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7 December 2015

Mr John Pierce
Chairman
Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
Sydney South NSW 1235

Dear Mr Pierce

Red Energy and Lumo Energy ('the Proponent') submits this rule change request to the Australian Energy Market Commission ('the Commission') in line with the requirements Part 7, Division 3 of the National Electricity Law.

This rule change request has been developed from the draft rule change request issued by the Commission to the COAG Energy Council requesting the framework for electricity B2B is updated in line with the outcomes of the Expanded Competition in metering and related services.

Finalising the updated framework for electricity B2B is essential to ensuring a smooth transition to realising the benefits associated with the introduction of a Metering Coordinator, as such we would appreciate the Commission's prompt consideration of this issue.

The rule change proposal and associated description of the proposed rule are attached for your consideration.

Should you have any questions in relation to this rule change request please contact Stefanie Macri, Regulatory Manager on 03 9976 5604.

Kind Regards,

Ramy Soussou
General Manager Regulatory Affairs & Stakeholder Relations
Red Energy Pty Ltd
Lumo Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Att.

Rule change request on updating the electricity B2B framework (implementing a shared market protocol)

Name and address of rule change request proponent

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Description of the proposed rule

This rule change request seeks to update the arrangements in the National Electricity Rules (NER) related to business to business (B2B) procedures and the Information Exchange Committee (IEC).

The Commission's rule change on expanding competition in metering and related services (competition in metering) is expected to result in the market led deployment of advanced meters. Among other things, the competition in metering rule change will introduce new parties into the market for metering services. For example, a new metering coordinator role is being introduced and new energy service companies are expected to enter the market for services provided by advanced meters. The competition in metering rule change introduces these parties into parts of the existing B2B framework, but does not consider the general suitability of the existing B2B and IEC arrangements going forward.

The objective of this rule change request is to provide for communications regarding the different types of services that will be available from advanced meters and the greater range of businesses that may wish to communicate with each other to access these services.

The new B2B arrangements would provide a default form and method of communication between parties seeking access to services provided by advanced meters, while still providing some flexibility for parties to agree to an alternative method of communication. This is expected to lower barriers to entry for new parties entering the market for services available through advanced meters, while not inhibiting innovation in the method of communication between these parties.

The competition in metering final rule determination was published on 26 November 2015. As the competition in metering final rule determination had not been published when this rule change request was prepared, this rule change request and the attached proposed rule have been drafted on the basis of the competition in metering draft rule determination, which was published in April 2015.

This was done in the interests of implementation timeframes. It is preferable to begin this rule change process on updating the electricity B2B framework as soon as practicable. Waiting for the competition in metering final rule determination to be published before beginning to prepare this rule change proposal and a proposed rule would add significantly to implementation timeframes.

Red Energy and Lumo Energy (Red and Lumo) note that a rule change process on updating the electricity B2B framework would need to consider any changes to the NER since the competition in metering draft determination.

To avoid confusion, it is worth reiterating the different references to NER arrangements used in this rule change request. References to the 'current' arrangements refer to the drafting of the NER prior to the competition in metering rule change. That is, the current arrangements under rule 7.2A of the NER. The 'proposed' arrangements are based on the rule provided in the competition in metering draft rule determination, in which the current rule 7.2A has been re-numbered as rule 7.17.

As an overview, it is proposed that the NER be amended to:

- revise aspects of the governance arrangements for B2B procedures, including changing the name and membership of the IEC (to be called the Retail Industry Panel);
- expand and update the content requirements for B2B procedures to provide for new B2B communications that support services enabled by advanced meters (and other related matters encompassed by the competition in metering rule change);
- create a new accredited role for parties wishing to use the B2B e-hub; and
- update the cost recovery mechanism for the new B2B arrangements.

Section 4 of this rule change request sets out the proposed arrangements in further detail. In addition, a proposed rule, based on the draft rule published as part of the competition in metering draft determination, is attached.

Background

In December 2012, COAG and the COAG Energy Council agreed to a broad energy market reform package to support investment and market outcomes in the long term interests of consumers.

Energy market reform

This rule change request on updating the electricity B2B framework is an important part of the suite of market reforms to the National Electricity Market (NEM) that are underway following the Power of Choice review.¹ These reforms are aimed at improving opportunities for consumers to make more informed decisions about the way they use energy services.

One of the ways consumer choice is being improved is by addressing the market processes and incentives required for distributors, retailers and other parties to offer demand side participation and respond to consumer choice. Following the Power of Choice review, the COAG Energy Council requested the Commission provide advice on a framework for open access and common communication standards (open access advice)² that would support competition in demand side management services available to consumers.

The open access advice recommended that a shared market protocol be adopted, to facilitate efficient communications between businesses offering services to consumers. Introducing a shared market protocol framework was expected to promote competition in

¹ AEMC 2012, Power of choice review - giving consumers options in the way they use electricity, Final Report, 30 November 2012.

² AEMC 2014, Framework for open access and common communication standards, Report, 31 March 2014.

the market for services enabled by advanced meters by reducing barriers to entry for new energy service companies while not inhibiting innovation in the method of communications.

However, as there were interdependencies with the competition in metering rule change, a related reform from the Power of Choice review, the Commission could not provide advice on how a shared market protocol could be implemented at that time. The COAG Energy Council agreed that supplementary advice on implementing a shared market protocol would be provided at a later date. The Commission provided that supplementary advice in October 2015.³

This rule change request is largely consistent with the recommendations put forward by the Commission with the following amendments:

- Amended the name and membership of the IEC (to be called the Retail Industry Panel).
- The governance and membership arrangements proposed by the Commission have been amended to remove the independent members, allow for two DNSP, two retailer and two metering representatives, and allow for four discretionary members (including two third party B2B participants, a consumer representative, an independent representative and/or any other B2B Party to ensure that the Retail Industry Panel is broadly representative of the industry). This is to allow the governance of the Retail Industry Panel to evolve, and be broadly representative of the retail market as it too evolves.
- The proposed voting restrictions proposed by the Commission have been extended to prevent the nomination of representatives from one corporate entity in multiple classes. This is intended to ensure fair representation of industry across representative classes.
- The B2B factors have been updated to include a factor equivalent to the NEO and removed the obligation for the Retail Industry Panel to consider the NEO.
- Added an obligation on AEMO to create a certification guideline and a requirement that B2B e-hub participants certify their systems.

AEMO's advice on a shared market protocol

COAG Energy Council requested AEMO to prepare advice on the technical requirements for a shared market protocol to inform the development of this rule change request.⁴

Stage 1 of AEMO's advice was provided on 11 March 2015 and included possible designs for the IT platform, including IT requirements, costs and timelines for implementing each design.⁵ AEMO canvassed three options – basic, intermediate and advanced models – and recommended the introduction of an 'intermediate' model at this time.

The intermediate model would replace the existing B2B IT platform to enable delivery of near instant messages. It would be compatible with existing B2B functionality (such as file transfer protocol (FTP)) through converters. It would support new services through the availability of free format messages (peer to peer). It would also be capable of transactions;

³ AEMC 2015, Implementation advice on the shared market protocol, final advice, 8 October 2015.

⁴ The terms of reference is available on the COAG Energy Council website.

⁵ AEMO 2015, Shared market protocol: part one - advice to the COAG Energy Council, 11 March 2015. Available on the COAG Energy Council website.

a more sophisticated, automated processing of requests that could make service delivery more efficient and less complicated for parties. For example, a service that requires a large number of messages to be sent between different parties could be reduced to several transactions. AEMO estimated that the intermediate model may cost \$8 to \$13 million for it to develop.

AEMO considered that this was the best option given the value to parties of near instant messages and transaction delivery. It is also lower cost and faster to implement than the advanced option.

Stage 2 of AEMO's advice was provided on 14 May 2015. It included how new metering services could be supported over time and opportunities to leverage the shared market protocol to provide additional services into the energy market.⁶

Red and Lumo note that the proposed rule does not specify particular functionality for the B2B e-hub. As discussed in section 4 of this rule change request, it is proposed that the IEC decide the requirements for the B2B e-hub through development of the B2B procedures, which the B2B e-hub must be capable of supporting.

Red and Lumo actively participated in the consultation to develop the AEMO advice. We note that the existing rules do not prevent AEMO, in consultation with the IEC and stakeholders more broadly, to upgrade the existing B2B e-hub if it is not fit for the current or future purpose. This will assist industry and AEMO to meet the timelines specified in the competition in metering rule change.

Statement of issues

Under the current B2B framework, businesses seeking access to services from a customer's meter communicate with each other in accordance with the requirements set out in the B2B procedures. The B2B procedures are maintained by the IEC, an independent industry group that is supported by AEMO.

As discussed in section 2 above, the competition in metering rule change process will support the market led roll out of advanced meters to small customers within the NEM. Metering contestability is expected to expand the range of parties participating in the market for services enabled by advanced meters, such as metering coordinators and third party service providers, as well as expanding the range of services available from advanced meters.

The nature of services is also expected to change. For example, it is envisaged that communications for many services will need to be capable of 'near instant' responses. This would enable, among other things, retailers to obtain a meter read during a customer telephone inquiry or a DNSP to obtain a meter inquiry to determine the source of a power outage.

The B2B definition and framework in the NER should be updated to ensure the arrangements remain appropriate. In addition to the existing obligations to require distributors and retailers to share information, for example a customer's life support status, the new B2B procedures should provide a suitable framework that supports access to advanced meters is a key component to establishing a competitive market for services enabled by advanced metering technology.

⁶ AEMO 2015, Shared market protocol: part two - advice to the COAG Energy Council, 14 May 2015. Available on the COAG Energy Council website.

In addition, the Commission's governance of retail market procedures rule determination noted that it may be suitable to revisit the governance arrangements for B2B procedures once the outcomes of the competition in metering rule change were more certain.⁷

Red and Lumo note that other options have been examined and considered not as suitable as the proposed rule. The Commission's open access advice considered introducing a 'common market protocol', which would be mandatory for all parties to use. After consultation by the Commission it was decided that a 'shared market protocol' was preferable. This would allow parties to agree to use an alternative protocol and would enable innovation in the method of communication.

The following sections of this rule change request provide an overview of the current B2B arrangements and outline the main changes proposed to the NER and describe how the proposed changes address the issues. We note that in addition to the key changes described below, further changes would be required throughout the NER, in particular to part 7.2A. The attached proposed rule sets out all of the proposed changes.

Issues with the current B2B framework

This section sets out the current B2B arrangements in rule 7.2A of the NER and identifies potential issues with those arrangements with regard to the types of services that will be available from advanced meters and the range of parties that will be interested in those services.

Current Governance of B2B procedures

Unlike other procedures provided for in Chapter 7 of the NER that are established and maintained by AEMO, B2B procedures are maintained by the IEC. The IEC consists of three DNSP members, three local retailer/market customer members and two independent members.⁸ This will no longer represent the range of stakeholders that will be interested in B2B communications, such as metering coordinators and third party service providers. These parties would not have a representative on the IEC. DNSPs and retailers would be responsible for making decisions about B2B procedures that would affect other parties in the market.

The Commission noted that there were also concerns raised by stakeholders around whether:

- an industry group could make decisions in the long term interests of consumers and new entrants; and
- whether the governance arrangements are flexible enough to keep up with a potentially rapidly changing market.⁹

The nomination and appointment process for, and requisite qualifications of, members of the IEC are currently set out in the B2B Information Exchange Committee election procedures.¹⁰ Requirements with respect to the election and appointment (as the case may

⁷ AEMC 2014, Governance of retail market procedures, rule determination, 31 July 2014, p.8.

⁸ Clause 7.2A.2 of the NER.

⁹ These concerns were raised in submissions to the AEMC review on implementing a shared market protocol.

¹⁰ Available on the AEMO website.

be) of the IEC chairperson and secretary and the conduct of IEC meetings are currently set out in the Information Exchange Committee operating manual.¹¹ The content of the IEC election procedures and operating manual can be changed with the support of industry voters.¹²

Red and Lumo consider that it may be appropriate that some of these requirements be incorporated into the NER, to provide certainty of the process and other requirements for representatives on the newly formed Retail Industry Panel.

Current B2B procedures and IEC decision making

The B2B procedures include requirements for the content, format, delivery and timing for B2B communications.¹³ The requirements in the NER should be reviewed to ensure they are able to support services enabled by advanced meters.

A new B2B procedure or a change to the existing B2B procedures can only be proposed by AEMO, a local retailer, a market customer or a DNSP. The IEC is responsible for consulting on any such proposal and making recommendations on the proposal to AEMO.¹⁴ The IEC can conclude not to recommend the proposed new B2B procedure or change to the existing B2B procedures. Alternatively, the IEC may make a recommendation for a new procedure or change to the existing procedures, which may differ from the proposal.¹⁵

In coming to a conclusion on whether or not to make a recommendation, the IEC must seek to achieve the B2B objective having regard to the B2B principles.¹⁶ The B2B objective and B2B principles relate to cost impacts and benefits for DNSPs, market customers and local retailers. It may be necessary to expand the decision making criteria going forward to reflect the different types of services that will be available and the wider range of parties that will be interested in those services. While it is still relevant to consider the costs and benefits for incumbent participants, there are wider interests that should also be considered, such as the interests of consumers and new entrants to the market.

A decision by the IEC to recommend a new B2B procedure or change to existing B2B procedures requires the support of six or more members of the IEC.¹⁷ If the number of IEC members is expanded, these requirements may also need to be updated.

AEMO must approve the recommendation of the IEC unless it concludes that:¹⁸

- the IEC has failed to have regard to the B2B objective or the B2B principles;
- the IEC has not followed the rules consultation procedures;¹⁹ or
- the recommendation would conflict with Market Settlement and Transfer Solutions (MSATS) procedures.

¹¹ Available on the AEMO website.

¹² Clause 7.2A.2 (d) and (f) of the NER.

¹³ Clause 7.2A.4 of the NER.

¹⁴ Clause 7.2A.3 of the NER.

¹⁵ Clause 7.2A.3(i) of the NER.

¹⁶ Clause 7.2A.3(j) of the NER. The B2B objective and principles are set out in full in section 5.3.2.

¹⁷ Clause 7.2A.2(m).

¹⁸ Clause 7.2A.3(k) of the NER.

¹⁹ The IEC must follow the rules consultation procedures (as supplemented by clause 7.2A.3 of the NER) in relation to a proposal for a new B2B procedure or change to the existing B2B procedures. See clause 7.2A.3(e).

Existing IT platform

Under the current B2B arrangements, communications between local retailers, market customers and DNSPs regarding the supply of electricity to end users occur through the B2B e-hub, an electronic information exchange platform provided and operated by AEMO.²⁰ The existing B2B e-hub is not capable of supporting the 'near instant' messages that would be necessary to support many advanced metering services.

However, as previously noted, there is nothing in the current rules that prevents AEMO, in consultation with the IEC and stakeholders more generally, to upgrade the B2B e-hub if it is not fit for current or future purpose.

Accreditation

The NER does not include any requirements around using the B2B e-hub. Parties register themselves with AEMO in order to obtain an AEMO participant ID, which allows them to sign in to AEMO's energy market systems. They are not required to demonstrate that they have compatible back end systems for interacting with the B2B e-hub.

Currently, all of the parties using the B2B e-hub are either registered participants or accredited with AEMO under the NER. As they are defined under the NER, they can be identified and have obligations imposed upon them with regard to using the B2B e-hub and complying with B2B procedures.

Going forward, Red and Lumo consider that it is necessary to also impose accreditation and certification obligations on all parties who use the B2B e-hub, including third party service providers, who would not otherwise be registered participants or accredited parties. It is our view that all parties should certify that their systems are capable of market interactions and will not damage the systems of other participants. This would also include re-certification, when a party changes their internal systems that interact with the market. This process of certification and re-certification provides comfort and a mechanism to receive compensation, if a party's system does not comply and impacts another party.

Obligations

Under the current B2B arrangements, local retailers, market customers, DNSPs, AEMO, metering providers and metering data providers must comply with the B2B procedures.²¹ This may not represent the full range of participants that have an interest in B2B communications going forward, and should be reviewed.

Local retailers, market customers and DNSPs must use the B2B e-hub for B2B communications,²² except where they have agreed to communicate a B2B communication on a basis other than as set out in the B2B procedures.²³

²⁰ Clause 7.2A.1 of the NER.

²¹ Clause 7.2A.4(j) of the NER.

²² B2B communications are defined in Chapter 10 of the NER as 'communications between local retailers, market customers and DNSPs relating to an end-user or supply to an end user provided for in the B2B procedures'.

²³ See clauses 7.2A.1 and 7.2A.4(k) of the NER. Where such parties have agreed between themselves to communicate a B2B communication on a basis other than as set out in the B2B procedures, the parties need not comply with the B2B procedures to the extent that the terms and conditions agreed between them are inconsistent with the B2B procedures.

As discussed above, the open access advice recommended a communications model that provided some interoperability, while allowing parties to agree to an alternative to support innovation. Again, the current arrangements no longer represent the range of parties that have an interest in B2B communications and would need to be updated. The current arrangements should also be assessed to determine whether they adequately support interoperability and lower barriers to entry for new parties to the market.

Cost recovery

The costs related to developing B2B procedures, establishing and operating the IEC, and providing and operating the B2B e-hub are currently paid by AEMO and recouped as participant fees.²⁴ These fees are currently paid by retailers.

There would be a new set of users of the B2B e-hub that warrants revisiting the current fee payment structure for ongoing cost recovery. Given the wider set of users, it may be more appropriate to consider a user pays model of cost recovery. Ideally, the framework for cost recovery would be flexible and appropriate enough for AEMO to apply fees to the most suitable parties.

There may be upfront costs to constitute the new Retail Industry Panel, develop new B2B procedures and redevelop the B2B e-hub. It is important that AEMO has certainty that it will be able to fully recover its costs.

Proposed governance arrangements

The proposed new arrangements include:

- A new Retail Industry Panel that would comprise:
 - an AEMO member (an AEMO director, who would act as the chairperson);
 - two DNSP representatives;
 - two retailer representatives;
 - two metering representatives (representing metering coordinators, metering providers and metering data providers); and
 - up to four discretionary members (decided by the Retail Industry Panel, to be broadly representative of industry and can include one consumer representative, one independent representative, up to two third party B2B participants (see 4.5.1 below), and/or any other B2B Party required for adequate representation of the retail industry).
- Requirements around the election and appointment of Retail Industry Panel representatives would be incorporated into the NER.
- The DNSP representatives, retailer representatives, metering representatives and third party B2B participant representatives would be nominated and elected by the category of registered participant and/or accredited party the relevant member is representing.

²⁴ Clause 7.2A.6(a) of the NER. Requirements related to participant fees are set out in rule 2.11 of the NER.

- Should the Retail Industry Panel decide that an independent representative is required, they will be nominated and elected by DNSPs, retailers, metering coordinators, metering providers, metering data providers and third party B2B participants.
- Should the Retail Industry Panel decide that a consumer representative is required, they would be appointed by AEMO in consultation with Energy Consumers Australia. It is our expectation that Energy Consumers Australia will consult with consumer advocates before nominating a representative to AEMO for appointment.
- The requirement for discretionary members would be agreed to by a super majority (70%) vote of the Retail Industry Panel for an election, equivalent to those of the other representatives (i.e. DNSP or retailer representative).
- Requisite qualifications of Retail Industry Panel representatives would also be incorporated into the NER, whilst ensuring that it does not create a barrier to participation.
- Restrictions around nominating to and voting on the Retail Industry Panel for related entities would be introduced. This includes ensuring that parties who are eligible for multiple categories under their parent organisation are only able to nominate for one representative type, without limiting their voting rights in other representative types.
- The quorum for a meeting would be increased to five representatives where there are 8 representatives or less, or seven where there are nine or more Retail Industry Panel representatives.
- A decision of the Retail Industry Panel to recommend a new B2B procedure, a change to existing B2B procedures or the approval of a Retail Industry Panel works program²⁵ would require the support of at least 70 per cent of Retail Industry Panel representatives. Any other decision of the Retail Industry Panel representatives would require the support of at least 60 per cent of representatives.
- As a transitional provision, AEMO would develop the first Retail Industry Panel election procedures and operating manual to provide for the new Retail Industry Panel framework. Following this, changes to the Retail Industry Panel election procedures and operating manual would be subject to voting by industry.

The new Retail Industry Panel representatives would be a strategic group that is broadly representative group to reflect those parties that will have an interest in B2B communications following the commencement of competition in metering.

The existing local retailer/market customer member would be replaced by two retailer representatives as this better reflects the parties that would be impacted by B2B procedures.

Metering coordinators, metering providers and metering data providers would have two collective representatives on the Retail Industry Panel as they will be integral to the provision of metering services.

Should **third party B2B participant** representatives be required, the representative(s) would represent the interests of the other parties providing new services that are enabled by advanced meters that are not otherwise represented on the Retail Industry Panel.

²⁵ The work program prepared by the IEC in respect of the development, implementation and operation of the B2B procedures and other matters which are incidental to effective and efficient B2B communications.

This could include a wide range of companies providing innovative services that are not yet envisaged, or it could include participants that are not otherwise captured. It is for this reason that Red and Lumo propose that there be four discretionary members on the Retail Industry Panel instead of mandating that there must be a consumer and third party B2B participant. For example, should embedded network managers be created as a new category of participant under the Commission's embedded networks rule change process, they would fall into this category of Retail Industry Panel representative.²⁶

We consider that if consistent representation of a particular third party B2B participant or other future group is required for constant representation on the Retail Industry Panel, a future rule change will be submitted to the Commission for their consideration.

Should the Retail Industry Panel decide a consumer representative is required, the representative would represent the interests of small customers of electricity. It may be the case in the future that small customers may become interested in B2B procedures. Whilst we consider that retailers will ensure that the services that their customers demand form part of the B2B procedures, it may be beneficial for a consumer representative to participate and gain comfort that changes are made with the long term interests of consumers. Any cost impact of decisions by the Retail Industry Panel is likely to impact consumer electricity prices or the cost of services provided by third parties.

The inclusion of discretionary representatives allows some flexibility to the Retail Industry Panel representatives to evolve to changing market conditions. AEMO or any Retail Industry Panel representative may propose that discretionary representatives are required to represent a class of persons that have an interest in B2B procedures and those interests are not adequately represented on the Retail Industry Panel.²⁷ These positions could be used to bring particular desirable expertise and representation into the Retail Industry Panel as necessary.

As chairperson, the AEMO member may be able to provide some strategic guidance to the Retail Industry Panel. However, the Retail Industry Panel would remain subject to voting on decisions, with 70 per cent of Retail Industry Panel representatives needing to agree to recommend a change to B2B procedures.

The introduction of restrictions for nomination and voting of related entities would address concerns that related entities may exercise voting power to secure one or many of the representative positions on the Retail Industry Panel.

It is not proposed that the requirements regarding AEMO's oversight of IEC decisions be amended (the limited veto grounds).

Proposed arrangements for B2B procedures

The proposed new arrangements would include:

- The definition of B2B communications is updated to include all parties who will send and receive information to support the delivery of services.

²⁶ If embedded network managers become accredited as a B2B e-hub participant to use the B2B e-hub, they would be a third party B2B participant provided they are not also a B2B e-hub participant in another category (such as a metering coordinator). Accreditation is discussed at section 4.5.

²⁷ Red and Lumo expect that where participants want to become a discretionary representative, they will communicate that with AEMO (as the chair) and the other Retail Industry Panel representatives to advise of their interest and request an election to be held (if required).

- B2B procedures must, in addition to the existing content requirements set out in clause 7.2A.4 of the NER, provide for B2B communications to support each of the services set out in the minimum services specification.
- B2B procedures may include performance requirements for the B2B e-hub.
- B2B procedures must allow for parties to communicate outside the B2B e-hub.
- When making decisions about B2B procedures, the Retail Industry Panel must have regard to the new B2B factors, and give effect to the revised B2B principles. The new B2B factors would include:
 - The promotion of efficient investment, operation and use of electricity services for the long term interests of consumers with respect to price, service, quality, safety, reliability and security of supply of electricity.
 - The reasonable costs of compliance compared to the likely benefits from B2B communications by AEMO and B2B e-Hub Participants.
 - The likely impacts on innovation in, and barriers to entry to, the market for services resulting from making the new B2B procedure or changing the existing B2B procedures.
 - The implementation timeframe necessary for AEMO and B2B e-Hub Participants to implement relevant changes to be compliant with any new B2B procedure or change to existing B2B procedures.
- The revised B2B principles are:
 - B2B procedures should provide a uniform approach to B2B communications in participating jurisdictions.
 - B2B procedures should detail operational and procedural matters and technical requirements that result in efficient, effective and reliable B2B communications.
 - B2B procedures should avoid unreasonable discrimination between B2B Parties.
 - B2B procedures should protect the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.
- Before the Retail Industry Panel consults on a proposal to make a new B2B procedure or change the existing B2B procedures, it must seek AEMO's advice on the necessary upgrades to the B2B e-hub to deliver the procedure change and the likely costs involved. This information would be included in the consultation documents.
- Before the Retail Industry Panel consults on a proposal to make a new B2B procedure or change the existing B2B procedures, it must seek AEMO's advice on the impact (if any) to the retail market procedures governed by AEMO, made under Chapter 7 of the NER. This information would be included in the consultation documents.

The services that will be offered through the B2B e-hub may rely on 'near instant' delivery times, meaning that the performance of the B2B e-hub may be vital for some services. It is

necessary to expand the content requirements of B2B procedures to include performance requirements for the B2B e-hub.²⁸

Allowing parties to communicate outside the B2B e-hub is necessary to support the requirement that parties may agree to use an alternative to the B2B e-hub, for example via a bespoke system.

As the Retail Industry Panel is not a market body, we have proposed that the NEO is included as a B2B factor. The intent is that the Retail Industry Panel would be required to have regard to the B2B factors (including a version of the NEO) and give effect to the B2B principles when making decisions about B2B procedures.

While the current B2B objective would no longer apply, the consideration of cost impacts would become a B2B factor. The Retail Industry Panel would also be required to consider the impacts of decisions on consumers (through the B2B factor that is similar to the NEO) and new entrants (through the B2B factor that considers innovation and barriers to entry).

The new B2B factors would direct the Retail Industry Panel to have regard to these specific matters and it is expected that the Retail Industry Panel would be able to weigh the B2B factors and B2B principles against each other to achieve the best overall outcome.

The requirement for the Retail Industry Panel to consult with AEMO on potential implementation costs prior to consultation on a proposed B2B procedure enables stakeholder feedback on those costs.

We have also expanded on the AEMO advice on impacted related procedures from just the MSATS procedure to all retail market procedures, as the B2B procedures under the competition in metering rule change they must cover the services outlined in the minimum service specification, and they also interrelate to the service level procedures. Therefore, it is expected that AEMO should provide advice on all its retail market procedures, and the Retail Industry Panel should be aware of all (if any) impacts it will create when consulting on a B2B procedure.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is expected that the new B2B procedures will encompass the existing B2B procedures, any new B2B communications required to support the provision of services to customers. This may include services outlined in the Minimum Services Specification or any other service requested by a B2B participant that provides the best overall outcome when the B2B factors and B2B principles are assessed.

IT platform

It is proposed that the following new governance arrangements are placed in the NER, including that:

- The B2B e-hub must support B2B communications listed in the B2B procedures. This would include communications for services in the minimum services specification.
- The B2B e-hub must meet performance requirements specified in the B2B procedures.

The technical performance of the B2B e-hub may influence whether particular advanced metering services are offered through the B2B e-hub. Allowing the B2B procedures to

²⁸ Such as the speed at which the B2B e-hub is required to process communications. For an example, see the Gas Hub Terms & Conditions as published on the AEMO website.

specify performance requirements for the B2B e-hub allows the Retail Industry Panel to set minimum requirements for the B2B e-hub. The additional provision of AEMO providing implementation costs when changing the B2B procedures provide knowledge to all parties to ensure an efficient outcome and ensure that the benefits of a change in standard is available to consumers.

Red and Lumo reiterate that there is no provision in the current NER that prohibits AEMO, in consultation with the existing IEC and stakeholders more broadly, from upgrading or changing the technology used for the B2B e-hub. If the existing B2B e-hub is not fit for current or future purpose, stakeholders expect that AEMO would flag this situation with industry, consult and budget accordingly.

Accreditation and Certification

The proposed new arrangements would include:

- A new accredited party role (B2B e-hub participant) would be established and any party wishing to use the B2B e-hub would need to be accredited and certified (or re-certified) by AEMO as a B2B e-hub participant.
- AEMO must establish, maintain and publish an accreditation process and certification guideline for B2B e-hub participants.

Accreditation would create a means by which third parties using the B2B e-hub become a defined category of persons under the NER. This assists in providing a framework under which obligations related to B2B arrangements may be imposed on those parties, such as compliance with the B2B procedures and the payment of fees. It provides a means by which these parties can be identified and contacted by AEMO and be assigned IEC nomination and voting rights.

Accreditation also allows AEMO to check that parties have appropriate IT and security to interface with and use the B2B e-hub, should this be considered necessary. This may be more important going forward as advanced metering services may present higher risks around data, security and confidentiality in the future.

Certification occurs where participants using the B2B e-hub provide assurance to other B2B e-hub participants that B2B communications will be correctly created, prepared, sent and received. This assurance, or certification, is provided where AEMO validates that a B2B e-hub Participant is able to send and receive communications in a compliant fashion. It is also expected that where a B2B e-hub participant makes changes to their internal systems which interact with the IT infrastructure used to communicate with other B2B e-hub participants.

In developing the accreditation and certification processes, AEMO would have discretion to apply different processes to different categories of applicant, or exempt certain parties from aspects of the accreditation and certification processes. This recognises that parties may interact with the B2B e-hub in different ways²⁹ and AEMO can minimise compliance costs by applying differentiated but suitable criteria.

²⁹ For example, some parties may wish to send 'near instant' messages related to advanced metering services, while others may continue to send messages through the existing FTP functionality.

Obligations to comply with B2B procedures and use the B2B e-hub

The proposed new arrangements would include:

- AEMO, DNSPs, retailers, metering coordinators, metering providers, metering data providers and B2B participants are required to comply with B2B procedures.
- DNSPs, retailers, metering coordinators, metering providers, metering data providers and third party B2B participants must use the B2B e-hub for B2B communications, unless they have agreed between themselves to use an alternative method of communication.

This expands the range of parties that are subject to these requirements, while maintaining the current requirement in the NER related to using the B2B e-hub.

This approach supports interoperability and minimises barriers to entry for new participants to the market for services enabled by advanced meters. It also potentially reduces operating costs for DNSPs and retailers. If there was no requirement to use the B2B e-hub, parties may need to develop multiple systems to interact with multiple service providers. The recommendation allows parties to agree to alternative methods of communication to facilitate innovation in the market. It is important that parties have the flexibility to negotiate to use alternatives to the B2B e-hub to support new services to customers. However, it is expected that most existing parties will wish to use the B2B e-hub for interoperability reasons.

While parties may agree between themselves to use an alternative method of communication (outside the B2B e-hub), the B2B procedures would continue to apply. It may be vital that some services include particular information in the message or that a particular process be followed. For example, disconnection and reconnection services could have serious impacts on life support customers and risks can be managed by following an agreed protocol when providing those services. Also, B2B procedures may include roles and responsibilities for metering providers and metering data providers.³⁰ These parties should still be subject to obligations provided in the B2B procedures.

Cost recovery

The proposed new arrangements would include:

- Operating costs associated with any service provided by AEMO to facilitate B2B communications (including providing and operating the B2B e-hub) and the costs of developing B2B procedures and establishing and operating the Retail Industry Panel are paid by AEMO and recouped as participant fees.
- Third party B2B participants would be deemed to be registered participants for the purposes of rule 2.11 of the NER (participant fees). As a consequence, the fee structure for participant fees developed by AEMO may include DNSPs, retailers, metering coordinators or third party B2B participants.

Cost recovery through participant fees provides certainty that AEMO can recover its B2B costs over time. Introducing a cost recovery model that is solely user pays would not provide certainty that AEMO would be able to recover its expenditure. There is a risk that

³⁰ Clause 7.2A.4(h) of the NER.

parties could choose to use an alternative to the B2B e-hub and would no longer pay B2B participant fees, before AEMO is able to recover its upfront investment costs.

AEMO would develop a structure for the participant fees taking into account any changes to the B2B arrangements in accordance with rule 2.11 of the NER. There is significant discretion for AEMO to determine suitable fee structures for registered participants.

This option recognises that it may be appropriate to recover some B2B costs from parties that choose not to use the B2B e-hub, as these parties would benefit from other Retail Industry Panel activities and the development of B2B procedures.

Metering providers and metering data providers are not registered participants and would not be charged participant fees. As with the current arrangements, this is appropriate as they provide services to other parties using the B2B e-hub.

Other

B2B arrangements are provided for in other parts of the NER and would need to be updated. For example, the dispute resolution provisions in clause 8.2A.2 of the NER, and definitions in Chapter 10, would need to be updated in light of the proposed arrangements.

Transitional

This section outlines some of the transitional steps that would need to be carried out to implement the proposed rule. It also provides some suggested dates for implementation, to enable the B2B arrangements to be updated at the same time as the commencement of the competition in metering rule (1 December 2017).

- AEMO to develop new Retail Industry Panel election procedures and operating manual to provide for the new IEC framework (1 August 2016).
- AEMO to run a Retail Industry Panel election process to form the new Retail Industry Panel (1 October 2016).
- Retail Industry Panel to develop amended B2B procedures in accordance with the new B2B framework (at the latest 1 April 2017**).
- AEMO to develop an accreditation process for B2B e-hub participants (at the latest 1 April 2017).
- AEMO would need to amend its participant fee structure to incorporate the recovery of B2B costs.

** Red and Lumo note that AEMO as the IT service provider of the B2B e-hub can choose at any time to commence consultation and development of a new B2B e-hub independently from this rule change request. As previously mentioned, there is no rule that prevents AEMO from undertaking this if the IT system is not fit for current or future purpose. If AEMO decide to upgrade or change the existing B2B e-hub, it is expected that the B2B procedures that are put before the existing IEC or the newly formed Retail Industry Panel could occur earlier to allow more time for participants wanting to use the B2B e-hub to implement the B2B procedures.

NEO assessment

The rule making test in section 88 of the National Electricity Law (NEL) requires that the Commission may only make a rule if it is satisfied that the rule will or is likely to contribute to the achievement of the national electricity objective (NEO). The NEO, set out in s. 7 of the NEL, is to:

“promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity services for the long term interests of consumers of electricity with respect to:

- (a) price, quality, safety, reliability and security of supply of electricity; and
- (b) the reliability, safety and security of the national electricity system.”

The proposed rule is intended to support the efficient uptake of products and services by small customers. It complements the competition in metering rule change process, which seeks to facilitate the market led roll out of advanced metering infrastructure. This advanced metering infrastructure would enable service providers to offer, and consumers to take up, a wider range of products and services that are enabled by advanced meters. Updating the B2B framework facilitates this by introducing a standard form of communication that parties can use to access the services available through advanced metering infrastructure.

The proposed rule would be likely to contribute to the NEO in the following ways.

Efficient investment in services available through advanced metering infrastructure

The recommendations are designed to improve interoperability for parties communicating about the services available through advanced metering infrastructure. Having a shared form and method of communication means that parties would not be required to have multiple systems to interact with each other. This is likely to lower barriers to entry and facilitate new participants entering the market for services enabled by advanced meters. It may also lead to greater efficiencies for existing retailers and DNSPs that are required to communicate with multiple parties in the market.

Promoting efficient interactions between parties is likely to reduce their operating costs. These cost savings may be passed onto end users, including small customers, who may ultimately pay for the services provided in respect of their connection point.

Minimising barriers to entry for new participants provides an environment that is conducive to competition. Improving competition in the market for services that can be provided by advanced metering infrastructure may lead to a wider variety of services being available to consumers and other parties. Service providers would be encouraged to innovate and invest in new products and services that can be tailored to the needs of their customers. If competition leads to differentiation in price and quality, customers may have access to services that better meet their individual needs, such as better quality services (for example, comprehensive energy management systems) or lower cost services (for example, simple access to energy usage data).

While the proposed rule provides a standard mechanism for communicating, it is worth noting that it does not provide a right for parties to access the services that are the subject of the communications. The proposed rule would make transactions more efficient to the extent that parties have commercially entered into those transactions

The proposed rule also supports investment and innovation in new products and services by allowing parties to agree to use an alternative method of communicating with each other. This allows the market to determine the most efficient way of communicating about a particular service. As mentioned above, supporting innovation may lead to a wider range of products and services being offered and will allow parties to select products and services that best suit their needs. Using an alternative, more efficient form of communication should also be expected to flow through to the prices being paid by end users.

Retail Industry Panel - governance arrangements

Industry members (and ultimately, their customers) will bear the costs and receive the benefits of decisions about B2B procedures and are therefore likely to make the most effective and efficient decisions regarding the content of B2B procedures. Promoting efficient decision making and investment in communications would be expected to place a downward pressure on costs that are ultimately paid by end users.

Reducing the costs of maintaining quality, reliability and security of the supply of electricity

While it would be possible for parties to provide advanced metering services without updating the B2B arrangements, having a shared method of communication is likely to be less complicated and costly than dealing with parties across multiple platforms. If participants choose to offer services, having a shared platform is expected to result in the increased uptake of services that can be provided by advanced metering infrastructure.

The potential increased uptake of services by DNSPs related to network functions is expected to assist them to monitor reliability, security and quality of electricity supply. For example, access to supply status and voltage monitoring may enable DNSPs to respond more promptly to power outages or poor quality supply. In addition, access to services such as direct load control, remote disconnection and remote reconnection by DNSPs may enable them to manage the use of the network more efficiently and make more efficient decisions on network investment for the benefit of consumers. Deferring unnecessary investment in networks would save costs for consumers.

AEMO's declared network functions

The proposed rule will not affect AEMO's declared network functions.

Expected costs, benefits and impacts of the proposed rule

The proposed rule is expected to have the following impacts on parties.

End use customers

- Introducing a shared market protocol framework may facilitate an increased range of services being offered to consumers, allowing greater choice in products and services that are tailored to suit their needs. For example, services may be offered to inform consumers of their electricity usage or manage their electricity usage, which may assist consumers to save on electricity costs.
- There may be increased competition for services in the short term, and increased innovation in the long term. This may lead to lower cost services being available.
- Should small customers wish to be represented on the Retail Industry Panel they can do so through the appointment of a discretionary consumer representative.

DNSPs and retailers

- DNSPs and retailers must become an accredited B2B e-hub participant and pass certification if they wish to use the B2B e-hub.
- DNSPs and retailers must comply with B2B procedures. They must also use the B2B e-hub for B2B communications that are provided for in B2B procedures, unless agreed otherwise with the party to whom they are communicating.
- DNSPs and retailers may be required to pay B2B costs through participant fees as determined by AEMO.
- Having access to an enhanced shared communications platform may lead to greater operational efficiencies.

Market customers that are not retailers

- Currently, local retailers and market customers are represented on the IEC. This membership category would be changed to retailers (see section 4.3.1 of this advice). As a result, market customers that are not retailers will no longer have a representative member on the new Retail Industry Panel and will not participate in nomination and voting for Retail Industry Panel representatives, unless they choose to become an accredited B2B e-hub participant.
- Market customers that are not retailers will no longer be required to comply with B2B procedures or use the B2B e-hub for B2B communications.
- Market customers that are not retailers but have otherwise decided they wish to use the B2B e-hub (as an accredited B2B e-hub participant and pass certification) are required to comply with B2B procedures and, in that capacity, may be required to pay participant fees as determined by AEMO (as a deemed registered participant). Should they wish to use the B2B e-hub and be represented on the Retail Industry Panel, they may also nominate and participate in the election of a discretionary third party B2B participant representative.

Metering coordinators, metering providers and metering data providers

- Metering coordinators, metering providers and metering data providers will have two representatives on the Retail Industry Panel and can participate in nomination and election of the metering Retail Industry Panel representatives.
- Metering coordinators, metering providers and metering data providers must become accredited B2B e-hub participants and pass certification to use the B2B e-hub.
- Metering coordinators, metering providers and metering data providers must comply with B2B procedures. They must also use the B2B e-hub for B2B communications that are provided for in B2B procedures, unless agreed otherwise.
- Metering coordinators may be required to pay B2B costs through participant fees as determined by AEMO.
- Having access to a shared communications platform may lead to greater operational efficiencies and provide for efficient entry of new service providers.

Third party energy service companies

- Third party B2B participants may have a representative member on the Retail Industry Panel, and should they choose to use the B2B e-hub and be represented on

the Retail Industry Panel, they may nominate and participate in the election of the discretionary third party B2B participant Retail Industry Panel representative.

- Third party energy service companies must become an accredited B2B e-hub participant and pass certification to use the B2B e-hub.
- Third party energy service companies must comply with B2B procedures. They must also use the B2B e-hub for B2B communications that are provided for in B2B procedures, unless agreed otherwise.
- Third party B2B participants may be required to contribute to B2B costs by paying participant fees as determined by AEMO.
- Having access to a shared communications platform may lead to greater operational efficiencies and lower barriers to entry for these new parties.

AEMO

- AEMO would be required to appoint a director as the AEMO representative of the Retail Industry Panel. That representative will also be the chairperson of the Retail Industry Panel.
- AEMO would be required to:
 - develop the first Retail Industry Panel election procedures and operating manual;
 - carry out an election process for the Retail Industry Panel;
 - provide and operate the B2B e-hub;
 - establish and apply an accreditation process and certification guideline for B2B participants; and
 - update the fee structure for registered participants to account for B2B costs.
- Where AEMO receives B2B communications, they also would be required to be accredited and pass certification. Additionally, they must comply with the B2B procedures.
- AEMO would be required to incur upfront and ongoing costs related to providing and operating the B2B e-hub and establishing and operating the Retail Industry Panel. These costs may be subsequently recouped through participant fees.

Retail Industry Panel

- The Retail Industry Panel would be formed in accordance with the proposed rule.
- The Retail Industry Panel would be responsible for developing and maintaining the B2B procedures.
- The Retail Industry Panel would be required to have regard to the B2B factors and give effect to the B2B principles when making decisions about B2B procedures.

Summary of consultation

A significant amount of consultation on communication issues and the B2B framework has been carried out by the Commission to inform the development of this rule change request. The views put forward by stakeholders are relatively recent, with the most recent advice on

implementing the shared market protocol being provided by the Commission in October 2015.

The Commission's advice on implementing a shared market protocol involved two rounds of consultation and a stakeholder workshop. A consultation paper was released from December 2015 to February 2015 and 19 submissions were received. The stakeholder workshop was held in April 2015 and approximately 40 stakeholders attended. The draft advice was released from June 2015 to July 2015 and 21 stakeholder submissions were received.

AEMO's advice on a shared market protocol was developed in consultation with a working group of approximately 30 industry representatives. The working group met from September 2014 to December 2014 to discuss issues related to the development of AEMO's advice.

The Commission's advice on a framework for open access and common communication standards was developed in close consultation with an advisory stakeholder working group of approximately 20 industry representatives. Six meetings were held from October 2013 to March 2014. A draft report was released for consultation from December 2013 to January 2014 and 26 submissions were received. A supplementary paper was released for consultation from February 2014 to March 2014 and 16 submissions were received. In addition, a public forum was held in April 2014.

Red and Lumo have actively participated in each stage of the consultation process.

Shared Market Protocol – proposed rule drafting based on draft National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015

[1] Part H of Chapter 7

Omit Part H of Chapter 7 and substitute:

Part H B2B Requirements

7.17 B2B Arrangements

7.17.1 B2B e-Hub

- (a) *AEMO* must provide and operate a *B2B e-Hub*.
- (b) The *B2B e-Hub* must:
 - (1) have the capability to facilitate the *B2B Communications* in accordance with the *B2B Procedures*; and
 - (2) meet any minimum standards of performance specified in the *B2B Procedures*.
- (c) A person must not use the *B2B e-Hub* unless they are a *B2B e-Hub Participant*.
- (d) Each *B2B Party* and *AEMO* must comply with the *B2B Procedures*.
- (e) Subject to paragraph (f), each *B2B Party* must use *B2B e-Hub* for *B2B Communications* in accordance with the *B2B Procedures*.
- (f) *B2B Parties* may, on such terms and conditions as agreed between them, communicate a *B2B Communication* on a basis other than through the *B2B e-Hub* provided the *B2B Communication* is otherwise made in accordance with the *B2B Procedures*.
- (g) Despite paragraphs (d) and (e), a person:
 - (1) appointed as a *Metering Coordinator*³¹ in respect of a *transmission network connection point*; and
 - (2) not accredited as a *B2B e-Hub Participant*,is not required to:
 - (3) comply with the *B2B Procedures*; and
 - (4) use the *B2B e-Hub* for *B2B Communications*,in respect of that *transmission network connection point*.

7.17.2 B2B e-Hub Participants

- (a) A *B2B e-Hub Participant* is a person so accredited with *AEMO*.

³¹ “Metering Coordinator” is defined in the National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015.

- (b) *AEMO* must establish and maintain an accreditation process for *B2B e-Hub Participants* (including circumstances under which accreditation can be revoked by *AEMO*) and *publish* information relating to the process by which parties can apply to be accredited as *B2B e-Hub Participants*.
- (c) *AEMO* must establish and maintain a certification guideline for *B2B e-Hub Participants* (including circumstances under which certification can be revoked by *AEMO*) and *publish* information relating to the process by which parties certify.
- (d) To be eligible for accreditation as a *B2B e-Hub Participant*, a person must:
 - (1) satisfy *AEMO* that it is complying with and will comply with the *Rules* and the procedures authorised under the *Rules*;
 - (2) satisfy such other requirements as reasonably determined by *AEMO*, which may include (but are not limited to):
 - (i) systems and information technology requirements necessary for secure use of the *B2B e-Hub*; and
 - (ii) fee payment and credit support requirements.
- (e) *AEMO* may exempt persons or classes of persons from any one or more requirements of the accreditation process for *B2B e-Hub Participants* established under paragraph (b), subject to such conditions as *AEMO* deems appropriate.
- (f) *AEMO* may exempt persons or classes of persons from any one or more requirements of the certification guideline for *B2B e-Hub Participants* established under paragraph (c), subject to such conditions as *AEMO* deems appropriate.
- (g) *B2B e-Hub Participants* must certify and recertify in accordance with the certification process established under paragraph (c).

7.17.3 Content of the B2B Procedures

- (a) The *B2B Procedures*:
 - (1) must provide for *B2B Communications* to support each of the services set out in the *minimum services specification*³²;
 - (2) may provide for any other *B2B Communications* determined in accordance with the *Rules*;
 - (3) may provide for any other *B2B Communications* as agreed by *B2B e-Hub Participants* that are additional to *B2B Communications* set out in 7.17.3(a)(1);
 - (4) may include obligations in relation to the information to be maintained and provided to support *B2B Communications*;
 - (5) must not restrict *B2B Parties* from communicating *B2B Communications* on a basis other than through the *B2B e-Hub* as permitted under clause 7.17.1(f);

³² "Minimum services specification" is defined in the National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015.

- (6) may include minimum performance standards for the *B2B e-Hub*; and
- (7) any matter consequential or related to any of the above.
- (b) For each *B2B Communication*, the *B2B Procedures*:
 - (1) must specify the protocol which governs the manner, form and timing in which information is exchanged, notices or documents delivered, requests made and completed;
 - (2) must specify the back-up delivery method to be used where the required delivery method cannot be used; and
 - (3) may specify:
 - (i) details for testing and certification;
 - (ii) provisions relating to contingency arrangements; and
 - (iii) examples of how a *B2B Communication* may operate in practice.
- (c) *B2B Communications* are *confidential information* and may only be disclosed as permitted by the *Rules*.

7.17.4 Amendment of B2B Procedures

- (a) Any person (the '**B2B proponent**') may submit to the *Retail Industry Panel* a proposal (the '**B2B proposal**') to amend the *B2B procedures* and must include reasons for the proposed change.
- (b) For *B2B proposals* submitted under paragraph (a), the *Retail Industry Panel* must:
 - (1) give notice of receipt of the *B2B proposal* to the *B2B proponent*; and
 - (2) advise the *B2B proponent* of the action that the *Retail Industry Panel* proposes to undertake under paragraphs (c) or (e).
- (c) Where the *Retail Industry Panel*:
 - (1) accepts the *B2B proposal*, the *Retail Industry Panel* must:
 - (i) seek *AEMO*'s advice on whether a conflict with the *retail market procedures* arises from the *B2B proposal*; and
 - (ii) seek *AEMO*'s advice on whether changes are required to the *B2B e-Hub* in order to deliver the *B2B proposal* and, if so, the likely costs of making such changes;
 - (iii) meet to determine, on a *prima facie* basis, the *B2B proposal* is warranted having regard to the *B2B factors* and considering the *B2B Principles*; and
 - (iv) must conduct the *Rules consultation procedures*, in relation to the *B2B proposal* including:
 - (A) publishing the advice received in (i) and (ii) above; and

- (B) should the *B2B proposal* be accepted, the proposed effective date.
- (2) requests further information from the proponent in relation to a *B2B proposal*, on receiving that information the *Retail Industry Panel* must either accept, or reject the *B2B proposal*; or
 - (3) rejects a *B2B proposal*, the *Retail Industry Panel* must advise the *B2B proponent* of its decision and reasons for the decision in writing.
- (d) In addition to the matters which rule 8.9(g) and 8.9(k) require, reports produced by the *Retail Industry Panel* must contain consideration of each of the *B2B factors* and *B2B Principles* and how the *Retail Industry Panel* has considered each submission received.
- (e) Where, in *Retail Industry Panel*'s reasonable opinion, a proposal referred to in paragraph (a) relates to amendments that are of a minor or administrative nature, *Retail Industry Panel* is not required to undertake the *Rules consultation procedures* but must:
- (1) *publish* the *B2B proposal* including the accompanying reasons;
 - (2) issue a notice to *B2B Parties* advising that the amendment to the *B2B procedure* has been *published*;
 - (3) invite submissions on the *B2B proposal*;
 - (4) allow *10 business days* for the receipt of submissions;
 - (5) allow a reasonable extension of time for submissions if requested in writing;
 - (6) *publish* submissions as soon as practicable after submissions have been received;
 - (7) consider the submissions; and
 - (8) where a change is accepted, make a *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* to AEMO.
- (f) *Retail Industry Panel* may at the conclusion of the *Rules consultation procedures* amend the *B2B procedure* (if necessary).
- (g) At the conclusion of the *Rules consultation procedures*, where a change to the *B2B Procedures* is accepted by the *Retail Industry Panel*, the *Retail Industry Panel* must recommend to AEMO (a '**Retail Industry Panel Recommendation**') that the change be made.

7.17.5 B2B Decision

- (a) AEMO must consider the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* and must approve that *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*, unless it concludes that:
- (1) the *Retail Industry Panel* has failed to have regard to the *B2B factors* and/or consider the *B2B Principles*;

- (2) the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* would conflict with the *retail market procedures*; or
 - (3) the *Retail Industry Panel* has not followed the *Rules consultation procedures* (as supplemented by clause 7.17.4).
- (b) In considering a *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*, AEMO must not consider:
- (1) the manner in which the *Retail Industry Panel* considered the *B2B factors* and/or the *B2B Principles*; or
 - (2) the merits of the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*.
- (c) AEMO must not amend the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* and must not conduct any further consultation on the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* prior to making its *B2B Decision*.
- (e) AEMO must *publish* and make available on its website its *B2B Decision*, with reasons, within 10 *business days* of receiving a *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* from the *Retail Industry Panel*.
- (f) If AEMO decides not to approve a *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*, the reasons for the *B2B Decision* which are to be *published* and made available in accordance with paragraph (e) must include an explanation of the following, where applicable:
- (1) to which of the *B2B factors* and/or the *B2B Principles* AEMO considers the *Retail Industry Panel* failed to have regard;
 - (2) how the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* would give rise to a conflict with the *retail market procedures*; or
 - (3) how the *Retail Industry Panel* did not follow the *Rules consultation procedures* (as supplemented by clause 7.17.4).

7.17.6 Establishment of Retail Industry Panel

- (a) AEMO must establish the *Retail Industry Panel* in accordance with the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and the *Rules*.
- (b) The *Retail Industry Panel*:
 - (1) must consist of:
 - (i) two *Distribution Network Service Provider Representatives*;
 - (ii) two *Retailer Representatives*;
 - (iii) two *Metering Representatives*; and
 - (iv) one *AEMO Representative*; and
 - (2) may, in addition to the *representatives* specified in subparagraph (b)(1), include up to four *Discretionary Representatives*. *Discretionary Representatives* may include one *Consumer Representative*, one *independent representative*, two *Third Party B2B Participant Representatives* and/or other *B2B Parties*, to be broadly representative of the industry, as decided by a super majority of the *Retail Industry Panel*.

- (c) *AEMO* must maintain a register of *Representatives* which includes:
 - (1) the name of each current *Representative*; and
 - (2) in respect of each *Discretionary Representative*, a description of the class or classes of persons that the *Discretionary Representative* has been appointed to represent under clause 7.17.10(f).
- (d) The *AEMO Representative* is the chairperson of the *Retail Industry Panel*.
- (e) Each *Member* must serve on the *Retail Industry Panel* for the term specified in the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and must only be removed or replaced in accordance with the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and the *Rules*.
- (f) *B2B Parties* must ensure that the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* include provisions in respect of:
 - (1) procedures for nominating *Representatives* and voting for *Representatives*;
 - (2) the term of *Representatives*;
 - (3) procedures for the determination and publication of results of elections of *Representatives*; and
 - (4) procedures for the removal and resignation of a *Representative*.

7.17.7 Functions and powers of Retail Industry Panel

- (a) The functions and powers of the *Retail Industry Panel* include:
 - (1) developing, consulting on and making an *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*;
 - (2) managing the ongoing development of the *B2B Procedures* and any changes to them;
 - (3) establishing the *Retail Industry Panel Working Groups*;
 - (4) developing, consulting on and approving the *Retail Industry Panel Works Programme*;
 - (5) reviewing and considering work completed by the *Retail Industry Panel Working Groups*;
 - (6) developing proposed amendments to the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*; and
 - (7) developing proposed amendments to the *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual*.
- (b) The *Retail Industry Panel* must prepare a *Retail Industry Panel Annual Report* by 31 December each year. The *Retail Industry Panel* must provide the *Retail Industry Panel Annual Report* to *AEMO* by the following 31 March and *AEMO* must *publish* that *Retail Industry Panel Annual Report*.
- (c) The *Retail Industry Panel Annual Report* must contain the information required by the *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual*.
- (d) By 28 February each year the *Retail Industry Panel* must prepare a draft budget for the following *financial year* in a form which is consistent with

the budget procedures of *AEMO*. Following discussion with *AEMO* the *Retail Industry Panel* must prepare a budget by 31 March and provide that budget to *AEMO*. When *AEMO* publishes its budget pursuant to clause 2.11.3, *AEMO* must advise the *Retail Industry Panel* of the final budget for the *Retail Industry Panel* for that financial year.

- (e) The *Retail Industry Panel* must provide *AEMO* the current version of the *B2B Procedures* and the *Retail Industry Panel Works Programme*.
- (f) *AEMO* must publish the *B2B Procedures* and the *Retail Industry Panel Works Programme*.

7.17.8 Obligations of Representatives

- (a) Each *Representative* in performing his or her duties or in exercising any right, power or discretion as a *Representative* must have regard to the *B2B factors* and *B2B Principles* and must:
 - (1) at all times act honestly;
 - (2) exercise the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable person in a like position would exercise;
 - (3) not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of his or her position to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself, or the parties by which he or she is employed and/or which nominated him or her to be a *Representative*;
 - (4) not make improper use of his or her position to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or the parties by which he or she is employed and/or which nominated him or her to be a *Representative*; and
 - (5) not take part in any decision or determination of the *Retail Industry Panel* where the *Representative* has, or would reasonably be considered to have, a material conflict of interest in the matter to be decided or determined by the *Retail Industry Panel*.
- (b) For the purposes of subparagraph (a)(5), a conflict will be material if it detracts, or would reasonably be considered to be likely to detract, from the *Representative's* capacity to exercise independent judgment in respect of the relevant decision or determination
- (c) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a)(5) and paragraph (b), a *B2B Party* may take into account the interests of the persons it has been appointed to represent in performing his or her duties or in exercising any right, power or discretion.
- (e) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a)(5) and paragraph (b), the *Discretionary Representative* must take into account the interests of the persons the *Discretionary Representative* was appointed by *AEMO* to represent in performing his or her duties or in exercising any right, power or discretion. Where the *Discretionary Representative* is a *Consumer Representative*,

they must take into account the interests of *small customers*³³ in performing his or her duties or in exercising any right, power or discretion.

- (f) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a)(5) and paragraph (b), the *AEMO Representative* may take into account the interests of *AEMO* in performing his or her duties or in exercising any right, power or discretion.

7.17.9 Meetings of Retail Industry Panel

- (a) The *Retail Industry Panel* must meet at least once every three months.
- (b) The quorum for a meeting of the *Retail Industry Panel* consists of:
 - (1) if there are less than eight *Representatives*, five *Representatives*; and
 - (2) if there are nine *Representatives* or more, seven *Representatives*, and must include the *AEMO Representative*.
- (c) A decision of the *Retail Industry Panel* is not valid and enforceable unless, in respect of:
 - (1) an *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*, it has the support of a *super majority*;
 - (2) any decision that a proposal under clause 7.17.4(a) should not be considered further after initial consideration under clause 7.17.4(c)(1)(iii), and any decision to not recommend a change to the *B2B Procedures* for approval by *AEMO*, it has the support of a *super majority*;
 - (3) any decision to amend the *Discretionary Representatives*, it has the support of a *super majority*;
 - (4) any decision to approve the *Retail Industry Panel Works Programme*, it has the support of a *super majority*; and
 - (5) any other decision by the *Retail Industry Panel*, it has the support of an *ordinary majority*.

7.17.10 Nomination, election and appointment of Representatives

- (a) A person may only be nominated and elected as a *Representative* in accordance with the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and the *Rules* including, without limitation, this clause 7.17.10 and clause 7.17.11.
- (b) *AEMO* must appoint an *AEMO Member* and the *AEMO Member* must be a director of *AEMO*.
- (c) *Distribution Network Service Providers* must appoint two *Distribution Network Service Provider Representatives*.
- (d) *Retailer Representative Voters* must appoint two *Retailer Representatives*.
- (e) *Metering Representative Voters* must appoint two *Metering Representatives*.

³³ “small customer” is defined in the Draft National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015.

- (f) In accordance with a decision made under rule 7.17.9(c)(3), clause 7.17.6(b)(2), and the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*, the *Retail Industry Panel* may decide to include up to four *Discretionary Representatives* to represent a class or classes of persons who have an interest in the *B2B Procedures* and those interests are not adequately represented on the *Retail Industry Panel*. Where the *Discretionary Representative* is:
- (1) a *Consumer Representative*, AEMO may appoint the Consumer Representative. Prior to making such appointment, AEMO must consult with ECA³⁴ and may consult with any other person or persons determined by AEMO or ECA.
 - (2) a *Third Party B2B Participant Representative*, the *Third Party B2B Participants* of that class must appoint that *Discretionary Representative*.
 - (3) a *B2B Party* required to be included to be broadly representative of the industry, participants in that class of *B2B Party* must appoint that *Discretionary Representative*.
 - (4) an *Independent Representative*, the nomination and election process must include all *B2B Parties*.
- (g) Any person who is:
- (1) both a *retailer* and a *Local Retailer*, may nominate and vote only once in respect of the appointment of a *Retailer Representative*; and
 - (2) registered with AEMO in two or more of the categories of *Metering Coordinator*, *Metering Provider* and *Metering Data Provider*, may nominate and vote only once in respect of the appointment of a *Metering Representative*.
- (h) If two or more persons are *related bodies corporate* and belong to multiple classes of *Representatives*, they may only nominate to be a *representative* in respect of one *representative* category.
- (i) If two or more persons are *related bodies corporate* and belong to the same *Voter Category* (**related voters**) then only one of the related voters may nominate and vote in respect of an election for a *Distribution Network Service Provider Representative*, a *Retailer Representative*, *Metering Representative*, or *Third Party B2B Participant Representative*, as the case may be.

7.17.11 Qualifications of Retail Industry Panel Representatives

- (a) Each *B2B Party* must ensure that a person they nominate as a *Representative* satisfies the requirements for that particular category of *Representative* as set out in the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and the *Rules*.

³⁴ "ECA" is defined in the National Electricity Law and means Energy Consumers Australia Limited.

- (b) A *B2B Party* must ensure that a person they nominate as a *Representative*:
 - (1) has knowledge of and experience in the *National Electricity Market*;
 - (2) has experience with and skills in considering issues that affect their particular *Voter Category*, the relevant *Voter Category*; and
 - (3) has knowledge of the subject matter of *B2B Procedures*; and
 - (4) has knowledge and understanding of the *Rules* and the related legislative and regulatory framework; and
 - (5) agrees to take into account
- (c) *AEMO* must ensure that an appointee for an *Independent Representative* or the *Consumer Representative*:
 - (1) has knowledge of and experience with the *National Electricity Market*;
 - (2) has experience with and skills in considering issues that affect:
 - (i) in respect of a *Discretionary Representative*, the class or classes of persons whom the *Discretionary Representative* represents (as specified in the register kept pursuant to clause 7.17.6(c)); and
 - (ii) in respect of the *Consumer Representative*, *small customers*;
 - (3) has knowledge of the subject matter of *B2B Procedures*;
 - (4) has knowledge and understanding of the *Rules* and the related legislative and regulatory framework; and
 - (5) in the case of the *Discretionary Representative*, is independent of *AEMO*.

7.17.12 Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures and Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual

- (a) The *Retail Industry Panel*, *AEMO* and *B2B Parties* must comply with the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and the *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual*.
- (b) The *Retail Industry Panel*, *AEMO* and *B2B Parties* are not obliged to comply with an amendment to the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* unless that amendment is made in accordance with this clause.
- (c) The *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* may only be amended in accordance with the procedure set out in the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and with the support of not less than 75% of voters in each of the *Voter Categories* for the following *Representatives*:
 - (i) *Distribution Network Service Provider Representatives*;
 - (ii) *Retailer Representatives*; and
 - (iii) *Metering Representatives*.
- (d) *AEMO* must *publish* the current version of the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

- (e) The *Retail Industry Panel*, *AEMO* and *B2B Parties* are not obliged to comply with an amendment to the *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual* unless that amendment is made in accordance with this clause.
- (f) The *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual* may only be amended in accordance with the procedure set out in the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures* and with the support not less than 75% of voters in each of the *Voter Categories* for the following *Representatives*:
 - (i) *Distribution Network Service Provider Representatives*;
 - (ii) *Retail Representatives*; and
 - (iii) *Metering Representatives*.
- (g) *AEMO* must *publish* the current version of the *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual*.

7.17.13 Cost Recovery

- (a) The *B2B costs* must be paid by *AEMO* in the first instance and recouped by *AEMO* as *Participant fees*.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (a), the costs of any *Representative* (other than where an Independent is a *Discretionary Representative*) relating to their participation in the *Retail Industry Panel* and the costs of individuals relating to their participation in the *Retail Industry Panel Working Groups* is not to be borne by *AEMO*.
- (c) The cost to a person of implementing and maintaining the necessary systems and processes to ensure compliance with *B2B Procedures* must be met by that person.

7.17.14 Application

For the purposes of this Part H only, **representative** means a person appointed to the *Retail Industry Panel* in that membership category as set out in the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

[2] Rule 2.11 Participant fees

In rule 2.11, before clause 2.11.1 insert the following new clause:

2.11.1A Application

For the purposes of rule 2.11 only, "*Registered Participant*" is deemed to include not just *Registered Participants* but also *Third Party B2B Participants*.

[3] Clause 2.11.3 Budgeted revenue requirements

In clause, insert a new clause 2.11.3(b)(7A) as follows:

(7A) *AEMO's* expenditure in relation to *B2B costs*;

[4] Chapter 8 Part B Disputes

In Part B Disputes, in each case omit “*Information Exchange Committee*” and replace with “*Retail Industry Panel*”.

[5] Clause 8.2.8 Costs of dispute resolution

In clause 8.2.8(a), insert “(in each case, as modified by clause 8.2A.2)” after “8.6.2D”.

[6] Clause 8.2A.2 How Rule 8.2 applies

Omit clause 8.2A.2(b) and substitute:

- “(b) In clause 8.2.1(a1):
- (i) delete “*Connection Applicants*,”; and
 - (ii) omit “and *NMAS providers (including NSCAS preferred tenderers)*” and substitute “and *Third Party B2B Participants*”.

[7] Clause 8.2A.2 How Rule 8.2 applies

In clause 8.2A.2(c) omit “*B2B Objective*” and substitute “*B2B factors*”.

[8] Clause 8.2A.2 How Rule 8.2 applies

Omit clause 8.2A.2(d)(i) and substitute:

- (i) set out in clauses 8.2.5 to 8.2.10 and 8.2.12 (in each case, as those clauses are amended by clause 8.2A.2); and

[9] Clause 8.2A.2 How Rule 8.2 applies

In clause 8.2A.2(i), omit the paragraph starting “(d1) *A Market Customer...*” and substitute:

- “(d1) *A B2B Party* adversely affected by an *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* or a *B2B Decision* may apply to the *Adviser* for review of that *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* or that *B2B Decision*. The application must be made within 10 *business days* of *publication* of the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* or the *B2B Decision*, state grounds for the review and give full particulars of where the applicant believes the *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation* or *B2B Decision* is in error.

[10] Clause 8.2A.2 How Rule 8.2 applies

In clause 8.2A.2, omit clause 8.2A.2(v).

[11] Clause 8.6.1A Application

Omit clause 8.6.1A and substitute:

8.6.1A Application

For the purposes of this Part C only, "*Registered Participant*" is deemed to include not just *Registered Participants* but also *Metering Providers*, *Metering Data Providers* and *Third Party B2B Participants*.

[12] New Chapter 10 definitions

Insert the following new definitions in Chapter 10:

AEMO Representative

A person appointed as a *Representative* by *AEMO* to represent *AEMO* in accordance with clause 7.17.10(c).

B2B costs

The following costs incurred by *AEMO*:

- (a) the costs of the development of the *B2B Procedures*;
- (b) the costs of the establishment and operation of the *Retail Industry Panel* (including the engagement costs of specialist advisers, and where appropriate the remuneration and payment of the reasonable expenses of the Independent), all of which must be set out in the budget prepared by the *Retail Industry Panel* pursuant to clause 7.17.7(d) and the *Retail Industry Panel Annual Report*; and
- (c) the operational costs associated with any service provided by *AEMO* to facilitate *B2B Communications* (including providing, maintaining, upgrading and operating a *B2B e-Hub*).

B2B e-Hub Participant

A person who has been accredited by *AEMO* as a *B2B e-Hub Participant* under clause 7.17.2.

B2B factors

The following factors:

- (a) The promotion of efficient investment, operation and use of electricity services for the long term interests of consumers with respect to price, service, quality, safety, reliability and security of supply of electricity;
- (b) The reasonable costs of compliance compared with the likely benefits from *B2B Communications* by *AEMO* and *B2B Parties* with the *B2B Procedures*;
- (c) The likely impacts on innovation in and barriers to entry to the markets services resulting from making the new *B2B Procedure* or changing the existing *B2B Procedures*;
- (d) The implementation timeframe reasonably necessary for *AEMO* and *B2B e-Hub Participants* to implement systems or other changes required to be compliant with any new *B2B Procedure* or change to existing *B2B Procedures*.

B2B Party

Distribution Network Service Providers, retailers, Local Retailers, Metering Coordinators, Metering Providers, Metering Data Providers and Third Party B2B Participants.

Consumer Representative

A person appointed by AEMO as a *Representative* to represent *small customers* in accordance with clause 7.17.10(f)(1).

Discretionary Representative

A person appointed as a *Representative* to represent a class or classes of persons who have an interest in the *B2B Procedures* in accordance with the *Rules* (including clause 7.17.10(f)) and *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

Distribution Network Service Provider Representative

A person nominated and elected as a *Representative* by *Distribution Network Service Providers* to represent *Distribution Network Service Providers* in accordance with the *Rules* (including clause 7.17.10(c)) and *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

Independent Representative

A person nominated and elected as a *Discretionary Representative* by *B2B Parties*, collectively, in accordance with the *Rules* (including clause 7.17.10(f)(4)) and the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

An independent representative, the person must not:

- (1) be current an employee or director of any *B2B Party*; or
- (2) be an employee of, or a partner in, any partnership related to a *B2B Party*; or
- (3) be an employee of, or a director of, any company, which partnership or company is an adviser or consultant to a *B2B Party*, where such relationship is a significant source of income for that partnership or company; or
- (4) an adviser or consultant to a *B2B Party*, where such relationship is a significant source of income for that adviser or consultant.

Retail Industry Panel

A panel that is broadly representative of the retail industry, established under clause 7.17.6.

Retail Industry Panel Annual Report

The annual report prepared by the *Retail Industry Panel* in accordance with the *Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual*.

Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures

The procedures of that title which set out the process for election of *Representatives*.

Retail Industry Panel Operating Manual

The manual of that title prepared by the *Retail Industry Panel* which sets out the processes pursuant to which the *Retail Industry Panel* operates.

Retail Industry Panel Recommendation

A recommendation made by the *Retail Industry Panel* to AEMO to make *B2B Procedures* or to change the *B2B Procedures*.

Retail Industry Panel Working Groups

The group(s) established by the *Retail Industry Panel* to assist with the *Retail Industry Panel Works Programme*.

Retail Industry Panel Works Programme

The work programme prepared by the *Retail Industry Panel* in respect of the development, implementation and operation of the *B2B Procedures* and other matters which are incidental to effective and efficient *B2B Communications*.

Metering Representative

A person nominated and elected as a *Representative* by *Metering Representative Voters* to represent *Metering Representative Voters* in accordance with the *Rules* (including clause 7.17.10(e)) and *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

Metering Representative Voters

Metering Coordinators, Metering Providers and Metering Data Providers.

ordinary majority

60% of the number of *Representatives* (rounded up to the next whole number).

Retailer Representative

A person nominated and elected as a *Representative* by *Retailer Representative Voters* to represent *Retailer Representative Voters* in accordance with the *Rules* (including clause 7.17.10(d)) and *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

Retailer Representative Voters

Retailers and Local Retailers.

super majority

70% of the number of *Representatives* (rounded up to the next whole number).

Third Party B2B Participant

A *B2B e-Hub Participant* who is not also a *Distribution Network Service Provider, retailer, Local Retailer, Metering Coordinator, Metering Provider or Metering Data Provider*.

Third Party B2B Participant Representative

A person who is nominated and elected as a *Discretionary Representative* by *Third Party B2B Participants* to represent *Third Party B2B Participants* in accordance with the *Rules* (including clause 7.17.10(f)(2)) and the *Retail Industry Panel Election Procedures*.

Voter Category means:

- (a) in respect of the *Distribution Network Service Provider Representative, Distribution Network Service Providers;*

- (b) in respect of the *Retail Representative, Retailer Representative Voters*, collectively;
- (c) respect of the *Metering Representative, Metering Representative Voters*, collectively;
- (d) in respect of *Third Party B2B Participant Representative, Third Party B2B Participants*; and
- (e) in respect of an *Independent Representative, Distribution Network Service Providers, Retailer Member Voters, Metering Member Voters and Third Party B2B Participants*, collectively.

[13] Substituted Chapter 10 definitions

In Chapter 10, substitute the following definitions:

B2B Communications

Communications between *B2B Parties* relating to an end-user or *supply* to an end-user, provided for in the *B2B Procedures*.

B2B Decision

A decision of AEMO to approve or not approve a *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*.

B2B Determination Dispute

A dispute in relation to either a *B2B Decision* or a *Retail Industry Panel Recommendation*.

B2B e-Hub

An electronic information exchange platform established, operated and maintained by AEMO to facilitate *B2B Communications*.

B2B Principles

The following Principles:

- (a) *B2B Procedures* should provide a uniform approach to *B2B Communications* in *participating jurisdictions*;
- (b) *B2B Procedures* should detail operational and procedural matters and technical requirements that result in efficient, effective and reliable *B2B Communications*;
- (c) *B2B Procedures* should avoid unreasonable discrimination between *B2B Parties*; and
- (d) *B2B Procedures* should protect the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.

B2B Procedures

The B2B Procedures made under Part H with the content required under clause 7.17.3.

B2B Proposal

A proposal for *B2B Procedures*, or a change to the *B2B Procedures*, which is the subject of consultation by the *Retail Industry Panel*.

Registered Participant

A person who is registered by AEMO in any one or more of the categories listed in rules 2.2 to 2.7 (in the case of a person who is registered by AEMO as a *Trader*, such a person is only a *Registered Participant* for the purposes referred to in rule 2.5A). However:

- (a1) as set out in rule 2.11.1A, for the purposes of rule 2.11 only, *Third Party B2B Participants* are also deemed to be *Registered Participants*;
- (a) as set out in clause 8.2.1(a1), for the purposes of some provisions of rule 8.2 only, *AEMO, Connection Applicants, Metering Providers* and *Metering Data Providers* who are not otherwise *Registered Participants* are also deemed to be *Registered Participants*; and
- (b) as set out in clause 8.6.1A, for the purposes of Part C of Chapter 8 only, *Metering Providers, Metering Data Providers* and *Third Party B2B Participants* who are not otherwise *Registered Participants* are also deemed to be *Registered Participants*.

[14] Omitted Chapter 10 definitions

In Chapter 10, omit the following definitions:

- *B2B Objective*;
- *B2B Data*;
- *B2B Procedures Change Pack*;
- *Distribution Network Service Provider Member*;
- *Information Exchange Committee*;
- *Information Exchange Committee Annual Report*;
- *Information Exchange Committee Election Procedures*;
- *Information Exchange Committee Operating Manual*;
- *Information Exchange Committee Recommendation*;
- *Information Exchange Committee Working Groups*;
- *Information Exchange Committee Works Programme*;
- *Independent Member*;
- *Member*; and
- *Local Retailer/Market Customer Member*.