INFORMATION EXCHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING

FOR DISCUSSION

SUBJECT: IEC BUDGET 2024-25

AGENDA ITEM: 10

1. PURPOSE

To seek Committee endorsement of IEC budget for 2024-25 prior to Friday 8 December 2023.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 7.17.7(d) of the National Electricity Rules (NER) requires that by 28 February each year the Information Exchange Committee (IEC) prepare a draft budget for the following financial year in a form which is consistent with the budget procedures of AEMO.

Following discussion with AEMO the IEC must prepare a budget by 31 March and provide that budget to AEMO.

The following IEC and B2B costs have been included in the 2024-25 draft budget:

- The projected annual costs relating to professional indemnity insurances required for IEC members;
- The costs relating to the AEMO member's participation in the IEC;
- The costs associated with AEMO resources supporting the B2B-WG; and
- Costs associated with hosting the IEC quarterly meetings, and the IEC working groups anticipated for the budget period.

The consultation process of the B2B procedures, any associated IT development system costs and the allocation of AEMO resources dedicated to the IEC have been excluded from this budget.

When AEMO publishes its budget, AEMO will advise the IEC of its final budget.

3. DISCUSSION

For the financial year 2023-24 the IEC budget was in the order of $120,000.

At the time this briefing was completed, assumptions have been made that some travel will be allowed / required in 2024-25.

The regulatory change landscape continues to suggest that there will continue to be potential B2B changes needed relating to (at least) the review of Competition in Metering and Unlocking CER benefits through flexible trading. These changes are in addition to participant-generated changes that are also raised.

The elements included in the budget for 2024-25 are described in **Attachment 1**.

Should additional funds be required, the Secretariat will prepare separate project briefs which can be presented to the AEMO Investment Committee for consideration.

The proposed process and timetable for finalisation of the IEC 2024-25 budget includes:

Activity	Responsible	Date
Develop draft budget for IEC discussion	IEC Secretariat	November 2023 IEC meeting
Update budget to reflect IEC feedback and re-circulate to members for endorsement	IEC Secretariat	Mid - December 2023
Submit IEC budget in the AEMO budget timeline	IEC Secretariat	by 31 January 2024
AEMO Board to review draft AEMO budget and fees for consultation (including IEC draft budget)	AEMO	March 2024 (current estimates)
AEMO release draft budget and fees for stakeholder comment	AEMO	March – April 2024 (current estimates)
AEMO submits final budget and fees to AEMO Board	AEMO	Late May - early June 2024 (current estimates)
AEMO to advise IEC of budget	AEMO	When finalised

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee provide feedback to the Secretariat / endorse the proposed budget for 2024-25 as described in **Attachment 1** by **Friday 8 December 2023**.

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APPROVED:	29 NOVEMBER 2023

ATTACHMENTS
1. IEC BUDGET PROVISION 2024-25

ATTACHMENT 1

IEC BUDGET (PROVISION) 2024-25

This attachment presents the proposed information Exchange Committee (IEC) budget for 2024-25 and covers:

- Budget provision for the IEC; and
- Assumptions made in relation to the budget.

The IEC budget has been based on actuals for 2023-24 year budget.

Items to be included in the 2024-25 IEC budget

The IEC requires a significant annual budget to deliver its regulatory obligations. Budget items included to support the Committee's operation include:

- <u>AEMO member (Chairperson) payments and expenses:</u>

  Provision has been made for the IEC Chairperson expenses, having regard to previous costs incurred and likely meeting frequency. Note the:

  - FY25 superannuation increase is included in the IEC Chair payments, and
  - AEMO AGM in late November that will confirm the IEC Chair payments.

- <u>IEC member professional insurances:</u>

  The IEC (and its members) does not have immunity from liability under the National Electricity Rules (NER) and, as a non-incorporated body, is exposed to liability claims.

  IEC members require insurance coverage pertaining to their roles in making decisions and recommendations to AEMO and for professional indemnity. AEMO secures the following insurances on behalf of the IEC:

  - Directors and Officers Liability ($10 million limit).
  - Professional Indemnity ($10 million limit).
  - Public & Products ($20 million limit).

  AEMO is currently in the process of finalising the costs for these services for the calendar year ending 31 December 2024. It is expected that an increase of 5% should cover the new insurance costs for the IEC, this has been factored into the budget calculations. AEMO will advise the IEC once the insurance costs have been finalised.

- <u>IEC B2B Working Group (B2B-WG) costs:</u>

  AEMO chairs the B2B-WG which has met virtually at least monthly during the period of 2023 and face to face meetings in June, September and November 2023, due to the interactions with the IEC and the complexity and volume of work required of the B2B-WG. The assumption for 2024-25 is that meetings will continue to be a mix of virtual and face to face.

  Further, AEMO has established an additional working group (covering B2M and B2B) for the AEMC's final review on metering competition services which will provide advice to the B2B-WG and IEC on potential B2B changes.

  Allowance has also been made for AEMO B2B-WG resources supporting participant B2B-WG members as per the decision made at the August 2023 IEC Meeting. No

allowance for the working time of the AEMO secretariat, SMEs, and participant B2B-WG members has been included in this budget.

- IEC secretariat costs:

  A limited budget for secretariat travel and expenses has been allowed based on the face to face IEC meeting schedule.

- Catering and meeting venue:

  It is anticipated that the IEC will continue with two face-to-face meetings during 2024-25. A nominal budgetary amount held at the previous level is proposed to cover costs of refreshments for face-to-face meetings noting that meetings will be held at AEMO or agreed participant sites so that no venue hire costs are incurred (no allowance for external venue hire in order to manage budget costs).

Budget Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made in relation to the budget projections:

1. Project, e-Hub development and consultant costs resulting from decisions made by the IEC in relation to B2B Procedures have not been incorporated in the AEMO budget for 2024-25. These costs are recouped via participant fees in line with the AEMO fee recovery framework.
2. All industry members of the IEC and IEC working groups will be funded by their participant employer for all activities and expenses related to IEC work and national B2B Procedures.
3. The IEC will be able to, and AEMO will consider, requests for additional budget to fund project work or unforeseen development work as necessary.
4. AEMO's support of the IEC will be budgeted by AEMO separately to this budget submission in the following areas:
   - in its role as Secretary and Returning Officer and managing the business of the IEC;
   - in preparing IEC papers;
   - helpdesk support for B2B Procedures and other B2B infrastructure;
   - legal review of B2B Procedures and supporting documentation;
   - B2B e-Hub changes as a result of IEC consultations; and
   - support of technical testing and technical testing environment.

   Only costs associated with the AEMO Director's fee and travel, professional insurances, AEMO resources supporting the B2B-WG including in the conduct of IEC-initiated consultations, and potential travel for the AEMO Secretariat in support of the IEC face-to-face meetings are included in the budget expenses.

Budget Figures

The proposed 2024-25 IEC budget is set out below.

Budget expense description	Budget
IEC Chair: remuneration	[redacted]
IEC Chair: expenses in relation to travel	[redacted]
Member Professional Insurances (for calendar year 2024): - Directors & Officers Liability - Professional Indemnity - Public & Products	(excluding stamp duties) [redacted]
Catering for IEC and working group workshops	[redacted]
AEMO resources supporting the B2B-WG including in the conduct of IEC-initiated Rules consultations	[redacted]
IEC Secretariat: expenses in relation to AEMO travel for IEC and working groups	[redacted]
Total	[redacted]