

Energy Market Information Technology (EMIT)

Data Management Working Group (DMWG)

Terms of Reference

February 2011

Background

The Energy Markets Information Technology Steering Committee (EMIT-SC) guides IT directions and investments across the Australian energy market. The major initial focus was the establishment of an EMIT Strategic Plan which outlined a 10-year vision and 5-year rolling plan for IT systems supporting the Australian energy market.

The Strategic Plan identified four areas of initial focus - one of those being the need for improvements in data quality and better data interchange and access mechanisms. The Data Management Working Group (DMWG) has been convened to examine these issues, to advise the EMIT-SC of potential solutions, and to enact solutions under direction of the EMIT-SC.

Imperative

Without a focus on data management, the quality of data in the energy market will continue to deteriorate and as processes evolve and develop they will become less efficient for all energy market stakeholders. New initiatives will continue to cost more and effort will be duplicated across all participants resulting in diluted business benefits. The outcome will be a less efficient and effective market, lost opportunities for improvement, and additional costs and risks that will be passed through to consumers.

Objectives

- Establish a representative energy industry Data Governance Council, to collaborate and establish the rules and guidelines by which data definitions and accountabilities will be agreed, and by which data quality issues will be recognised and resolved.
- Identify, assess and prioritise the data quality issues currently experienced by industry participants, and propose solutions to resolve those problems.
- Identify opportunities for common data to be managed in a centralised manner on behalf of industry participants - with the objective being to reduce the need for market participants to replicate data, processes and infrastructure that could be delivered more effectively and efficiently using a centralised approach.
- Examine the impacts of 'smart energy' technology innovations and evolving market dynamics, and determine whether there is a need to change the way data is managed, accessed and disseminated. This will include an examination of the roles and the needs of energy consumers, who are expected to become increasingly sophisticated and active participants in the energy market.

Guiding Principles

The DMWG will be guided by the principles defined in the EMIT Strategic Plan:

- Enable competition, open access and allow for new entrants in the long term interest of consumers.
- Ensure customer and participant privacy is maintained (fundamental / legal / compliance).
- Ensure cost effectiveness throughout the market through efficient information systems to the benefit of consumers and suppliers.
- Ensure valid and timely information to ensure the safe, reliable delivery of energy to consumers in a way that promotes efficient investment at all levels of the supply chain.
- Focus on non-competitive areas.

In addition, the DMWG will be guided by the following data-specific principles:

- Data is an asset and will be organised and managed to ensure that its value to the energy market is maximised.

- Energy market data will be made readily available, so as not to delay processes, and will enable appropriate sharing across the energy market.
- Energy market data governance requires an identified data governance champion, data owners, data custodians and data users within each realm of the market.
- Where data does not provide competitive advantage, shared data stores should be considered.

Definition of Success¹

Success for this initiative will be demonstrated value, achieved through:

- Established energy market Data Governance Council, managing the industry Reference Data Model, and driving continued data quality improvement
- Initiatives that are compliant with the industry Reference Data Model
- Data quality is no longer reported as an issue
- Common, non-competitive master data is shared, and is readily accessible to those market participants that are authorised to use it
- Energy market data is accessible to energy stakeholders in ways that allow them to gain advantage from 'smart energy' technology innovations and evolving market dynamics. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, market participants, market operator, market regulator, policy makers, market designers, researchers, consumer representatives and industry groups.

Membership

- Industry bodies (ERAA, NGF, ENA) and AEMO provide 2 nominations each for membership of the Working Group.
- The aim is to have a balance between the various parties, with the expectation that the IT representatives also have or combine business knowledge.
- In the event that an industry body has more than 2 nominations for the Working Group, suggestion is that all nominees form as a reference group (for that Industry body) to support this initiative. The reference group will be responsible for selecting the 2 Working Group nominees.

¹ Definition of success has been adapted from the EM IT Strategic Plan.

- The EMIT-SC is responsible for endorsing the Working Group membership to ensure an overall balance across the focus areas.
- If membership changes, this is done via points above.
- At the first meeting, the DMWG nominates a chair person and this persons name, organisation and contact details are provided to the EMIT-SC chair person and the EMIT-SC sponsor.

Mode of Operation

How

The Working Group gets its broad direction from the EMIT-SC that co-ordinates activities across the various initiative working groups established in order to progress aspects of the EMIT Strategy. The following process is proposed for the Working Group to progress the initiative.

- Confirm the content of the relevant section of the EMIT Strategy (section 7.2 EM Data Management). Where clarification of any of the components of this is required, the EMIT sponsor will be involved in the initial Working Group meeting.
- Develop an initial scoping document outlining the timeframes, deliverables, resources, and where appropriate costs, risks and issues.
- Submit the document to EMIT-SC sponsor, and subsequently the EMIT-SC for approval.
- Once approved, progress the initiative as per the agreed scope, providing a quarterly report on progress against the scope to the EMIT-SC chair person with a copy to the EMIT sponsor of this initiative.
- When issues arise which require the involvement of the EMIT-SC to resolve, contact the Sponsor outlining the issue, and the approach proposed for its resolution. (In the event the sponsor is unavailable, contact the EMIT-SC chair person.)

Where

The Working Group nominates the method and timing of the meetings.

To allow representatives to canvas input from the industry bodies they are representing, agendas and any papers to be considered at the meeting should be published on the EMIT-SC collaboration site at least 3 business days before the meeting. A copy of the relevant documents (e.g. minutes) are also to be published on the collaboration site.

When

The Working Group can commence immediately after the approval of the Terms of Reference by the EMIT-SC, and will progress as per their agreed work plans.

Support

AEMO provides secretariat, meeting venue and conference call facility, and a collaboration web site for content sharing and publishing.

Glossary

AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
ARMWG	Architectural Reference Models Working Group
DMWG	Data Management Working Group
EMIT	Energy Market Information Technology
EMIT-SC	Energy Markets Information Technology - Steering Committee
ENA	Energy Networks Association
ERAA	Electricity Retailers Association of Australia
NGF	National Generators Forum