

MINUTES OF IPAG MEETING

Meeting number: 35

Held on 24 March 2022 at 8.30am

Zoom

Members in attendance:	John Hancock (Chair), Glenn Coates, Allan Miller, Terry Paddy Tim Rudkin, Corrie Stobie, Scott Willis, Neil Williams, Buddhika Rajapakse, Andrew Sibley, Margaret Cooney, Victoria Parker
Other attendees	Charlie Sheppard (Electricity Authority), John Rampton (Observer – Commerce Commission), Nathan Spence (Electricity Authority)
Apologies:	Glenn Coates from 11am

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting.

- 1. Commerce Commission Targeted Information Disclosure Review 2022 – John Rampton**
 - 1.1 The Commission regulates the services provided by electricity distribution businesses (EDB), Transpower and Gas pipelines under Part 4 of the Commerce Act.
 - 1.2 The purpose of information disclosure (ID) is so that interested parties have sufficient information on regulated suppliers to assess whether the purpose of Part 4 is being promoted.
 - 1.3 The Commerce Commission are considering improvements to the ID requirements for EDBs to ensure that they are fit for purpose in a changing environment.
 - 1.4 The Targeted ID review will focus on four areas:
 - Quality
 - Decarbonisation
 - Asset management
 - Alignment of ID with other regulatory rules.

- 1.5 The Issues Paper was released on 23 March 2022 for a four-week period of consultation followed by two-week period for cross submissions. It suggests a number of ID changes related to IPAG recommendations, in particular:
- (a) D1 low voltage visibility
 - (b) D2 process heat electrification
 - (c) D3 heat maps and
 - (d) D5 use of flexibility resources.
- 1.6 Consultation paper is here: <https://comcom.govt.nz/regulated-industries/electricitylines/projects/targeted-information-disclosure-review-for-electricity-distributionbusinesses>.

Action Item Invite the Commerce Commission to give a primer on Part 4 at the next IPAG meeting.

2. Barriers to community energy engagement – Scott Willis

2.1 Why community energy:

- (a) Civic enterprise has been a key component of successful low carbon innovation to date
- (b) Matches community demand to participate and be involved/invest in the energy sector
- (c) Widens distribution of benefits.

2.2 Some Iwi projects include:

- (a) Lodestone 2 development, in collaboration with Ngai Takoto and Te Rarawa
- (b) Nau Mai Rā - NZ's first Māori power company
- (c) Manaaki Energy Ltd
- (d) Ngāi Tūhoe - feasibility MBIE
- (e) Te Arawa - Ohinemutu/Rotokawa Geothermal Resource
- (f) Parihaka - over a decade of studies, community engagement, 30 year roadmap and now PV/ ESS funding from the MBIE fund.

2.3 New Zealand can draw inspiration from international projects. Local and community energy is emerging worldwide in developed, emerging and less developed country contexts.

2.4 Policies marry local social and economic needs, decarbonisation and energy system objectives.

2.5 Community energy projects build local capacity for a wide range of carbon mitigation activities.

2.6 Observations (from Willis Advisory) on what would help immediately:

- (a) Workshops (led by practitioners rather than ex-regulators) community sector and new entrant experiences for input into the NZ Energy Strategy
- (b) Require EDBs to report on progress on Open Network Framework commitments before April 2022 (ENA Network Transformation Roadmap, Pp. 22)
- (c) Ensure a well-managed efficient transfer of meter data (ensuring privacy/access rights remain with the householder) in a common, usable and automated format
- (d) Mandating the establishment of Community Support Hedges for the use of retailers that meet the criteria for a Community Support Retailer
- (e) Allocate carbon credits for the development of new renewable generation assets
- (f) Implement National Environmental Standards to remove the regulatory burden on community scale renewable electricity generation projects
- (g) Develop 'Shared Ownership Guidelines' and requirements to enable community participation in new regulatory projects.

2.7 A healthy, growing community energy sector supports communities to:

- (a) Take ownership of assets that provide renewable generation, operation, and demand management services
- (b) Eliminate energy hardship
- (c) Increase environmental, social, and economic resilience
- (d) Contribute to decarbonisation
- (e) Provide opportunities for community.

3. Intellihub data services – Corrie Stobie

- 3.1 Intellihub provide metering to electricity retailers across ANZ, with expertise across all aspects of advanced metering services, with over one million meters under management and providing innovative product offerings.
- 3.2 Intellihub offers solutions across a wide range of customer segments and will bring this broad experience together to deliver metering services to our customers.
- 3.3 As an independent provider, Intellihub offers Metering Equipment Provider and Authorised Test House services in New Zealand, with Metering Coordinator, Metering Provider and Metering Data Provider services in Australia.
- 3.4 Intellihub have a suite of innovative services including Intelli-VPP (virtual power plant), Intelli-load disaggregation, Intelli-EV, Intelli-Solar management amongst other services.
- 3.5 Demand for services is different in New Zealand to the Australian market.

4. Vector Metering data services – Neil Williams

- 4.1 The focus of Vector Metering is driven by customer requirements. Historically the core product has been driven by requirements to provide consumption data to retailers.
- 4.2 There will be a movement from the traditional core data foundation to on-demand data available the moment when it is needed.
- 4.3 Major initiatives include:
 - (a) Extensive system upgrades, capability development
 - (b) Distributor data
 - (c) ARC meter replacement
 - (d) 2G to 4G – includes improving remote and hard coverage
 - (e) Advanced gas meters.

5. Updating regulatory settings project update and planning – Charlie Sheppard and Nathan Spence

- 5.1 The Authority has sent an information request to distributors, some retailers, and some MEPs with the goal of gaining more clarity on the existence and the scale of the issues and opportunities.
- 5.2 The information provided in response to this request will inform an issues paper which will outline the Authority's views on the issues and opportunities with distribution networks. The issues paper will be published by the Authority for consultation later this year. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the issues paper before the Authority progresses any options to address the issues. This consultation will help to ensure the Authority is focusing on the right issues and is prioritising them appropriately.

6. Administration

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Interests register
- (c) Minutes of previous meeting #34
 - (i) The minutes were approved.
- (d) Matters Arising
- (e) Correspondence
- (f) Action list

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.10pm

Action Point Summary

Action Item Invite the Commerce Commission to give a primer on Part 4 at the next IPAG meeting.