INFORMATION EXCHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING

FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION REGARDING THE ALIGNMENT OF FIELD LENGTHS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE NEM ROLR PROCESSES PART B - B2B PROCEDURE

AGENDA ITEM: 7

1. PURPOSE

To inform and seek support from the Information Exchange Committee (IEC) regarding the Business to Business (B2B) Working Group's recommendation to:

- Align B2B transaction field lengths to the Australia Standard (AS4590 -2017) and the current Business to Market (B2M) Market Settlement and Transfer Solutions (MSATS) procedures
- Correct identified errors in the National Electricity Market (NEM) Retailer of Last Resort (RoLR) Processes Part B - B2B Procedure.

2. SUMMARY

The B2B Working Group have identified:

- Some inconsistent field lengths between the existing B2B transactions, B2M MSATS fields and the Australia Standard (AS4590-2017)
- Some in-text referencing errors in section 104 of the NEM RoLR Processes Part B - B2B Procedure and some errors more broadly in certain subclauses of the procedure

3. BACKGROUND

a. Inconsistent field lengths:

i. B2M MSATS fields

Since the latest B2M schema was released in May 2022, some MSATS fields have been identified which have inconsistent field lengths to the equivalent fields supporting B2B transactions. Due to this issue, the field values may get truncated while using B2B transactions.

ii. Australia Standard (AS4590 - 2017)

The B2B Technical Specification Procedure references the 1999 version of the Australian Standard for Interchange of Client Information (AS 4590). However, the gas and electricity schemas per se only reference the Australian Standard, assuming the latest version is in use.

In 2017, AS4590 was amended and included updates to some addressing fields, which extended the field lengths. There were also some enumeration changes made (e.g. removal of Antarctica and replaced with Other Territories).

This means that external agencies (i.e., local governments, etc) can use addressing elements which the energy industry would need to truncate as part of sharing that information.

b. Retailer of Last Resort Procedure changes:

Version 2.3 of the NEM RoLR Processes Part B - B2B Procedure requires changes to some of the in-text referencing in section 104 as well as broadening obligations to correctly include other service providers in certain procedure subclauses as per current practices.

4. ISSUES

a. Inconsistent field lengths:

Due to the misalignment between the B2B transactions, MSATS field lengths and the Australia Standard (AS4590 - 2017), truncation in B2B transactions may occur. This truncation would impact the data quality contained within:

- Service Order Request transactions
- Customer Site and Details transactions
- Site Access Notification transactions

The proposed alignment, as contained in the Issues and Change Form (ICF) in Attachments 1 and 2, is expected to:

- Remove existing manual email processes between Participants
- Support improved customer experience
- Reduce failed service orders and other associated customer issues
- Result in more efficient, effective and reliable B2B Communications

b. Retailer of Last Resort Procedure changes:

The change proposal contained in the ICF in Attachment 3 aims to:

- Provide clarity to participants on their obligations during a RoLR event
- Correct clause referencing to avoid ambiguity for Participants while following procedural requirements.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the IEC directs the B2B Working Group to prepare a consultation change pack to support the:

- Alignment of the field lengths between the B2B transactions, MSATS and the Australia Standard (AS4590-2017)
- Correction of errors/omissions in the NEM RoLR Processes Part B - B2B Procedure

AUTHOR NAME:	MARK RILEY (AGL) / AAKASH SEMBEY (OE)
APPROVED:	28 NOVEMBER 2022

ATTACHMENTS

1. B004-22 – Alignment of the B2B Field Lengths to AS 4590 ICF
2. B002-22 – B2B & B2M field & field length alignment ICF
3. B003-22 – B2B Retailer of Last Resort (RoLR) Processes (Part B) Updates ICF