

Design Issues/Problems to be addressed

The design issues/problems to be addressed by the RDI WG are:

1. There is very limited opportunity for participants other than Verve to participate in providing balancing services and this inevitably means the cost of balancing is higher than it needs to be.
2. Provisions for Balancing Support Contracts have not been effective to date.
3. The calculation of MCAP and the role of UDAP and DDAP mean that balancing prices are not cost reflective and this leads to inefficient incentives for decisions about prices and participation and inequitable financial transfers between participants that compromise the integrity of the WEM.
4. At different times the capacity refund arrangements under and over price the value of capacity leading inefficient decisions by participants about the timing of maintenance and presentation of capacity.
5. The timing of operation and single pass design of STEM may be limiting the ability of the market to achieve efficient operation and cost reflective prices and accordingly creates a barrier for participation by all parties.
6. The requirement for resource plans to match STEM outcomes may be limiting participation in STEM and/or forcing inefficient dispatch of IPPs and Verve (as balancer) as IPPs attempt to comply with the resultant resource plans.
7. Poorly aligned gas and electricity mechanisms inhibits flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and produces suboptimal outcomes in the WEM.
8. Lack of transparency inhibits the ability of Market Participants to optimise interaction in the daily energy market.
9. Provision for net bilateral submissions compromises transparency and the accuracy of future price forecasts and may therefore lead to sub optimal decisions about participation by other market participants.
10. Pay as bid pricing for dispatch of IPP plant for balancing (outside a balancing support contract) is incompatible with efficient wider participation in balancing and potentially over compensates IPPs which bid at price caps due to uncertainty of dispatch outcomes.

An additional design issues/problem for noting (i.e. not part of the initial work of the RDIWG) is:

There is very limited opportunity for participants other than Verve to participate in providing Ancillary Services. This is due to the lack of certainty surrounding the pricing mechanism and the requirement to provide the service at a discount to Verve. System Management will look to develop a day-ahead procurement mechanism and present the outcomes of its analysis at the RDIWG.

