



Accelerating smart meter deployment rule change project – Full Reference Group Meeting

14 December 2023 – Meeting notes

The AEMC held a virtual Full Reference Group meeting with stakeholders on 14 December 2023 for the rule change request (the request) on accelerating the deployment of smart meters. The attendees of the meeting are listed in the Appendix.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to:

1. acknowledge the consultation already completed on the reforms proposed in the rule change request, as part of the metering review.
2. outline the Commission's planned approach to the draft rule determination.

AEMC presentation on the rule change request

The project team:

- welcomed attendees to the stakeholder meeting, and informed them of the AEMC's competition protocol and their consent on the AEMC's use of personal information from the meeting.
- provided a background of the rule change request:
 - proponents are Intellihub, SA Power Networks and Alinta Energy
 - submitted in line with the extensive review into the metering regulatory framework and the recommendations therein, including to:
 - (1) accelerate smart meter deployments;
 - (2) improve the customer experience in metering upgrades;
 - (3) reduce barriers to installing smart meters and improve industry coordination;
 - (4) enable access to power-quality data; and
 - (5) allow a fit-for-purpose testing and inspection regime.
- provided a summary overview of each workstream for the rule change (1 to 5 above), and the focus areas for each workstream.
- informed attendees:
 - of the expectation that Commission will initiate the rule change process using the fast-track process – which means that it will proceed without publication of a consultation paper, reflecting the extensive consultation conducted as part of the metering review. A Draft Determination will be published around the end of Q1 2024 and a Final Determination will be made around mid-2024
 - in line with the review recommendations, the proposed changes in the request are intended to commence by mid-2025, except for the reforms

relating to power quality data, which are intended to commence early- to mid-2026.

Follow up questions

Stakeholders raised questions on the following:

- the intent to fast-track the rule change, the date of publication of the statutory notice for the rule change, and the possibility of any shift to the rule change timeframes. The project team indicated that the Commission intends to fast-track the request, the statutory notice will likely be published in February 2024, and the intention for the rule change to be completed by the deadline unless significant issues arise.
- the exclusion of real-time data from the rule change request and the status of the work. The project team indicated that real-time data access is a distinct piece of work that would be prioritised if a rule change request is received. A representative appearing on behalf of Intellihub also added that real-time data was not included in the request as it was unlikely the changes could be implemented by 1 July 2025 (the commencement date for acceleration of deployment of smart meters).
- discussions between the AEMC and Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) on soon initiating the Information Exchange Committee's work in parallel with the rule change process. The project team indicated that the AEMC had already been working with AEMO.
- concerns by some about any decision to fast-track the rule change, exemptions in the smart meter malfunctions framework, safeguards for consumer power quality data, and procedures on accessing National Meter Identifier Standing Data. The project team welcomed further stakeholder feedback on these and other issues raised by the request.
- potential establishment of a working group to further discuss the request. The project team indicated its openness to meetings in January, and also the possibility of further sessions after the Draft Determination.

Closing remarks

- The project team thanked attendees for their time and stated the team's intention for a collaborative rule change process.

Appendix

AEMC Project Team

Name	Position
Drew Butterworth	Sponsor
Andrew Swanson	Lead
Lisa Fukuda	Team Member
Richard Montano	Team Member
Anthony Bell	Consultant
Ben Bronneberg	Lawyer
Boris Tam	Paralegal

Reference Group Attendees

Name	Organisation
Adam Young	Essential Energy
Adrian Honey	TasNetworks
Albert Pors	Endeavour Energy
Alex Moran	Ausgrid
Bryn Williams	SA Power Networks
Cameron Shields	ActewAGL
Clay Mifsud	ActewAGL
Colin Platt	Essential Energy
Constantine Noutso	Red Energy
Dave Garita	Origin Energy
David Markham	Australian Energy Council
David Woods	SA Power Networks
Dean Ironfield	Yurika
Deepesh Goswami	Secure Meters
Dino Ou	Intellihub
Eddie Thanavelil	Evoenergy
Emily Gadaleta	AGL
Emma Wortley	Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW
Gary Davies	Origin Energy
Gavin Wise	Alinta Energy
Geoff Hargreaves	Red Energy
Georgie Morris	SACOSS
Giles Whitehouse	Aurora Energy
Han Chiu	Energy Queensland
Helen Vassos	PLUS ES
Jan Kucic-Riker	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Jo Sullivan	Energy Australia
Joe Jacob	ActewAGL
Kam Vessali	Secure Meters
Kate Goatley	ActewAGL
Lee Brown	Australian Energy Market Operator
Liam Jones	AGL
Lucy Moon	Energy Networks Australia
Marian Vasjuta	Ampol
Mark Simpson	Energy Queensland

Nitesh Khanna	Secure Meters
Paul Greenwood	Bluecurrent
Peter Wormald	Shell Energy
Prez Anderson	Endeavour Energy
Richard Newell	EDMI
Richard Owens	Farriers Wier
Robert Lo Giudice	Alinta Energy
Rohan Richardson	ActewAGL
Rory Campbell	Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW
Sam Riewoldt	TasNetworks
Sean Jennings	Red Energy
Sonia Marmotta	Yurika
Tessa Liddelow	Shell Energy
Travis Worstelling	EnergyAustralia
Victoria Baikie	Energy Networks Australia
Warren Mclean	Essential Energy
Wayne Turner	Ausgrid