

Behind-the-meter electricity generation and storage services Code of Practice Working Group

Terms of Reference

Background

Energy Policy WA is proposing amendments to the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* to create an alternative to the electricity licensing and exemption framework to respond to new and emerging electricity service business models.

These legislative amendments are intended to establish powers of compliance and enforcement, a mechanism for resolving disputes between service providers and consumers, and creation and implementation of a regulated code of practice for each prescribed category of 'alternative electricity service'. Each code of practice will be developed in consultation with industry stakeholders and consumer representatives.

In the first instance, it is proposed that behind-the-meter generation and storage services will be prescribed as an alternative electricity service. Future services that could be prescribed include electric vehicle charging stations, community energy projects and peer-to-peer energy trading.

Energy Policy WA is scheduled to provide the Minister for Energy with a report outlining the detailed arrangements and implementation requirements for the alternative regulatory framework by April 2020, that is to be accompanied by a draft behind-the-meter generation and storage services code of practice (BTM Code).

Role

The Working Group is convened to provide Energy Policy WA with technical, industry and consumer advice in developing a fit-for-purpose BTM Code.

Matters the Working Group will be expected to provide advice on include:

- the scope of requirements to be addressed in the BTM Code;
- the most suitable level of detail that is to be prescribed for each of these requirements in the BTM Code; and
- required transitional arrangements for entities that are to move from operating under a licence exemption to the new BTM Code arrangements.

The Working Group will be required to respond to questions posed by Energy Policy WA and identify issues to be addressed in development of the BTM Code. The Working Group will be asked to review relevant project documentation, provide constructive feedback and provide stakeholder perspectives to inform decisions and recommendations.

The Working Group will function as an advisory body, not a decision-making body, and a consensus opinion is not required. Members are requested to offer views that represent their industry perspective, rather than individual organisational interests.

Term

The Working Group will be effective from January to March 2020. This term may be extended at the discretion of Energy Policy WA.

Meetings

It is anticipated that at least three meetings will occur. Energy Policy WA will aim to provide one week's notice of meetings. Participation by teleconference calls will be facilitated where possible.

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Confidentiality Principles

Working Group members are required to handle information in a responsible manner and comply with any processes or protocols that Energy Policy WA may specify for the handling of information or sensitive documents.

Working Group participants must not distribute information and documents other than to those other employees of the participant's employing organisation whose input is necessary for the participant to provide well-informed advice to the Working Group.

Membership

The Working Group is intended to be limited in size in order to facilitate meaningful discussion and consist of technical experts, established industry participants, emerging industry participants, regulators, government and consumer representatives. Additional members may be invited at the discretion of Energy Policy WA.