

Minutes

Meeting:	Financial Consultation Committee (FCC)
Date:	Wednesday, 26 June 2024
Time:	11:00AM – 12:10PM AEST
Teleconference details:	By Teams

Attendees: External

AGENCY	NAME	ORGANISATION
CEC	Brendan Flynn	Pacific Blue
AEC	Chris Oppermann	Energy Australia
ECA	Katrina Porteus	Energy Consumers Australia
EUAA	Leigh Clemow	Energy Users Association of Australia
Government	William Durant-Whyte	NSW Department of Planning, industry and Environment
Government	Norman Jip	Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Government	Claire Maries	Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Apologies: External

AGENCY	NAME	ORGANISATION
ENA	Nadine Lennie	Transgrid
ENA	Peter Price	Energy Queensland
EUAA	Mark Grenning	Energy Users Association of Australia
CEC	Tim Peters	Hydro Tasmania
AEC	Rachel Richardson	ENGIE

1 Introduction and welcome

- AEMO's Executive General Manager Finance and Governance and FCC chairperson Vanessa Hannan welcomed attendees to the meeting, acknowledged Traditional Owners and outlined the meeting agenda.
- Cameron O'Donnell, Group Manager of Strategic Finance welcomed new FCC member Chris Opperman.
- Norman Jip noted the attendance of Claire Maries as the likely replacement for Jess Young, who has taken a new role at the Essential Services Commission.
- It was noted that there was no Energy Networks Australia (ENA) representatives at the meeting. AEMO's Finance team noted they would reach out to the ENA representatives to ensure they were informed of the meeting outcomes.
- The minutes from the prior meeting on 9 April 2024 were accepted.

2 Submissions and feedback received on Draft FY25 Budget & Fees

- Margaret Lynch, Stakeholder Engagement Lead for Corporate Services provided an overview of the FY25 Budget and Fees engagement process:
 - The formal consultation period ran for two weeks in April. The consultation included a presentation at AEMO's consumer forum and an industry webinar and was publicised in AEMO's industry newsletter.
 - AEMO received one formal submission from the Australian Energy Council, as well as a range of queries and comments through other channels. Feedback and queries were primarily related to the trajectory for NEM Core fees from FY26 onwards and the costs of the delivery of an expanded ISP.
- A member thanked AEMO for consulting with industry as part of the budgeting process.

3 FCC member feedback on FY25 process & proposed FY26 timeline

- Cameron O'Donnell provided an overview of the improvements AEMO has made on the budgeting process, including the provision of program specific deep dives at the FCC, and bringing forward the consultation process so it can occur as early as possible. He further sought feedback from the group on how to improve engagement for FY26.
- Members' commentary included:
 - the FCC was a useful forum to keep up to date with AEMO's budget and costs.
 - The deep dives were useful agenda items, but that the primary focus of the committee should be on the budgeting process.
 - The formal consultation and submission period should be longer than 2 weeks.
- A request for the FCC to consider moving more to the 'involve' levels of the IAP2 Spectrum rather than 'consult'.
- The chairperson and Cameron acknowledged this feedback, and Cameron provided an overview of the proposed timeline and process for the preparation and consultation for FY26 Budget.

4 WA functions – uplifting engagement

- Kate Ryan, Executive General Manager Western Australia and Strategy provided an overview of AEMO's functions in Western Australia, as well as the engagement and regulatory process for AEMO's W.A. budget and fees.
- AEMO's W.A. budget and fees are set through a regulatory process with the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA), and the ERA undertakes external consultation in the determining AEMO's allowable revenue and forecast capital expenditure.
- Kate noted that AEMO has identified an opportunity to engage more fulsomely and enable greater financial transparency for W.A. stakeholders on the W.A. budget and fees, including by amending the composition of the FCC to include W.A. membership.
- Matt Myers, General Manager of Stakeholder Engagement provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the committee's Terms of Reference (ToR), which are to include an additional AEC representative from WA and an additional consumer representative as advised by Energy Policy WA. Matt noted that AEMO will circulate a copy of the marked-up amended ToR for review by the committee.
- The chairperson requested that members review the ToR and provide any feedback in the next two weeks.
- Members noted they were comfortable with the proposed change but will review the amended ToR.

5 Wrap up

- The chairperson asked if there were any further points the FCC wished to discuss before closing the meeting.
- The chairperson thanked the attendees and concluded the meeting at 12:10pm AEST.