

Ausgrid Retailer Newsletter

April 2022



Retailer forum

As mentioned in the March newsletter we look forward to sharing with you early insights from our 2024-2029 Draft Plan ahead of its publication in August 2022.

**The forum will be held online on:
20th June 10am – 12pm**

We hope you and your colleagues can join us.

At this forum we will also provide information about the **1st July 2022 price change** and provide the opportunity for questions.

Register now at:

Retailer forum registration or through the yoursay.ausgrid.com.au retailer website page.



For more retailer specific information visit our dedicated webpage at:
www.ausgrid.com.au/Industry/Retailers

Smart meter roll-out intentions

The transition from legacy to smart meters is an important part of the development of our network tariffs and in supporting customers to transition to a net zero future.

As we plan for the future, we are keen to hear from our retailers about their plans for smart meter roll-outs and how we can collaborate to maximise benefits for end consumers.

We'd be happy to discuss these plans with you and ways of enabling all customers to enjoy the benefits of smart meters, through responding to new and innovative prices, improved network services and other innovative customer services.

Please reach out via pricing@ausgrid.com.au to either share your plans or request a meeting.



Legacy Metering

Ausgrid currently has around 23% of sites across the network with smart meters, with over 1.35m customers still supplied by legacy Type 5 and 6 meters.

In the last two financial years we have seen annual type 5 interval & 6 accumulation meter replacements of approximately 65K sites. FY22 is tracking slightly lower at 47K. If this trend continues it will take over 20 years to fully replace type 5 & 6 meters with smart meters, although the assets will be fully depreciated by 2029.

The AEMC views current arrangements for smart meter deployment as not optimal. One by one meter replacement is often not efficient, with installers travelling significant distance in between. There is also no real incentive or benefit individually for consumers to proactively request a smart meter. Despite positivity towards smart meters, this does not translate into an increased likelihood a customer would request a smart meter in the short term. Hence new

connections and installing solar PV cells are currently the main drivers for smart meter installations.

The AEMC review of the regulatory framework for metering services is considering incentives to encourage the acceleration of replacement of type 5 & 6 meters with smart meters.

Regardless of the outcome of this review, there will be challenges in achieving a 100% replacement of type 5 & 6 meters. The Victorian experience suggests there will a certain percentage of customers who will be reluctant to replace their meters due to installation/safety issues, concerns over security of data as well as increased costs. In addition, some sites will require additional electrical work such as meter board replacement before the meter replacement can occur. These challenges will result in increased costs and extend the time of any proposed meter roll-out.

Ausgrid is supportive of the AEMC's intent to accelerate the roll-out of smart meters to



better deliver the broad range of benefits these meters can bring to all customers. There are opportunities to maximise value by targeting specific geographic areas and sites with legacy solar and controlled load connections, and Ausgrid is keen to work with retailers to facilitate those benefits.

Contact us

For further information contact feedback.B2B@ausgrid.com.au

Visit yoursay.ausgrid.com.au

For information or feedback on our Regulatory Proposal contact kate.hawke@ausgrid.com.au