Information Exchange Committee
C/ - IEC Secretariat – AEMO Ltd

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Information Exchange Committee (IEC) Annual Report

Period ending 31 December 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Electricity Rules (NER), requires the Information Exchange Committee (IEC) to develop and publish an Annual Report[1] covering:

- A review of the performance of the IEC functions during the year, including significant issues considered, work undertaken and the IEC Work Programme and status of that work;
- Details of changes to B2B Procedures, the reason for those changes and an assessment of the impact of those changes;
- Outline the key priorities and strategic objectives for the future; and
- An indicative schedule of meetings for the upcoming year and an indicative plan of key deliverables for the upcoming year.

The IEC is also responsible for developing, consulting, and making recommendations on changes to the electricity retail market B2B Procedures[2]. The Committee and its B2B Working Group (B2B-WG) respond to reform initiatives affecting the operation of B2B Procedures in the electricity retail market, and initiate specific, continuous improvement programs to enhance retail market B2B business processes.

This report summarises key accomplishments for 2021 and considers the strategic themes for 2021.

2. IEC STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2021

Toward the end of 2020, the IEC outlined a forward work program anticipated for 2021. This program of work is reflected in the following tables and provided a guide for IEC meeting agendas and the broader work program for the committee and its B2B-WG during the year.

IEC Meeting 2021	Agenda Item	Description
February	AEMO Discretionary Members final meeting	Current AEMO Discretionary Members term expires on 1 March 2021. AEMO to consider existing appointments.
	AEMC Review of Competition in Metering	Overview of responses to Issues Paper and consideration of future IEC engagement in review. Possible IEC submission to draft determination.
	Consultation on B2B Procedures v 3.7 commencement	Consultation to include the changes necessary to supplement / support the changes to occur as part of the Standing Data Review to be implemented in two tranches in 2022.
	Finalisation of IEC budget	Final budget for IEC for 2021-22 to be tabled
	AEMO Discretionary Members	First meeting for AEMO Discretionary Members appointed from 1 March 2021-2022

[1] NER 7.17.7(b)
[2] NER 7.16.1 (c)

IEC Meeting 2021	Agenda Item	Description
May	AEMC Review of Competition in Metering	Update on AEMC's progress in relation to its review and timelines for completion
	B2B Procedures v 3.7 finalisation	Finalisation of consultation to be discussed
	Update on Customer Data Right (CDR)	Consultation on CDR due to commence in 2nd half of CAL YR 2021
	Update on status of introduction of retail competition in embedded networks	Any updates provided on the status of the reforms to embedded networks to be provided to the IEC
August	Discussion on next round of B2B Consultation	Matters to be included in the consultation to be discussed with IEC
	Update on preparation for B2B schema uplift	Schema uplift due in November 2021. Participants will be undertaking testing / pre-production at this stage. Update for IEC
	AEMC Review of Competition in Metering	Overview of the final decisions from the AEMC and any impacts on B2B procedures or system
	Update on Customer Data Right (CDR)	Update on CDR
November	Draft Annual Report 2021	For consideration by the IEC
	Draft IEC Budget 2022-23	For consideration by the IEC

3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

The B2B-WG and the IEC have continued to engage and consult with industry virtually on a number of procedural, guide and system uplifts over the year.

The retail regulatory environment continues to change at a rapid pace with work programs extending over 2022 and into 2023 at this stage. The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) continues to receive rule change requests from a wide range of interested stakeholders relating both to electricity wholesale and retail markets.

The following sections provide an overview of the key considerations before the IEC and its B2B-WG over 2021.

3.1 Introduction of 5 Minute Settlement

On 1 October 2021, Five-Minute Settlement (5MS) commenced in the National Electricity Market (NEM), aligning operational dispatch and financial settlement at five-minutes in accordance with the AEMC's 5MS rule. On this day, AEMO also began reporting on unaccounted for energy (UFE) values as part of the Global Settlement (GS) soft-start. This is where AEMO begins calculating and reporting on UFE values but does not allocate the costs to retailers until the full GS implementation on 1 May 2022. AEMO will continue to work with industry to implement the full GS changes on 1 May 2022, as per the AEMC's GS rule.

The B2B Meter Data Notification (MTRD) file size and transaction number limit was updated to support the transmission of five minute meter reads.

3.2 Wholesale Demand Response (WDR)

AEMO has established its WDR implementation program following the AEMC's determination on the WDR Mechanism rule in June 2020. The WDR mechanism commenced on 24 October 2021.

The B2B Guide was updated to include the Demand Response Service Provider (DRSP) as a role who can use the Meter Data Process B2B communications.

3.3 Introduction of service order enhancements B2B procedural changes

On 7 November 2021, the B2B procedures were updated to include enhancements to service orders to support efficiencies for metering competition. AEMO schema and B2B eHub changes also came into effect on this date with participants undertaking a planned system cut-over to implement the system changes. Changes included:

- enhanced service orders;
- the removal of the MXN transaction;
- incorporated ServiceOrderID field to PIN transactions; and
- addition of NCONUML as a CustomerType.

3.4 Change proposals received by the IEC

Any person (other than the Information Exchange Committee) may propose a change to the B2B Procedures by providing a change proposal to the Information Exchange Committee in writing.

There were seven change proposals received by the IEC in 2021, which are described in Table 3. The IEC decided to proceed to consultation with all six of the proposals.

Table 1 Change proposals received by the IEC in 2021

IEC change proposal	Proponent	IEC decision
Unstructured Address Field Removal	Endeavour Energy	Proceed, to be included in Procedures v3.7 consultation
Add Section and DP Number to B2B	Endeavour Energy	Proceed , to be included in Procedures v3.7 consultation
NameTitleField	Origin Energy	Proceed, to be included in Procedures v3.7 consultation
PersonNameGiven Field	Origin Energy	Proceed, to be included in Procedures v 3.7 consultation
Correction of B2B SO field status	PLUS ES	Proceed, Minor Amendment Process
Notified Party - NPN and Cancel SO	PLUS ES	Do not proceed, insufficient information provided.
Shared Fuse	Vector	To be updated post meeting with the relevant decision

3.5 Changes to B2B Procedures and B2B Guide

Based on the work generated by the change requests endorsed by the IEC described in Table 3 for 2021 and a number of change requests submitted during 2020, the following changes were consulted on with participants during the year.

Table 2 Changes to B2B Procedures and B2B Guide consulted on in 2021

B2B Procedures Version	Status (at end of 2021)	Description of changes
B2B Procedures v3.3.1	Effective Date 1 January 2021	• Change in Evoenergy service level for ACT jurisdiction re-energisations
B2B Procedures v3.4 (Technical Delivery Specification)	Effective Date 1 Oct 2021	• Internal document references • File size and transaction number limits in clause 5.8(a) • Megabyte defined in section 1.6 for clarity
B2B Procedures v3.5 and eHuB	Effective Date 10 Nov 2021	• The removal of the MXN transaction • Incorporate ServiceOrderID field to PIN transactions • Enhance service orders • Add NCONUML as a CustomerType
B2B Procedures v3.6	Effective Date 10 Nov 2021	Changes to life support processes to provide clarity for: • Communication of a Life Support Request (LSR) • Communication of a Life Support De-registration incorporates previously submitted 2019 Endeavour Energy ICF • Communication of Life Support during reconciliation • Communication of the Registration Process Owner
NEM ROLR Processes Version 2.2	Effective Date 1 May 2022	• NEM RoLR Processes Part B incorporating the changes for National Electricity Amendment (Global Settlement and Market Reconciliation) Rule 2018 No 14
B2B Procedures v3.6.1	Effective Date 10 Nov 2021	• Updated version numbers and release date to retain version numbering with other B2B Procedures • Updated Table 13 ServiceOrderRequest Transaction Data to ensure consistency of approach between CustomerNotificationEmail and other Service Order fields.
B2B Procedures v3.6.2	Effective Date 10 Nov 2021	• Updated version numbers and release date to retain version numbering with other B2B Procedures • Updated in Table 13 ServiceOrderRequest Transaction Data the status for the PurposeOfRequest SO field from Not Required (N) to Optional / Not Required (O/N) for the following SO types: • Metering Service Works Remove Meter; and

B2B Procedures Version	Status (at end of 2021)	Description of changes
		• Metering Service Works Install Controlled Load.
B2B Procedures v3.7	Effective Date 07 Nov 2022	• Updated version numbers and release date to retain version numbering with other B2B Procedures • Removal of unstructured address for site address information ICF • Add Section and Deposited Plan (DP) Number address requirements ICF • Section on Coincident Service Orders for MPBs • Update requirements for NameTitleField ICF • Update requirements for PersonNameGiven Field ICF

3.6 IEC submissions to AEMC

The AEMC is continuing its Review of Competition in Metering which began in early December 2020. The IEC will continue to liaise with the AEMC during its review to provide strategic input relating to B2B matters.

3.7 Regulatory environment

The IEC remains conscious that the B2B consultations continue occurring in an environment of rapid regulatory reform within the energy sector. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the AEMC and the Victorian Government have already announced a number of further regulatory changes to be implemented over the forward work programs. In a number of instances, these changes will have flow on implications for B2B systems, either directly through new transactions or indirectly through affecting participants' appetite and/or ability to implement other new changes.

Table 5 outlines a number of proposed or upcoming regulatory changes that are currently in the public domain. These changes will not impact all participants equally, with variation by participant category and jurisdictions (in some cases).

Table 3 National Electricity Market proposed retail regulatory changes

Reform	Effective date
Consumer Data Right	Phase 1 November 2022, Phase 2 November 2023
Stand-alone Power Systems	Currently with the SA Minister and their Parliamentary process
Global Settlement	1 May 2022
MSATS Standing Data Review	Two tranches – March and November 2022
Embedded Networks	To be confirmed, currently under review by Energy Minister's (formerly the COAG Energy Council)

Reform	Effective date
AEMC Review of competition in metering reform	Review commenced December 2020. Any changes to B2B procedures or system will be proposed at the finalisation of the review with effective date/s to be agreed by the IEC
ESB NEM2025 Initiatives	Progressive rule changes under development from 2021 onwards.

4. B2B-WG ACTIVITES AND ENGAGEMENT

2021 continued to be a busy year for the B2B-WG. The complexity and volume of material that was referred to the working group by the IEC was also significant given the number of change requests raised by participants.

The B2B-WG continues to develop scenarios and plausible solutions to challenges associated with the potential increased number of coincident service orders due to the expiry of the NSW moratorium on remote de-energisations and re-energisations. The moratorium was introduced in December 2017. This work and any consultation deemed necessary by the IEC will continue in 2022.

The membership of the B2B-WG is provided at **Appendix C.**

The IEC wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of B2B-WG members in providing strategic advice to the IEC and outworking the ongoing changes to the B2B procedures and framework.

5. OBJECTIVES AND PRIOIRTIES FOR 2022

As noted in Section 2 of this report, the IEC identified a number of priorities for 2021. 2022 will continue to challenge the electricity retail sector. Whilst some of the upcoming implementations do not have an impact on the B2B platform, they still pose additional challenges for market participants working within this continuously evolving sector.

As previously noted, the AEMC has commenced industry engagement on its Review of Competition in Metering. The IEC intends to continue to engage with the AEMC on these matters.

The Commonwealth Government also continues development of the energy Consumer Data Right legislation, which will have significant implications for the energy industry.

The IEC will continue to monitor the appropriateness of these within the context of the significant change occurring in the electricity retail sector in the near future. This period within the sector continues to remain strategically important and challenging in the delivery of the speed of the reforms that are underway.

The proposed IEC meeting dates for 2022 are as follows:

- 28 February;
- 30 May;

- 29 August; and
- 28 November.

The IEC has a broad remit in relation to development and engagement on electricity B2B processes with industry. **Appendix A** provides a summary of the IEC roles and responsibilities under Chapter 7 of the National Electricity Rules.

6. IEC APPOINTMENTS

6.1 IEC nominations for elected member roles

Elected members (distributor, retailer, metering and third-party members) are appointed through a nomination and election (voting) process. The consumer member, discretionary members and the AEMO member (Chairperson) are appointed by AEMO.

In July 2020 the IEC Secretariat (AEMO) commenced a process to call for nominations for the following IEC positions due to the terms of the existing members expiring on 1 September:

- Distributor
- Retailer
- Metering
- Third Party (vacant role at the time of the election)

The IEC Secretariat followed the process as set out in the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual including industry emails and AEMO weekly communications calling for nominations for the roles.

Single nominations were received for (or on behalf of) the existing IEC member representatives for the distributor, retailer and metering categories. No nominations were received for the Third Party member role, which remains vacant. Given only one (suitable) nomination was received for each member category, no voting was required and these nominees were appointed without election.

6.2 Current IEC members and meeting attendance

Appendix B provides a full list of IEC members and their current terms, and **Appendix D** provides a summary of members' (or their alternate) attendance at each of the IEC meetings for 2021.

The IEC note that it is not practical for all participants with an interest in retail market operations to be members of the Committee and accordingly undertakes an open and transparent process in relation to Committee functions. Supporting this:

- Meeting packs and minutes are distributed directly via email to B2B-WG members; and
- Meeting packs and minutes are made available publicly through the AEMO website following endorsement of the meeting minutes by Committee members.

7. KEY CONTACTS

Market participants with an interest in the IEC operations or particular agenda items or issues are encouraged to participate. Please contact the IEC Secretariat to discuss your requirements or make suitable arrangements.

Secretariat functions for the IEC are provided by AEMO. The Secretariat may be contacted on IEC@aemo.com.au.

8. IEC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The IEC acknowledges and thanks electricity market participants, the B2B-WG and AEMO in continuing to collaborate in the identification, development and delivery of the ongoing substantial B2B reforms underway within the sector.

Appendix A – IEC roles and responsibilities

Section 7.17 of the National Electricity Rules outline the role and functions of the IEC which includes:

- Development, consultation on, and making of IEC recommendations to AEMO on amendments to the B2B Procedures;
- Management of the ongoing development of the B2B Procedures;
- Establishment of IEC working groups;
- Review and consideration of the work completed by IEC working groups;
- Development, consultation on, and approval of the IEC Work Programme (a program that outlines the development, implementation and operation of the B2B Procedures and other matters incidental to effective and efficient B2B communication);
- Development of amendments to the IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual;
- By 31 December each year, preparation of an IEC Annual Report which is to be provided to AEMO, by 31 March each year, for publication;
- By 28 February each year, preparation of a draft budget for the following financial year in a form consistent with the budget procedures of AEMO; and
- By 1 March, the IEC is to discuss and provide the budget to AEMO. As part of its budget process, AEMO must advise the IEC of the final budget.

In development new or amended B2B Procedures, the IEC and B2B-WG is to take into consideration the B2B Principles and Objectives as outlined in Chapter 10 of the National Electricity Rules. These are outlined below:

- B2B Principles:
  a. B2B Procedures should provide a uniform approach to B2B Communications in participating jurisdictions;
  b. B2B Procedures should detail operational and procedural matters and technical requirements that result in efficient, effective and reliable B2B Communications;
  c. B2B Procedures should avoid unreasonable discrimination between B2B Parties; and
  d. B2B Procedures should protect the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.
- B2B factors (objectives):
  a. The reasonable costs of compliance by AEMO and B2B Parties with the B2B Procedures compared with the likely benefits from B2B Communications;
  b. The likely impacts on innovation in and barriers to entry to the markets for services facilitated by advanced meters resulting from changing the existing B2B Procedures; and
  c. The implementation timeframe reasonably necessary for AEMO and B2B Parties to implement systems or other changes required to be compliant with any change to existing B2B Procedures.

Appendix B – 2021 IEC Members

Member category	IEC members nominated	Appointment period
Chair	Mr John Pittard AEMO Director	12 months 1 Mar 21 – 1 Mar 22
Distributor	Mr Peter Price Executive General Manager Energy Queensland	2 years 1 Sept 18 – 31 Aug 20 1 Sept 20 – 31 Aug 22
Retailer	Mr David Markham Corporate Affairs Australian Energy Council	2 years 1 Sept 18 – 31 Aug 20 1 Sept 20 – 31 Aug 22
Metering	Mr Robert Lo Giudice General Manager, Metering Coordinator & Operations INTELLIHUB Group	2 years 1 Sept 18 – 31 Aug 20 1 Sept 20 – 31 Aug 22 Resigned 12 Nov 21.
Third Party	Vacant	No nominations received
Energy Consumer	Brian Spak Energy Consumers Australia	12 months 1 Mar 21 – 1 Mar 22
Discretionary (retail)	Mr Peter Van Loon Telstra Energy	12 months 1 Mar 21 – 1 Mar 22
Discretionary (distributor)	Ms Emma Youill GM, AusNet Services	12 months 1 Mar 21 – 1 Mar 22
Discretionary (embedded networks)	Mr Marco Bogaers Executive Director, Metropolis	12 months 1 Mar 21 – 1 Mar 22

Appendix C – 2021 B2B Working Group Members

Member category/ role	IEC members nominated	Organisation
Chair	Meghan Bibby	AEMO
Secretariat	Nandu Datar	AEMO
Distribution Sector Representation	Adrian Honey	TasNetworks
	David Woods	South Australia Power Networks
	Dino Ou	Endeavour Energy
	Justin Betlehem	Ausnet Services
	Robert Mitchell	Energy Queensland
Retail Sector Representation	Aakash Sembey	Simply Energy
	Christophe Bechia	Red Energy
	Mark Riley	AGL
	Joe Castellano	Origin Energy
	Stephanie Lommi	Alinta Energy
Competitive Metering Sector Representation	Robert Lo Giudice	Intellihub
	Paul Greenwood	Vector AMS
	Helen Vassos	Plus ES
	Wayne Farrell	Yurika
	Vacant	

Appendix D – IEC Members 2021 Meeting Attendance

Member	Company	Member Category	22 Feb	24 May	30 August	29 Nov
John Pittard	AEMO	AEMO Chairperson	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Peter Price	Energy Queensland	Distributor representative	Attended	Attended	Attended	
David Markham	Australia Energy Council	Retailer representative	Attended	Attended	Apologies	
Robert Lo Giudice	Intellihub	Competitive metering representative	Attended	Attended	Attended (last meeting)	-
Lynne Gallagher	Energy Consumers Australia	Consumer representative	-	Apologies	Apologies (last meeting)	-
Brian Spak	Energy Consumes Australia	Consumer representative	-	-	-	Attended (first meeting)
Peter Van Loon	Telstra Energy	Discretionary retailer representative	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Marco Bogaers	Metropolis	Discretionary embedded networks representative	Apologies	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Emma Youill	AusNet Services	Discretionary distributor representative	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Doug Ross	Former Chair, CMIG	Discretionary metering representative	Attended	-	-	-

Member	Company	Member Category	22 Feb	24 May	30 August	29 Nov
Vacant	Vacant	Third Party (elected) Representative				

IEC Members 2021 Meeting Attendance – Additional Attendees

IEC Meeting Attendance	Company	Role	22 Feb	24 May	30 August	29 Nov
B2B Working Group	B2B Working Group	Representative	Mark Riley AGL	David Woods SA Power Networks Mark Riley AGL	Helen Vassos PLUS ES	Mark Riley AGL For agenda item 7 only: Wayne Farrell Yurika David Woods SA Power Networks
Secretariat	AEMO	Secretariat	Michelle Norris Meghan Bibby	Michelle Norris Meghan Bibby	Michelle Norris Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon	Meghan Bibby Kate Gordon