CER Data Exchange Industry Co-design

Workshop 3 Summary Report

March 2025

Table of contents

Overview

Introduction

The third and final Industry Workshops for the CER Data Exchange Industry Co-design Project was held in Melbourne on Thursday 6 March 2025. This report summarises the feedback provided by participants at the workshop. The insights gathered will be instrumental in shaping the final High-Level Design report, which is scheduled for publication in April 2025.

At the workshop, the project team worked with participants to co-design the key elements of the preferred option for the CER Data Exchange that was discussed at the public webinar in December 2024. The workshop builds upon the stakeholder feedback gathered from Expert Working Group members, Workshop 1 and 2, as well as submissions to the consultation paper.

Workshop sessions were designed to seek participants' preferences on key trade off questions and feedback on key design elements. The key themes and sessions covered include:

- **Session 1: Context Future Think** - Exploring forward-thinking opportunities, risks and trade-offs.
- **Session 2: MVP of Use Cases** - Discussing the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) for priority use cases.
- **Session 3: Mechanisms to Implement the CER Data Exchange** - Identifying the governance and coordination mechanisms required for successful implementation.
- **Session 4: Cost Assessment** - Evaluating the costs evaluation approach and consideration for incremental costs and cost recovery.
- **Session 5: Implementation Planning** - Outlining the steps and strategies for implementation.

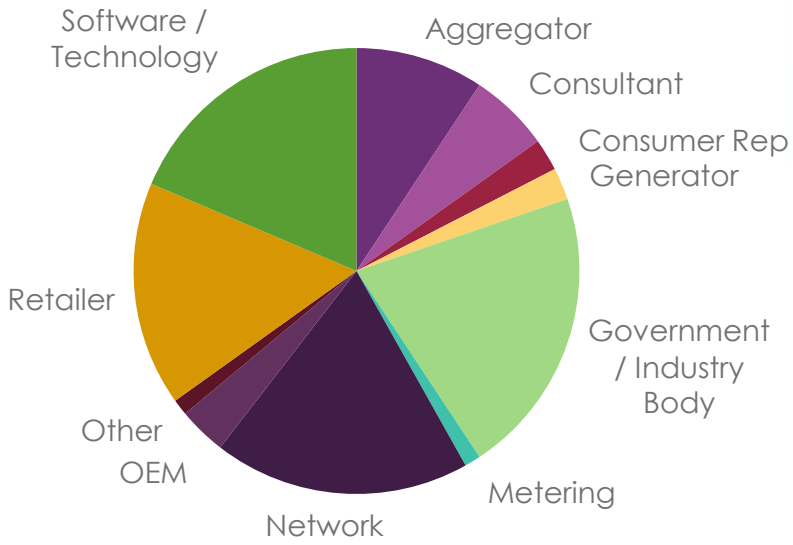
The workshop presentation slides are available on the AEMO Project Webpage.

Preferred option for the CER Data Exchange

- AEMO continues to lead co-design process
- MVP Use Cases: CER Standing Data, Sharing Network Limits, Network Support + Flexibility Capability Discovery
- Leverage the capabilities developed through **MITE***
- Focus on developing 'Minimum Viable Product' (MVP) for the priority use cases

**See Appendix B for further detail*

A broad range of stakeholders attended the workshop



70+

Stakeholders

Workshop agenda

The workshop consisted of four sessions. Apart from the context setting session, all sessions included co-design activities to enable participants to provide their preferences and feedback on key aspects of the high-level design.

1 Context setting + Future Think

Presentations from:

- Phil Poon, DCCEEW
- Violette Mouchaileh, AEMO
- Ed Chan, Project Team
- Mini discussion panel

2 Priority Use Cases Co-design

Table activity:

- Minimum Viable Product (MVP) in/out for priority use cases
  - CER Standing Data
  - Network Limits
  - Network Support and Flex Capability Sharing
- Implementation timing

3 Cost assessment

EY update on cost assessment process

4 Implementation & Governance

Governance

- Short and long-term mechanisms to continue process

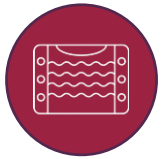
Implementation

- Highest priorities to be addressed: technical, engagement, governance, operational

Co-design tools

Table discussion and input

Group Surveys



Placemat Discussion Capture

Guest presentations and discussion panel

Panel discussion

We wish to thank the panellists for an informative and light-hearted discussion on their perspective on what a high CER utopia would look like. Panellists discussed their views on challenges and barriers to better CER integration. A common theme from the discussion was the need for all parts of the sector to work collaboratively to deliver better outcomes for consumers.

Guest presentations

We also thank Anna Collyer (AEMC Chair), Violette Mouchaileh (AEMO EGM Policy and Corporate Affairs) and Phil Poon (DCCEEW Assistant Director) for their presentations. Anna and Violette both spoke about the importance of this project and alignment with some of the AEMC and AEMO reform programs while Phil provided an update on the progress of the National CER Taskforce.

Key themes from workshop participants

There is broad support amongst participants for AEMO progress from high-level design to detail design and implementation for the CER Data Exchange. Most participants support the sharing of CER standing data and sharing of network limits as priority use cases.

Focus on the how, not the if | Presenters and most participants expressed strong support for the CER Data Exchange. The AEMC Chair and senior managers from DCCEEW and AEMO highlighted the importance of efficiently integrating CER into the energy system at scale, and how the CER Data Exchange supported this outcome. But some stakeholder support is contingent on the details of the design and implementation issues that still need to be worked through.

Finding the right balance | Participants largely agreed on the foundational functions of the priority use cases. There are clear preferences for an incremental approach (starting small), apply role-based access, and adopt a strategy of voluntary participation initially with pathway to mandatory use of the Exchange.

Get going | Most participants support AEMO to progress implementation by convening and coordinating a CER Data Exchange working group with industry. This forum will allow AEMO to continue to develop the use cases – as we move into the detailed design phase, with more focus on governance and funding issues.

Implementation considerations | Workshop participants highlighted several implementation issues that need to be resolved. Governance was identified as a priority issue, given potential barriers are expected to take time to fully unpack and resolve. These considerations may identify rule changes that are required to implement the CER Data Exchange. Roles and responsibilities need to be clear. AEMO should coordinate with other reform programs.

Timing and cost recovery | There was broad agreement on the need to stage the delivery of the use cases and allow for sufficient flexibility into the future rather than commit to a 'big bang waterfall delivery'. Stakeholders generally accepted the cost assessment methodology given where we are in the process - but it must continue to be built on and evolve as more design detail is worked out.

Broader communication | In parallel with the detailed design phase, AEMO needs to socialise this reform initiative more broadly with whole of industry. This includes connecting with consumers and consumer representatives to take them 'on the journey' – using an existing forum. Longer term, AEMO can also leverage an existing forum to manage ongoing governance.

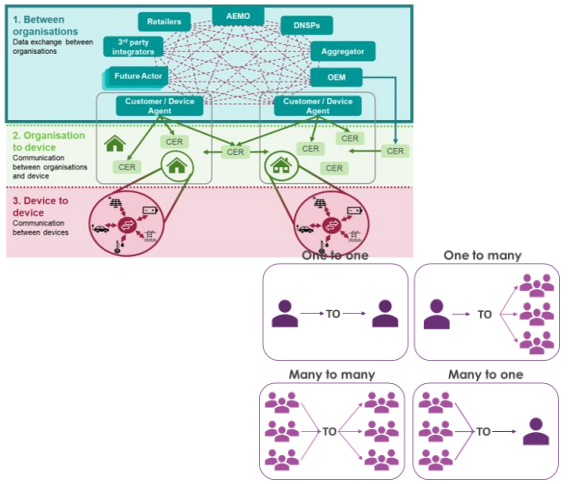
Session 1: Context Setting and Future Think

Session 1: CER Data Exchange project journey

Why and What → **How, What and Who** → **Confirming the way forward**

Workshop 1

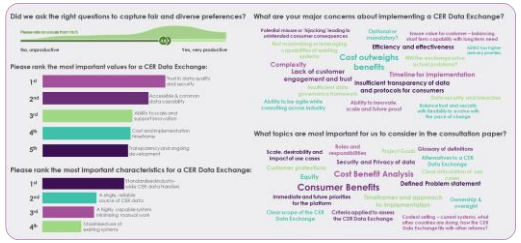
- Exploring the capabilities of the CER Data Exchange through use cases
- Use case categories, patterns and preliminary selection criteria

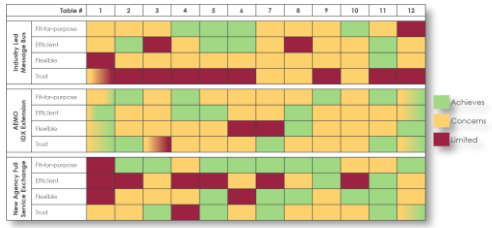


Workshop 1 Summary Report

Workshop 2

- Testing alternative futures to co-define the value of change
- High level design trade-offs (functionality, ownership, oversight)





Workshop 2 Summary Report

Webinar

Webinar Recording

Consultation Paper

Test stakeholder perspectives on:

- Use case functionality
- Data sharing capability
- Ownership, operations & oversight
- Data governance
- Implementation considerations

Consultation Submissions Summary Report

Feedback

- Strong stakeholder support
- AEMO-led
- Leverage existing capabilities
- 3 x priority use cases
- Start small then grow

Session 1: How has stakeholder feedback shaped this process?

Stakeholder feedback

AEMO as preferred owner and operator

3 x priority use cases

Leverage existing infrastructure where possible

Start small, then grow

CER Data Exchange Preferred Option

AEMO continues to lead co-design process

MVP Use Cases: CER Standing Data, Sharing Network Limits, Network Support + Flexibility Capability Discovery

Leverage the capabilities developed through **MITE**

Focus on developing 'minimum viable product' for the priority use cases

Session 1: Future Think Activity - Participant Feedback

This session encouraged participants to think big and think futuristic, imagining the functionality and role of the CER Data Exchange in 2035, and the key risks in achieving this future state. Participants discussed in table groups or shared their thoughts through a Mentimeter poll.

Describe the ideal future state in 2035 of the CER Data Exchange

- Equitable with profits shared and benefits flow back to customers
- Easy to integrate, easy to use
- Reduced cost of electricity to consumer
- Consistent experience for customers regardless of CER choices
- Seamless data sharing between organisations
- Customer centric energy system
- Seamless, secure and trusted
- Consistent and reliable knowledge of CER capacity in the network to enable high penetration of renewables
- Data is created, managed, stored and exchanged securely and efficiently
- Energy is available and affordable for all Australians

What are the key risks and how should these be mitigated?

- Cybersecurity
- Unintended impact on consumers
- Poor data quality
- Politics
- Adaptability to market changes
- Increased costs
- Low uptake / buy-in
- Increased complexity, reduced usability
- Privacy
- Energy inequity between those who have CER and those who don't

What trade-offs should be considered to achieve the future state?

Session 2: Priority Use Cases Co-design

Developing the Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

Session 2: Minimum Viable Product of Priority Use Cases

This session explored the challenge, objective and desired outcome of the three priority use cases. Group discussions reflected on the functional and operational services required, and what is covered under the Market Interface Technology Enhancement (MITE) projects – see Appendix B for brief overview. Participants provided feedback on what capabilities should be included in the MVP, and what could be implemented in a future evolution.

Common Feedback

- Strong preference for **Start Small Hybrid** approach across multiple design decisions
- Consistent support for **Role Based Access** across all three use cases
- Preference for **Voluntary** participation initially with pathway to mandatory
- Desire for **Standardised** formats with flexibility for stakeholder-specific extensions
- **Mechanisms** for networks to recover costs for the implementation of each use case are unclear

CER Standing Data

- Validation required
- Maintain historical dataset (BAU)
- Concerns about data quality and consumer consent
- Avoid additional implementation costs where possible

Sharing Network Limits

- Batch-based sharing with optional real-time updates
- Transformation to accommodate DNSP systems
- Publish limits only - preserve operational independence
- Transition from voluntary to mandatory over time

Network & Flex Discovery

- Static data only with event-driven updates
- Standardised registration framework
- Discovery only - no transaction services
- Concerns about value flow to consumers

Overall sentiment	Use cases 1 and 2 were seen as a priority and prerequisites before considering Network & Flex Discovery. More buy-in / clarity is needed on the latter. It was not clear to participants on whether there was enough value.

Session 2: MVP Feedback – CER Standing Data

Overall sentiment

- Largely supportive of use case – mixed preferences on timing
- Key trade-offs identified, with broad agreement on preferred MVP
- Important issues: data quality and consumer consent to share data
- Key question: how will non-registered participants access?
- Challenges: Getting better information / OEM data for DER Register

Timing

2026	2027	Beyond 2028
☐	☑	☐

Design Trade-offs	Preferred MVP	Additional Feedback
Manual vs Automated Data Updates vs **Start Small Hybrid**	Introduce automated data ingestion and validation mechanisms to reduce reliance on manual data entry while maintaining human oversight where necessary.	• "Need to be specific [about] who chooses?" • "Automatically push data updates for those parties with registered interest", "Validation is required" • "Is there an opportunity to leverage CSIP or OEM registration to avoid manual updates"
Historical Static vs Future Updates vs **Start Small Hybrid**	MVP would maintain a point in time historical dataset (BAU) while enabling future updates with validation where feasible.	• "Don't create additional implementation cost on data providers where possible for MVP" • "Seems like a lot for the MVP"
NSPs and AEMO only vs **Role Based Access**	Enable tiered access control, allowing different levels of access based on role, regulatory/legal requirements, and privacy considerations. This would primarily include customer agents and retailers.	• "Roles based access must be able to evolve to future use cases" • "Okay that's not perfect future knowledge" • "Clarify roles and functionalities attached to each"
Voluntary vs Mandatory vs **Start Small Hybrid**	Maintain existing mandatory responsibilities however encourage voluntary participation initially by customer agents/retailers, with a pathway to mandatory integration supported by incentives.	• "Mandatory for networks but voluntary for retailers" "Mandate registration process" • "Tricky – needs to be an incentive mechanism to participate"
Standardisation vs Customisation vs **Start Small Hybrid**	Develop standardised data formats while allowing flexibility for stakeholder-specific extensions.	• "Need to establish early to avoid parties going separately" • "Main issue is that you need a rule change to update"

Session 2: MVP Feedback – Efficient Sharing of Network Limits

Overall sentiment

- Largely supportive of use case – mixed preferences on timing
- Key trade-offs identified, with broad agreement on preferred MVP
- Important issues: only show deltas vs standardised limits across DNSPs
- Key question: initially report DOEs, then expand to hosting capacity?
- Challenges: operationally, is it possible to support near real-time by exception?

Timing

2026	2027	Beyond 2028
☐	☑	☐

Design Trade-offs	Preferred MVP	Additional Feedback
Real-time vs Batch vs **Start Small Hybrid**	Sharing network limits in a batch-based data exchange approach through scheduled updates, with optional real-time updates for critical constraints.	• "Foundational piece for the flex market", "Real-time not needed in near term" • "This is a way to centralise data quality"
Standardised Format vs **Transformation**	Codesign with DNSPs to determine the best balance between standardisation and flexibility. Implement automated data transformation where necessary while accommodating existing DNSP systems.	• "It's across all jurisdictions and some of them already have standards" • "Who fixes the standards", "Delta approach removes the need for standardisation in MVP – ie, only communicate the change" • "Limited attributes, so why not standardise?"
Role Based Access vs Open Data	Implement tiered access control, where authorised stakeholders can receive detailed network limit data, and complementary datasets.	• "If role based, should not create a competitive advantage" • "Require authorised parties to register interest"
Voluntary vs Mandatory vs **Transition**	Start with voluntary adoption for DNSPs whilst transitioning to mandatory usage supported by regulatory reform.	• "Accelerate towards mandatory" • "Will require alignment with other reforms" • "Business will come when need to do it"
Control Signals vs **Publish Limits Only**	The underlying assumption in the exchange is that it would not be used to provide operational control hence the MVP and future evolution would only include publishing network limits, preserving DNSPs operational independence.	• "Publish limits only" • "What is the most useful data to be shared?" • "What do consumers want?" • "Keen on dynamic limits"

Session 2: MVP Feedback – Network Support & Flex Capability Discovery

Overall sentiment

- Somewhat supportive of use case – mixed preferences on timing
- Key trade-offs identified, with broad agreement on preferred MVP
- Important issues: platform for bilateral contracts or national bulletin board
- Key question: how fits with existing platforms that support transactions
- Challenges: Should be informed by roles and responsibilities work program

Timing

2026	2027	Beyond 2028
☐	☑	☐

Design Trade-offs	Preferred MVP	Additional Feedback
Static Only vs Operational Data Sharing	Enable both static with event-driven data updates for different use cases. The MVP is not proposed to include operational data sharing.	• "Event driven data updates to prove that flexibility is there" • "Would bulletin boards include aggregators reporting their performance?" • "This is challenging as the locational information shared across industry"
Standardised Registration vs Adaptable	Codesign with DNSPs, market participants and flex providers to establish a common registration service discovery framework while allowing flexible implementation.	• "Standardised registration but is the rego done at DNSP or at central?" • "Dynamic pricing signals in future" • "Real-time and standardised possible future state"
Role Based Access vs Open Data	Implement tiered access control, where authorised stakeholders receive detailed flexibility service availability/capacity and constraint data.	• "Journey map of parties" • "Ensure relevant consumer protections" • "Being able to manage Flexible Trading Arrangements"
Voluntary vs Mandatory	Begin with voluntary adoption, for early participants, and assess pathways for alignment as the market matures.	• "Where this is useful is questionable", "Tool for RIT-D?, "Not sure it's the right time" • "Concern around value flow back to consumers"
Discovery Only vs Transaction Service	Support bilateral and multilateral data-sharing models to accommodate various flexibility market structures. MVP will not support transaction services.	• "If network shortfall, how to ensure parties commit?" • "Transaction service would be time consuming" • "Existing players that provide transaction services"

Session 2: Table Feedback of MVP Trade-offs

Trade-offs	Broader Access to CER Standing Data										
Table	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Manual vs Automated Data Updates vs **Start Small Hybrid**											
Historical Static vs Future Updates vs **Start Small Hybrid**											
NSPs and AEMO only vs **Role Based Access**											
Voluntary vs Mandatory vs **Start Small Hybrid**											
Standardisation vs Customisation vs **Start Small Hybrid**											

Trade-offs	Efficient Sharing of Network Limits										
Table	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Real-time vs Batch vs **Start Small Hybrid**											
Standardised Format vs **Transformation**											
Role Based Access vs Open Data											
Voluntary vs Mandatory vs **Transition**											
Control Signals vs **Publish Limits Only**											

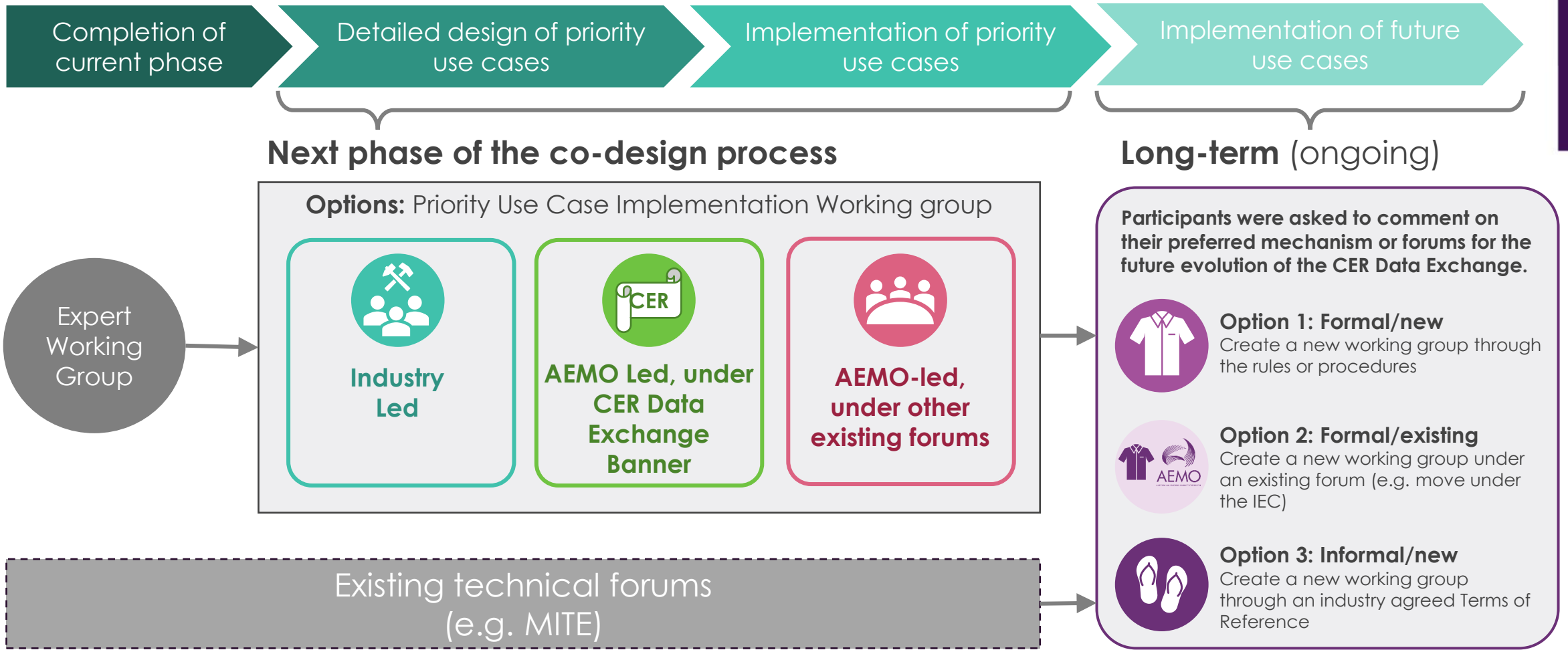
Trade-offs	Network Support & Flex Capability Discovery										
Table	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Static Only vs Operational Data Sharing											
Standardised Registration vs Adaptable											
Role Based Access vs Open Data											
Voluntary vs Mandatory											
Discovery Only vs Transaction Service											

Legend Yes | Maybe | No | The table didn't come to a position

Session 3: Mechanisms to implement the CER Data Exchange

Session 3: Mechanisms to implement the CER Data Exchange

During this session, participants were asked to consider preferred mechanisms to progress the CER Data Exchange, for both the next phase of the co-design process and longer-term. The options presented consider the transition from short- to long-term arrangements, and the need for functional, technical and consumer representation in a working group.



Session 3: Mechanisms to implement the CER Data Exchange

NEXT PHASE: Detailed Design of priority use cases

Preferred option:

Industry Led

Industry convene and coordinate a Working Group to continue developing the MVP and make recommendations to AEMO on implementation

AEMO Led, under CER Data Exchange Banner

AEMO convenes and coordinates a CER Data Exchange working group (with industry) to continue to develop priority use cases

AEMO-led, under other existing forums

AEMO convenes a sub-group as part of existing processes such as IPRR

Participant feedback

- "AEMO as facilitator, given eyes on reform"
- "Keep momentum", "Keep focus on CER"
- "Collaboration is key", "Project based approach to bring together industry", "Compliance framework to drive interest / prioritisation"
- "Short term: bit of tension between interests and resources available – established players bias"
- "Dependency on MITE", "DNSPs may need CDR first"
- "Using existing forums risks the works being led by timeframes of those forums", "This is new and requires different people [so cannot rely on existing forums]"
- Table 1: "Option 1 for financial aspects, Option 2 for technical through MITE led group"
- "Legal review on what is possible in absence of mandatory obligations for participation in the exchange. This needs to be done in conjunction with technical design."

Table # 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Session 3: Mechanisms to implement the CER Data Exchange

LONG TERM: Business-as-usual arrangements

Preferred option:

Option 1: Formal/new
Create a new working group through the rules or procedures

Option 2: Formal/existing
Create a new working group under an existing forum (e.g. move under the IEC)

Option 3: Informal/new
Create a new working group through an industry agreed Terms of Reference

Participant feedback

- "Build new would end up being the same as existing, limited resources in industry (same people at the same work groups"
- "Do not start from scratch, maintain agility of industry led, clear new function that doesn't detract from existing"
- "Decision makers in same group", "Include OEMs and consumers", "Tie back to IDX / MITE"
- "Governance as operations vs investment – what is the risk?", "Support splitting procedural and technical"
- "Evolving platform – keep it dynamic", "Could use sandbox to test"
- Table 2: "Option 1 for technical, Option 2 for procedural",
- "Might need [formal options] for parties to have regulatory coverage", "Networks to get recovery need formalised group"

How do we incorporate the consumer and customer perspective?

Participants preferred: consult with existing forum (AEMO Consumer & Community Reference Group)

Table # 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Session 4: Cost Assessment

Session 4: Cost Assessment - Project team presentation

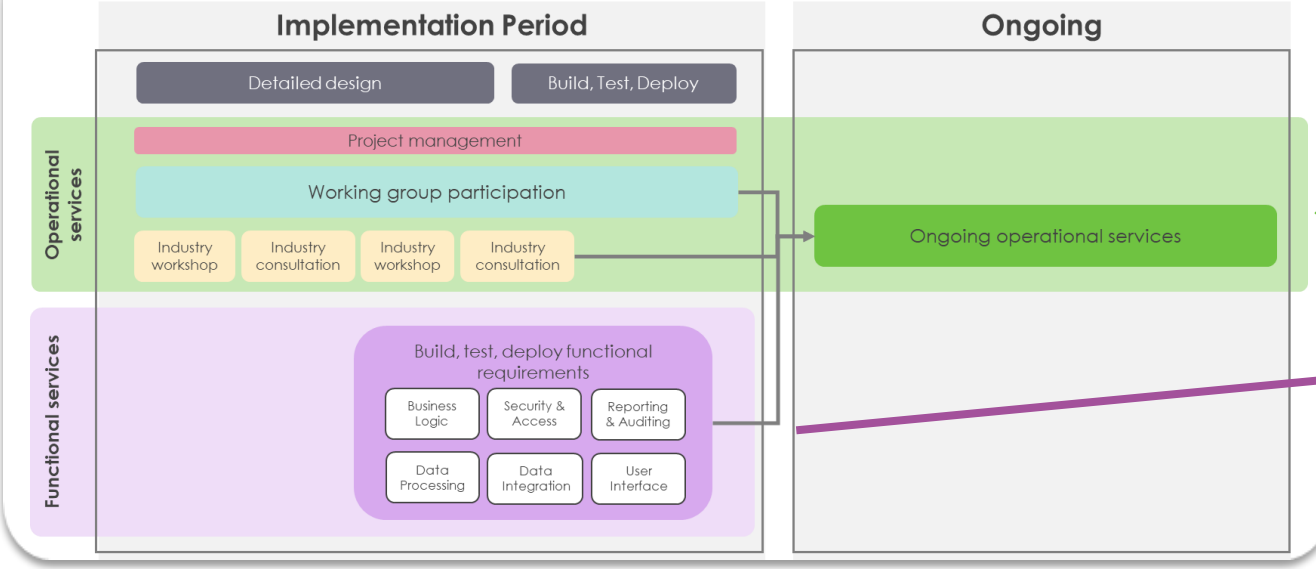
During this session, the Project team presented the cost assessment scope, approach and methodology.

Key inputs to cost assessment

1. Outputs of high-level design of CER Data Exchange
2. Functionality that will be delivered through the Market Interface Technology Engagement (MITE) project
3. Implementation timeline

To determine incremental functionality required by CER Data Exchange over and above MITE

Cost buckets



Costing methodology

Operational Services

- Effort-based estimates
- Effort aligned with:
  - **Project management** (AEMO)
  - **Working group** participation (based on estimated number of participants by category)
  - All **industry workshops** and consultation (all industry)
- Split by participant category
- Standard labour rate applied

Functional Services

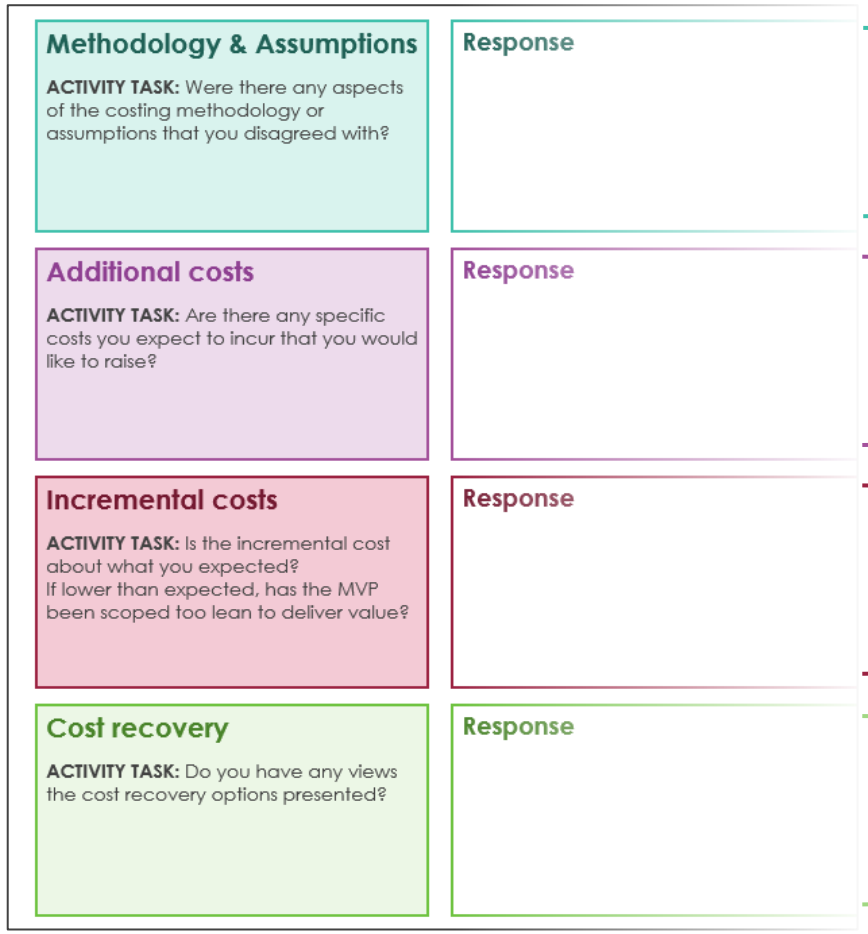
- Estimate of t-shirt sized costs for functional build, test and deploy
- Plus other costs such as hosting, storage, licence fees

Session 4: Cost Assessment - Table activity

Activity C: Participants were invited to discuss and share their perspectives on four different aspects of the cost assessment – which are discussed in turn below

Artefact that workshop participants used

Types of responses sought from participants



Views on modelling approach and high-level assumptions

Views on additional costs participants expect to incur

Views on the cost to industry

Views on potential cost recovery options

Session 4: Cost Assessment - Participant feedback

Activity C: Participants discussed and shared their sentiments on aspects of the Cost Assessment

Key themes and trade-offs

Methodology & Assumptions

ACTIVITY TASK
Were there any aspects of the costing methodology or assumptions that you disagreed with?

Counting diversity

- The current methodology assumes participants have similar scales, technical capabilities, and starting points – but there is likely to be significant variation in reality.
- This means implementation could be more complex and potentially costlier than projected.

Cost projections

- Several tables flagged concerns about whether benefits would materialise within the projected timeframes and whether ongoing operational costs have been adequately estimated.
- Historical examples used for benefit calculation may not be representative enough to build a reliable business case.

Key scope elements

- Multiple tables sought more detail and accuracy in what's being considered – such as what constitutes project costs, other workshop participants, and ongoing costs like data volumes and participant-specific implementation needs.
- Without these, the total investment required by industry could be underestimated.

Additional costs

ACTIVITY TASK
Are there any specific costs you expect to incur that you would like to raise?

Data transformation

- Multiple tables highlighted expenses related to data remediation, cleaning, and transformation. These costs include the initial conversion efforts and the ongoing quality management.
- All tables recognised that poor data quality would undermine value delivery, making these investments essential but potentially substantial.

Readiness costs

- Several tables identified costs related to workforce capability, organisational readiness, and operating procedures.
- These include training staff, establishing new business processes, and cultivating the expertise to utilise new capabilities.
- Scarcity of specialised resources may drive higher costs than market averages would suggest.

Specifics

- Participants are keenly aware of the different potential cost variations: costs for non-MITE and non-market participants, the differences between data input / producer costs versus data recipient costs, scalability, scarce / stretched resources, and the additional uplift required downstream from the interface.

Session 4: Cost Assessment - Participant feedback (cont.)

Activity C: Participants discussed and shared their sentiments on aspects of the Cost Assessment

Incremental costs

ACTIVITY TASK
Is the incremental cost about what you expected? If lower than expected, has the MVP been scoped too lean to deliver value?

Cost recovery

ACTIVITY TASK
Do you have any views on the cost recovery options?

Key themes and trade-offs

Foundation v. function

- There's tension between establishing solid foundations and delivering early functional value.
- While most tables supported the 'start small' approach, there are concerns that early increments might be 'too lean' to demonstrate value.
- There's a need to carefully calibrate the scope to ensure early use cases provide tangible benefits while building toward a full solution.

Industry alignment

- Feedback suggests that incremental costs will intersect with regulatory cycles and planning horizons differently across participant types.
- The potential for timing misalignment may create challenges for coordinated implementation that the current scope may not fully address.

Demos will build trust

- Several tables emphasised the importance of testing environments, example data, and opportunities to 'fail fast' – suggesting stakeholders see incremental approaches as confidence-building exercises as much as delivery mechanisms.
- Early, small-scale successes will be important to understanding the shape and impact of incremental costs.

Equity v. practicality

- Almost every table raised concerns about fairness in cost allocation – particularly aligning costs incurred with benefits received.
- The feedback also recognises pragmatically that simple, implementable mechanisms are needed.
- The challenge is developing an approach that maximises fairness while remaining administratively feasible – competing priorities that may not be fully realised.

Regulated v. not

- The feedback highlights a structural challenge in applying consistent recovery principles across different types of participants.
- Regulated entities have established cost-recovery mechanisms while non-regulated participants operate under different commercial models.
- Current frameworks may not be able to address the asymmetries of how costs are recovered under these different models.

Short v. long-term

- Workshop participants considered public funding should offset initial costs.
- Others focused on long-term recovery models to establish an enduring framework
- Stakeholders recognised the importance of managing these timing issues

Session 4: Cost Assessment

Activity C: So what? What we'll do next with these findings

Stakeholder Feedback

- General acceptance from stakeholders that the proposed costing methodology is appropriate for this stage of the project.
- Stakeholder feedback indicates opportunities for future refinement: more detailed costs and benefits, and assumptions that reflect individual complexity, diversity, circumstances, and challenges.

Our Response

- Cost Assessment document will provide more detailed view of cost assessment assumptions underpinning the High-Level Design worked through this process;
- A business case could be developed following detailed design that would be based on a refined set of assumptions and could also address benefits. However, it is important to note that any 'whole of industry' business case would not take specific participants' circumstances into account.

Stakeholder Feedback

- Clearer articulation of what each increment cost delivers, for whom, and on what timeline would address stakeholder concerns.

Our Response

- Proposed timeline of what capability will be delivered when, and for whom, will be outlined in final High-Level Design deliverable.

Stakeholder Feedback

- Stakeholders value an incremental approach that balances quick wins with sustainable foundations.
- Future phases will need to strike a balance in defining "minimum viable" in a way that meets stakeholder expectations while maintaining manageable cost profiles and the cumulative effects of change.

Our Response

- In this phase, cost assessment will continue based on MVPs of three use cases produced during High Level Design phase. During detailed design, if the MVPs are expanded, this could be taken into account in the more detailed cost benefit analysis.

Stakeholder Feedback

- For cost recovery, the fundamental question is: when benefits are widely distributed but costs can be concentrated, how should investments be allocated?
- Current models may not be able to answer this – and no single recovery approach will work for all participants.
- A multi-layered recovery framework may be required – or else participants are likely to default to point-to-point solutions regardless of the benefits of collective investment in an exchange.

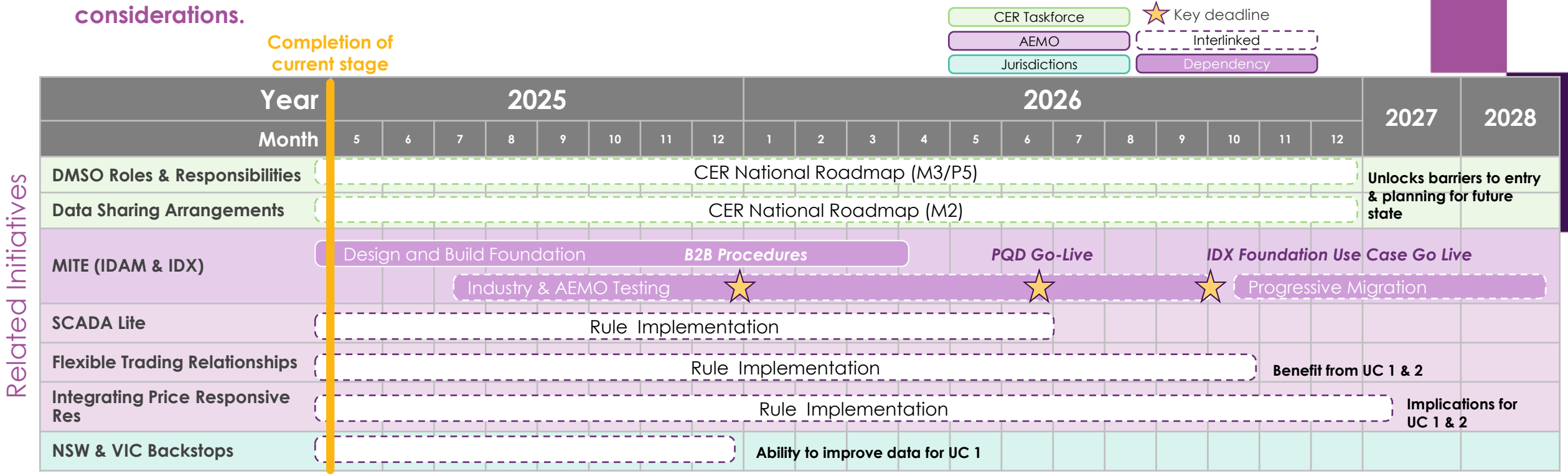
Our Response

- There probably is not a simple solution to cost recovery.
- We will review and consider possible cost recovery options as part of the detailed design process.

Session 5: Implementation Planning

Session 5: Project team presentation

During this session, participants were presented with a timeline of related reforms and four key implementation considerations.



Technical (e.g. data exchange systems, schemas, regulatory barriers, enabling reforms)

Governance (e.g. regulatory barriers, regulations & compliance)

Engagement (e.g. forums, industry workshops, communication methods)

Operational (e.g. risk, business rules, roles and responsibilities)

Participants were asked to prioritise the implementation considerations and explain what needs to be addressed immediately, considering concurrent reform processes.

Participant feedback

Participants considered that governance issues can be timely to resolve and should be prioritised in implementation.

Issue

Participant Feedback

Engagement

- "Consumers need to be informed, consulted – they are paying", "It's customers' data and their rights"
- "Need more customer input to ensure compelling narrative", "Need to take on the journey"
- "We need buy-in and agreement that we need the MVP", "This will take the longest"
- "How do we track the benefits?"
- "More concrete articulation of use cases and outcomes", "This is where what will be required from each party is defined"

Technical

- "Foundational – key dependencies"
- "Focus on standardisation – tech is changing"
- "Need good quality data"
- "Reg barriers / timeline most challenging to implement"
- "Detail needed to reduce uncertainty"
- "Once the actions taken by each party are defined, the technical integration should be straightforward"

Operational

- "Need to know how it works to guide what to build", "End-to-end data journey – detailed use case design process", "How maps for industry", "What role gets what data"
- "Roles and responsibilities, business rules"
- "What does the MVP uplift look like (eg, voluntary to compulsory)?"
- "Operational not overly complicated for use cases"
- "No one will invest without cost recovery", "Show money", "Allow for funding timelines"
- "Potential resource contention across industry"

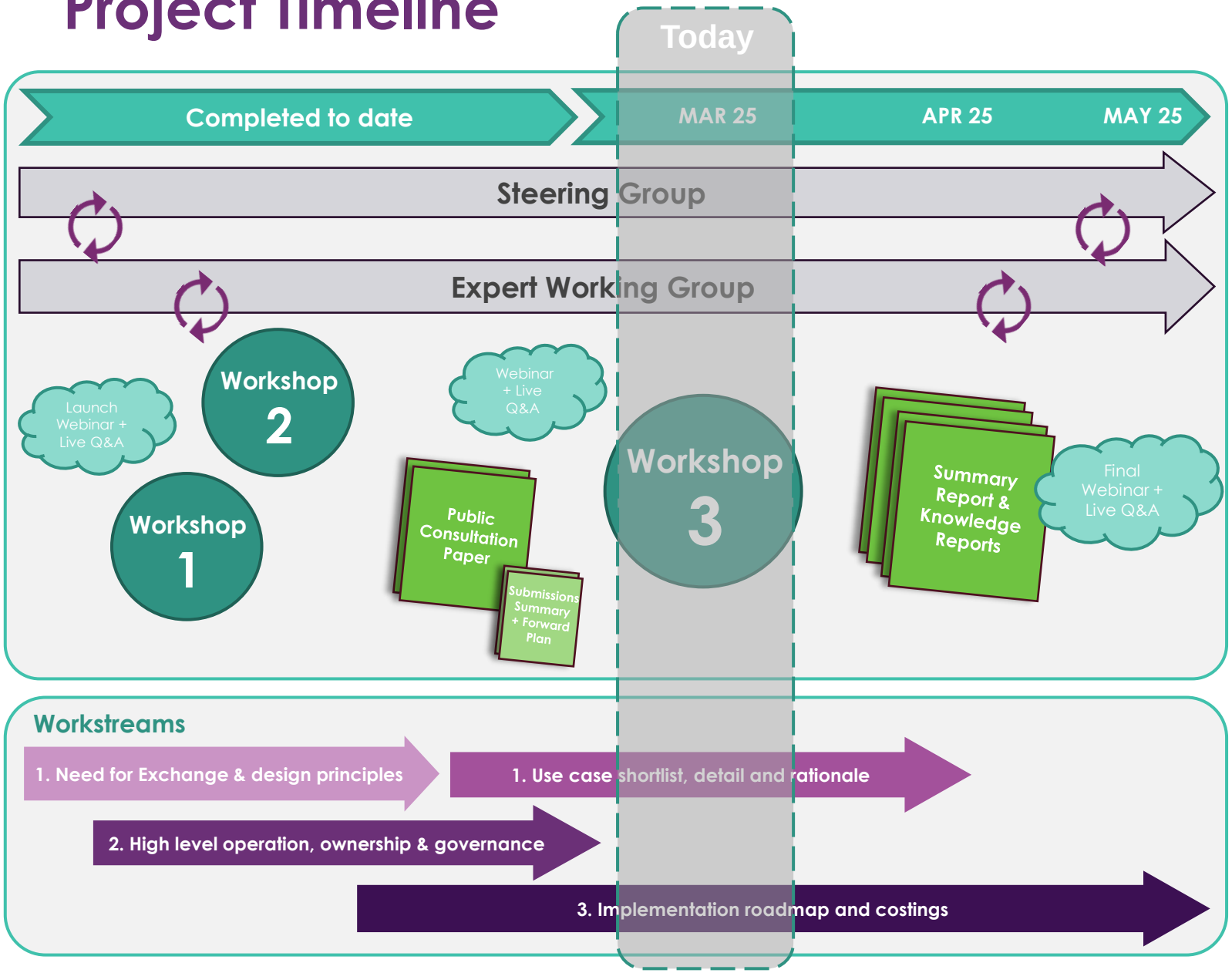
Governance

- "Governance barriers will take the longest (i.e., barriers to data access) – clarifications required", "… so start early"
- "Identify if any rule changes are required to implement", "Coordinate with other reforms", "Model that can evolve"
- "Roles and responsibilities need to be resolved given this creates obligation and imposes costs", "DNSPs and retailers must support", "Need safety rails"
- "Enable participants to work own timelines – ensure governance does not overburden", "If engagement and governance are done right, operational costs will be minimised"

Priority issue #1

Next Steps

Project Timeline



Remainder of 2025

1. AEMO to move to detail design with industry
2. Build out the three priority use cases
3. Leverage MITE capabilities
4. Implementation from 2026

Thank you

We are very grateful to those who attended the workshop and value your feedback. We hope you will stay closely involved in this project to help drive reforms that promote the long-term interests of consumers.

We will round out this phase of the CER Data Exchange project with three reports, outlined below:

Implementation Plan

Attachment: Cost Assessment Report

Attachment: High-Level Design Report

Knowledge Sharing Report

As this project is funded by ARENA, we will produce a Knowledge Sharing report reflecting on the co-design process and learnings.

In early May 2025, we will host a final public webinar summarising this phase of the CER Data Exchange project and providing an opportunity for Live Q&A.

If you want to sign up for our email updates, or you have feedback or any questions, please feel free to contact us at: cerdataexchange@aemo.com.au. Further information is available on the Project Webpage.

Appendices

Appendix A: Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
CER	Consumer Energy Resources
DNSPs	Distribution Network Service Providers
DOEs	Dynamic Operating Envelopes
EWG	Expert Working Group
EY	Ernst & Young
FCAS	Frequency Control Ancillary Services
FRMP	Financially Responsible Market Participant
IDAM	Identity and Access Management
IDX	Industry Data Exchange
NEO	National Electricity Objective
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
RAB	Regulated Asset Base
VNMI	Virtual National Metering Identifier
VPP	Virtual Power Plant or CER Aggregator

Appendix B1: Brief overview of Industry Data Exchange

What is Industry Data Exchange (IDX)?

In March 2024, AEMO received industry endorsement to proceed with the implementation of Industry Data Exchange (IDX) Foundational Phase.

- Business case was signed off by industry following a lengthy stakeholder consultation period
- Represents an efficient and unified implementation of data exchange capabilities across multiple reforms requiring it, with an AEMO investment of $20m over the next two years.
- Designed to modernise and standardised data sharing by replacing legacy systems with secure, trusted standardised integration patterns.
- Support organisation to organisation data exchange, organisation to AEMO data sharing and third-party applications.

IDX will enable:


Secure Data Exchange


Flexible Use Cases


Scalable participation

Implementation:

- Operational launch planned for Q2 2026
- Implemented under the Market Interface Technology Enhancements (MITE) projects

Sources: Industry Data Exchange Fact Sheet and Market Interface Technology Enhancements (MITE) projects

Appendix B2: Components of the Market Interface Technology Enhancements (MITE)

Identity and Access Management (IDAM)

"right people to get right access"

A unified mechanism to authenticate and authorise external identity and entitlements.

Information Data Exchange (IDX)

"exchange for high volume transactions"

A unified data exchange mechanism to support the secure and efficient exchange of data.

Portal Consolidation (PC)

"one stop shop"

A new web and mobile user portal to provide a unified stakeholder experience.

Contact us

cerdataexchange@aemo.com.au