

# GAS RETAIL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

FOR DECISION	
SUBJECT:	GRCF 2021 PRIORITISATION SESSION. PROPOSED GAS RETAIL WORK PROGRAM 2021
CONTACT:	DANNY MCGOWAN
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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to

- (i) review with the Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF) the initiatives completed in 2020; and
- (ii) outline AEMO's proposed prioritisation strategy and initiatives that AEMO have identified as candidates for progression in 2021.

## 2. Background

In August of each year AEMO undertakes a review of all "open"<sup>1</sup> gas items on the Retail Market Issue / Change Register (***the "Register"***) to identify priority initiatives for progression in the following year. Participants are also invited to submit initiatives to AEMO that are not in ***the Register*** that they believe are worthwhile initiatives to progress.

When developing a work plan AEMO and participants take into account active gas and electricity initiatives that utilise the relevant subject matter resource. In 2020 the 5 Minute Settlement, Global Settlement, MSATS Standing Data Review and a number of smaller projects placed a significant resourcing constraint on many participants and AEMO.

Given these resourcing constraints the GRCF agreed on a restrained approach with respect to progressing further initiatives in 2020. The work plan comprised a mixture of IT changes that involved both aseXML schema and documentation related changes.

## 3. Initiatives implemented in the past 12 months (September 2019 to August 2020).

On 10 September 2019, there were 64 "open" items in ***the Register***. During the past 12 months, 29 new items were added to ***the Register***; 13 items were addressed; 32<sup>2</sup> items are "work in progress"; and there remain 48 "open" items.

Resolving 13 items in 2020 was a good result for the GRCF and AEMO given the resourcing constraints and the fact that several initiatives were added post the prioritisation session.

Attachment A describes the 2020 work program<sup>3</sup>. The items shaded in green are the consultations that have been completed since 1 January 2020, and the items shaded in red were planned consultations that have been withdrawn or postponed from the current work program.

The key initiatives approved, awaiting implementation or implemented during the previous 12 months were:

- IN003/20 – Adopt aseXML schema version r38 in order to introduce the life support transactions to east coast gas retail market systems.
- IN011/20 - Introduce improvements to the way customer information transactions are processed in east coast gas retail market systems.

<sup>1</sup> Open means items listed in the "pending" or "on hold" tabs in the register.

<sup>2</sup> Note - One item IN004-17 is combined with 17 other initiatives to form an east coast package of work.

<sup>3</sup> This attachment is the Gas and Electricity Retail Consultations Calendar

- IN003/19W - Amend the Western Australian (WA) RMP in order to make several editorial and process improvement changes.

The initiatives withdrawn or postponed were:

- IN002/20 - Review AEMO RMP timings.
- IN013/19W - Changes to the Error Correction Notice clause (clause 32) in the WA RMP.
- IN010/20 - Add a new reason code to the Service Order Request transactions.

The following are items from the 2020 program of work that are currently underway and are on track to be completed<sup>4</sup> in 2020.

- IN026/15 - Additional Job Enquiry Codes (JEC) for east coast.
- IN002/15W – Additional JECs for WA.
- IN009/19W - Add the meter status code to WA gas retail markets transactions.
- IN010/20W - Add two new meter statuses to the existing enumeration list in WA.
- IN003/20W - A adopt aseXML schema version r38 in order to introduce customer information transactions to the WA gas retail market systems.
- IN002/20W - WA to move to the same aseXML schema format as east coast.
- IN001/20 - Remove specific weather observation station locations from the VIC and NSW/ACT RMPs and include this information in a Register of weather-related information guideline.

#### 4. Prioritisation criteria for full 2021 work program

AEMO is cognisant of the fact that AEMO and Participants continue to provide significant resources into 5 Minute Settlement, SAPS, Embedded Networks, Consumer Data Rights and other projects. Given the above, AEMO has taken a modest approach for 2021 when developing a draft work plan for consideration. In preparing the AEMO list (see section 5 on this paper), AEMO has excluded initiatives that are likely to require considerable IT system changes for AEMO, Retailers and Distributors given the fact that an IT implementation is schedule for Q4 (October to December) 2021.

#### 5. AEMO proposed initiatives to progress in 2021

Attachment B of this paper contains a list of all initiatives on **“the Register”** that have a status of “pending” or “on hold”. Items that are shaded in green are part of the 2020 prioritisation program of work. It is likely these items will not be completed in 2020 and therefore will be carried forward into 2021. These items are:

- IN005/18 - Estimated consumption for meter removal (NSW/ACT, QLD, and SA).
- IN001/18W - Clause 325, notice of alleged procedure breach (WA only).
- IN001/20W - Bundled explicit informed consent process review (WA only).
- IN004/17 - 18 East coast miscellaneous / harmonising RMP and TP documentation changes including add a Downgrade Process to the procedures.
- IN004/20 - Baseload and temperature sensitivity factor changes (NSW/ACT only).
- IN012/15 - Remove superfluous NGR provisions (NSW/ACT, QLD, SA, and VIC).

Attachment B also includes several initiatives that are yet to be fully assessed. Until such time that these initiatives are assessed, they will remain in the register as a non-classified item with an issue reference number of IN000/00.

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<sup>4</sup> For WA initiatives, the reference to completed covers only AEMO processes and not the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) approval process.

The following are new items (these are shaded in yellow in Attachment B):

- IN019/20 - Audit finding regarding NSW/ACT RMP clause 8.11.15 and National Gas Rules (469) and STTM Procedure (7.2.4(c)).
- IN018/20 - Residual changes that relate to the Q4 2021 bundle release program of work.
- IN014/20 - Clause 2.9.7 (Metered supply points) of the VIC RMP. The use of the term “metered” needs further clarification.
- IN000/00W - Reviewing the Anticipated Annual Consumption’ for WA basic meters.
- IN000/00W - Redrafting WA RMP clause 32 - Error Correction Notice.
- IN000/00 - Reviewing the RMP wording around what’s an “actual meter read” given the advancement technology such as apps on mobile phones.
- IN000/00 - Proposal to harmonise the SA RMPs clause 3.1.1 and TPs with VIC and QLD so SA allow reads of up to 4 business days before the earliest transfer day for in-situ transfers.
- IN016/20 - Miscellaneous non contentious documentation changes. Includes IN009/20W, IN006/20, IN007/20, IN008/20, IN009/20 and IN005/20.

As in 2020, if it emerges that AEMO and Participant resources become more readily available, AEMO will put forward additional initiatives for the GRCF consider.

## 6. Review of non-prioritised initiatives.

Attachment B of this paper also contains a list of initiatives on “***the Register***” that have a status of “pending” or “on hold”; that are more than three years old; or that AEMO considers should be closed or withdrawn. These initiatives are shaded in light blue. Participants are to review these items prior to the meeting and be prepared to discuss whether to accept AEMO’s proposed approach.

## 7. Recommendation/s

The GRCF to endorse:

- (i) AEMO’s proposed prioritisation and planning strategy in 2021 as described in section 4 of this paper; and
- (ii) the items nominated in section 5 of this paper for inclusion in the work program (having considered all items on “the Register” as provided in Attachment B).

## 8. Next Steps

Subject to GRCF endorsement of the above recommendations, AEMO will prepare a high-level plan outlining the consultation timeline for items in the 2021 Register.

#### Attachment A

See paper Ref #5B – 2020 Gas and Electricity Retail Consultations Calendar included in the GRCF September 2020 meeting pack documents.

#### Attachment B

See paper Ref #5C- List of initiatives in ***“the Register”*** with a status of “in progress”, “pending” or “on hold” as at 10 September 2020 which is included in the GRCF September 2020 meeting pack documents.