



Newsletter

NEM Reform

Issue: 4 | **August 2023**

Welcome to the August edition of our NEM Reform newsletter.

Read on for important updates about the August release and upcoming activities for inflight initiatives under the NEM Reform program.

As we continue through a busy reform year, we encourage stakeholders to stay engaged with our program. We aim to help stakeholders understand the opportunities and implications of each reform initiative and how best to prepare for implementation.

Spotlight - August 2023 Release

On 9 August, the program successfully deployed the August Release which included two important changes:

(1) Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS)

We are pleased to confirm that Aggregated Dispatch Conformance (ADC) is now live in the NEM. ADC is the second of four releases being delivered by the IESS initiative, which aims to improve integration and participation of storage and aggregate systems in the NEM.

Aggregate systems are grid-scale facilities with two or more units at a single connection point, such as a solar farm and a battery. Systems like this continue to emerge as essential drivers of the energy transition.

ADC is a new feature which makes it easier for participants with aggregate systems to manage and dispatch their energy in the most cost and energy efficient way. Participants with aggregate systems can now register to dispatch energy from a combination of units, rather than on a unit-by-unit basis (with some restrictions).

Eligible participants can register for ADC [here](#).

This release also includes minor changes to monitoring of net dispatch conformance for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), as a Target Aggregate. Find more information about IESS ADC [here](#).

(2) Fast Frequency Response (FFR)

Registration is now open for participants who wish to register their eligible facilities for participation in Very Fast FCAS markets (Frequency Control Ancillary Services).

In October 2023, AEMO will introduce two new market ancillary services in the NEM, in the form of very fast services (a raise service and a lower service) to operate alongside the existing contingency FCAS markets. These new services will help to maintain a secure future power system and control system frequency following contingency events.

Participants whose facilities are technically capable, including those with batteries and aggregators, are encouraged to register. By registering now, AEMO can assess participant applications and provide the necessary support ahead of service commencement in October.

Eligible participants can find out how to register [here](#).

This is the first time new services have been added to the existing suite of contingency FCAS markets since they were first established some 20 years ago. Find more information about FFR [here](#).

Initiative highlights

August 2023 Releases

Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS):

- Implemented Aggregated Dispatch Conformance (ADC) on 9 August 2023 (see spotlight section above).

Fast Frequency Response (FFR):

- Published [“Go-Live” August Release Plan](#).
- Pre-registration for the provision of FFR services opened in early August.

October 2023 Releases

Fast Frequency Response (FFR):

- [Registration opened](#) on 9 August 2023 (see spotlight section above).
- Published [Industry Test Approach Fact Sheet](#), the [Industry Test Plan](#) and [Industry Draft “Go Live” October Plan](#).

Increased Medium Term Projected Assessment of System Adequacy (MT PASA):

- Published [Industry Test Approach](#) in June and the [Draft “Go Live” Plan](#) in July.

November 2023 Releases

Consumer Data Rights (CDR):

- Minor amendment consultation completed on 28 April to delay [Consumer Data Rights \(CDR\) Market Settlement and Transfer Solutions \(MSATS\) procedure](#) effective date to 1 November.

June 2024 Releases

Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS):

- Industry support and transition planning is underway. Ongoing updates via the [Implementation Forum](#).
- Seeking to further raise awareness and engage on proposed approaches to assist industry to adapt to the IESS reform, a Settlements information session was held in July for affected stakeholders. Materials to be published through the [IESS Participant Toolbox](#).
- A [consolidated design](#) for bidirectional unit (BDU) model implementation was presented to industry on 24 July.
- Published initial [draft Electricity Market Management System \(EMMS\) technical specification](#).

June 2025 Releases

Frequency Performance Payments (FPP):

- AEMO undertook a Development and Testing timeline workshop with stakeholders in June, to better understand timing requirements and any roadblocks for the implementation of FPP.
- Outcomes from the workshop were presented in the [August 2023 Program Consultative Forum \(PCF\)](#)

Foundational & Strategic Initiatives

- AEMO continues collaboration with the [Foundational and Strategic Initiative Focus Group \(FaSI FG\)](#) to progress a business case assessment of Industry Data Exchange (IDX), Identity and Access Management (IDAM) and Portal Consolidation (PC).

- Published [conceptual target state](#) and summary of [industry feedback](#).
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What's ahead

Executive Forum

AEMO's NEM Reform program will hold its first Executive Forum on Wednesday 23 August 2023. The Executive Forum will facilitate engagement between AEMO and Executive Level organisational representatives from across industry.

AEMO welcomes nominations from other organisations that may wish to participate. Executives interested in attending the NEM Reform Program Executive Forum can submit their nominations to NEMReform@aemo.com.au.

October 2023 Releases

- 5 Minute Load Profile (5MLP) – Production date 1 October.
- The Fast Frequency Response (FFR) “Go Live” October Plan is due for publication in September prior to market bidding opening on 25 September and FFR rule commencement on 9 October.
- MT PASA final EMMS Technical Specification to be released in August along with the commencement of Industry Testing. The “Go Live” plan is scheduled to be released in September ahead of the commencement of the enhanced Mt PASA requirements on 4 October.

November 2023 Releases

- Metering exemptions draft report was published on 16 June followed by the final report expected to be published on 21 August. Production date 1 November.
- MSATS Standing Data Review (MSDR) – Production date 1 November.
- Consumer Data Rights (CDR) – Production date 15 November.
- Last Customer Change Date (LCCD) – Production date 7 November.

June 2024 Releases

Upcoming releases

Date	Initiative	Likely impacted stakeholders
9 October 2023	Fast Frequency Response (FFR)	Generators, Market Customers, Traders
	Increased MT PASA Information	Scheduled Generators
	5 Minute Load Profile (5MLP)	Market Customers (MC) / FRMP
1 November 2023	Metering Exemptions (MSDR)	MC and MP / MDP
	Customer Data Rights (CDR)	FRMPs
	Last Customer Change Date (LCCD)	
2 & 3 June 2024	Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS) (Final Release)	FRMPs, Metering Service Providers, Bidirectional Unit participants, Bidding system vendors/developers
8 June 2025	Frequency Performance Payments (FPP)	Generators, Market Customers

- Industry support and transition planning will continue. Ongoing updates via the [Implementation Forum](#).
- Additional participant support artefacts expected to be [published](#) through August-October 2023.

June 2025 Releases

- The next stage for Frequency Performance Payments (FPP) involves AEMO development and testing phases for the project.

Foundational & Strategic Initiatives

- AEMO is conducting industry workshops through August-September 2023 to identify conceptual transition strategy and business case as part of its ongoing [consultation on NEM Reform Foundational & Strategic initiatives](#) IDX, IDAM and Portal Consolidation.

Upcoming forums



To learn more about these events, please visit [AEMO's Industry meeting calendar](#) or contact the program at NEMReform@aemo.com.au.

Getting involved

Key NEM Reform Program forums and working groups can be found on the [NEM Reform Stakeholder Engagement](#) page. Please refer to the [consultation](#) section of the AEMO website for a full list of all NEM Reform Program consultations.

Reach out to us

Don't hesitate to contact the team at NEMReform@aemo.com.au if you wish to discuss approaches, potential impacts and to understand which program forum may be relevant to your organisation.

You can also stay in touch with us via the [NEM Reform Program website](#).

Regards,

NEM Reform Program Team