

Minutes

Meeting:	Financial Consultation Committee (FCC)
Date:	Tuesday, 1 April 2025
Time:	3 – 4PM AEST
Teleconference details:	By Teams

Attendees: External

Name	Role	Organisation
Chris Opperman	Head of Financial Control	EnergyAustralia
Chris Alexander	Consumer advocate	WA Expert Consumer Panel
Deane Criddle	APAC Services Director	GE Vernova Digital Grid
Kim Josling	CFO	Snowy Hydro
William Durant-Whyte	Manager National Energy Coordination	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Norman Jip	Market Regulation Manager	Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Brian Spak	GM, Advocacy and Policy	Energy Consumers Australia
Mark Grenning	Director Policy and Regulation	Energy Users Association of Australia
Hugh Laurie	Attended in place for Nadine Lennie	TransGrid
Charlotte Eddy	General Manager of Strategy & Regulation	AusNet Services
Stephen Kelly	CFO Westpac Pacific	Westpac

Apologies: External

Name	Role	Organisation	Notes
Dora Guzeleva	Director Wholesale Market	Market Development and Coordination Division, Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	
Hayden Thomas	CFO	Synergy	
Stephen Haynes	Head of Group Planning and Analysis, Finance & IT	Squadron Energy	Meeting invite not received.

Attendees: Internal

Name	Role
Vanessa Hannan	Executive General Manager, Finance & Governance
Cameron O'Donnell	General Manager, Finance Strategy
Yogesh Nagarajan	Manager, Finance Strategy
Steve Kelly	Manager - Finance & Governance (WA)
Lance Brooks	Manager - Reform Strategy
Amy Cahill	Advisor, Stakeholder Engagement
Heath Kantor	Principal Advisor, Stakeholder Engagement

Actions from previous meeting

Ref	Item	Responsibility	Due date	Status
FY25 1.1	<p>In relation to investment planning, the following actions were taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How multi-year view capital expenditure is captured, including a dollar value on uncommitted projects AEMO's project management approach and the degree of certainty and contingency built into investment projects' budgets AEMO's historical project delivery performance 	AEMO	1 April 2025	Verbal update and information within the pack as part of investment slide.

1 Introduction

- Executive General Manager, Finance & Governance, Vanessa Hannan welcomed attendees to the meeting, acknowledged country, confirmed minutes from the last meeting and outlined the agenda.
- Vanessa acknowledged need for the meeting pre read to align with the AEMO's Board feedback from the previous week, which resulted in a delay to distribution.
- AEMO offered the committee an off-cycle meeting on **17 April 2025**, to consult more deeply on the Draft FY26 Budget and Fees.
- AEMO confirmed the consultation process will open on **April 3** and now be extended until **23 April 2025**.
- Member requested for minutes to reflect feedback provided to demonstrate the value of the committee. Committee agreed for all meetings going forward to be recorded and transcribed to support this need.

2 Agenda

- Vanessa Hannan shared general insights into key aspects of the Draft FY26 Budget and Fees.
- Vanessa introduced key themes for the Draft FY26 Budget & Fees including the uplift in AEMO people resourcing tools, developing a mature digital infrastructure, the expanding portfolio of projects and complexity of tasks AEMO are taking on.

- Vanessa shared insights into a key project for FY26 - Enterprise Resourcing Program (ERP) stating this investment will uplift our way of work efficiencies, the continued growth and maturing of AEMO to deliver for the market.
- Member asked if the ERP project was correctly scoped, on time and within budget for delivery in the new finance year. Vanessa confirmed the project was on track and will uplift AEMO's resourcing and service capabilities.
- **Action:** Member requested AEMO to consider sharing Post Implementation Review/s (PIR) in relation to spending on governance to build transparency and trust with FCC members. Vanessa confirmed AEMO will consider this recommendation.

3 Draft FY26 Budget and Fees overview

- General Manager, Finance Strategy, Cameron shared Draft FY26 Budget and Fees, preliminary AEMO Board feedback and outlined the process from draft to final budget and upcoming publication of the Draft Budget and Fees documents.
- Member asked if this was a genuine consultation given the Board had already seen the draft budget. Cameron clarified the AEMO Board reviews the budget in draft form, then again post consultation and considers feedback from members prior to final approval before AEMO shares the final budget by June 30, 2025.
- The Strategic Finance team works to ensure the draft budget is aligned with AEMO core pillars, draft and strategic priorities, noting the Corporate Plan will also be open to consultation this year.
- A question was asked in relation to a surplus in any segment. Cameron responded that AEMO looks to balance a surplus or deficit position by segment. There is a forecast surplus held within the NEM core through to the end of FY26.
- **Action:** Committee is asked to review the FY26 Draft Budget and Fees, including strategic priorities, investment governance, output, spending and constrain through the consultation process which post publication on Thursday 3 April 2025.
- **Action:** Strategic Finance team to consider request to build transparency in budget through providing detail on high level investment in new systems, productivity and the maturing of the organisation.
- **Action:** Strategic Finance team to consider providing detail on the current enterprise bargaining agreement.
- **Action:** Strategic Finance team to respond to question of who will pay debt servicing associated with the cost of purchasing gas on the spot market.
- **Action:** Strategic Finance team to respond to FCC on cost estimation principles.

4 Consultation process

- Manager, Finance Strategy, Yogesh Nagarajan, confirmed the consultation period for the Draft FY26 Budget and Fees will be from 3 – 23 April 2025.
- A final budget will be published by June 30, 2025.

5 NEM Participant fee structure consultation

- Manager - Reform Strategy, Lance Brooks, provided an overview of the consultation process to establish a new NEM Participant Fee Structure to apply from 1 July 2026. The consultation centres around the key fee structure attributes including: the allocation of fees to Registered Participant types or groups of Registered Participants, the types and number of fees that are appropriate, the basis for charging fees to Registered Participants, and the period(s) during which the Participant fee structure should apply.
- Lance tabled an overview of the ten fee structures that currently apply to the NEM and detailed several design and evaluation considerations to be considered, including how discrete fees could potentially be bundled together and how best to simplify a potential new fee structure.
- Lance tabled a timeline for the consultation process and noted that the Consultation Paper will be published on Thursday 10 April 2025, with a Final Determination expected in November 2025.
- A member asked a question regarding recovery of costs from Distributed Network Service Providers (DNSPs), which was an active area of consideration in the previous NEM Fee Structure Determination. Lance noted that this was an issue detailed in the Consultation Paper and to be considered through the consultation process.
- **Action:** The FCC is asked to participate in the consultation process by reviewing and making a submission to the Consultation Paper by 27 May 2025.

6 Wrap up

- The next meeting (17 April 2025) is scheduled is an off-cycle meeting to consult more deeply on the draft budget.
- The chairperson thanked the attendees and concluded the meeting at 4.30pm AEST.