DRAFT MINUTES – Forecasting Reference Group (FRG) Gas and Electricity

MEETING: # 11

DATE: Tuesday 24 January 2017

TIME: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm AEDT

CONTACT: Energy.Forecasting@aemo.com.au

ATTENDEES:

NAME	ORGANISATION	LOCATION
Clare Greenwood (Chair)	AEMO	Melbourne
Daniel Guppy	AEMO	Melbourne
Greg Staib	AEMO	Melbourne
Kirsty Camilleri	AEMO	Melbourne
Leanna Tedesco	AEMO	Melbourne
Magnus Hindsberger	AEMO	Brisbane
Nicola Falcon	AEMO	Melbourne
Tania McIntyre (Secretariat)	AEMO	Melbourne
Nick Cimdims	AusNet Services	Melbourne
Jay Stein	Citipower/ Powercor	Melbourne
Joseph Nunez	AEMC	Sydney
Damian Dwyer	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association	Teleconference
Brad Harrison	ElectraNet	Teleconference
Michelle Shek	Energy Australia	Teleconference
David Headberry	Major Energy Users Association	Teleconference
Shelley Ashe	NSW Department of Trade and Investment	Teleconference
Jennifer Brownie	Queensland Electricity Users Network	Teleconference
James Bennett	SA Power Networks	Teleconference
Herath Samarakoon	Tas Networks	Teleconference

1. Welcome and Introductions

Clare Greenwood (Chair, AEMO) welcomed participants to the first Forecasting Reference Group of 2017.

2. Administration (Previous meeting Minutes and Actions)

Previous meeting minutes were accepted without further amendments.

Clare ran through the action items from the previous FRG noting the following:

- **10.4.1** – 2017 Planning and Forecasting Scenarios – AEMO has since met with distribution businesses to discuss tariff structures and will feed this information into the draft scenarios. This information has also been passed onto the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) for consideration.

- **10.4.2** – 2017 Planning and Forecasting Scenarios – Magnus Hindsberger (AEMO) has sent through information for consideration by Jennifer Brownie (Queensland Electricity Users Network) and has requested that she contact him directly should she have any additional questions. This item has now been closed.
- **10.4.3** – 2017 Planning and Forecasting Scenarios - Additional feedback from stakeholders was requested by 19 December 2016. No additional feedback was received so this item has been closed.

3. 2017 Forecasting and Planning Publications

Leanna Tedesco (AEMO) led a discussion on the current Forecasting and Planning publications, noting that the energy industry is currently in transition and as a result AEMO is looking at how to best provide information to its stakeholders.

Leanna highlighted that currently publications are produced annually and separately for gas and electricity. Leanna explained that in order to remain relevant and continue to provide value to our stakeholders, forecasting and planning processes need to evolve with the increased rate of change occurring in the energy industry. For example, a more regular and proactive forecasting and planning information service may be required to provide a holistic energy view, integrating gas and electricity insights in a timely manner.

The forecasting and planning publication improvement initiative is to deliver a consolidated energy (electricity and gas) insights document to stakeholders at least quarterly, (or when major market events occur - for example a major government policy decision or withdrawal of assets from the market). The National Electricity Forecasting Report (NEFR) will still be published in June 2017, with consolidated energy publications provided through multi-channel delivery from October / November.

David Headberry (Major Energy Users Association) voiced concerns that by moving to dynamic interfaces, stakeholders may lose historical information and key assumptions behind reporting. David also noted his preference for having access to both reports and dynamic dashboards. Leanna Tedesco (AEMO) reassured stakeholders that reports would still be produced, however would be more concise and to the point. Leanna also noted that report assumptions would be clearer in future reports. Nicola Falcon (AEMO) added that participants would still have access to historical data moving forward.

David Headberry highlighted concerns around investments and the requirement for Industry to be able to draw on forecasting information including assertions and deductions. Leanna noted that she would take this feedback on board and ensure that there is enough information for participants to make these assumptions/ deductions moving forward.

Jennifer Brownie (Queensland Electricity Users Network) raised concerns with having to refer to the two different mediums moving forward, noting that details could be missed and the full picture difficult to put together. Jennifer noted that from a consumer representative perspective the NEFR is a one stop shop with all of the relevant information in the one publication. Leanna Tedesco (AEMO) clarified that the aim is for future reports to focus more on the statistics and the story around them. Jennifer Brownie noted concerns about losing context around the story in this new format.

Nicola Falcon explained the challenges with having forecasting information and tables in various mediums and that AEMO is trying to take into account perspectives from a broad range of stakeholders including those who have indicated they would prefer to be able to download the information from a single source as opposed to several.

Nick Cimdims (AusNet Services) voiced his support of the dynamic interface and the shorter report format. Nick noted PDF copies of the NEFR are of little use to AusNet and would like to see a greater emphasis placed on the dynamic interface moving forward.

James Bennett (SA Power Networks) agreed that a shorter report based around key issues would be preferable with additional data provided via the dashboard. Joseph Nunez (AEMC) agreed that an improved dynamic interface would be preferable to lengthy reports.

Nicola Falcon (AEMO) emphasised that one of AEMO's future objectives is to improve the relevance of our information and insights with more focus on publishing timely strategic Energy Outlooks, which would look at gas and electricity as well as supply and demand moving forward. The traditional NEFR, NGFR National Transmission Network Develoment Plan (NTNDP) and Gas Statement of Opportunities (GSOO) publications will evolve into these consolidated energy outlooks. Nicola flagged that AEMO would be taking a proposal to the Board in February regarding changing these reports moving forward.

Stakeholders generally expressed support for a integrated gas and electricity outlook.

Leanna Tedesco (AEMO) discussed the dynamic interface more generally, and requested improvement feedback from participants. Nick Cimdims (AusNet Services) stated that the interface is a bit clunky, especially when compared to other publications. Joseph Nunez (AEMC) highlighted some usability issues with the dynamic interface (i.e. it's not clear how to download data).

Leanna requested that stakeholders review the Interactive Map (and the associated user guide) and provide feedback to the FRG in February 2017. (Action Item 11.3.3)

4. Forecasting Reference Group for 2017

Nicola Falcon (AEMO) discussed the FRG outlook for 2017, noting that the energy industry can no longer consider supply and demand separately. Nicola explained that in order to ensure collaboration between the supply- and demand-side, AEMO is proposing to combine the FRG with equivalent Planning stakeholder activities. It is proposed that these combined forums would be held monthly, beginning February 2017 and would be comprised of current FRG members, and interested industry planning experts.

Participants discussed potential topics that would be discussed under this new forum format with Clare Greenwood (AEMO) noting that a forward plan would be developed and circulated in the near future. (Action Item 11.4.1)

FRG attendees expressed that they were happy to trial integrating planning and forecasting forums moving forward.

5. 2017 Forecasting and Planning Scenarios

Magnus Hindsberger (AEMO) noted that 2017 Forecasting and Planning Scenarios were discussed at length at the December 2016 meeting and that the draft scenario table would be published by the end of January 2017 as part of the NTNDP consultation.

It was noted that three scenarios would be maintained moving forward for inclusion in the 2017 NEFR, updated with any policy changes announced since the 2016 NEFR.

6. Next Meeting date

Clare Greenwood noted that the next FRG would be held on 21 February 2017.

Forecasting Reference Group (FRG) Electricity Actions Items

Item	Date Raised	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By	Status
11.3.3	24-Jan-17	2017 Forecasting and Planning Publications	Stakeholders to review the Interactive Map (and the associated user guide) and provide feedback.	ALL	21-Feb-17	In Progress
11.4.1	24-Jan-17	Forecasting Reference Group for 2017	A forward plan reflecting the new forum format to be developed and circulated to participants.	AEMO	21-Feb-17	In Progress
10.4.1	29-Nov-16	2017 Planning and Forecasting Scenarios	AEMO to meet with Distribution Businesses to discuss tariff structures to feed into the draft scenarios.	AEMO	24-Jan-17	Completed
10.4.2	29-Nov-16	2017 Planning and Forecasting Scenarios	Craig Price and Magnus Hindsberger to meet with Jennifer Brownie to seek her feedback.	AEMO	24-Jan-17	Completed
10.4.3	29-Nov-16	2017 Planning and Forecasting Scenarios	AEMO to resend the presentation and draft strawman spreadsheet of scenarios, along with some specific questions to seek further feedback.	AEMO	24-Jan-17	Completed
8.4.1	27-Sep-16	Modelling Future Weather	Luke Russell (AusNet Services) to investigate their metering data during heat waves and provide information on indications of such systems tripping.	Luke Russell (AusNet Services)	On-going	In progress – work to be presented at a future FRG – timing TBC