



INFORMATION EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Election Procedures and Operating Manual Discussion Paper

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides retailers, local retailers, metering coordinators, metering providers, metering data providers, distribution network service providers, and third-party B2B participants¹ (collectively, “B2B stakeholders”) with an overview of the proposed changes to the Information Exchange Committee (IEC) Election Procedures and Operating Manual.

2. BACKGROUND

At the February 2019 IEC meeting, the IEC requested that the IEC Secretariat provide it with a list of proposed changes to the current IEC Election Procedures and Operating Manual to reflect the more mature Committee and meeting structure that had emerged following three years of the current IEC framework². In an Out-of-Session circular notice, the IEC unanimously approved the proposed changes to the Election Procedures and Operating Manual and asked AEMO to consult on the proposed changes with B2B stakeholders.

3. DISCUSSION

The current Election Procedures and Operating Manual were developed prior to the initiation of the current IEC meeting structure, and there are a number of current requirements that may restrict the efficient operations of the IEC.

The key high-level changes proposed to the Election Procedures and Operating Manual include:

Change	Justification for change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Removal of references to the initial election processes and member terms of office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The IEC is now in operation, and therefore no longer needs initial election processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased flexibility to extend the term of office for the Consumer Member and Discretionary Members by an additional year (from an initial one-year term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The IEC has considered it appropriate to have its current Consumer Member and Discretionary Members remain on the Committee for an additional term to provide stability / continuity during times when complex matters are being considered; the proposed change enables an extension to happen without a formal re-appointment process

¹ There are currently no Third-Party B2B Participants.

² IEC, 18 February 2019 IEC Meeting Minutes, 18 February 2019, p.5–6, [link](#)

Change	Justification for change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the time period in which AEMO can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ call for nominations following the resignation or removal of a member ○ determine if a nominee is qualified and accept or reject their nomination ○ collate qualified nominees for the voting process ○ notify industry of the election outcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This change is to allow AEMO time to communicate with industry to make them aware of a vacancy and conduct an election, as well as to allow administrative flexibility for AEMO given the non-urgency of replacing an IEC member (members have alternative representatives, and advance notice is generally known in relation to vacancies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change to the time periods in which AEMO must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ send meeting papers to Members ○ issue meeting minutes following a meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is to allow administrative flexibility on AEMO's end, given the non-urgency of the items in question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of AEMO communication requirements to notify participants of vacancies on the IEC, call for nominations, provide voting materials, and notify of election or appointment of Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This change enables the IEC and AEMO to use the most appropriate information channels available at the time, and flexibility to use different / multiple channels • This change also removes the requirement for all B2B Parties, including minor participants, to maintain with AEMO the contact details of a representative for IEC matters. Instead AEMO proposes notifying B2B stakeholders of IEC matters via the AEMO Communications weekly email, via peak market bodies, and via the IEC webpage on AEMO's website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalisation of the procedure for amending the Election Procedures and Operating Manual, as required by NER clauses 7.17.12(c) and 7.17.12(f) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is to clarify amendment processes for industry and ensure that the Election Procedures and Operating Manual are in accordance with the NER

The AEMO legal team has reviewed the proposed changes and ensured that they are consistent with the NER and not unreasonable in nature.

Following the submission period, AEMO and the IEC will review whether any additional changes are needed to the proposed Election Procedures and Operating Manual. If



additional changes are made, the draft procedures will be reissued to B2B stakeholders for feedback. If no additional changes are made, the proposed changes will be put to a vote by all B2B stakeholders.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

NER clauses 7.17.12(c) and 7.17.12(f), specify that proposed changes to the Election Procedures and Operating Manual must be submitted to all B2B stakeholders for a vote. This vote will pass if at least 75% of all voters are in favour from at least three of the following categories:

- Distribution Network Service Providers
- Retailer Member Voters (which category consists of retailers and Local Retailers)
- Metering Member Voters (which category consists of Metering Coordinators, Metering Providers, and Metering Data Providers)
- Third Party B2B Participants

Given there are currently no Third Party B2B Participants, this means that at least 75% of all Distribution Network Service Providers, Retailer Member Voters, and Metering Member Voters must vote affirmatively for the amendments to become effective.

The IEC wishes to consult with B2B stakeholders in advance of the vote to ensure that industry is briefed on the changes being proposed. The timeline for this consultation is given below.

Stage	Date
Discussion paper released	2 July 2019
Submissions close on discussion paper	15 July 2019
Draft paper released	17 July 2019
Submissions close on draft paper	31 July 2019
Final paper and proposed procedures released, along with ballot for vote	14 August 2019
Voting closes	25 October 2019

Any feedback on or questions about the proposed changes should be submitted to the IEC Secretariat at IEC@aemo.com.au by 31 July 2019.