

## MINUTES – GAS RETAIL CONSULTATIVE FORUM (GRCF)

MEETING: 151  
 DATE: Friday 25 November 2022.  
 TIME: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AWST (1.00 PM – 2:30 PM AEDT)  
 LOCATION: AEMO Offices and Teleconference  
 CONTACT: [GRCF@aemo.com.au](mailto:GRCF@aemo.com.au)

### ATTENDEES:

NAME	COMPANY	LOCATION
Danny McGowan (Chair)	AEMO	AEMO Melbourne
Blaine Miner	AEMO	Teleconference
Jordan Daly	AEMO	Teleconference
Meghan Bibby	AEMO	Teleconference
Nandu Datar	AEMO	Teleconference
Catherine Rousch	Alinta Energy	Teleconference
Cheryle Mcleod	Energy Australia	Teleconference
Emille Kueh	Jemena	Teleconference
Jennifer Main	Synergy	Teleconference
Joe Sanches	ATCO	Teleconference
Justin Betlehem	Ausnet Services	Teleconference
Justin Dopierala	Powershop	Teleconference
Kate Goatley	ActewAGL	Teleconference
Karthi Mahalingham	Synergy	Teleconference
Kelly Murray	Multinet Gas Networks	Teleconference
Nallina Luckshman	CGI	Teleconference
Marc Flynn	Jemena Gas Networks	Teleconference
Mario Iogha	Origin Energy	Teleconference
Mark Riley	AGL	Teleconference
Paul Bresloff-Barry	Agora Retail	Teleconference
Patrick Lau	Tel Pacific	Teleconference
Rachel Dean	Alinta Energy	Teleconference
Rick Abbott	AGIG	Teleconference
Sean Harris	Brave Energy	Teleconference
Sean Jennings	Red and Lumo Energy	Teleconference

### 1. Recording of meeting declaration, Welcome, AEMO Competition Law Meeting Protocol, Attendees and Apologies – Danny McGowan (AEMO)

Danny McGowan (AEMO) advised the following:

- GRCF meetings are recorded by AEMO and may be accessed and used by AEMO for the purpose of taking meeting notes. By attending the meeting, attendees consent to AEMO recording the meeting and using the record for this purpose. No other recording of the meeting is permitted.
- Attendees were reminded about adhering to the Competition and Consumer Act and to comply with AEMO's Competition Law Meeting Protocol. The Protocol is available [here](#).

Jordan Daly (AEMO) advised that an apology was received from Sagar Shah (HansenCX).

## **2. Agenda confirmation – Danny McGowan (AEMO)**

The GRCF confirmed the meeting agenda. Two items were raised for discussion:

- Western Australian hydrogen blending trial commencing in December 2022 (Mark Riley, AGL). This topic formed part of the agenda 7 discussion (Other Business).
- Proposal that the GRCF focus on gas metrology work in January 2023 GRCF (Mark Riley, AGL). This topic formed part of the agenda 5 discussion (Update on initiatives that have been on the register for more than 5 years).

## **3. Accept previous meeting minutes and action items – Danny McGowan (AEMO)**

The GRCF accepted the meeting minutes for the previous meeting held on 18 October 2022. Action items have been updated in the table attached below.

## **4. Issues and Change Register – Danny McGowan (AEMO)**

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted that no new initiatives had been added to the Retail Market Issues and Change Register since the previous meeting. 8 initiatives have also been completed or withdrawn. Of these, one item has been implemented (SA Farm Tap), five had been withdrawn at the time of the meeting (refer to Update on Initiatives in Section 5). No comments were received.

## **5. Update on initiatives that have been on the register for more than 5 years – Jordan Daly (AEMO)**

Jordan Daly (AEMO) spoke to the slides contained in the meeting pack, noting that the proponents of the following initiatives had supported AEMO views that they be withdrawn:

- IN005/15 - Use of the term "Reasonable endeavours" is potentially being used inconsistently in the RMP (Proponent Red/Lumo).
- IN006/15 - Use of the term MIRN rather than "distribution supply point / delivery point" would improve the readability of the RMP (Proponent Red / Lumo).
- IN014/15 - NSW/ACT RMP clause 3.6.5 (Provision of Energy Data) questioned whether provision is fit for purpose. (Proponent Red / Lumo)
- IN008/16 - Requirement to provide 'New/Basic Meter/Next scheduled read date' and 'New/Basic Meter/Scheduled reading day number' details for Meter Fix (MFX) (Proponent MGN)
- IN031/15 - Seeks reports to standardise the information (Proponent AGL)

Jordan Daly (AEMO) advised that there were 3 initiatives whereby the proponent (AGL) did not support AEMO's view.

In relation to IN007/15 (*Hierarchy of market participation be included in RMPs*) AEMO view was that this initiative remain within the register but modified so the hierarchy of market participation be considered as content for a guideline rather than RMPs. The other 2 initiatives being IN032/16 (*Network operator to send a MeterDataResponse transaction (T31B) for Customer Own Reads*) and IN017/15 (*During the New South Wales and ACT Retail Gas Project (NARGP) consultation feedback received indicated that the meter data delivery (3.5.1) was a little unclear. Introducing better drafting entails changing the structure of multiple provisions*). AEMO's view is these initiatives as well as IN007/20W (*Carving metering provisions out of the existing various gas retail markets procedures and placing them into a new singular Gas Metrology Procedure (Proponent AGL)*) should be withdrawn. The rationale as to why these initiatives should be withdrawn were a combination of factors but namely

- (i) benefits apply unevenly;
- (ii) follow on impacts including have to update up to 30 documents; and
- (iii) the costs will materially outweigh any benefits hence the ability satisfy the National Gas Objective (NGO) is going to be challenging.

Jordan Daly (AEMO) then invited GRCF participants to put forward views, “support or otherwise” regarding AEMO’s rationale as to why IN032/16, IN017/15 and IN007/20W should be withdrawn.

Mark Riley (AGL) stated that:

- He was supportive of establishing a focus group to clarify the scope of a single gas metrology document as well as the 3 proposals mentioned above. This would be established in early 2023.
- Several of the initiatives seek to bring gas metrology into one place, introducing consistency and clarity to the market.
- These initiatives, among others, relate to metrology, which justifies a broader rather than piecemeal review. The introduction of hydrogen and smart meters are not contemplated in the RMPs.

Discussion occurred as follows:

- Kelly Murray (MGN) stated the proposals have merit, but the scope is too large to be justifiable at this point. This would be too much of a time and resource commitment to start.
- Mario logha (Origin) stated support for Kelly’s view. As an industry, this program of work will remain pertinent but would require a large commitment from participants.
- Rick Abbott (AGIG) stated his organisation would be most affected by this change and are satisfied with how the RMPs currently work.
- Sean Jennings (Red/Lumo) stated that the future introduction of hydrogen and smart meters to gas does not justify their support of the package of work.

On the basis that no objections were received in relation to AEMO’s position as mentioned above, barring AGL as the proponent, AEMO will withdraw IN032/16, IN017/15 and IN007/20W and will modify the requirement for IN007/15 to be content for a guideline. These matters can be re-raised in the future, noting that the complication about costs well exceeded benefits will need to be addressed before any work is undertaken.

#### **6.2023 prioritisation session – Jordan Daly (AEMO) and Danny McGowan (AEMO)**

Danny McGowan and Jordan Daly (AEMO) spoke to a set of slides that summarises the 2023 Proposed Gas Retail Work Program 2023 paper which was contained in the meeting pack. The paper also included Attachment A - 2022 Gas and Electricity Retail Consultations Calendar; Attachment B - List of initiatives in “the Register” with a status of “in progress”, “pending” or “on hold” as of 18 November 2022.

Jordan Daly (AEMO) provided a summary of the purpose and benefits of these annual prioritisation session highlighting that at the conclusion of this agenda topic, the GRCF will be required to endorse a program of work for 2023. This summary also provided further background details that these prioritisation sessions have been undertaken since 2017. These specific details are described in section 1 and 2 of the paper.

In relation to section 3 and 4 of the paper, Jordan Daly (AEMO) advised that in 2022, 31 items were closed out (implemented or withdrawn) for the period which was an excellent result for AEMO and participants. This was the highest number of closed items since 2017. Some items on the 2022 program of work will be carried forward into 2023. It was also noted that the

continued effort to provide significant resources to other non-gas retail programs meant that AEMO has taken a very modest approach for 2023 when developing a draft work plan for consideration hence the program doesn't include initiatives requiring IT system changes expect regulatory reform initiatives for Hydrogen and Zonal Heating Values.

Comments were received as follows:

- Karthi Mahalingham (Synergy) queried whether the 3 items from the 2022 program of work being carried onwards are East Coast only. Danny McGowan (AEMO) advised these three do not directly have West Coast implications. Mark Riley (AGL) stated West Coast participants should keep an eye out for IN007/21 given WA is exploring hydrogen blending. *[Secretariat note: There are West Coast items carried forward from 2022. These are IN002/22W, IN002/21W and IN009/20W]*

In relation to section 5 and 6 of the paper, Danny McGowan (AEMO) advised that AEMO has expanded the bundling of like for like initiatives for 2023. Six packages have been identified with packages 1 to 4 prioritised as Fully Committed Packages (FCP) meaning that they are targeted to be implemented or well advanced in terms of their consultation life cycle before the end of Q2 2023. Packages 5 and 6 have been prioritised as Partially Committed Packages (PCP) meaning the AEMO resourcing effort would commence work on these packages if the FCP are progressing well and AEMO has adequate resources to address them. Danny McGowan (AEMO) then provided a brief outline on the packaging criteria and what they would contain.

- **Package 1** bundling criteria centred around non-controversial or compliance related East Coast Procedure changes. These are:
  - IN008/19 - RMP change for COR. Allows the information to be shared by parties at an agreed frequency (Proponent AGL).
  - IN011/22 - Compliance resolution. Remove clause 3.3.2(d) that required AEMO to provide a report to all participants, shippers and transmission pipeline operators (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN008/22 – Compliance resolution. Update the Register of Weather Related Information to accommodate third party vendors (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN011/15 - Harmonise the definition of actual meter reading in VIC and QLD RMPs with NSW/ACT and SA (Proponent Red/Lumo).
  - IN006/22 - Redundant provisions in QLD RMP like sufficient financial standing definition is no longer required and can be removed. (Proponent AEMO).
- **Package 2** bundling criteria centred around Technical Protocol (TP) changes for the Certificate Management solution and other Miscellaneous non-controversial Western Australian TP changes. These are:
  - IN000/00 - Documentation changes for the Certificate Management solutions change (Proponent AEMO). *[Secretariat note: This has been assigned IN001/23]*
  - IN004/21W - Update WA Connectivity Testing and Technical Certification document to include showing the required transactions for certification per role (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN003/22W - In WA description for TCR, replace the last word "installed" with the word "Removed". This correction needs to be applied to B2B Service Order Specifications Part 2 - Row 74, Column M (Proponent ATCO).
- **Package 3 and 4** bundling criteria centred around east coast hydrogen reform work. They are regulatory or ministerial directions changes with IT system impacts. These are:
  - IN007/21 - Proposal to add hydrogen blending (HB) in the distribution networks (AEMC rule changes). (Proponent AEMC).
  - IN017/22 - VIC RMP changes pertaining to HB Distribution Connected facilities (DCF) (Proponent AEMC).
  - IN015/22 - Harmonise the definition of Heating Value within east coast RMP (As noted in AEMO final report on HB and Renewable Gases Procedures Review) (Proponent AEMO)
  - IN007/22 - Implement zonal heating values for tariff V consumers in Victoria (Proponent Minister/DELWP)

- **Package 5** bundling criteria centred around Retail of Last Resort improvements with some IT system changes. These are
  - IN012/22 - RoLR T1005 transaction - Decommissioned MIRNs without Meters (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN009/22 - The RoLR provision (section 6.14A to 6.23) within the CSV Data format Specification need updating to reflect new delivery method (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN003/23 - Add equivalent NSW-ACT RMPs (Clause 7.2.1. b) into the SA RMP for error corrections when a RoLR event occurs (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN000/00 - Adding additional fields to the existing T1010 RoLR file. (Proponent Origin Energy). *[Secretariat note: This has been assigned IN002/23]*
  - IN008/17 - Include SA RoLR process flows (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN001/17 - Review List of Known Consequences - Retailer of Last Resort (Proponent AEMO).
- **Package 6** bundling criteria centred around WA procedure changes. These are
  - IN002/22W - Potential gap with clause 377B (2).
  - IN002/21W - Anticipated Annual Consumption in WA. (Proponent AEMO).
  - IN009/20W - Possible typographical error in appendix 4 (Auditor's deed of undertaking) clause 9 of WA RMP. Reference to clause 359 should be clause 358.

Discussion occurred as follows:

- Sean Jennings (Red/Lumo) and Mario Iogha (Origin), Justin Betlehem (Ausnet Services) and Karthi Mahalingham (Synergy) stated support for the package.
- Mario Iogha (Origin) asked:
  - Whether there was flexibility to draw out and bring forward 1 of the initiatives in the RoLR package ie. Adding fields to the T1010 report. Or is it a case that all package 5 initiatives 'are set in stone' and need to be delivered together? If the RoLR package could be brought forward (before the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2023). Danny McGowan (AEMO) stated this is dependent on AEMO and participants' resourcing capacity as well as its timing in relation to other items of work. For example, if participants wanted to pre-prepare the draft Technical Protocol (TP) changes, and participants unanimously supported these drafted TP, it may be possible bring the RoLR package forward something earlier than July 2023.
  - There are several COR and retrospective transfer-related longstanding register items. It's unclear as to whether industry still committed to these and if so, when should they be focused on. Would AEMO consider surveying GRCF participants? Danny McGowan (AEMO) stated that these are part of the remaining initiatives that are greater 5 years old and it was possible that they could be part of a survey, especially given the longstanding items. **(Action item 151.6.1)**.
- Mark Riley (AGL) noted the work involved in putting the packages together and endorsed it, stating that the 'package looks fine'. Following on from Mario's questions above, he requested the RoLR matters be considered as part of an expedited consultation. Perhaps this could be a topic for discussion at one of the early 2023 GRCF meetings. AEMO agreed to add this as a topic to be discussed in March 2023 **(Action item 151.6.2)**
- Rick Abbott (AGIG) stated a lack of objection to the package. Danny McGowan (AEMO) welcomed GRCF participants to send specific feedback and suggestions via email to [grcf@aemo.com.au](mailto:grcf@aemo.com.au). Mark Riley (AGL) requested the GRCF review RoLR processes in the new year as there may be operational issues related to it.

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- [–Mark Riley \(AGL\) put forward a suggestion for next year’s prioritisation session for the GRCF to have an opportunity to assess all initiatives contained in the register prior to AEMO putting forward candidates and their respective packages for endorsement. Danny McGowan \(AEMO\) stated that back in 2017, AEMO did hold a workshop with the GRCF in advance of AEMO the releasing the prioritisation paper and that AEMO would be happy to trial this approach for next year’s prioritisation.](#)
- Endorsements received via chat:
  - Joe Sanches (ATCO): Package is good
  - Cheryl McLeod (Energy Australia): Yes packages look fine
  - Catherine Rousch (Alinta): Yes from Alinta Energy
  - Sean Harris (Brave): Package look okay.

Noting that there were no opposing views put forward, the GRCF endorsed:

- AEMO’s proposed prioritisation and planning strategy in 2023, as described in Section 4 of the paper; and
- The items (as per Section 5 of the paper unchanged, and as noted above) as consultation candidates to progress in 2023.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) advised that now the baseline 2023 work program has been endorsed, AEMO will now place this program of work under change control. The GRCF will be notified should the program of work change.

*[Secretariat note: In relation to Origin Energy’s proposal about alternative method for disconnecting supply due to unplanned reconnections, this has been assigned IN004/23 in the register, however it has not been added to 2023 program of work]*

## **7. Other Business (all)**

### Annual GRCF stakeholder quick survey (2022) – Jordan Daly (AEMO)

Jordan Daly (AEMO) noted that the annual stakeholder survey circulated after the October meeting had closed. The key takeaways were that 90% of respondents are satisfied with the forums run by Retail Reform Delivery and 60% believe AEMO’s management of the Retail Reform Delivery forums has improved over the last year. Participants requested AEMO bring participants up to speed on more complex matters and solving contentious issues more quickly where possible.

### WA Hydrogen Blending Trial 2022 – Mark Riley (AGL)

Mark Riley (AGL) noted that the hydrogen work was focused on the East Coast. Joe Sanches (ATCO) stated he will advise on dates and details on the WA Hydrogen trial commencement date as soon as he receives it. Joe had sent out an email regarding heating values and billing on 24 November 2022. There will be around 2% hydrogen injected into the network.

## **8. Next GRCF meeting – Danny McGowan (AEMO)**

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted that the next GRCF meeting would be Tuesday 24 January 2023. A Teams link has been included in the Outlook meeting invitations, which are recurring on the third Tuesday of each month. If participants don’t have access to the Outlook meetings, please email [grcf@aemo.com.au](mailto:grcf@aemo.com.au) to request it.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) closed the meeting and thanked participants for their valuable input in 2022 and looked forward to more of the same in 2023.



**Action items raised at meeting #151**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>By</b>
151.6.1	Longstanding Register Items. Possible preference survey.	In relation to the remaining initiatives that are greater 5 years old, AEMO to consider the idea of circulating a survey to GRCF participants to complete on their preferences whether these long standing initiatives should progressed or withdrawn. AEMO to provide update next meeting.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	Next meeting
151.6.2	RoLR package review	AEMO to discuss RoLR Package 5 2023 prioritisation in March 2023.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	March 2023 Meeting

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**Action items raised prior to meeting #151**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>By/Status</b>
150.3.1	148.7.1 (Alternative Method for Disconnecting supply)	Mario logha (Origin) to update the GMI with the table that provides a summary on each participant's position (support of others) and previous discussion and submit it to AEMO. Addressed in November 2022 prioritisation session.	Mario logha (Origin)	Completed

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137.7.1	GMI on customer self-reads	<p>Nina Telford (Wesfarmers Kleenheat) to develop a GMI on Kleenheat's desired changes regarding customer self reads.</p> <p>November 2020 update: Wesfarmers Kleenheat continues work on this item and will continue to keep AEMO and the GRCF informed of progress.</p> <p>March 2021 update: No update.</p> <p>April 2021 update: No update.</p> <p>June 2021 update: No update.</p> <p>August 2021 update: Mark Riley (AGL advised that he would contact Kleenheat, about actioning this action item when the NSW/ACT self-read consultation (IN001/21) concludes.</p> <p>March 2022 update: Deanna Power <a href="mailto:dpower@kleenheat.com.au">dpower@kleenheat.com.au</a> nominated as an additional Kleenheat GRCF representative.</p> <p>June 2022 update: On hold noting that Joe Sanches (ATCO) agreed to progress this issue via an ATCO GMI which will be drafted by the relevant parties.</p> <p>August 2022 update: Joe Sanches advised that a GMI will be shared with WA retailers, next week, then a GMI will be submitted to AEMO.</p> <p>October 2022 update: Joe Sanches advised this will have to be put on hold due to internal changes. There is interest in circulating this before the next meeting.</p> <p>November 2022 update: No updated provided by Joe Sanches. Mark Riley (AGL) noted that this has shifted to be a network-led process. Likely to be dormant for a year or so but will need to be acted on at some point.</p>	Wesfarmers Kleenheat & ATCO	On hold until next raised by ATCO.
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