



Review of the regulatory framework for metering services – Reference Group meeting 5

16 November 2021 – Meeting notes

Meeting attendees

The fifth Reference Group meeting was held virtually on 16 November 2021. The attendees of the meeting are listed below.

Member	Organisation
Kellie Caught	ACOSS
Melissa Sutherland, Kate Goatley	ActewAGL
Con Hristodoulidis	AGL
Robert Lo Giudice, David Calder	Alinta Energy
Giles Whitehouse	Aurora Energy
Wayne Turner, Naomi Wynn	Ausgrid
Justin Betlehem	Ausnet Services
David Markham	Australian Energy Council
Lee Brown	AEMO
Tim Ryan	Bettordata
Arran Coughlan	Bright Spark Power
Sonja Lekovic	Citipower, Powercor and United Energy
Darren Gladman	Clean Energy Council
Malcolm McEwan	Combined Energy
Lisa Hussey	DNRME QLD
Noel Peters	Dept. of Transport and Main Roads QLD
Dr Martin Gill	Dr Martin Gill
Richard McIndoe, Nathan Oxley	Edge Electrons
Elisabeth Ross, Marie Harrowell	Energy Consumers Australia
Beer Opatsuwan, Charmain Martin	Energy Queensland
Richard Newell	EDMI
Joseph Romiti, Dino Ou	Endeavour Energy
Matt Murphy	Electrician Trades Union
Anders Sangkuhl	Essential Energy
Rory Campbell	EWON
Lyndal Bubke	EWOQ
Jo De Silva	EWOSA
Chris Gilbert	Energy Networks Australia
Sachin Sardana, Aylmer Ambu	Enphase Energy
David Lannan	Green Metering
Justin Ward	South Australian Government
Jonathon Hammond, Jamal Cheema	Intellihub
Nicholas Phillips	Itron
Joe Thorne	Landis + Gyr
Prabath Kamalasena	Metlogic
Paul Brownlee	NECA
Graham Mawer	Next Energy
Darren Bailey	Origin Energy
Lindsay Nosworthy	ReAmped Energy

Stef Monaco	Red/Lumo Energy
Ashraf Soas, Terry Daly, Grant Stepa	Rheem Australia
Douglas McCloskey	PIAC
Helen Vassos	PlusES
Bryn Williams	SA Power Networks
Nitesh Khanna	Secure Meters
Carmel Forbes	Shell Australia
Christian Mildner	Shreder Australia
Matt Giampiccolo	Simply Energy
Admin	Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
Tim Astley	TasNetworks
Kat Burela	Telstra
Paul Greenwood	Vector
Wayne Farrell	Yurika / Energy Queensland

The following AEMC members attended the reference group:

Name	Position
Anna Collyer	Chair
Benn Barr	Chief Executive
David Feeney	Executive General Manager, Transmission and distribution networks
Ed Chan	Director, Transmission and distribution networks
Alisa Toomey	Senior Adviser, Transmission and distribution networks
Jashan Singh	Senior Adviser, Transmission and distribution networks
Ben Bronneberg	Lawyer
Mitch Grande	Adviser, Transmission and distribution networks
Lisa Fukuda	Graduate Adviser, Transmission and distribution networks
Rebecca Lloyd	Communications

Meeting introduction

Participants were reminded to observe the requirements of the AEMC's competition protocol.

The purpose of the meeting is for the AEMC Chair, Chief Executive, and the project team to provide an update and overview on the review, in particular, the direction of the review, summary of submissions to the Directions paper and next steps.

Address from the AEMC Chief Executive

The AEMC Chief Executive shared with participants that:

- the Metering Review will pause for a few months so that the metering team members can be temporarily redeployed to support the commencement of the Energy Security Board's (ESB's) reform program
- the Review will recommence in April 2022 is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

Address from the AEMC Chair

The AEMC Chair:

- thanked stakeholders for their contributions to the review to date

- highlighted the critical importance of accelerating the roll out of smart meters and the contribution that it will make to the energy transition as data enablers
- highlighted AEMC's commitment to the Review and that changes the current regulatory framework is needed.
- when the review recommences, the Commission will work with stakeholders to develop measures to accelerate the roll out of smart meters. The accelerated roll out could include targets which may be based on a range of measures such as geography, age of assets and/or other factors.

Follow up questions and comments

- The Chief Executive noted that the Review is expected to recommence around April 2022.
- In regard to direction of the Review, the Chair shared with participants that specific rates for smart meter penetration and approach for roll out is yet to be decided. The project team indicated that these areas will be discussed further with stakeholders once the Review recommences.

AEMC presentation on stakeholder submissions summaries to the Directions paper

The project team provided a high-level summary of feedback on three key areas of the Directions paper. These are:

- Options to accelerate roll out and align incentives
 - Most stakeholders supported accelerated roll out but different views on its approach
 - Many stakeholders suggested a combination of approaches including a backstop date
 - On incentives, stakeholders viewed that it would improve from resolving installation issues and data access and more information on how the options would work was sought
 - Stakeholders didn't support multiple-parties approach.
- Access to services and data
 - Stakeholders largely agree that the minimum service specifications are sufficient
 - Majority of submissions agreed on enabling efficient access to data through a framework and its design to consist of minimum content requirements and using an agreed exchange architecture like B2B.
- Improvements to installation processes
 - Majority of stakeholders supported three of the preliminary recommendations and these are likely to progress to become draft recommendations with minimal changes
 - There were mixed views regarding changes to the malfunction process and the option to remove customer opt out from retailer-led roll out
 - Mechanisms for addressing site remediation issues and meter replacements in multi-occupancy sites with shared fusing will be considered further and options will continue to be explored with stakeholders and jurisdictional governments when the Review recommences.

Next steps

- The project team is keen to continue the momentum and to work together with stakeholders to implement measures to accelerate smart meter roll out.
- Participants will have the opportunity to submit a supplementary submission when the review recommences and that the Reference Group and Sub-reference Groups will also recommence at that point.
- The project team encouraged participants to continue with work on the Review, particularly around mechanisms for data access and gathering data on the legacy meters.

Key follow up questions and comments

- One participant raised that delays in metering and reform may affect deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) and potentially limit innovation and whether this was taken into consideration in delaying the Review. The project team responded that work of the ESB has a specific work stream in regard to EVs, and that it is also considered through ARENA's Distributed Energy Integration Program.
- One participant queried whether the Review will consider issues surrounding smart meters and street lighting. The project team said that those issues will be considered when the Review recommences.
- The project team closed the meeting by thanking participants for their time and input throughout the Review.