INFORMATION EXCHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING

FOR DISCUSSION

SUBJECT: B2B-WG UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM: 4

1. PURPOSE

To report on the status of items currently being discussed by the Business to Business Working Group (B2B-WG).

2. DISCUSSION

Since the August 2023 Information Exchange Committee (IEC) meeting, the B2B-WG has met monthly to discuss and consider various matters including:

- The B2B National Electricity Market (NEM) Retailer of Last Resort (RoLR) Consultation
- B2B ICF Assessment Process
- Metering Services Review
- B2B Guide Improvement
- Other immediate to longer term priorities

An update is provided on each of these matters in the following sections.

2.1. NEM RoLR Processes

The B2B NEM RoLR Consultation Final Determination and associated procedure were published on 18 September 2023. The final determination included:

- The proposed changes to section 102,
- Errata changes to section 104 of the NEM RoLR Processes (Part B) Procedure; and
- Addition of new table 102-B to separate LNSP reporting obligations.

The associate NEM RoLR Processes Part A and Part B v2.4 came into effect as of 1 November 2023.

In parallel, the B2B-WG have continued to consider potential obligation changes to Procedures associated to inflight service orders during a RoLR event. A focus group was formed to discuss how the lack of definition in the current ROLR Procedure of how inflight service orders raised by the Failed Retailer to a Metering Service Provider (MC, MDP, MPB) are to be managed when a ROLR event is declared.

2.2. B2B ICF Assessment Process

Concerns have been raised by the B2B-WG regarding:

- The B2B WG's ability to demonstrate that the expected level of due diligence and attention to detail has been satisfied when assessing proposed ICFs.
- Who has what role/responsibility in completing certain tasks associated to IEC consultations.

As a result, the B2B-WG reviewed the existing ICF assessment process and strengthened the ICF assessment stages to ensure that the required level of detail is documented prior to formal consultation.

The updated ICF assessment process is expected to:

- Ensure consistent requirements/standards are upheld regardless of the ICF's origins i.e. B2B WG member vs non-B2B WG member vs Regulatory.
- Articulate Proponents' and B2B WG responsibilities from inception through to IEC decision.
- Establish and articulate 'assessment gates'.
- Establish and articulate the criteria to progress through the various 'assessment gates'.
- Ensure that the original ICF is progressively updated to ensure the required level of detail, including proposed changes to impacted Procedures, are fully documented prior to IEC decision.

2.3. Metering Services Review

The final report for the Review of the regulatory framework for metering services recommended a suite of reforms to:

- Accelerate the deployment of smart meters by 2030.
- Introduce new obligations for the provision of power quality data.
- Modify the testing and inspection/exemption regime.

The B2B-WG discussed the following four recommendations:

- Universal deployment of smart meters by 2030
- Site defect process
- Shared fuse – 'one in all in'
- Power Quality Data

As a result, the Metering Services Review Working Group (MSR-WG) has been established with the following proposed remit:

- To enable effective and efficient consultation between AEMO and market participants on the development of and changes to Business to Market (B2M), Business to Business (B2B) systems and relevant market procedures associated to the AEMC's Review of the regulatory framework for metering services.
- The Metering Services Review Working Group will seek to consider and share knowledge to support subsequent AEMC Rule Change processes.
- The MSR-WG will report to the ERCF and B2B-WG with any applicable advice and recommendations.
- AEMO and the IEC will still have carriage of conducting any formal consultations.
- MSR-WG meetings will be conducted via the most appropriate means, including virtual and face-to-face meetings, dependant on the nature of the meeting material.

2.4. B2B Guide Improvement

Toward the end of 2022, an Industry survey was conducted to collect feedback regarding the objective and value of the current B2B Guide. From feedback received it was determined that

while the guide provides adequate information, there is a need for the following improvements:

- Structure
- Format
- Provision of context in some section
- Removal of replicated and/or outdated content
- Review relevance of the content
- Provide link between the procedures and the guide

Several members from the B2B-WG completed an initial assessment of the guide and circulated an initial draft of the guide with proposed changes for the wider B2B-WG members to provide feedback.

2.5. B2B-WG immediate to longer term priorities

The B2B-WG continues to monitor and progress various matters associated to the B2B procedures; these matters include:

- Immediate/Short Term:
  - Developments regarding AEMO's IDX (Information Data Exchange), IDAM (Identity and Access Management) and PC (Portal Consolidation) initiatives.
  - Review of the regulatory framework for metering services
- Medium/Longer Term:
  - NEM Reform initiatives, including:
    - Unlocking consumer energy resources (CER) benefits through flexible trading
    - Potential Life Support Rule Change

The B2B-WG will continue to provide information and advice to the IEC progressively regarding these and other matters as required.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the IEC notes the ongoing work being conducted by the B2B-WG.

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