

Meeting Minutes.

Forum:	Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF)
Meeting #:	163
Date:	12 November 2024
Time:	13:00 Melbourne time
Location:	Teleconference
Contact details:	grcf@aemo.com.au

Acceptance of these minutes log¹

Date draft issued	Outcome of circular resolution	Date accepted
14 Nov 2024	AEMO requests GRCF participants to respond by COB 30 Nov 2024. No response received.	2 Dec 2024

Attendees:

Name	Company Department	Name	Company Department
Danny McGowan (Chair)	AEMO	Deanna Power	Kleenheat
Nandu Datar	AEMO	Prachi Kamat	ActewAGL
Louise Webb	AEMO	Kelly Murray	AGIG
Simon Tu	AEMO	Troy Olcorn	Energy Australia
Wayne Lee	AEMO	Thakshila Gunaratna	Red/Lumo
Paul Carpenter	AEMO	Suvid Satyawadi	Tally Group
Lincon Hasan	AEMO	Mario logha	Origin Energy
Nallina Luckshman	CGI	Patrick Lau	TPC
Karthi Mahalingham	Synergy	Justin Betlehem	AusNet
Stephen Murray	Globird Energy	Joe Sanchez	ATCO
Rick Abbott	AGIG	Bab Kamath	Momentum
Simon Kinnear	Alinta	Elena Mikhaltsevitch	ERA
Marc Flynn	Jemena	Sagar Shah	HansenCX
Mark Riley	AGL		
Amin Gholami	CSR Building Products		
Catherine Rousch	Alinta Energy		

Disclaimer

This document provides an overview of the main points of discussion at an industry forum convened by AEMO on 26 September 2024 to provide information and invite perspectives and feedback on matters relating to the GRCF.

Readers, please note that:

- This document is a summary only and is not a complete record of discussion at the forum.
- For presentation purposes, some points have been grouped together by theme and do not necessarily appear in the order they were discussed.

The views expressed at the forum and reflected here are not necessarily those of AEMO.

¹ Participants that do not respond to the invitation to accept or comment otherwise pertaining to these minutes, the action of not responding to this invitation, will be deemed by AEMO to mean participant accepts the minutes as described within this document.

1 Confirm Agenda

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted meeting would be recorded and reminded GRCF of complying with AEMO's Competition Law Meeting Protocol.

Suvid Satyawadi (Tally Group) queried if the agenda would include discussion of the 2024 Package 1 B2B testing forum.

- Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted, like the Life Support schema change in October 2021, testing would be discussed typically 9 months prior to schema implementation with AEMO expecting to convene an industry workshop to discuss testing, implementation and certification/partial certification.

GRCF confirmed meeting agenda with no additional items added.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted updated GRCF Meeting pack (Version 2.0) was distributed to GRCF on Friday 8th November 2024.

2 Previous minutes and action items

The GRCF accepted the meeting minutes for the previous meeting held on 29 September 2024.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted Action items have been updated in the table below.

In reference to Action 160.9.1, Jemena requested to provide GRCF/ERCF details of the scenario which maybe also be applicable for NEM.

3 Issue / Change Register

In summary and with further details provided in meeting pack, Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted:

- **New items added to the Register:**

- None.

- **Items completed:**

- None.

- **Items withdrawn:**

- IN006/20W – Clause 115 (If AEMO does not receive valid metering data) clarity

- **Consultations in Progress:**

- 2023 #4 Renewable Gas Integration (non-VIC and WA)

- IIR issued on 8 October 2024. Feedback closed 5th November. In relation to retail market proposed changes, AEMO received no responses. AEMO is on track to publish notice of decision by 3rd December 2024.
- Consultation Link - [here](#)

- Participants to note:
 - Consultation relates to STTM and Retail Markets in QLD, NSW/ACT and SA
 - Wholesale and Retail has been combined in one package for this consultation
 - GasRewables@aemo.com.au is primary email address for this consultation

- IN008/24 (All jurisdictions) - Transport Layer Security (TLS) update and amendments to a couple of other Technical Protocol (TP) documents
 - IIR issued on 4th November 2024. Feedback closes 3rd December
 - Consultation Link – [here](#)

- **Emerging Consultations:**
 - 2024 #1 -B2B Change (for release in 2025)
 - To be discussed under Agenda #6
 - Target consultation start date is 6th December 2024
 - 2024 #2 - RMP changes that are minor non-controversial corrections.
 - AEMO has commenced preliminary internal reviews of this package.
 - AEMO confirmed a consultation date has not yet been confirmed.

No other questions raised on the Issue/Change Register.

4 Retail Consultation Calendar

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted addition of Target date for ASWG CR submission (end of Feb 2025).

No participants raised questions on the Retail Consultation Calendar.

5 Next steps to progress action item 152.9.1 (Identity gas initiatives that have a reasonable level of confidence that if implemented the change would result in the benefits outweighing the costs)

Danny McGowan (AEMO) walkthrough of session pack².

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted:

- AEMO has commenced review to retail market issue/change register to identity gas initiatives that have a reasonable level of confidence whereby the benefits will most likely outweigh the cost.
- As part of this review, consideration will be made to bigger picture changes such as:
 - All Australian governments are committed to meeting net-zero emissions goals

² Please refer GRCF meeting pack 163 which can be found [here](#). See slide 16 to 18.

- The downward trend of gas in terms of consumption for commercial, residential and industrial users because of emerging indications of fuel-switching from gas to electricity
- Policy changes such as the Victorian Gas Substitution Roadmap Update⁵ and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government⁶. These changes prevent new gas connections and contribute to the pace of electrification.
- AEMO propose to complete review by late November 2024 distributing findings to GRCF prior to 16th December 2024.
- AEMO further propose to run x3 retail market issue/change register focus meetings to discuss review findings and obtain GRCF feedback:
 1. 1:00pm - 2:30pm Monday 16th December
 2. 1:00pm - 2:30pm Tuesday 28th January
 3. 1:00pm - 2:30pm Monday 4th February (if required).

Mark Riley (AGL) noted second focus session scheduled for 28th January is close to Australia Day and x2 hours per session maybe more appropriate particularly for the first session.

Karthi Mahalingham (Synergy) noted 16th December could be problematic/risk to get internal feedback.

- Rick Abbott (AGN) agreed obtaining internal feedback by 16th December would not be easy
- Mark Riley (AGL) noted the first focus session in December would be a 'first pass' to create a good list which could be distributed internally for discussion in late January.
- Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted a preliminary list would be created on 16th December, potential date change of 2nd focus session due to Australia Day and all focus sessions to be scheduled for x2 hours.

Action 163.5.1: AEMO to send Retail market issue/change register focus meeting invitations.

6 2024 Package 1 - B2B changes to be released in 2025:

A) AEMO update (includes formal consultation timeline, targeted effective date and AEMO costs and benefits)

Danny McGowan (AEMO) walk through of session pack³.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted:

- AEMO has mobilised internal project team. Indicative requirements are known for AEMO system changes.
- Internal timeline has been established dovetailing into aseXML updates being implemented by NEM MSR Programme of work.
- AEMO is aiming for consultation to commence on 6th December 2024
- AEMO Preliminary analysis indicates AEMO systems could be ready either in Q4 2025 or Q2 2026 (preferred by AEMO).

³ Please refer GRCF meeting pack 163 which can be found [here](#). See slide 20.

- AEMO's indicative costs and benefits were included.

B) IN001-24 - Updates to Gas Retail Address field lengths & Enumerated values

- Louise Webb (AEMO) walk through of session pack.
- Louise Webb (AEMO) noted following GRCF feedback (Action 162.5A.2), x7 responses received resulting in minor updates to GMI. AEMO is of the view the requirements for this GMI are final.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) queried if GRCF participants had any issues with the requirements for build pack updates and PPC. No dissenting GRCF views raised.

C) IN001-24 - Updates to Gas Retail Address field lengths & Enumerated values. Responses to Questions 1-3

Danny McGowan (AEMO) walk through of session pack. Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted:

- Following GRCF feedback (Action 162.5B.2), x10 responses received. Minor updates made to the GMI.
- From x31 active Gas Market participants across East Coast and West Coast, x10 GRCF participant responses were received to 5 questions asked of GRCF:
- Refer to slide pack for illustrations of GRCF responses indicating support, no support or to be confirmed.

D) AEMO's (recap, includes overall preliminary assessment, AEMO's likely recommendation and GRCF matters to consider)

Danny McGowan (AEMO) walk through of session pack⁴. Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted:

- **IN004-22: Proposed Improvements to Network Tariff B2B Notification:** In GRCF meeting # 160 held on Tuesday 9 July 2024, no GRCF dissenting views were raised and AEMO consider the requirements in this GMI final
- **IN002-22: Gas Scheduled Read Est Sub Codes and Special Read No Access Enumerations:** Following GRCF feedback (Action 162.5A.2), x7 responses received resulting in minor updates to GMI. AEMO is of the view the requirements for this GMI are final.
- **IN001-24 - Updates to Gas Retail Address field lengths & Enumerated values:**
 - GRCF feedback has revealed:
 - Prominent stakeholders have advised existing system and processes that deal with addressing elements continue to operate without issue
 - Lack of support and no response from prominent stakeholders.
 - Lack of tangible fact-based evidences in relation to the magnitude and materiality

⁴ Please refer GRCF meeting pack 163 which can be found [here](#). See slide 34 and 35 that covered the main topics of discussion.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) commented unless there is anything substantive raised by GRCF, AEMO recommend that AGL withdraw this initiative from the bundled aseXML release.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) requested does any GRCF Participant have any further updates, comments or alternate ideas in order to progress the x3 GMI's in scope for aseXML schema change?

- Kelly Murray (MGN) commented MGN is satisfied with what AEMO is presenting.
- Mario logha (Origin) raised concern field lengths / enumerations intended to have broad, wholistic view and consistency with Electricity across all Jurisdictions. This is a large impact to dual fuel retailers.
 - Troy Alcorn (EA) agreed with Mario logha comments.
 - Danny McGowan (AEMO) commented harmonising is a great thing but only where it is cost effective to do so.
- Karthi Mahalingham (Synergy) noted:
 - In relation to Sub/Est GMI, Synergy recognised there was a cost impact however, proposed ERA changes to Gas Compendium indicated timeframes would be applied to Retailers to advise customers why their bills were estimated. Synergy saw additional granularity of Sub/Est codes would be useful. Whilst ERA Gas Compendium changes resulted in more lenient timeframes, there are continued impacts to customers and business processes.
 - In relation to Address GMI, Synergy assessed the benefits did not outweigh costs however, questioned if the version of the schema is specified, should the latest schema be adopted?
 - Mark Riley (AGL) noted NEM interpretation that participants should be compliant with the latest schema however, NEM agreed only to update critical fields that could create operational issues and in parallel, an Energy Standard would be created.
 - Mark Riley (AGL) further noted he would want to see the Sub/Est GMI progress on East Coast and WA participants need to think further about the ERA Gas Compendium.
- Joe Sanches (ATCO) noted:
 - ATCO conditionally support the Sub/Est GMI and do see benefits in introducing these changes in WA.
 - Addressing is more problematic for ATCO– hence lack of detail provided to AEMO. ATCO are continuing to analyse.
- Rick Abbott (AGN) noted:
 - AGN support Sub/Est and Network Tariff GMI.
 - AGN do not support Address GMI as they are not seeing issues and initial cost estimates which are significant so costs outweigh benefits
- Deanna Power (Kleenheat) noted both Sub/Est GMI and Address GMI have merits and Kleenheat support the improvements however, the cost of schema uplift outweighs benefits for those initiatives. Further, Kleenheat have not had any issues with Sub/Est issues nor address issues.

- Catherine Rousch (Alinta WA) noted both Sub/Est GMI and Address GMI have merits however the costs outweigh the benefits.

Danny McGowan (AEMO) presented additional slide illustrating a revised schema concept with a potential updated sequence of schema creation noting:

- Gas could adopt the Gas only schema at a later date with AEMO preferred Gas markets adoption date being Q2 2026
- Any future schema change would result in an unavoidable adoption of address changes
- Regarding WA, if they did not proceed with proposed gas schema adoption, at a future date when WA require a schema change, WA will have missed opportunity to smear AEMO costs to implement a schema change. WA participants to factor this when considering benefits and costs.
- Catherine Rousch (Alinta WA) queried what those WA costs would be. Danny McGowan (AEMO) advised WA costs would be as per slide 20.

2024 Package 1 - B2B changes

Revised bundling concept : aseXML schema⁴ versioning releases



Original – Combined Elec & Gas schema	Revised - Separated Gas & Elec schema	
<p>Schema Version: r45 Energy Markets: Electricity & Gas Schema inclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IN001-24 - Address (ICF_078) • IN002-22 - Substitution/Estimation • IN004-22 - Network Tariff • MSR Electricity specific changes <p>Schema effective date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Market adoption in either Q4 2025 or Q2 2026 	<p>Schema Version: r45 Energy Markets: Gas Schema inclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IN002-22 - Substitution/Estimation • IN004-22 - Network Tariff <p>Schema effective date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Market adoption of r45 in either Q4 2025 or Q2 2026¹ 	<p>Schema Version: r46^{2,3} Energy Markets: Electricity Schema inclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address (ICF_078) • MSR Electricity specific changes <p>Schema effective date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity Market adopt r46 in TBA 2025.

Note 1 – AEMO preferred release timing.

Note 2 – By default, a lower version of the schema carries forward to the next schema version.

Note 3 – When East Coast Gas requires a future schema change, it will inherit the addressing changes. If WA gas requires a future schema change (beyond those changed contained in r45), it will inherit the addressing changes as well as the Substitution/Estimation and Network Tariff changes.

Note 4 – Not sure what is an aseXML schema is? Click [here](#) to view AEMO web page contains further information on aseXML schemas.

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After lengthy GRFC discussion, PPC starting on 6th December to include WA which will allow WA participants to further consider adopting updated gas schema.

Mark Riley (AGL) commented yes, GMI can be withdrawn, removed from 2024 Package 1 (B2B changes) and put back on GRFC Issues Register.

- Danny McGowan (AEMO) agreed the GMI will be put back on the GRFC Issues register and if address issues are realised in gas, the GMI can be reinstated and expedited if required.
- Louise Webb (AEMO) advised non-controversial build pack tidy ups would not be lost and included as separate item in the GRFC Issues register.

7 Other Business

- AEMO to circulate GRCF #163 Meeting minutes by circular resolution. **Action 163.10.1**
- GRCF to respond to AEMO with GRCF #163 Meeting minutes via email before COB 30th November. **Action 163.10.2**

<Secretariat note: Participants that do not respond to the invitation to accept or comment otherwise pertaining to these minutes, the action of not responding to this invitation, will be deemed by AEMO to mean participant accepts the minutes as described within this document>

- AEMO to consider all future GRCF minutes to be accepted by circular resolution. **Action 163.10.3**
- Due to administrative issue, AEMO will delete all GRCF 2025 Meeting invites and resend invites. **Action 163.10.4**

8 Next Meeting

Danny McGowan (AEMO) noted focus sessions for action item 152.9.1 to be scheduled.

- **1:00pm - 2:30pm Monday 16th December 2024**
- **1:00pm - 2:30pm Tuesday 28th January 2025**
- **1:00pm - 2:30pm Monday 4th February 2025**

Regular GRCF meeting scheduled for 11th February 2025 (if there is sufficient items of business)

Attachment A

Action items raised at this meeting #163

Item #	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By
163.5.1	Retail market issue/change register focus sessions	AEMO to schedule focus sessions allowing for 2 hours for each focus session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 16th December 2024 Tuesday 28th January 2025 (<i>date maybe altered due to Australia Day public holiday day prior</i>) Monday 4th February 2025 	AEMO	ASAP
163.10.1	Distribute GRCF #163 Meeting minutes for circular acceptance	AEMO to circulate minutes by circular GRCF acceptance.	AEMO	ASAP
163.10.2	Circular acceptance of GRCF #163 Meeting minutes	GRCF to review GRCF #163 meeting minutes and provide acceptance or updates via email.	GRCF	30th November 2024
163.10.3	All future GRCF Meeting minutes via circular acceptance	AEMO to consider all GRCF minutes to be accepted by circular resolution.	AEMO	
163.10.4	Cancel and resend GRCF 2025 Meeting invitations	AEMO will delete all GRCF 2025 Meeting invites and resend invites for the same dates/times.	AEMO	Before end of 2025

Action items raised prior to #163

Item #	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By
162.5A.1	GMI - IN002-22 Gas Scheduled Read Est Sub Codes and Special Read No Access Enumerations – Distribute updated GMI	Distribute updated GMI to GRCF requesting feedback.	AEMO	Completed 26/9/24
162.5A.2	GMI - IN002-22 Gas Scheduled Read Est Sub Codes and Special Read No Access Enumerations – Review & provided feedback	GRCF to review updated GMI and respond to AEMO providing feedback.	GRCF	Completed (to be discussed in GRCF #163)

Item #	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By
162.6B.1	GMI - IN001-24 Updates to Gas Retail Address field lengths & Enumerated values – Distribute GMI and Questionnaire	Distribute GMI and GMI Questionnaire	AEMO	Completed 26/9/24
162.6B.2	GMI - IN001-24 Updates to Gas Retail Address field lengths & Enumerated values – Review GMI and complete questionnaire	GRCF to review GMI and respond to AEMO in GMI questionnaire	GRCF	Completed (to be discussed in GRCF #163)
162.7.1	GMI – IN008-24 TLS update and amendments to several TP documents	Determine if the upgrade impacts LVI used by WA participants. <i>Secretariat note: AEMO confirms that there is no impact on LVI for this upgrade.</i>	AEMO	Completed
162.7.2	GMI – IN008-24 TLS update and amendments to several TP documents	Distribute the GMI and response template	AEMO	Completed 26/9/24
162.7.3	GMI – IN008-24 TLS update and amendments to several TP documents	Using the GMI Response Template for GMI IN008-24 TLS, GRCF to provide feedback on the GMI	GRCF	Completed (to be discussed in GRCF #163)
160.9.1	Site Address with Prefix in house number field	Jemena to send GRCF an email describing the scenario (including the full address) for GRCF participant analysis. i.e. A1 and also 1A also exists. Could this value be placed in the Building Name field?	Jemena	ASAP
156.5.5	Inclusion of IN010/21 MJ into Package 2 and bundle with delivery of IN015/22	AEMO to review recommendation to add IN010/21 (Unit of Measure (MJ)) and IN015/22 (Harmonising of Heating Values definitions) should be added to the 2024 Package 2 initiatives to 2024 Package 2.	AEMO	Q3 2024
156.5.6	Inclusion of IN001/21W Error correction notice into 2024 Programme of work	AEMO to review recommendation to include IN001/21W Error correction notice into 2024 Programme of work with AEMO legal.	AEMO	Q3 2024

Item #	Topic	Action required	Responsible	By
156.5.7	IN006/20W analysis required by AEMO to enable GMI to be raised	<p>AEMO to arrange session with AGL to discuss in January to confirm the scope of work in reference to IN006/20W (Clause 115 clarity) (on pending list of initiatives) which relates to a 2-year-old issue where networks lodge disconnection notices and AEMO cancels those disconnection notices which subsequently impacts allocations. There may be a problem with the AEMO process. AGL cannot raise a GMI until AEMO perform some investigation to determine why and when this situation is occurring ideally to be performed in Q1/Q2 in order to create a GMI for Q3/Q4 or 2025.</p> <p>March 2024 update: AEMO discussed the issue with AGL And noted that since 2020 there were over 14500 disconnections requested with only 12 disconnections were cancelled by AEMO for lack of meter reading. All cancelled disconnections involved small consumption MIRNs. AEMO to discuss with ATCO to confirm why meter data was not sent. AEMO will provide ongoing updates.</p>	AEMO	Closed. AGL request the initiative be withdrawn.
152.9.1	List of gas retail initiatives that are not part of the GRCF 2023 program of work	<p>Review the feedback provided by the GRCF and identify those initiatives that have reasonable outline of the requirement and a reasonable level of confidence that if implemented, the potential benefits will outweigh the cost; but this can only be established by further defining the requirement.</p> <p>April 2023 update: The Status Update document circulated at the April 2023 GRCF functions as a tracker for the above. This action item remains open. AEMO will continue to review the proposals that it is responsible for and will provide an update on these matters as relevant.</p>	AEMO	<p>Provide further comments on the initiatives that were not part of the GRCF 2023 program of work by next GRCF meeting.</p> <p>Q3 2024</p>

