MINUTES – CEC DIRECTORATES MEETING

MEETING:	Stakeholder meeting – Clean Energy Council Policy Directorates (Solar PV and Energy Storage)
DATE:	Thursday, 28 February 2019
TIME:	2.00 – 4.00pm (AEDT)
LOCATION:	Melbourne, Sydney and Webex

ATTENDEES:

NAME	COMPANY / DEPARTMENT
Luke Barlow	AEMO
Tom Butler	AEMO
Jonathon Dore	Solar Analytics
Jess Edwards	CER
Emma Fagan	Tesla
Darren Gladman	CEC
Vivienne Johnstone	Greenbank Environmental
Roy Kaplan	AEMO
Joseph Kassouf	ABB
Fiona O'Hehir	Greenbank Environmental
Sarah Paparo	MHC
Scott Partlin	SMA-Australia
Beth Rosenberg	CEC
Bridget Ryan	Greensync
Eloise Taylor	AEMO
Collin Wang	ZN Shine Solar
Nigel Wilmot	Werstern Power
Kurt Winter	AGL

(note: best efforts were made to compile a complete attendee list, however some dial in attendees may have been omitted)

1. Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Background and overview
3. NSP perspectives
4. Proposed data collection process
5. Potential user perspectives (installers, manufacturers & REC agents)
6. Opportunities to integrate with the current data collection processes
7. Reducing the administrative burden – next steps

2. Action Items

ITEM	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	DUE
1	Stakeholders continue to engage with AEMO on the DER Register development.	All	Ongoing

3. Notes

3.1. Welcome and introduction

- AEMO and CEC provide an overview of attendees.

3.2. Background and overview

- AEMO representatives provided an overview of progress to date, which included the following observations:
  - The purpose of the DER Register is to ensure system security and allow efficient operation of the NEM into the future. This is why AEMO needs details such as size, location, capacity, protection settings, export limitations, etc
  - The AEMO proposal for the role for the installer in data collection diverges from the AEMC rule change.
  - The aim of the design of the data collection process is to ensure that data will only be entered once.
- Rules require the DER Register to be implemented and in use by 31 November 2019 (pre-production activation will be in September.

3.3. NSP perspectives

AEMO reported that at the workshop with NSPs they expressed concerns regarding variations in the NSPs' data collection processes, but a desire for the DER Register to support them in meeting their regulatory obligations for connections and to provide data to the DER Register.

It was noted that Energy Networks Australia (ENA) is developing National Connection Guidelines and variations in the data collection process should align to the processes proposed by the ENA guidelines.

3.4. Proposed data collection process

AEMO noted that:

- The approach used for the Solar Panel Validation Initiative would likely provide an opportunity for efficiency gains in the data collection process.
- AEMO is proposing to develop a baseline web interface for data collection. This approach might need to enter data twice (where a paper process is used for example), but service providers are available to better support installers in providing the information.
- The obligation to provide the data will sit with the NSP (as per the rules), but the Installer will be the 'conduit' through which the NSP collects information. This approach would expect that DNSPs would use connection agreement terms to enforce data provision by installers.
- Timeliness of the data entry would not be a key issue. For example, the data could be entered by the retailer after installation. It would not have to be done by the installer during installation. A time limit would have to be applied, but this would allow flexibility.
- AEMO will seek to use existing interfaces to collect information, to simplify the processes which already exist (for example, creating scope for app developers to integrate DER Register data with existing apps).

3.5. Potential user perspectives (installers, manufacturers & REC agents)

- CEC members noted several concerns around the proposed process, including:
  - Expectations on installers:
    - To fulfil the detail proposed could be unrealistic.
    - The lack of financial incentive to comply could lead to low response rates.
    - The need to involve installers in the development of the collection process.
    - The extent to which the requested information can be collected from installers using existing interfaces (expect some variation).
    - Practical challenges that could render the proposed approach unworkable (such as mismatches between addresses on electricity bills to meter data).
    - Comparisons with data collection for other plant where AEMO has a stronger role in

commission.

- The potential for this approach to achieve '100% accuracy':
  - There is potential for statistical approaches to get reasonable levels of information without requiring a 100% response rate.
  - AEMO has not given enough consideration to working with manufacturers to obtain data where remote data acquisition capability is available and can provide AEMO with extensive and detailed data on their fleet of inverters.
  - AEMO will soon be collecting dynamic data, potentially in conjunction with the implementation of the Consumer Data Right in the energy sector. AEMO should explain how the DER Register proposal links to the proposal for the Consumer Data Right.
- The capability of this approach to manage system changes in the future (e.g. for inverter replacement or system failure).
- The role of standards such as IEEE 2030.5 which enable the direct collection of information which could render the proposed approach superfluous and provide more direct device control.

3.6. Opportunities to integrate with the current data collection processes

- Clean Energy Regulator provided an overview of their perspectives:
  - The existing product system includes a secure data package for the CER.
  - The Serial number verification scheme is voluntary and is currently rolling into use.
  - There have been many lessons learned through the existing information collection process, and the CER is looking at strategies to increase uptake for data collection.
  - The CER effectively has a legislated end date beyond which STCs will not be collected (c 2025-28), a more sustainable long-term solution would be of value to the sector.
  - The CER is only just considering their role in collecting information on battery energy systems.
- Solar Analytics presented on their existing capability to capture information on DER installations to add value with analytical services, noting that
  - 30,000 sites are now being recorded
  - There are benefits in monitoring data for each site that customers do value
  - Data accuracy is key to ensuring delivering value to consumers
  - AEMO needs to develop user stories to demonstrate how the information and process will flow as breakdowns in this will prevent benefits from being achieved.
- Attendees noted that some other application developers are already collecting data beyond the CER needs.

3.7. Reducing the administrative burden – next steps

- Need to keep the DER Register process as simple as possible and avoid duplication of other processes.
- AEMO will have to work with installers and CEC to ensure an appropriate implementation and transition plan is in place.
- AEMO encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the consultation of the draft reports going forward.

The meeting closed at 4 pm.