

14 October 2021

Energy Senior Officials

Electronic Submission – [ElectricityConsultation@industry.gov.au](mailto:ElectricityConsultation@industry.gov.au)

## Consultation Paper – Consumer Data Right for Energy

Dear Sir/Madam,

Energy Networks Australia (ENA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Energy Senior Officials consultation paper for Consumer Data Right (CDR) for energy.

ENA is the national industry body representing Australia's electricity transmission and distribution and gas distribution networks. Our members provide more than 16 million electricity and gas connections to almost every home and business across Australia.

ENA support the ability for accredited third parties to access data to enable better products and services for electricity consumers. The policy intent for energy is to impose obligations on both the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and authorised retailers as data holders to provide certain data sets, on request, to third parties as discussed in the explanatory note and the 2020 CDR Energy Rule Framework Consultation Paper. There should be a single provider of data to third parties, and it is most efficient for that provider to be AEMO.

The explanatory note highlights that AEMO has a significant expansion of its role in terms of data provision to third parties and will build and maintain a CDR Application Programming Interface to allow retailers to request and receive data and ensure record keeping obligations are met.

### *Align rule drafting to policy intent*

The metering data provision obligations in 7.14 currently require the retailer or distributor to provide metering data on request in certain formats. Distributors have existing systems and processes established to satisfy this requirement in the Rules. This data provision obligation has been extended to include the relevant National Metering Identifier (NMI) standing data. Complying with this new requirement will require additional information technology (IT) systems development by all distributors. Yet, the explanatory note clearly highlights that the CDR obligations are on retailers and AEMO only.

The drafting in the proposed regulatory amendments to implement the CDR for Energy goes beyond the policy intent and places obligations on distributors to provide data thus needing to amend IT systems and processes. ENA suggest that the drafting in the NER should be aligned with the policy intent, the NMI standing data references should not be a new addition to the Meter data provision procedures. The references to NMI standing data in 7.14 and in the glossary term for meter data provision procedures should be removed.

Energy Networks Australia [www.energynetworks.com.au](http://www.energynetworks.com.au)

Unit 5, Level 12, 385 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000  
P: +61 3 9103 0400 E: [info@energynetworks.com.au](mailto:info@energynetworks.com.au)

Energy Networks Association T/A Energy Networks Australia

ABN: 75 106 735 406

ENA are comfortable with removing 7.15.5 (f) on the basis that consumer consent, privacy obligations and CDR regime are managed as intended by the policy where AEMO and retailers manage verification.

*Cost recovery*

ENA note that the AEMO data set holding could expand over time and as the explanatory note suggests this is a significant expansion of AEMO's role. The explanatory note suggests that AEMO could recover the additional costs of performing this function through participant fees. It is quite likely that many requests for customer data will come from non-NEM participants. For example, providers of bill comparison services who will benefit from access to the data and do not currently face AEMO participant fees. Before finalising the rules, there is benefit in clarifying the capital and operating costs of these new arrangements and whether there is opportunity for the requesting party to pay an upfront fee to recover AEMO's costs rather than the costs ultimately being recovered from all consumers. This may place some discipline on the number of requests, automation and AEMO's costs.

Should you have any queries on this response please feel free to contact Verity Watson, [vwatson@energynetworks.com.au](mailto:vwatson@energynetworks.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



Jill Cainey

**General Manager Networks**