

FINAL MINUTES – GAS RETAIL CONSULTATIVE FORUM (GRCF)

MEETING: 124
 DATE: Tuesday 17 July 2018
 TIME: 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM AEST
 LOCATION: AEMO Offices and Teleconference
 CONTACT: GRCF@aemo.com.au

ATTENDEES:

NAME	COMPANY	LOCATION
Danny McGowan (Chair)	AEMO	Melbourne
Hayley George (Secretariat)	AEMO	Melbourne
Nandu Datar	AEMO	Melbourne
Aakash Sembey	Simply Energy	Melbourne
Justin Bethlehem	AusNet Services	Melbourne
Geoff Hargraves	Lumo Energy	Melbourne
Tim Sheridan	Jemena	Melbourne
Mario Iogha	Origin Energy	Melbourne
Mark Riley	AGL	Melbourne
Shawn Tan	Energy Australia	Melbourne
Rick Abbott	APA	Adelaide
Michelle Norris	AEMO	Teleconference
Melissa Sutherland	ActewAGL Retail	Teleconference
Kate Goatley	ActewAGL Retail	Teleconference
Kelly Murray	Multinet Gas Networks	Teleconference
Robert Gubbins	CGI Technologies	Teleconference

1. Welcome and Apologies

Danny McGowan (Chair) welcomed participants to the 124th meeting of the Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF), and noted the following apologies; Chantal Wright (Momentum), Emillie Kueh (Jemena) and Stephanie Lommi (Lumo).

2. Previous Meeting Minutes and Action Items

The previous minutes from the June meeting (#123) were accepted as a true and correct record of the previous meeting. Action items have been updated in the table appended. No additional items were added to Other Business.

3. Issues and Change Register

Danny McGowan (AEMO) referred to the Issues and Change Register, noting the following:

- **IN005/18 and IN006/18** have been added since the last GRCF meeting.
- **IN011/17** has been completed.

4. IN027/15 – Life Support

Danny McGowan noted the paper circulated to GRCF participants as a late paper on Thursday 12 July 2018, ensuring all present participants have had sufficient time to read it. Danny then talked through the details of each section of the paper, noting the purpose is to review participant consider the matters raised by AEMO in section four. The paper also expands on the background of how this issue originated and discussion on feedback already provided from participants on their stance on the matter.

Matters for GRCF consideration were talked through, with participants giving the below feedback on the five items AEMO has put forward to consider:

- (1) Noting the workstream information provided in Attachment B and documents referred to Attachment C, does the GRCF agree that the documents in both these attachments can be used as guide to assess the overall impact of this change?

Jemena raised it would like further information from the AER namely the scenario guideline as the information that AEMO has provided does not give enough information at this stage. All other participants agree that the information that AEMO had provided was sufficient. All other participants advised that that this change cannot wait until the AER scenario guide provides further advice in October. This was noted as a risk and but agreed to progress.

- (2) Noting AEMO's recommendation about implementing aseXML schema change over the weekend of the 2nd / 3rd of February 2019 does the GRCF support this approach?

It was agreed to complete the change over a weekend, however early February 2019 may not be achievable by APA particularly if the aseXML schema changes was not consistently applied across all jurisdictions.

- (3) Given the unanimous support to adopt the two new transactions for South Australia and Queensland, and noting the time constraints to implement the aseXML schema change, AEMO proposes to mobilise its resource and commence the consultation process in the week commencing 23rd July 2018 for these jurisdictions. Does the GRCF support this proposal?

It was agreed to mobilise resources to progress this, however AusNet raised that while it is adopting these transactions for electricity there is no obligation for gas life support so will not support it.

- (4) In relation to NSW/ACT, does the GRCF agree that existing process is sufficiently robust to accommodate the new obligations on both the retailers and distributors in relation to the life support information which is required to be shared? If the existing processes are not considered to be sufficiently robust, what is the GRCF recommendation for these jurisdictions?

It was noted that the process is sufficient for NSW/ACT retailers currently, however will not be the case post February 2019 therefore NSW/ACT retailers support the adoption of the new transactions. Jemena do not support the adoption of new transactions for NSW/ACT for gas (however they are adopting these for electricity) due to the impact on systems and processes and suggest using email instead of transactions. Retailers do not support Jemena's suggestion of using email instead of CDN transactions moving forward. AEMO noted it prefers to support a uniform approach, mainly to assist new entrants to market. AEMO also noted schema changes are costly (\$100K - \$200K) and to make changes down the track for this jurisdiction alone could cost about the same. This should be avoided. Retailers and Distributors who participate in other jurisdictions indicated that they too do not want unnecessary duplicated cost.

- (5) Noting the feedback in Attachment A that relates to Victoria, does the GRCF agree the existing process applicable today Victoria for life support are sufficiently robust to

continue with therefore applying the R38 aseXML schema changes is not warranted? If the existing processes are not considered to be sufficiently robust, what is the GRCF recommendation for this jurisdiction?

AusNet and Multinet agreed they do not want the R38 applied in Victoria. AGN feels it is prudent to implement R38 due to cross border issues that could be presented if SA (Mildura which is in Vic however derogated across to SA RMPs) and Vic (Albury which is in NSW/ACT however derogated across to Vic RMPs) have different solutions. Retailers agree it is prudent to have harmonisation across jurisdictions, however note the current process allows for meeting compliance obligations too noting that the NERR doesn't apply to Vic.

Simply Energy suggested a possible alternate option, questioning if the AEMO NSW/ACT LVI could be made available to all jurisdictions, and be used as an XML generator instead of upgrading schema. AusNet raised that this would not assist distributors. AEMO requested that Simply Energy provide more detailed information on this proposal if it considers this could be a viable solution.

Danny suggested Retailers and Distributors meet to discuss regulatory requirements for NSW/ACT (without AEMO) to talk this through and come to an agreement. From an AEMO view point it can't understand the logic why Jemena and Retailers have different position on their compliance obligation when you consider the fact that other jurisdictions and all electricity retailers and distributors are universally agreeing to adopt the two new transactions. AEMO noted it will report back to the AER on the current differing views.

AEMO raised its concerns about the impasse and urged participants to come to agreement as the window to act to allow this change to be effective by February 2019 is closing. It also raised that taking no action may be very costly down the track and would result in system work-arounds to be put in place.

AGL gave support for all jurisdictions to progress with the proposed schema change as time is running out and agree inaction could cost more in the end. AEMO will start drafting documents and an internal project paperwork to progress this item.

5. GRCF Work Program 2018

Danny McGowan referred to the 2018 work program diagram circulated in the meeting pack and noted some changes have been pushed back due to the life support project. The SA Harmonisation is the main one that has been impacted.

An updated work program will be circulated to GRCF participants once life support is incorporated. This will include an update on SA RMP harmonisation timeline. **(Action 124.5.1)**.

6. Other Business

No other business was raised at the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 August 2018.

Action items raised at meeting #124

Item	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By
124.2.1	Gas Market Issue: IN006/18 Improving Customer transfers in the Gas Retail Markets	AEMO to consolidate feedback received by participants and circulate to GRCF prior to August meeting. <i>Note: APA still to provide feedback.</i>	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	21/8/2018
124.2.2	Gas Market Issue: IN005/18 Estimated Consumption after meter removal	AEMO to consolidate feedback received by participants and circulate to GRCF prior to August meeting.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	21/8/2018
124.4.1	IN027/15 – Life Support	AEMO to mobilise resources to progress life support and start drafting consultation documents and a project plan.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	21/8/2018
124.5.1	GRCF Work Program 2018	AEMO to circulate an updated work program to GRCF participants once life support is incorporated. This will include an update on SA RMP harmonisation timeline.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	21/8/2018

Action items raised prior to meeting #124

Item	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By
123.4.1	Issues and Change Register	Stephanie Lommi (Lumo Energy) to set-up meeting with GRCF participants to discuss regulatory provisions regarding life support obligations and to provide AEMO with the outcome and the drafting instructions to move forward with this program of work.	Stephanie Lommi (Lumo Energy)	Complete
123.5.1	GRCF Work Program 2018	Circulate an updated 2018 Work Program to GRCF participants.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	Complete
123.6.1	Other Business Gas Market Issue: IN006/18 Improving Customer transfers in the Gas Retail Markets	GRCF participants to provide feedback relating to Lumo and Red Energy's proposal regarding the Gas Market Issue IN006/18: (Improving Customer transfers in the Gas Retail Markets (Customer Own-Reads) focusing on the 'Issues for consideration' and to also consider current pending proposals on the Change Register.	Danny McGowan (AEMO)	Complete

123.6.2	Other Business Gas Market Issue: IN005/18 Estimated Consumption after meter removal	GRCF participants to provide feedback on GMI: IN005/18 Estimated Consumption after meter removal by Friday 13 July 2018.	GRCF Participants	Complete
119.10.3	Reconnect service in street in the case of a move in	<p>A GMI to be drafted containing a proposal to resolve the reconnect service in street in the case of a move in and this item added to the register.</p> <p>20/02: #120 Update: Draft complete, ready by next GRCF.</p> <p>20/03: Being finalised by APA currently. Ready for GRCF.</p> <p>15/05 Update: Work in progress.</p>	R. Abbott (APA)	Open
118.10.1	Other business - New connections phone number	<p>APA to issue formal communications to the GRCF around new connections phone number.</p> <p>21/11/2017: Rick Abbott informed the GRCF that this notification hasn't happened. This will be going through normal internal channels. This will be circulated to the GRCF once drafted for circulation.</p> <p>20/02: #120 Update: Rick Abbott to chase up. Not yet happened.</p> <p>20/03: Rick to chase up.</p> <p>15/05 Update: Work in progress.</p>	R. Abbott (APA)	Open