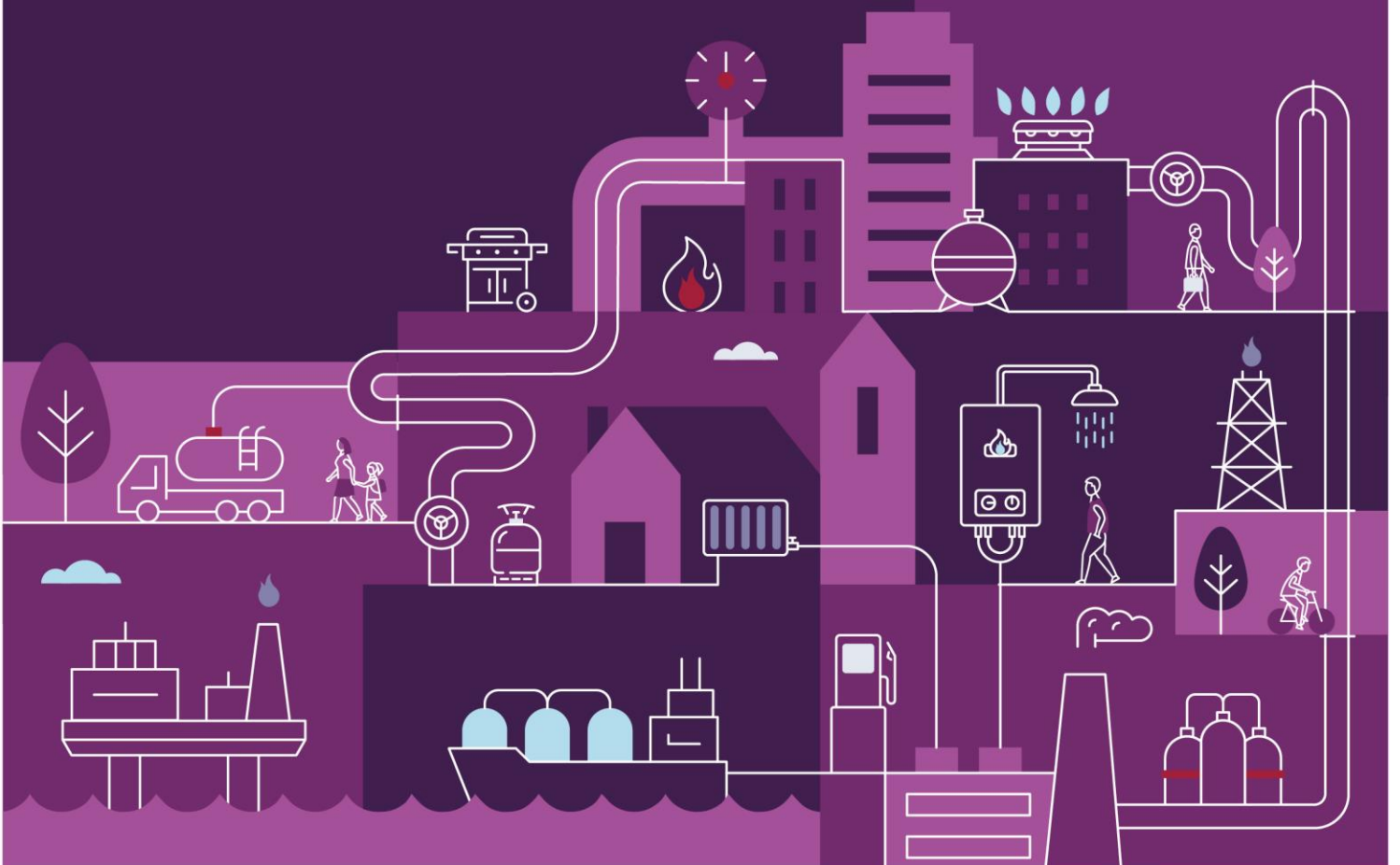


# Gas Bulletin Board Biennial Report

December 2022

A biennial review into the Gas  
Bulletin Board





# Important notice

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# Executive summary

This Biennial Report provides a review of the Gas Bulletin Board (GBB) and an assessment of the functionality, usability, and effectiveness of the GBB website. As required by the National Gas Rules, AEMO has prepared this report in consultation with GBB users, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) and has made recommendations for the future.

## Work program over the review period

Within the review period (October 2020 to September 2022), the GBB did not undergo any major changes. The new Data (GBB) section was released, and the removal of the 'Data portal' saw the implementation of high functionality charts and easy to download tables.

The Measures to Improve Transparency in the Gas Market (Gas Transparency Measures) enhancements did not commence within the review period as initially anticipated, but are expected to be implemented in early 2023.

## Stakeholder consultation and desktop review

For this review, AEMO:

- Prepared an online survey and received 17 responses from GBB users and other relevant stakeholders.
- Undertook 3 one-on-one interviews with targeted stakeholders for in-depth discussions.
- Engaged with the Gas Wholesale Consultative Forum (GWCF).
- Undertook a desktop review of updates on the GBB, including an assessment of the website statistics.

Stakeholder interest in this review was considerably lower than for the previous review undertaken in 2020. AEMO believes that this was due to two factors:

- The timing of the consultations, which coincided with high gas prices and market events in winter 2022.
- The anticipated introduction of the Gas Transparency Measures, which will bring significant changes to the GBB.

## Future work program

The GBB will see major change through the implementation of the Gas Transparency Measures, with the addition of new reporting data categories and a larger cohort of GBB users and data submitters. Details on these changes are discussed in Section 2.2.

AEMO will continue to work closely with all GBB stakeholders to deliver and provide a clear and functional GBB into the future.

## Consultation findings

GBB users surveyed during this review were generally positive about the usability of GBB and its effectiveness at communicating data. Stakeholders reported that:

- They regularly use the new charts on the GBB Data Dashboard for checking trends and found the improvement easy to use and navigate through the options.
- The interactive map is useful however more detail around connection points, new facilities and information on each pipeline are extras that could make the experience better.
- The performance of the GBB website is high and users experience an improved download time when extracting data through .CSV files.

However stakeholders also outlined areas for further improvement, and provided the following feedback to improve the presentation and features of the GBB:

- Continued enhancement of data aggregation and chart performance in the Data section.
- Improvements to the navigation experience when new Gas Transparency Measures data comes online.
- Additional education resources to improve ease of use and understanding of the GBB.
- Additional development of the interactive map to include topographical data and information about pipelines and facilities including their connection points.

## Recommendations

AEMO will not be making any recommendations resulting from the findings in this report. While AEMO is keen to progress further improvements to the GBB, the implementation of the Gas Transparency Measures marks a significant change and its effectiveness needs to be assessed before any further enhancements are committed to.



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# 1 Overview

This Biennial Report provides an overview of the operation of the Gas Bulletin Board (GBB) during the review period and recommendations to improve the usability and effectiveness of the GBB.

AEMO operates the GBB website<sup>1</sup> to provide both historical and forward-looking information on all gas facilities and pipeline networks in Australia (except Western Australia<sup>2</sup>). The GBB was established in mid-2008 under the National Gas Law (NGL) and the National Gas Rules (NGR).

All reports and data uploaded on major gas transmission pipelines, production facilities, storage facilities and demand centres are available on the GBB for interested parties to view and download.

## 1.1 Scope of the 2022 Biennial Report

In accordance with NGR 149, the biennial review is to assess and review the functionality and effectiveness of the GBB including any reforms over the previous two years and identify potential enhancements for the future. Specifically, AEMO is required to consult with GBB users, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) to prepare a report that contains:

- a summary of AEMO's program of work to maintain the Bulletin Board over the review period and on a forward-looking basis;
- performance and usage statistics;
- any recommendations for change; and
- any other information that AEMO considers relevant.

## 1.2 Review process

This review, in accordance with the scope, covers the period from 30 September 2020 to 29 September 2022. To conduct the review, AEMO:

- Issued an online survey to the Gas Wholesale Consultative Forum (GWCF) participant distribution list and other relevant stakeholders to seek a broad range of commentary on specific areas of the GBB. AEMO received 17 responses. Participants in the survey were invited to participate in one-on-one interviews; three stakeholders volunteered. From these interviews, AEMO was able to investigate specific issues through in-depth discussions.
- Periodically engaged with the GWCF and other relevant stakeholders on the progress of the review, which included feedback from the AEMC and AER.
- Analysed website statistics and specific download data from the GBB to assess the success of usability and changes to the website work programs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/gas/gas-bulletin-board-gbb>.

<sup>2</sup> The Western Australian jurisdiction is covered under a different set of regulatory instruments, and a separate Gas Bulletin Board (called the WA Gas Bulletin Board) is in place for reporting.

- Reviewed changes to the GBB website.

## 1.3 Types of users

This review has used the categories identified in the 2020 Biennial Report, which are:

- GBB reporting entities – facility operators obliged by the NGR to register to the GBB and submit data and information at prescribed intervals (daily, monthly, annually, and ad hoc). Many facility operators manage numerous assets and use automated software (either in-house or third-party) to submit data. Once submitted, data must pass validation to be accepted by AEMO systems. Many who supply data only use the GBB occasionally, if at all, to download data relating to other facilities.
- Market participants – facility operators, retailers, shippers, large users and brokers who download the data through automated systems or directly from the website. Generally, these are irregular users of the GBB who look for specific reports or to confirm information.
- Other interested parties - consultants, on-sellers of information, government, media and energy regulatory bodies (including AEMO) interested in the information held on the GBB. Some automatically download the data and analyse the data through in-house tools, but many usually access data through the GBB website. These users will range from those looking for a specific piece of information or to perform a specific piece of analysis from the data in an ad hoc manner through to more intensive users who will be performing detailed analysis on the data.

## 1.4 Gas Bulletin Board website

The GBB exists through the data exchange between Participants and the GBB where the Participants are submitting or retrieving data or data reports to/from the GBB. Facilities in the gas market who meet the threshold set out in the NGR must register and report this range of information for the GBB.

The reports are primarily used by business users and IT developers who are designing systems that interface with the GBB. Users can extract GBB data using an automated data interchange or application programming interfaces (APIs) and load the data into their own systems.

AEMO's website hosts the GBB which, since 2020, contains the following pages:

1. Data (GBB)
2. Procedures, policies and guides.
3. Register in the GBB – for new GBB reporting entities.
4. GBB facility registration – for reporting entities registering new facilities.

### 1.4.1 Data (GBB)

This section of the website contains all the information required to be published by the NGR in one central area. There are several options for users to view and consume information:

1. An interactive map which displays high level information about current gas system operations.
2. A data dashboard for viewing visual trends in gas production, pipeline deliveries and storage levels.

3. A data portal for users to download detailed files outlining forecast and historical flows, capacities and storage levels.
4. A page containing standing data, reports and other gas market information, such as market notices for liquified natural gas (LNG) maintenance and pipeline capacity trading

Bulletin board users also have the option to extract GBB data using AEMO's data interchange and APIs. This enables data to be loaded automatically into a participant's systems for analysis. AEMO provides guidance to GBB participants to configure this exchange of information on the AEMO API webpage<sup>3</sup>.

All information relating to GBB facilities is available in this section of the GBB, including:

- Detailed connection point information and contact details.
- Actual and nominated gas flows of pipelines, production facilities, storage and compression facilities.
- Nameplate information, short-term and medium-term outlook capacities, linepack adequacy, connection point capacities, uncontracted capacity outlooks and shipper lists.

### 1.4.2 Procedures, policies and guides

This section hosts the procedures, policies and guides which govern the GBB. Information in this section includes the GBB Procedures, Submission Guide, Reports Guide, and allocation methodology. The GBB FAQs and other useful guides to help navigate the GBB and its data including help on the map are all located in this section.

### 1.4.3 Register in the GBB

Registration activities for GBB reporting entities and GBB Shippers are outlined on this page. It provides the administrative information, documents, and processes for participating in the GBB.

### 1.4.4 GBB facility registration

This section provides the details for a Bulletin Board facility or Part 24 facility to register in the GBB, including exemptions and eligibility for exemptions.

### 1.4.5 Other information

Other information which AEMO stores on the GBB includes:

- Capacity trading information such as off-market trades.
- Reports on compliance audits for missing or late data.
- Changes to registration or other notices to provide updates from reporting entities.
- The previous Biennial Reports published in accordance with NGR 149 (under procedure, policies, and guides).
- Archived data (under Data (GBB) titled [GBB data 2008 - 2018](#)).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://dev.aemo.com.au/>.



## 2 Updates to the GBB

The appearance of the GBB and its value to the market participants begins with incremental changes. From 2020 to 2022, updates have been made to both the front-facing elements of the GBB website and the systems that power the GBB.

### 2.1 Program of work over the review period

Within the review period, the GBB did not undergo any major changes. There was the release of the new Data (GBB) section, and removal of the 'Data portal', which saw the implementation of high functionality charts and easy to download tables. More detailed information on the content and functionality of the new Data section is covered in Section 1.4.1.

### 2.2 Gas Transparency Measures

On 30 June 2022, the South Australian Minister for Energy made the National Gas Amendment (Market Transparency) Rule 2022 following the progression of the Gas Transparency Measures package through South Australian Parliament<sup>4</sup>. A new set of procedures and guides were issued for consultation by AEMO, and a Notice of Decision was published on 5 October 2022<sup>5</sup>.

These measures seek to enhance transparency in the eastern and northern Australian gas markets, addressing information gaps and asymmetries relating to gas and infrastructure prices, supply and availability of gas, gas demand, and infrastructure used to supply gas to end-markets.

The Measures to Improve Transparency in the Gas Market (Gas Transparency Measures, or GTM)<sup>6</sup> will be an instrumental change to the GBB.

Overall, this package of changes will be a large regulatory change for participants. The GBB, to the extent practicable, will be used to consult on and provide updates to the market procedures.

To implement these changes, the GBB will be required to include the following data:

- Large users (defined as >10 terajoules (TJ)/day), including owners of gas-fired generation, will need to register and submit daily consumption data and annual nameplate capacity.
- The existing three Queensland LNG plants will provide exported volumes of shipments.
- A requirement to report free on board (FOB) price of short-term (less than one year) supply agreements within one business day.
- Gas sellers to report price and key terms on the GBB for gas trades and gas swaps under 12 months and over 1 TJ within one business day.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.aemc.gov.au/regulation/energy-rules/national-gas-rules/gas-rules-made-south-australian-minister>

<sup>5</sup> See <https://aemo.com.au/consultations/current-and-closed-consultations/gas-transparency-measures>

<sup>6</sup> Regulatory amendments to increase transparency in the gas market, at <https://www.energy.gov.au/government-priorities/energy-ministers/energy-ministers-publications/regulatory-amendments-increase-transparency-gas-market>

- Existing capacity transactions reporting will be expanded to storage facilities and reported by capacity sellers.
- Annual reporting of reserves by gas field owners (1P, 2P, 3P, 2C developed and undeveloped).
- Reporting movement of 2P reserves over 12 months.
- Publishing of sensitivity of 2P estimates to 10% change in gas price, aggregated to participating jurisdiction and anonymised.
- Report details of proposed facility developments from facility developers.
- Uncontracted capacity extended to 36 months for all facilities (except LNG export and large users).
- Development status of fields and list of barriers to recovery.
- Nameplate materiality change for reporting changed to 5 TJ as the maximum and 10% of nameplate or 30 TJ for the minimum.

These changes are currently being implemented and reporting is expected to commence on 15 March 2023.

## 2.3 LNG maintenance notification improvements

The medium-term capacity outlook (MTCO) is a full information disclosure required for the outlook period of 12 months beyond the required short-term capacity outlook (STCO).

The upcoming GTM changes will provide an enhanced level of visibility of the LNG maintenance information relating to the operations of the market compared to what is currently available. These changes will address many of the identified information asymmetries by ensuring all market participants have access to the same information about scheduled LNG maintenance.

This improvement to LNG maintenance notification will require the GBB facility to meet its obligations through the existing mechanisms or via the MTCO submission functionality on the GBB website. This means a GBB facility will submit its MTCO for the outlook period of 12 months beyond the STCO which would include any LNG maintenance information.

Until the GTM are finalised, the GBB facilities affected by the authorisation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) dated 5 August 2021<sup>7</sup>, will continue to report on scheduled maintenance activities using the existing process on the GBB.

## 2.4 System updates and changes

AEMO notified GBB users of system updates and changes for the GBB website from December 2021. These changes were periodically introduced over the following six months. Due to the delay in the GTM legislation, the additional changes to existing functionality have not progressed as expected in the 2020 Biennial Report.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/public-registers/documents/Final%20Determination%20-%2005.08.21%20-%20PR%20-%20AA1000544%20APLNG.pdf>



### 2.4.1 Decommissioning of file transfer protocol (FTP)

The FTP is expected to be decommissioned in March 2023. Facility operators that submitted to the GBB via the FTP are required to move to API submissions<sup>8</sup> or manual Portal submissions<sup>9</sup>.

### 2.4.2 Decommissioning of the Data Portal on the GBB

AEMO decommissioned the old Data Portal in April 2022 following the updated website Data GBB page. The new page has static files available for download for both a current short-term view and all data from the GBB. The [archived](#) and new reports are still available on the GBB site through [nemweb.com.au](http://nemweb.com.au)<sup>10</sup>.

### 2.4.3 Other changes

- Addition of 'FacilityShortName' – the BB facilities<sup>11</sup> report now includes an AEMO-assigned FacilityShortName as well as the registered FacilityName.

## 2.5 Map updates

In the 2020 biennial review there were a variety of views among stakeholders regarding changes to, and effectiveness of, the map. While some considered the current map fit-for-purpose, many considered it to be too simplistic and wanted to see more facilities on the map, and some wanted a hover capability to find information and the ability to zoom in on sections of the map.

The 2020 Biennial Report recommended that topological data and more information about pipelines and facilities should be provided to enhance the clarity and value of the map. AEMO is working on detailed maps of Australian pipelines with a topography where pipelines, facilities and connections points are all included for each region and incorporated within the broader AEMO map<sup>12</sup>. Refer to Figure 1 below for the schematic map view of Moomba as an example for one of the regions; other regions will be made available once completed.

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<sup>8</sup> AEMO, Guide to AEMO's ehub APIs, at <https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/it-systems-and-change/2020/guide-to-aemos-ehub-apis.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> At <https://portal.prod.nemnet.net.au/#/>.

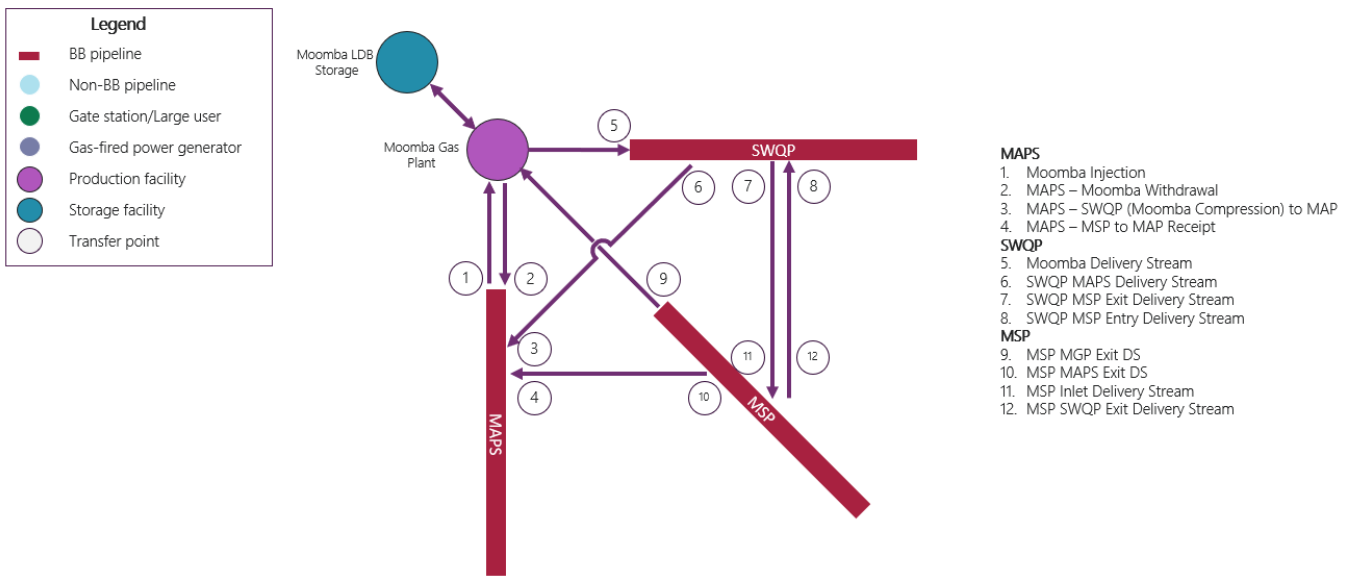
<sup>10</sup> AEMO, Gas BB Facilities report, at <http://nemweb.com.au/Reports/Current/GBB/GassBBFacilities.CSV>.

<sup>11</sup> AEMO, Gas BB Facilities report, at <http://nemweb.com.au/Reports/Current/GBB/GassBBFacilities.CSV>.

<sup>12</sup> AEMO Gas Bulletin Board Map, at <https://www.aemo.com.au/aemo/apps/visualisations/map.html>.



Figure 1 Schematic map view of Moomba storage facility



## 3 GBB development

The new GBB platform that was released in September 2018 represented significant enhancement from the previous GBB, with:

- A significant new amount of data.
- An increase in the number of participants that were submitting data.
- An uplift and new design for the user platform.

In the 2020 Biennial Report, AEMO reported that a key challenge for AEMO was to educate users on how to optimally utilise the large amount of data available in the GBB. Since then, AEMO has been implementing key feature help tips, more data sets explanations, easier to navigate sections, and improved data download performance.

The performance and usability of the GBB were rated high in the 2022 participant survey.

The GTM reform package will include data submitted to the GBB and data published by AEMO on the GBB which aim to address existing information gaps and asymmetries recognised in the gas markets and infrastructure used to supply gas to end-markets.



## 4 Consultation and analysis

This 2022 biennial review engaged with GBB users who visit the AEMO-hosted website most days. Through a survey, one-on-one interviews and the gas consultative forums, users highlighted information about where the GBB is working well, and where AEMO should concentrate future efforts.

While the GBB has not had significant changes since 2020, due to the delay in the implementation of the GTM, participants acknowledged the minor upgrades and usability improvements through the survey and discussions.

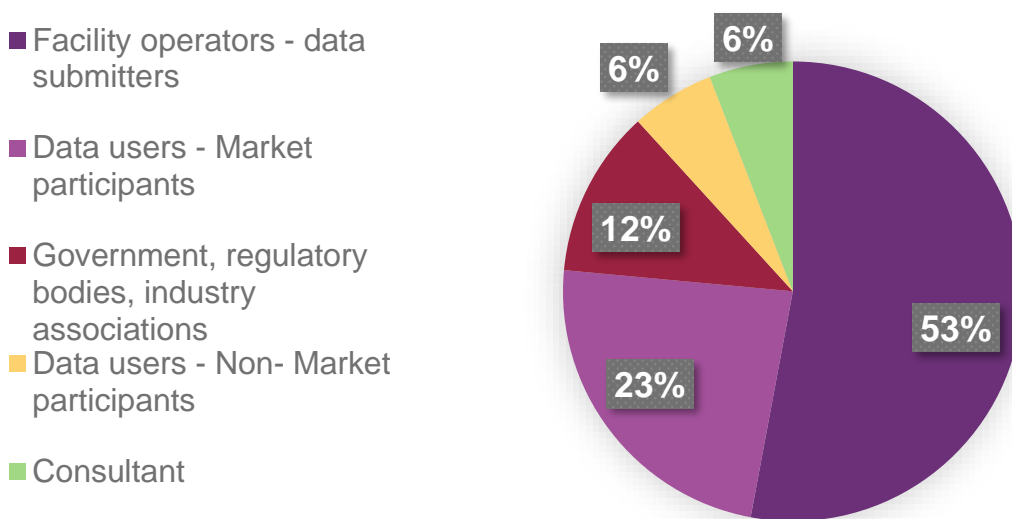
This section discusses both stakeholder feedback and analysis of the website performance and usage statistics, as well as a summary of suggested improvements.

### 4.1 Stakeholder survey

The survey ran for five weeks between May and June 2022 to collect insights from users on the usability and effectiveness of the GBB. There were also questions on market tools, such as the linepack target flag input, and on whether participants were aware of the upcoming GTM data requirements.

AEMO received 17 responses to the survey. Figure 2 shows a breakdown of the type of survey respondents.

**Figure 2** Type of Gas Bulletin Board (GBB) users



The level of engagement from participants was low compared to the previous review. AEMO understands following participant engagement that the level of activity being undertaken to reform east coast gas markets likely contributed to this outcome.

#### 4.1.1 Key findings

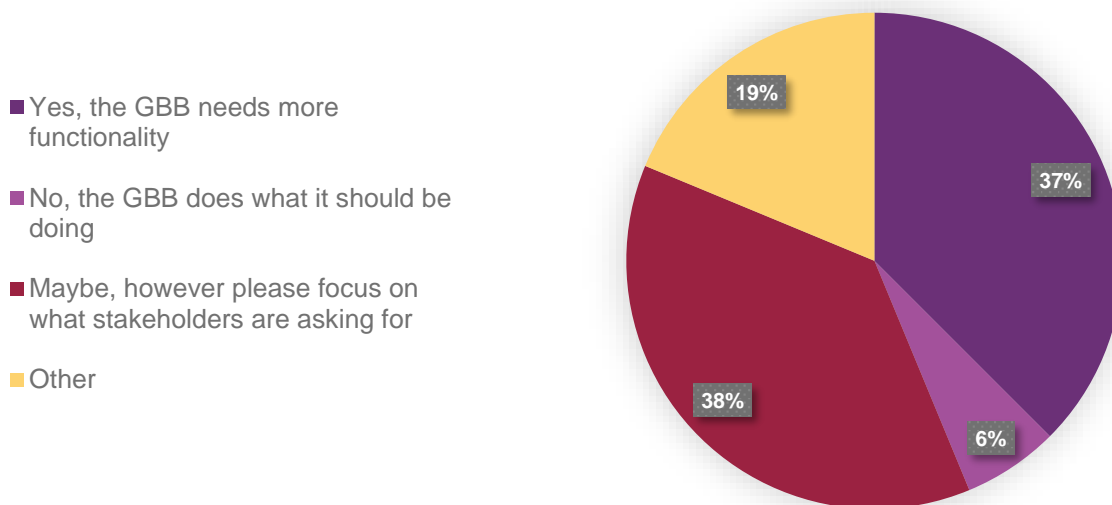
While it is difficult to draw too many conclusions from the results of the survey due to the low response rate, respondents gave the following answers:

- All respondents analyse the data from the GBB ‘in-house’ and access the GBB daily or weekly.
- 94% access the GBB through AEMO’s website, with some also accessing primarily through their own internal system or via both paths (53%).
- 40% believe AEMO should focus enhancements on what stakeholders are asking for and 76% would like more interactive charts and visualisations on the GBB.
- 67% of respondents think the new Data section on the GBB is an improvement.
- When asked if the linepack flags are an appropriate indication of the current pipeline operation, 60% said no and 40% answered yes.

When asked about the new Data section, most respondents agreed that it was a definite improvement, with some noting it could have been implemented better. However, in 2020, when asked how useable the GBB is, close to 90% of respondents indicated the GBB was useful or very useful.

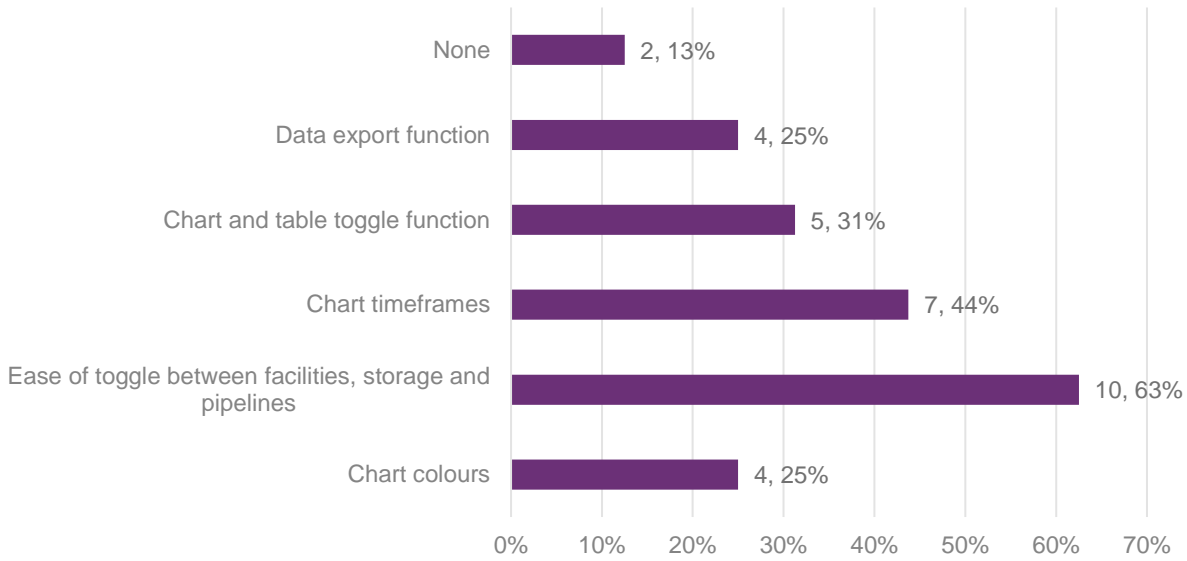
Respondents were asked to decide whether AEMO should continue enhancing the GBB from its current state. This question received six “yes” answers, because it needs more functionality, and six “maybe”, because AEMO should focus on what stakeholders are asking for. See Figure 3.

**Figure 3 Breakdown of whether AEMO should be enhancing the Gas Bulletin Board from its current state**



Features most liked on the new Data section of the GBB were the ease of toggle between facilities, storages, and pipelines (63%) and the chart timeframes (44%). Chart colours and chart/table toggle functions were also well received. For a breakdown of the most liked features, see Figure 4.

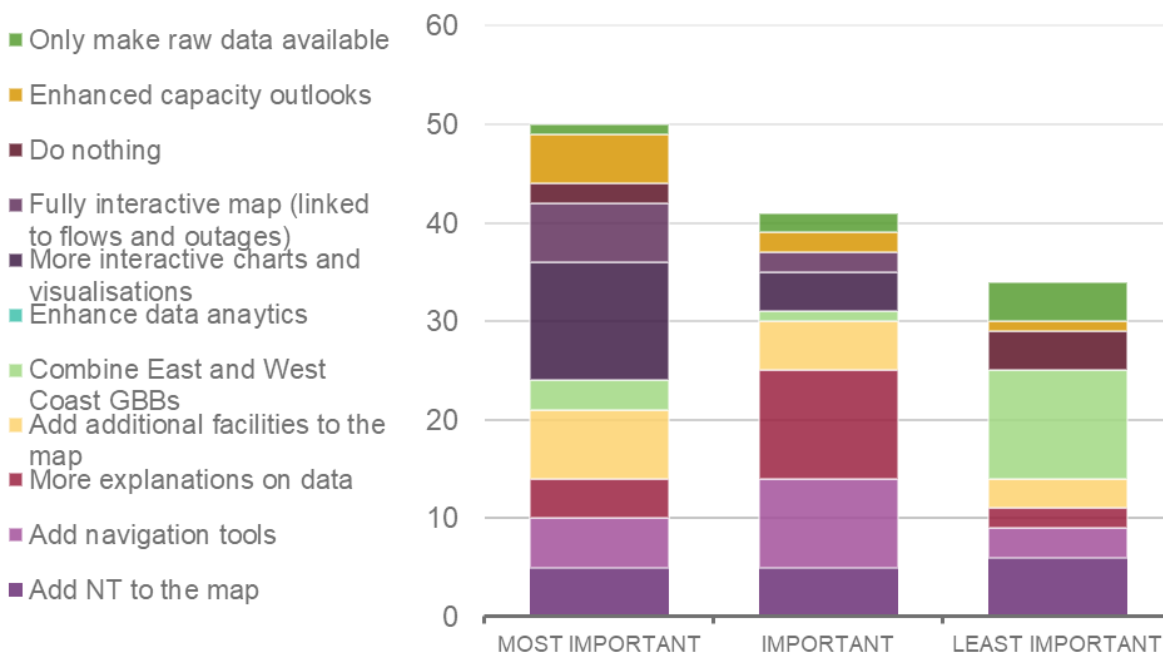
**Figure 4 Breakdown of best features in the section 'Data Dashboard'**



Survey questions about potential enhancements saw respondents suggest areas for improvement (see Figure 5). They said the most important enhancements are more interactive charts and visualisations, enhanced capacity outlooks, and adding additional facilities to the map. When prompted, respondents added that additional items for the GBB could be:

- Schematic map view of pipelines and connection points.
- Continue to improve descriptions for facilities in reports.
- Gas supplying gas generators.
- Additional charts.

**Figure 5 GBB potential enhancements, ranked most important to least important**





## 4.2 Stakeholder interviews

Additional to the stakeholder surveys, AEMO had one-on-one interviews with three stakeholders of different user types – a consultant, a facility operator and a shipper. The interviews aimed to explore where the users could identify improvements and also better understand the user's interaction with the GBB. The questions were based on the survey responses, and were structured around:

- Common ways the GBB is used.
- General improvements.
- Overall usability.
- Understanding of upcoming changes to the GBB.

### 4.2.1 Common ways the GBB is used

The discussions concluded that GBB users who are predominately data submitters are now using the data on the GBB for analysis and understanding the markets. The most common use for the information is to:

- Identify and understand trends in the gas market by undertaking in-house analysis.
- Find specific data such as pipeline capacities or utilisation.
- View the new charts in the Data section.
- Undertake data submission verification checks.

Some stakeholders indicated that the data on the GBB takes many hours of user time to ensure it is high quality and robust prior to submitting. This is important for the whole of industry when considering how the data can be used to understand the gas markets by many different users with varying interest levels.

### 4.2.2 General improvements

Generally, stakeholders were complimentary of the current GBB and the improved ability for users to obtain and analyse gas data. The new Data section and improved charts were discussed in the stakeholder discussions, with the quick ease of viewing the market a regular comment.

### 4.2.3 Overall usability

Downloading time for the .CSV files is considered fast by respondents. GBB users use in-house analytics to generate their own charts, forecasts and backward-looking views of market performance and activity. Providing tools to validate the data that GBB data submitters have compiled and prepared was an area that was discussed in the stakeholder meetings. As well as understanding what tools are available to better interact with the large amounts of data held on the GBB, stakeholders were interested in exploring more ways to present the data.

### 4.2.4 Understanding of upcoming changes to the GBB

Changes to the GBB will predominately involve new data provided through the GTM. Stakeholders that were surveyed generally understood that these changes will include new data submitted to the GBB and data published by AEMO on the GBB. There were positive comments about addressing existing information gaps and

asymmetries recognised in the gas markets. Stakeholders were looking forward to working with AEMO to implement the changes and participate in the market trials and consultations of Procedures.

### 4.3 Gas Wholesale Consultative Forum (GWCF)

The GWCF meets quarterly to discuss changes to the wholesale gas markets and other areas of interest. Members of the GWCF are from organisations who have an interest in the gas wholesale markets. AEMO chairs the GWCF and sets an agenda based around encouraging feedback and involvement in the work that AEMO, AEMC, AER and other interested jurisdictional bodies are undertaking. This review of the GBB is one of the items for feedback and consideration that have been discussed at GWCF meetings.

Recently, the wholesale markets have been busy with high prices and market events. This may have contributed to lessened interest from participants regarding the biennial review in the GWCF forum.

### 4.4 Suggestions for future improvement

As noted earlier in this section, stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on potential areas for future improvement for AEMO to consider. The responses overall concentrated on usability and effectiveness rather than performance of the GBB. The main items put forward by stakeholders included:

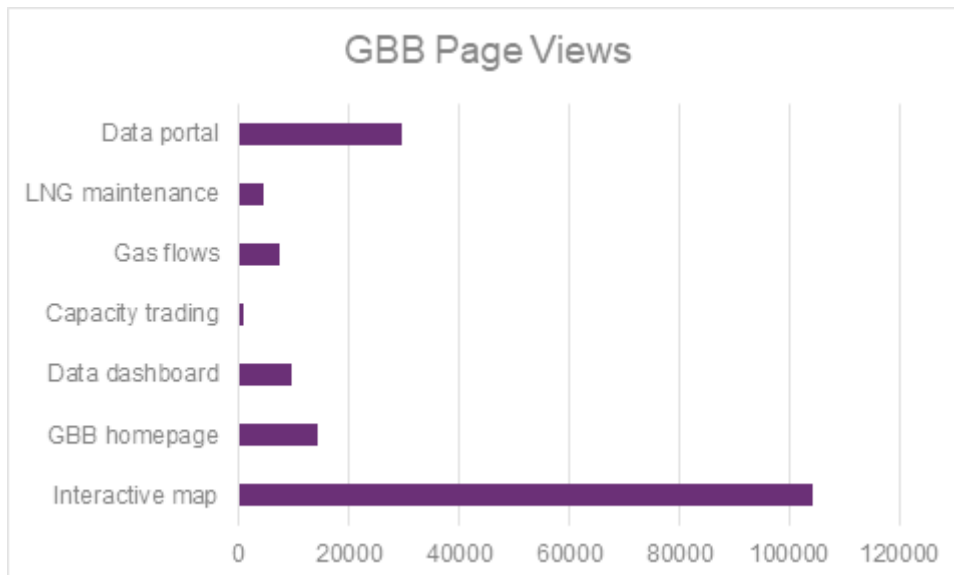
- Development of GBB training courses for industry.
- Adding Northern Territory pipelines and facilities to the map.
- Implementation of a separate market participant portal for irregular submitters of data.
- Development of a single interface in the GBB website for consistency and useability (CT&A, GBB, market register, notifications, shipper lists).
- Identification of additional ways to direct GBB users to the parts of the website that are of interest to them

## 5 Usage statistics

### 5.1 GBB usage statistics

In the period September 2020 to August 2022, page views to the GBB website accounted for 3.6% of approximately 7.2 million total views of the AEMO website. In terms of overall views on parts (or pages) within the GBB, the greatest number of views were on the “GBB interactive map”, which represented 40% views on the GBB. The data shows that users will generally view the map and then go to the GBB homepage, then users will go from the home page straight to the data dashboard. Another frequently visited page is Data (GBB), where GBB reports such as gas flows and capacity outlooks, Capacity Trading and Auction reports and LNG maintenance can be viewed and downloaded. Figure 6 shows a breakdown of total page views to the various pages in the GBB in the past two years.

**Figure 6** GBB website page views



The number of downloads for all the reports is not currently captured in the analytics from the website. However, a Google Analytics review of the AEMO website from the period 2020-22 showed that the most visited page in the Data (GBB) after Data dashboard is Gas flows and capacity outlooks, then LNG maintenance.

This highlights the importance users place on the Gas flow and capacity outlook reports to get the demand/supply data for analysis and LNG maintenance notices, given the potential impacts these outages can have on the availability of gas in the market. However, improvements to the tracking of usage statistics have been recommended because of the limited data that has been available for this review.



## 6 Recommendations

AEMO will not be making any recommendations resulting from the findings in this report. While AEMO is keen to progress further improvements to the GBB, the implementation of the Gas Transparency Measures marks a significant change, and its effectiveness needs to be assessed before any further enhancements are committed to. If there is an opportunity to make further improvements prior to the next biennial report, then AEMO will take the items for improvement submitted by stakeholders in this consultation to the GWCF with any additional items identified following the implementation of the Gas Transparency Measures.

## 7 Conclusion

AEMO is working on further enhancing the GBB through implementation of the GTM reform package. The performance of the GTM will be discussed in the next Biennial Report. AEMO will wait and assess these changes prior to committing any additional improvements. If there is an opportunity to make further improvements prior to the next Biennial Report, then AEMO will use this report as a key reference to develop further changes. Interested stakeholders will be kept apprised of any developments via the GWCF.

AEMO will undertake the next biennial review of the GBB in 2024.