were to continue:

1. **Inefficient market and network investment** - due to overstated or understated demand forecasts that have not accurately accounted for behind-the-meter battery storage.
2. **Inefficient market and network operation** - AEMO and distribution businesses may not be able to develop reasonable estimates of short-term demand, making system control more difficult and expensive.
3. **Safety risks to workers, installers and the general public** - due to emergency services and line workers or electricians not having adequate information on sites with a battery or other DER.

Improving visibility

In the rule change request, the COAG Energy Council describes the broad changes it proposes to establish a national register administered by AEMO with information provided by distribution businesses. It also proposes mechanisms or obligations on other parties to support data collection and compliance, such as requirements on the owners of DER systems (or their agent) to provide information about their system to the local distribution business.

Written
submissions are
requested by 17
April 2018.

The COAG Energy Council has also suggested that AEMO should be allowed to share information in the register with third parties, where there are recognised benefits for consumers in doing so. Such stakeholders may include emergency services, to improve targeted response to incidents.

The COAG Energy Council indicated that the type of information envisaged to be collected could include a DER system's location, installation and decommissioning date, the system's capacity and technical characteristics (such as manufacturer, make, model number and inverter settings such as frequency and voltage trip settings).

Consultation and next steps

The Commission has published a consultation paper on the rule change request and is seeking stakeholder feedback. Stakeholders' submissions will inform the Commission's assessment of the request.

The paper sets out a summary of, and background to, the rule change request and outlines the process for making submissions. Issues for stakeholder comment include:

- the expected benefits and costs of the register
- governance of the register, including which party is accountable for the register and what DER systems will be included
- data collection and compliance, such as who will be responsible for collecting the data and how compliance will be ensured
- transparency and confidentiality issues, including the proposal to share information with third parties and potential privacy concerns
- safety issues, including the use of the register for emergency response.

We invite stakeholders to provide written submissions on the consultation paper by **17 April 2018**. A [template](#) setting out consultation questions is available on our website to help stakeholders provide their views on the issues raised in the paper.

The Commission will also hold a workshop to facilitate input from stakeholders on **27 March 2018** at the AEMC's office in Sydney from 10am to 1pm.

[RSVP to the workshop](#)

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