

# Open access and common communication standards review

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Advisory Stakeholder Working Group: Meeting 5

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# Introduction

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# Purpose of today's meeting

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- Recap of the review to date
- Discuss the questions that were outlined in the draft report with the group
- Discuss issues raised in submissions

## The review to date

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- The AEMC initiated the review on 25 July 2013
- Four Advisory Stakeholder Working Group meetings were held throughout the second half of the year in which the group worked through various issues
- The draft report was published on 19 December 2013
- Consultation on the draft report ended 30 January 2014



Questions for discussion and further development

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# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

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## Interoperability

- Option 1 – adopting a common market protocol based on the internationally accepted DLMS/COSEM protocol
- Option 2 – Adopting a common market protocol based on DLMS/COSEM, except in Victoria where protocol translation could accommodate existing metering investment
- Option 3 – no common market protocol is adopted and protocol translation is allowed throughout the NEM

# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

## **Appropriate selection of a common market protocol**

- Should an internationally accepted protocol form the foundation of the NEM common market protocol?
- If an internationally accepted protocol should be used, should this protocol be DLMS/COSEM?
- What types and magnitude of costs would be incurred to implement a common market protocol? For one based on DLMS/COSEM or an Australian specific services based standard.
- If an Australian specific services based standard is preferred, should the existing B2B arrangements be extended or another protocol be developed? What are the implementation requirements and costs?

# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

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## **Entity responsible for maintaining the common market protocol**

- Who would be the most appropriate entity to develop and maintain the common market protocol?
- Is there the potential for the responsible entity to adversely impact on the competitive provision of DSP and related services?

# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

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## **Adding new functions to the common market protocol**

- If a common market protocol is established, how should new functions be managed?
- At what stage should a new function be added to the common market protocol?
- How can we maintain the balance between supporting innovation and competition, and maintaining interoperability in the longer term?

# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

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## **Common meter protocol**

- Should there be a common meter protocol?
- If a common meter protocol is preferable, should it be based on the same protocol as the common market protocol?
- If a common meter protocol is required, should existing Victorian smart meter operators be required to offer a protocol translation to the new common meter protocol?
- Without a common meter protocol do proprietary meter protocols (and protocol translations) be more likely to support competition in DSP and related services?

# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

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## **Point of entry**

- Should the protocols at the meter point of entry and the market point of entry support access to new functionality without the need to make any modifications to the SMP software?

## **Proposed smart meter communication architecture**

- Should the proposed architecture of a protocol translation at the point of entry be supported in the NEM?
- Should the proposed architecture of a common meter and market protocol be supported in the NEM?

# Initial recommendations for smart meter communications architectures

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## **Proposed smart meter communication architecture (continued)**

- Should both communication pathways – directly to the meter and through a market point of entry - be supported in the NEM?

## **Allocation of the SMP role**

- Should the responsibilities of the SMP be maintained in a separate role, or should these responsibilities be assigned to an existing entity?

# Open access regulatory arrangements

## Whether to regulate rights of access

- Should the right of access to smart meters should be enforced under the NER and, if so, to what degree (e.g. should right of access apply to all smart meter functions or in relation to providing certain services);
- What are the contractual arrangements that are expected to be in place and to what extent these contractual relationships are to be supported by rights under the NER;
- How the market (the NEM as a whole or the retail energy market) would be impacted if participants are denied access to smart meters; how would different participants be impacted; and
- How the existing rights and obligations relating to the use of metering infrastructure and metering data would impacted by smart meters.

# Open access regulatory arrangements - continued

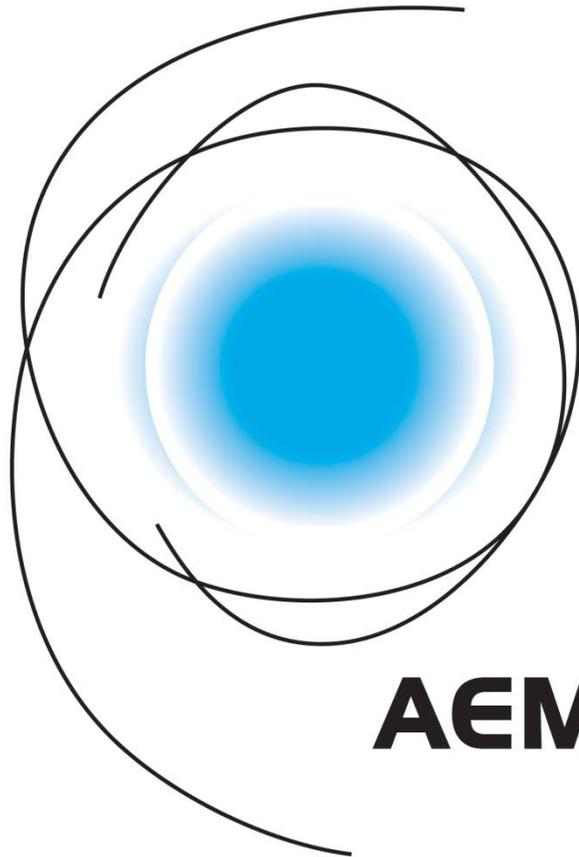
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## **Nature of services provided**

- How should the services that could be enabled by smart meters be defined and should these services be subject to regulation?
- Would there be alternative means of providing these services other than through a smart meter?

## **Whether to regulate for charges of access**

- Under a contestable market for the provision of services enabled by smart meters, could we be confident that efficient pricing outcomes for access charges would be likely to emerge?
- Would there would be risks to efficient pricing outcomes and, if so, how should these risks be addressed?



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