

# Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of the Electricity Contract Co-Design Working Group Meeting

19 May 2026

### Working Group Members Present

Tom Arnold (ACEN Australia), Paul Curnow (Akaysha Energy), Jialin Shen (Ampyr Energy), Paul Grznic (Aurora Energy), Nick Hawke (CEFC), Declan Kelly (Flow Power), Stephanie Easton (Iberdrola Australia), Ally Bonakdar (NAB), Daniel Teng (Origin Energy), Andrew Mulder (RWE), Andrew Wilkins (SA Water).

### Other attendees

Jeff Forrest (L.E.K Consulting), Lucy Carter (L.E.K Consulting), Ryan Wilson (DCCEEW), Dennis Venning (DCCEEW), Zach Hall (DCCEEW), Thimo Mueller (ASL), Michael Riordan (ASL), Ross Anderson (ASL), Fiona Hooymans (AER).

### Overview

The Working Group (WG) convened for its inaugural session, establishing a shared understanding of its mandate, confirming expectations for participation, and outlining the proposed approach to co-design. The sessions also considered outputs from the 2025 pilot process and reviewed the forward program of work, including workshop scheduling and stakeholder engagement.

### Mandate and Scope

The WG reaffirmed its mandate, as set out in the Guidelines, to develop standardised electricity contract structures across three Electricity Services Entry Mechanism (ESEM) services: bulk energy, shaping, and firming. These structures are intended to support the financing of new market entrants through the ESEM and may be subject to future application under the MMO framework.

Members acknowledged the core expectations of participating, including:

- Acting in accordance with the National Electricity Objective;
- Contributing expertise while moving beyond organisational advocacy;
- Working constructively toward consensus; and
- Adhering to Chatham House rules.

It was strongly reinforced that the co-design process is industry-led in both substance and outcomes.

### Ways of Working

The WG considered proposed principles to guide engagement, including a public purpose mindset, shared ownership of outcomes, constructive participation, and transparency with industry.

The need for analytical support throughout the co-design process was discussed. The Convening Group (CG) confirmed that support will be made available as required, while also encouraging WG members to leverage internal capabilities and broader industry networks to inform analysis and inputs.

### Pilot Process Outcomes

The WG reviewed outputs from the 2025 pilot co-design process. It was clarified that these outputs do not constrain the current phase of work.

Members revisited the critical design criteria used during the pilot, noting that these may require refinement. Initial discussions highlighted several areas warranting further analysis and consideration as the co-design process progresses.

### **Program of Work and Communications**

The WG considered a proposed program of work, including a series of five to six in-person workshops through to November 2026.

Discussion also covered communications protocols, including confidentiality and competition law considerations, as well as approaches to broader industry engagement.

### **Next Steps**

- WG members to provide feedback on proposed ways of working ahead of in-person workshop.
- WG to identify and communicate any analytical support requirements to the CG.
- WG to review pilot process outputs in detail to inform baseline alignment.
- WG to consider and provide feedback on the proposed workshop schedule and structure.
- WG and CG to further develop approaches to broader industry engagement.

### **Forward Schedule**

The first in-person WG workshop is scheduled for 26 May 2026.