

Meeting Summary: System Strength Procurement Workshop 22 July 2026

- The workshop focused on stakeholder views on potential reforms to system strength procurement processes. The aim was to test whether aspects of procurement could be made more transparent and/or standardised and/or harmonised to understand the associated benefits, costs, and risks of any reform option to inform our work as part of the *Security framework enhancements* rule change package.
- Stakeholders requested upfront clarification on whether the scope of the workshop was limited to procurement or would include system strength investment assessment (i.e., system strength RIT-Ts). Project team staff noted that considerations across both parts of the frameworks are highly interdependent, and while reforms to the assessment stage are being considered in the project more broadly, the focus of the workshop was intended to be predominantly on the procurement stage.
- A Menti survey was conducted to capture stakeholder views on the issues discussed during the workshop. This was intended to serve as a 'pulse-check' and does not necessarily capture the full range of views from workshop attendees. Selected results are provided below.

Key discussion topics:

- **Areas for increased standardisation and transparency:** The discussion focussed on options for greater standardisation across service specifications, procurement processes and contracting terms. These are three areas that stakeholders identified in their submissions to the Security frameworks [consultation paper](#).
- **Transparency as a primary objective:** Increasing transparency was agreed to be the primary objective of any reforms in this area. Many stakeholders requested upfront disclosure regarding service specifications, tender requirements, and contractual arrangements, while retaining flexibility for SSSPs to procure the most appropriate solutions for their needs. Several market participants also supported retrospective reporting on procurement outcomes to assist future planning and business case development, and greater harmonisation between SSSPs.
- **Minimum requirements, not full prescription:** Stakeholders supported standardising and publishing a minimum set of requirements across procurement processes, service specifications and contracting arrangements. Minimum requirements were considered to improve contestability while still enabling SSSPs to tailor procurement requirements to their specific needs. Stakeholders cautioned against standardising too many elements across procurement processes, service specifications and contracting arrangements as this may lock in certain solutions and limit innovation.
- **Link to assessment/RIT-T and consideration of non-network options:** Stakeholders highlighted that assessment and procurement activities should not be viewed in isolation. While not the primary focus of the workshop, stakeholders noted the importance of considering how procurement reforms interact with the broader assessment frameworks and decision-making processes.
- **Pace of reform:** SSSPs expressed caution regarding significant changes while procurement processes remain underway, and participants continue to gain experience under the current framework. Learning from early procurement rounds and avoiding unnecessary uncertainty in the provision of system strength services were considered important.
- **Technology neutrality:** There was broad agreement that procurement reforms must be technology-neutral and avoid favouring particular technologies or solution types.



Next steps:

- The AEMC will continue developing its draft determination and rule, drawing on workshop input and may follow up and conduct further one-on-one discussions with stakeholders for more information where relevant.
- **Menti survey results** - The Menti survey results indicated that standardising the procurement process was considered the highest priority, followed by service specifications and contracting arrangements (refer to Fig. 1), however, discussion highlighted that further considering each of these areas was important to stakeholders.

Fig. 1. Rank procurement elements by priority for standardisation

0 = low priority, 5 = high priority

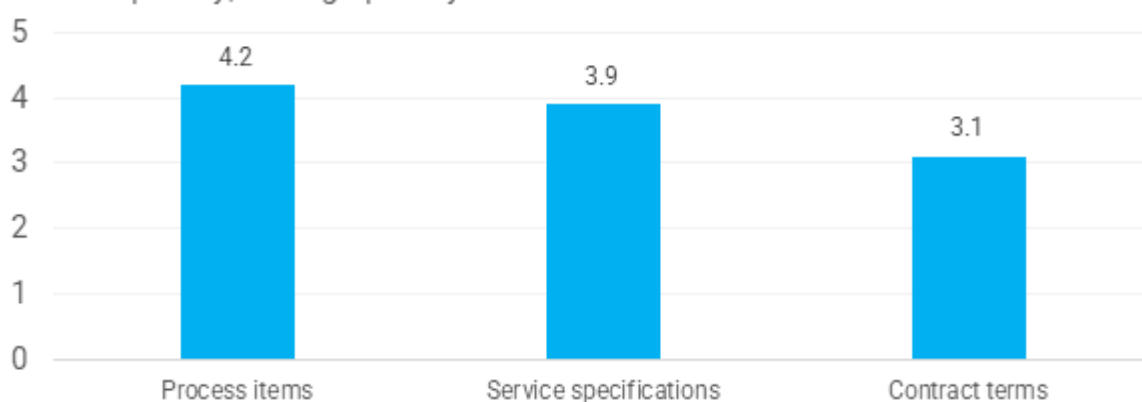


Fig. 2. What aspects of the procurement process are you in favour of standardising?

(number of mentions, multiple responses allowed)

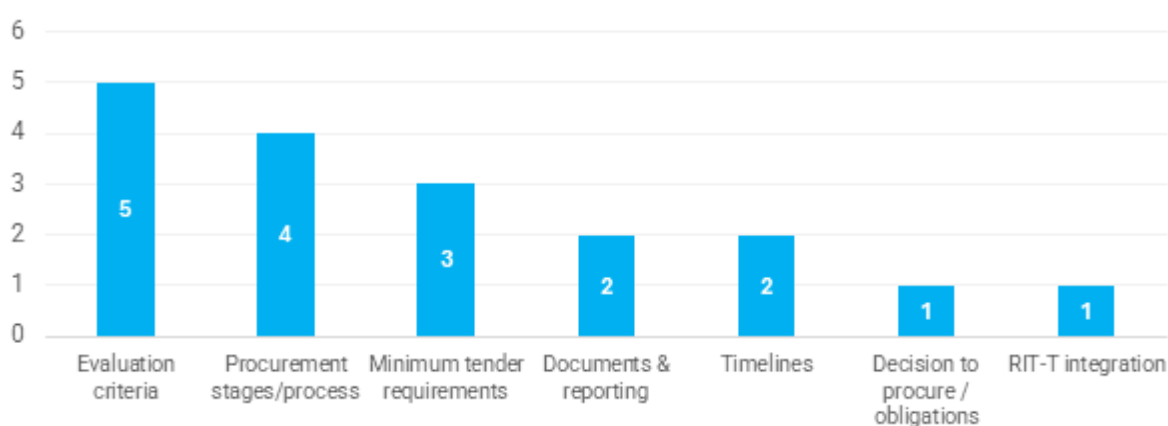


Fig. 3. What aspects of contracts are you in favour of standardising?

(number of mentions, only one responses allowed)

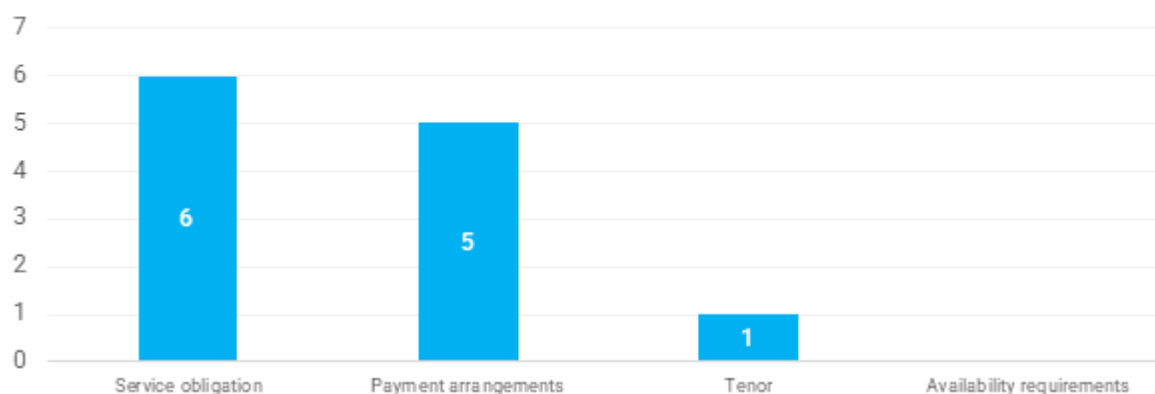


Fig. 4. What aspects of service specifications are you in favour of standardising?

(number of mentions, multiple responses allowed)

