Information Exchange Committee
C/ - IEC Secretariat – AEMO Ltd

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Information Exchange Committee (IEC) Annual Report

Period ending 31 December 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Electricity Rules (NER), requires the Information Exchange Committee (IEC) to develop and publish an Annual Report[1] covering:

- A review of the performance of the IEC functions during the year, including significant issues considered, work undertaken, the IEC Work Programme and status of that work;
- Details of changes to B2B Procedures, the reason for those changes and an assessment of the impact of those changes;
- Outline the key priorities and strategic objectives for the future; and
- An indicative schedule of meetings for the upcoming year and an indicative plan of key deliverables for the upcoming year.

The IEC is also responsible for developing, consulting, and making recommendations on changes to the electricity retail market B2B Procedures[2]. The Committee and its B2B Working Group (B2B-WG) respond to reform initiatives affecting the operation of B2B Procedures in the electricity retail market, and initiate specific, continuous improvement programs to enhance retail market B2B business processes.

This report summarises key accomplishments for 2022 and considers the strategic themes for 2023.

2. IEC STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022

Toward the end of 2021, the IEC outlined a forward work program anticipated for 2022. This program of work is reflected in the following tables and provided a guide for IEC meeting agendas and the broader work program for the committee and its B2B-WG during the year.

IEC Meeting 2022	Agenda Item	Description
February	Current Chair, Energy Consumer and AEMO Discretionary Members final meeting	Current Chair, Energy Consumer and AEMO Discretionary Members terms expire on 1 March 2022. IEC and AEMO to consider existing appointments.
	Finalisation of IEC budget	Final budget for IEC for 2022-23 to be tabled.
	Update on current B2B Consultation	Overview of the first 2022 Consultation.
	Update on Customer Data Right (CDR)	Business to Market (B2M) Consultation on CDR due to commence in CAL YR 2022.
	Update on MSATS Standing Review (MSDR)	Overview of the MSDR and the two tranches for delivery in 2022.
	Chair, Energy Consumer and AEMO Discretionary Members	First meeting for Chair, Energy Consumer and AEMO Discretionary Members appointed from 1 March 2022-2023

[1] NER 7.17.7(b)
[2] NER 7.16.1 (c)

IEC Meeting 2022	Agenda Item	Description
May	AEMC Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services	Update on AEMC's re-start in relation to its review and timelines for completion
	Update on CDR	Progress on B2M Consultation and CDR
	Discussion on next round of B2B Consultation	Matters to be included in the consultation to be discussed with IEC
	Initial overview of ESB NEM2025 reforms	Overview of NEM2025 reform initiatives
August	Update on preparation for B2B v3.7	Update for IEC on industry preparation for the introduction of B2B v3.7 on 7 November 2022.
	AEMC Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services	Overview of the final decisions from the AEMC and any impacts on B2B procedures or system
	Update on CDR	Update on CDR
November	Draft Annual Report 2022	For consideration by the IEC
	Draft IEC Budget 2023-24	For consideration by the IEC

3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2022

The B2B-WG and the IEC have continued to engage and consult with industry on a number of procedural, guide and system uplifts over the year.

The retail regulatory environment continues to change at a rapid pace with work programs extending over 2023 and into the foreseeable future at this stage with the proposed NEM2025 reforms. The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) continues to receive rule change requests from a wide range of interested stakeholders relating both to electricity wholesale and retail markets.

The following sections provide an overview of the key considerations before the IEC and its B2B-WG over 2022.

3.1 B2B Procedures v3.8 Consultation

In December 2021, the B2B-WG presented the Shared Fused Notification and the Coincident Service Order change proposals to the IEC with two solutions identified:

- Single service order Notified Party proposal; and
- Two-service order proposal.

In assessing the Coincident Service Order change proposals, the IEC identified further questions to be answered and requested the B2B-WG to develop a change pack based on the two proposals to address the questions posed by the IEC. Both of these solutions were presented for consultation, with the final determination made to implement the single service order Notified Party proposal.

The Changes resulted in amendments to:

- Service Order Process.
- One Way Notification Process.
- Technical Delivery Specification.
- B2B Guide.

3.2 Introduction of B2B Procedures v3.7

On November 7, 2022, the B2B procedures were updated to include a number of enhancements and system changes made to the B2B Electricity Validation Module and B2B Web Service. Changes included:

- Removal of unstructured address for site address information
- Add Section and Deposited Plan (DP) Number address requirements
- Section on Coincident Service Orders for MPBs
- Update requirements for NameTitleField
- Update requirements for PersonNameGiven Field

3.3 Change proposals received by the IEC

Any person (other than the IEC) may propose a change to the B2B Procedures by providing a change proposal to the IEC in writing. Three change proposals were received by the IEC in 2022, which are described in Table 1.

Table 1 Change proposals received by the IEC in 2022

IEC change proposal	Proponent	IEC decision
B2B field lengths	Origin Energy	To be updated post meeting with the relevant decision
B2B Address Field Lengths	AGL	To be updated post meeting with the relevant decision
B2B RoLR Procedure Updates	Origin Energy	To be updated post meeting with the relevant decision

3.4 Changes to B2B Procedures and B2B Guide

Based on the work generated by the change requests endorsed by the IEC from change requests submitted during 2021, the following changes were consulted on with participants during the year.

Table 2 Changes to B2B Procedures and B2B Guide consulted on in 2022

B2B Procedures Version	Status (at end of 2022)	Description of changes
B2B Procedures v3.7	Effective Date 07 Nov 2022	• Removal of unstructured address for site address information

B2B Procedures Version	Status (at end of 2022)	Description of changes
		• Add Section and Deposited Plan (DP) Number address requirements • Section on Coincident Service Orders for MPBs • Update requirements for NameTitleField • Update requirements for PersonNameGiven Field
B2B Procedures v3.8	Effective Date 30 May 2023	• Updated to include changes for Coincident Service Orders – Notified Party and • the CSV and aseXML OWN Shared Fuse Notification

3.5 IEC submissions to AEMC

The AEMC is continuing its Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services which began in early December 2020. The draft report for the Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services was published by the AEMC on 3 November 2022. The draft outlines the following key recommendations:

- Acceleration of the rollout of smart meters to 100% uptake by 2030
- Enhancement of existing metering arrangement
- Support of customers through the transition of the acceleration of smart meter deployment
- Unlocking new customer benefits including access of power quality data

The IEC will continue to liaise with the AEMC during its review to provide strategic input relating to B2B matters.

3.6 Regulatory environment

The IEC remains conscious that the B2B consultations continue occurring in an environment of rapid regulatory reform within the energy sector. The Energy Security Board (ESB) in conjunction with AEMO, the AEMC and the AER have proposed a suite of reforms to be implemented over the forward work programs, many of which will have implications for B2B systems.

Table 3 outlines a number of proposed or upcoming regulatory changes that are currently in the public domain. These changes will not impact all participants equally, with variation by participant category and jurisdictions (in some cases).

Table 3 National Electricity Market proposed retail regulatory changes

Reform	Effective date
Embedded Networks	To be confirmed, currently under review by Energy Minister's (formerly the COAG Energy Council)

Reform	Effective date
AEMC Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services	Review commenced December 2020 with the Draft Report published 3 November 2022. Any changes to B2B procedures or system will be proposed at the finalisation of the review with effective date/s to be agreed by the IEC
ESB NEM2025 Initiatives	Progressive rule changes under development from 2021 onwards.
Integrating Energy Storage Systems	B2B Consultation first half 2023

4. B2B-WG ACTIVITES AND ENGAGEMENT

2022 continued to be a busy year for the B2B-WG. The B2B-WG continues to develop plausible solutions and improvements to the challenges arising in the electricity industry. This work and any consultation deemed necessary by the IEC will continue in 2023.

The membership of the B2B-WG is provided at **Appendix C.**

The IEC wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of B2B-WG members in providing strategic advice to the IEC and outworking the ongoing changes to the B2B procedures and framework.

5. OBJECTIVES AND PRIOIRTIES FOR 2023

As noted in Section 2 of this report, the IEC identified a number of priorities for 2022. 2023 will continue to challenge the electricity retail sector. Whilst some of the upcoming implementations do not have an impact on the B2B platform, they still pose additional challenges for market participants working within this continuously evolving sector.

As previously noted, the AEMC has published the Draft Report for its Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services. The IEC intends to continue to engage with the AEMC on these matters.

The IEC will continue to monitor the appropriateness of these within the context of the significant change occurring in the electricity retail sector in the near future. This period within the sector continues to remain strategically important and challenging in the delivery of the speed of the reforms that are underway.

The proposed IEC meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:

- 27 February;
- 29 May;
- 28 August; and
- 27 November.

The IEC has a broad remit in relation to development and engagement on electricity B2B processes with industry. **Appendix A** provides a summary of the IEC roles and responsibilities under Chapter 7 of the National Electricity Rules.

6. IEC APPOINTMENTS

6.1 IEC nominations for elected member roles

Elected members (distributor, retailer, metering and third-party members) are appointed through a nomination and election (voting) process. The consumer member, discretionary members and the AEMO member (Chairperson) are appointed by AEMO.

In December 2021 the IEC Secretariat (AEMO) on request of the IEC Chair, extended an offer to existing discretionary members to extend their IEC term by a further 12 months. The following IEC discretionary positions were due to expire on 1 March 2022:

- Distributor
- Retailer
- Embedded Networks
- Energy Consumer

The below positions continue to remain vacant:

- Metering
- Third Party (vacant role at the time of the election)

After the resignation of Emma Youill, the discretionary distributor member, the IEC Secretariat followed the process as set out in the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual including industry emails and AEMO weekly communications calling for nominations for the role. No nominations were received and this position continues to remain vacant.

In February 2022 the IEC Secretariat followed the process as set out in the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual including industry emails and AEMO weekly communications calling for nominations for the following IEC elected positions due to expire on 31 August 2022:

- Retail Member
- Metering Member
- Distribution Member

Single nominations were received for the IEC member representatives for the distributor and retailer categories, with two nominations for the metering category. Given only one nomination was received for the retail and distribution member category, no voting was required and these nominees were appointed without election. The IEC Secretariat followed the process as set out in the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual to hold an election between the two nominations received for the metering member category, the nominee with majority vote was appointed.

After the resignation of Carly Irving as the elected metering member in July 2022, the IEC Secretariat followed the process as set out in the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual calling for nominations for the elected metering member category. A single nomination was received and appointed without election.

6.2 Current IEC members and meeting attendance

Appendix B provides a full list of IEC members and their current terms, and **Appendix D** provides a summary of members' (or their alternate) attendance at each of the IEC meetings for 2022.

The IEC note that it is not practical for all participants with an interest in retail market operations to be members of the Committee and accordingly undertakes an open and transparent process in relation to Committee functions. Supporting this:

- Meeting packs and minutes are distributed directly via email to B2B-WG members; and
- Meeting packs and minutes are made available publicly through the AEMO website following endorsement of the meeting minutes by Committee members.

7. KEY CONTACTS

Market participants with an interest in the IEC operations or particular agenda items or issues are encouraged to participate. Please contact the IEC Secretariat to discuss your requirements or make suitable arrangements.

Secretariat functions for the IEC are provided by AEMO. The Secretariat may be contacted on IEC@aemo.com.au.

8. IEC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The IEC acknowledges and thanks electricity market participants, the B2B-WG and AEMO in continuing to collaborate in the identification, development and delivery of the ongoing B2B reforms underway within the sector.

Appendix A – IEC roles and responsibilities

Section 7.17 of the National Electricity Rules outline the role and functions of the IEC which includes:

- Development, consultation on, and making of IEC recommendations to AEMO on amendments to the B2B Procedures;
- Management of the ongoing development of the B2B Procedures;
- Establishment of IEC working groups;
- Review and consideration of the work completed by IEC working groups;
- Development, consultation on, and approval of the IEC Work Programme (a program that outlines the development, implementation and operation of the B2B Procedures and other matters incidental to effective and efficient B2B communication);
- Development of amendments to the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual;
- By 31 December each year, preparation of an IEC Annual Report which is to be provided to AEMO, by 31 March each year, for publication;
- By 28 February each year, preparation of a draft budget for the following financial year in a form consistent with the budget procedures of AEMO; and
- By 1 March, the IEC is to discuss and provide the budget to AEMO. As part of its budget process, AEMO must advise the IEC of the final budget.

In development new or amended B2B Procedures, the IEC and B2B-WG is to take into consideration the B2B Principles and Objectives as outlined in Chapter 10 of the National Electricity Rules. These are outlined below:

- B2B 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 factors (objectives):
  a. The reasonable costs of compliance by AEMO and B2B Parties with the B2B Procedures compared with the likely benefits from B2B Communications;
  b. The likely impacts on innovation in and barriers to entry to the markets for services facilitated by advanced meters resulting from changing the existing B2B Procedures; and
  c. The implementation timeframe reasonably necessary for AEMO and B2B Parties to implement systems or other changes required to be compliant with any change to existing B2B Procedures.

Appendix B – 2022 IEC Members

Member category	IEC members nominated	Appointment period
Chair	Mr Kee Wong AEMO Director	12 months 01 November 2022 – 31 October 2022
Chair	Mr John Pittard AEMO Director	12 months 1 Mar 21 – 06 Sept 2022 Resigned 06 Sept 2022
Distributor	Mr Peter Price Executive General Manager Energy Queensland	2 years 1 Sept 20 – 31 Aug 22
Distributor	Mr Luke Jenner Chief Operating Officer Essential Energy	2 years 1 Sept 22 – 31 Aug 24
Retailer	Mr David Markham Corporate Affairs Australian Energy Council	2 years 1 Sept 20 – 31 Aug 22
Retailer	Ms Stefanie Monaco Manager Regulatory Affairs Red Energy & Lumo Energy	2 years 1 Sept 20 – 31 Aug 22
Metering	Ms Carly Irving Executive General Manager Yurika	2 years 3 months 05 May 2022 – 31 Aug 24 Resigned 19 July 2022
Metering	Mr Paul Greenwood Industry Development Lead Vector Metering	2 years 27 Days 4 Aug 22 – 31 Aug 24
Third Party	Vacant	No nominations received
Energy Consumer	Brian Spak Energy Consumers Australia	12 months 1 Mar 22 – 28 Feb 23
Discretionary (retail)	Mr Peter Van Loon Telstra Energy	12 months 1 Mar 22 – 28 Feb 23
Discretionary (distributor)	Ms Emma Youill General Manager AusNet Services	12 months 1 Mar 22 – 28 Feb 23 Resigned 31 Mar 2022
Discretionary (distributor)	Vacant	No nominations received
Discretionary (embedded networks)	Mr Marco Bogaers Executive Director Metropolis	12 months 1 Mar 22 – 28 Feb 23

Appendix C – 2022 B2B Working Group Members

Member category/ role	IEC members nominated	Organisation
Chair	Blaine Miner	AEMO
Secretariat	Nandu Datar	AEMO
Distribution Sector Representation	Adrian Honey	TasNetworks
	David Woods	South Australia Power Networks
	Graeme Ferguson	Essential Energy
	Justin Betlehem	Ausnet Services
	Robert Mitchell	Energy Queensland
Retail Sector Representation	Aakash Sembey	Origin Energy
	Christophe Bechia	Red Energy
	Mark Riley	AGL
	Jo Sullivan	Energy Australia
	Robert Lo Giudice	Alinta Energy
Competitive Metering Sector Representation	Paul Greenwood	Vector AMS
	Helen Vassos	Plus ES
	Wayne Farrell	Yurika
	Carla Adolfo	Intellihub
	Vacant	

Appendix D – IEC Members 2022 Meeting Attendance

Member	Company	Member Category	28 Feb	30 May	Out of Session 27 April	06 September	28 November
John Pittard	AEMO	AEMO Chairperson	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Kee Wong	AEMO	AEMO Non-Executive Director				Attended	
Peter Price	Energy Queensland	Distributor representative	Attended	Apology	Attended	Attended	
Luke Jenner	Essential Energy	Distributor representative				Apology	
David Markham	Australia Energy Council	Retailer representative	Attended	Attended	Apology Alternate attended: Stefanie Monaco	Attended	
Stefanie Monaco	Red Energy & Lumo Energy	Retailer representative				Attended	
Brian Spak	Energy Consumer Australia	Consumer representative	Apology	Apology	Apology	Attended	
Carly Irving	Yurika	Metering representative		Attended	Apology		
Paul Greenwood	Vector Metering	Metering representative				Attended	
Peter Van Loon	Telstra Energy	Discretionary retailer representative	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	

Member	Company	Member Category	28 Feb	30 May	Out of Session 27 April	06 September	28 November
Marco Bogaers	Metropolis	Discretionary embedded networks representative	Apologies	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Emma Youill	AusNet Services	Discretionary distributor representative	Attended				
Vacant	Vacant	Discretionary distributor representative		-	-	-	-
Vacant	Vacant	Third Party (elected) Representative	-	-	-	-	-

IEC Members 2022 Meeting Attendance – Additional Attendees

IEC Meeting Attendance	Company	Role	28 Feb	30 May	Out of Session 27 April	06 September	28 November
B2B Working Group	B2B Working Group	Representative	Helen Vassos Plus Es	Mark Riley AGL	-	Helen Vassos PLUS ES	Mark Riley AGL
Secretariat	AEMO	Secretariat	Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon	Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon	Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon	Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon Blaine Miner	Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon Blaine Miner