



Reliability Panel public meetings

Final determination

The Australian Energy Market Commission has decided to make a rule to give the Reliability Panel the flexibility to decide the manner in which it conducts its public meetings.

The Commission's final rule

While the Commission agrees with the Reliability Panel (Panel) that it should be provided greater discretion in terms of how it conducts its public meetings, the Commission has determined to make a more preferable rule which it considers will, or is likely to, better contribute to the achievement of the National Electricity Objective (NEO) than the proposed rule.

The final rule

The rule as made addresses the issues raised in the rule change proposal as it:

- removes the obligation on the Panel to rotate the location of its public meetings between the capital cities of the jurisdictions in the NEM;
- provides the Panel with the flexibility to decide on the location of its public meetings;
- requires the Panel to invite the public to the meetings that it holds for each determination and review; and
- provides the Panel with the flexibility to decide the manner in which to hold its public meetings (via telephone or videoconference for example).

The final rule differs to the proposed rule as it:

- maintains the requirement on the Panel to hold a public meeting for each determination and review;
- provides for the meetings for each determination and review to be open to the public, rather than all Registered Participants and interested parties;
- provides even greater flexibility to the Panel to determine to the location of its public meetings through removing the proposed requirement for the Panel to have regard to the level of interest in a particular matter when deciding the location of a public meeting; and
- clarifies that the Panel can carry out its meetings via any method of communication that it chooses.

Reasons for the Commission's determination

The Commission considers that, by removing the obligation on the Panel to rotate the location of its public meetings, the rule may reduce the costs faced by the Panel, its members, and stakeholders in organising and travelling to attend the Panel's public meetings, and reduce the at the margin costs which ultimately flow through to consumers as a result of the meetings.

In addition, by opening meetings to the public and providing the Panel with the means to use any method of communication it chooses, the rule may encourage greater stakeholder participation thereby increasing the potential for effective decision making and efficient policy outcomes.

For information contact:

Chris Spangaro, AEMC Senior Director (02) 8296 7800

Media: Communication Manager, Prudence Anderson 0404 821 935 or (02) 8296 7817

15 August 2013