

NEM VAr Dispatch Schedule System: Operational Go-live	Status: GREEN	Notice Date: 26 Aug 2016
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AEMO announces that the Operational Go-live of the NEM VAr Dispatch Schedule (VDS) System is scheduled at 10.00 am market time on 31 August 2016.

AEMO will issue a market notice earlier that morning to confirm the transition to Go-live will proceed.

There is no operational difference in reactive power dispatch before and after Go-live. Operational Go-live is a symbolic event and is a demonstration of AEMO's commitment to the use of the VDS System as an operational tool.

The VDS System Trial in Closed-loop Mode commenced on 15 February 2016 and in effect the VDS System has been an operational tool for more than six months. Positive outcomes have been achieved during the trial through tuning the parameters used by the VDS System to align its recommended actions with good operating practice. AEMO will continue tuning as part of its normal operating practices to further improve the VDS System, and work with Reactive Plant Operators on further system enhancements.

The level of AEMO manual intervention in voltage control has decreased to a point where an acceptable level of automation is achieved. AEMO has also modified its operational use of the tool to more effectively manage peak periods during load run-ups, and outage periods.

AEMO appreciates the participation and cooperation of all Reactive Plant Operators during the Closed-Loop trial. AEMO will continue to listen to your feedback and address your concerns.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to send them to VarProject@aemo.com.au.

The status of each readiness criterion is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Commencement Criteria for NEM VDS System Operational Go-Live

#	Type	Criterion	Status (as at 26/08/2016)	Readiness
M1	Market Systems and Energy Management Systems	VAr Dispatch Schedule (VDS) Systems infrastructure adequately established, configured, and ready for operational use.	Established and available in the production environment since 14 December 2015.	Yes

#	Type	Criterion	Status (as at 26/08/2016)	Readiness
M2	Market Systems and Energy Management Systems	Successful completion of all planned VAr Dispatch Schedule Systems development and testing activities.	Adequate testing in an operational environment has been completed since the Trial Open-loop Mode commenced on 14 December 2015 and the Trial Closed-loop Mode which commenced on 15 February 2016.	Yes
M3	Market Systems and Energy Management Systems	Business verification and approval of VAr Dispatch Schedule (VDS) Systems.	Significant tuning of VDS parameters, populating soft voltage limits and refining soft voltage profiles has been done. Tuning will be an on-going part of managing the VDS System.	Yes
M4	Market Systems and Energy Management Systems	Electronic instructions are provided to the AEMO-side of each of the three interfaces to Reactive Plant Operators.	Complete. Confirmed during the trial.	Yes
M5	Market Systems and Energy Management Systems	Successful shakeout of VAr Dispatch Schedule systems Pre-Production and Production Application, Web and Database server configurations and SCADA.	Complete.	Yes
M6	NEM Real Time Operations	Staffing levels are adequate to support AEMO Operations.	Complete.	Yes
M7	NEM Real Time Operations	VDS is fit for purpose and VDS recommended actions are valid.	NEM RTO feedback during the Trial in Closed-loop Mode was evaluated and VDS System performance is adequate.	Yes

#	Type	Criterion	Status (as at 26/08/2016)	Readiness
M8	NEM Real Time Operations	The number of NEM RTO interventions are at an acceptable level and commensurate with staffing levels.	NEM RTO feedback during the Trial in Closed-loop Mode was evaluated and intervention levels are acceptable.	Yes
M9	Market Operations	Support Hub arrangements confirmed and operational.	Complete.	Yes
M10	Real Time Operations	Voltage Control and VAR dispatch procedures developed and ready for operations.	Complete.	Yes
M11	Participants	All 5 TNSPs and 13 out of 15 of Generator RPOs are ready to receive VAR electronic instructions. Note: The failure of any single participant to be ready will not, in and of itself, constitute reason for delay.	Confirmed during the Trial in Closed-loop Mode. 4 TNSPs receive VAR electronic instructions and act on them. The remaining TNSP will receive telephone calls until their interface is ready – this is expected by early September. 13 out of 15 Generators receive VAR electronic instructions and act on them.	Yes.