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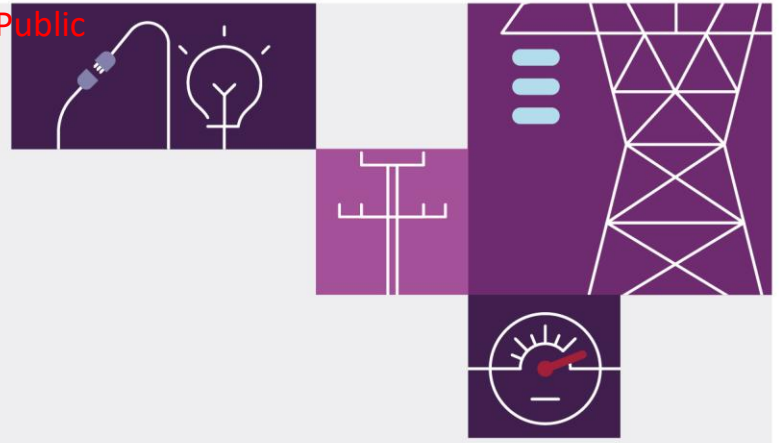


Flexible Trading Arrangements Release 1 2026

Industry Go-live Plan - Draft



Public



Important notice

Purpose

This document describes the go-live approach for upgrading AEMO’s retails systems for Flexible Trading Arrangements Release 1 deployment on, 31 May 2026 in preparation for the type 9 metering arrangements rule commencement date of 31 May 2026. Noting that the Flexible trading Arrangements commencement date is 1 November 2026.

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Version control

Version	Release date	Changes
0.1	16 March 2026	Draft for Industry Review

1. Executive summary

This document outlines the industry go-live approach for the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) **Flexible Trading Arrangements (FTA) Release 1**, delivered as part of the National Electricity Market (NEM) Reform Program's May 2026 Release. The purpose of this plan is to provide Participants with a clear overview of the scope, timing, readiness considerations, and support arrangements associated with the deployment of retail system changes required to support the commencement of **Type 9 metering installations**, effective **31 May 2026**.

FTA Release 1 introduces market system and procedural changes to enable new metering installation types, including updates to MSATS, reporting, and data aggregation processes. These changes are supported by amendments to relevant procedures and updates to aseXML schemas and enumeration files. While the broader Flexible Trading Arrangements commence on 1 November 2026, this go-live plan is limited in scope to the May 2026 release and the associated system changes required for Type 9 metering.

The release will be implemented through a single production deployment during AEMO's standard Retail Systems maintenance window on **Sunday, 31 May 2026**. An industry testing period in the pre-production environment will be available prior to go-live to support participant preparation. Participation in industry testing is encouraged but is not a prerequisite for AEMO's technical readiness decision.

This plan also describes the go-live framework, readiness criteria, deployment schedule, communications approach, and post-implementation support arrangements, including a defined hypercare period. The go-live plan will be revised with industry through established engagement forums and will be updated as required prior to final publication.

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2. Introduction

This chapter describes the implementation of the National Electricity Market (NEM) Reform Program's May 2026 Release; Flexible Trading Arrangements Release 1.

2.1 Audience

This document provides information to Participants and IT staff that will be impacted by the functional and technical changes being implemented with the FTA Retail Systems deployment on 31 May 2026.

2.2 FTA rule change

On 15 August 2024, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) updated electricity and retail rules in response to a rule change request submitted by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). This rule change request was developed as part of the Energy Security Board's (ESB) consumer energy resources (CER) implementation plan.

The final rules make a series of changes that, alongside other reforms, will unlock substantial benefits from CER for consumers and the system as a whole.

The rules will enable three key arrangements:

- Large customers will be able to engage multiple energy service providers at their premises more easily- to manage and obtain more value from their CER.
- Energy service providers for small and large customers will be able to separate and manage 'flexible' CER from 'passive' loads in the energy market - leading to innovative products and services for consumers.
- Market participants will be able to use in-built measurement capability in technology such as electric vehicle (EV) chargers and smart streetlights - to enable the delivery of innovative and essential products and services at lower cost.

These arrangements will make it easier for energy service providers to offer products and services to households, businesses, and the public sector, to unlock the value of flexible CER. The arrangements will also provide a strong foundation for CER to be delivered to and integrated into the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The new in-built metering arrangements will also make it easier for market participants to deploy public EV chargers and smart streetlights, which could deliver up to \$100m in benefits over 20 years as a result of reduced metering installation costs, reduced maintenance costs, reduced wholesale costs, and emissions reductions.

These arrangements will be voluntary, so that energy service providers and consumers can take up these arrangements when and how they see fit.

* [Unlocking CER benefits through flexible trading | AEMC](#)

AEMO will deliver the FTA solution over 2 releases,

- May 2026 release (FTA release 1), the commencement of Type 9 metering installations, effective 31 May 2026 and
- November 2026 (FTA Release 2), the commencement of flexible trading arrangements, effective 1 November 2026.

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The scope of this go-live plan is limited to the May 2026 release. A separate go-live plan will be produced to support the November 2026 release.

2.3 FTA Procedural changes

The following procedures have been amended to support the FTA May release with an effective date of 31 May 2026

- [Guide to the Role of the Metering Coordinator v1.5](#)
- [Metrology Procedure Part A v8.1](#)
- [Metrology Procedure Part B v8.1](#)
- [MSATS National Metering Identifier Procedure v7.4](#)
- [MSATS Procedures – Principles and Obligations for All Connection Points v8.0](#)
- [Retail Electricity Market Procedures – Glossary and Framework v4.5](#)
- [Service Level Procedure MP Services v2.0](#)
- [Service Level Procedure MDP Services v2.59](#)
- [B2B Procedure Customer and Site Details Notification Process v3.91](#)
- [B2B Procedure Meter Data Process v3.91](#)
- [B2B Procedure Service Order Process v3.91](#)

2.4 FTA May Release Market Systems changes

The FTA May Release introduces the following changes to support the Type 9 metering installation rule change:

MSATS

- **New meter installation type codes (MITC)** for COMMS9, COMMS9CM meter types. Type 9 is for standalone installations and 9 CMS for those using a central management system.
- **Registration and Validation** the new codes are attributes assigned to metering installations in MSATS, with validations ensuring correct assignment.
- **Reporting Enhancements/Scheduled reports** introduction of new reporting groups for Type 9 installations, the scheduling of regular reports, and the procedures for testing and validating data quality and quantity. Note: There will be changes to the RM30 report (Monthly performance monitoring report), which will include the new MITC Codes.
- **B2B** updates to support new non-versioned enumerations in the eHub and the B2B Browser. There will be a new version of the validation module and a new version of the MSATS participant batcher.

CDR/CDP

- There are no changes to CDR, CDP and PMS reporting for COMMS 9 for Release 1. However, Type 9 data will be returned in CDR output.

eMDM

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- MDM will aggregate data using the new MITC codes for Type 9 meters. MDM uses MITC codes for grouping and aggregation in UFE reports, but the calculation and settlement processes remain unchanged.
- New metering types and codes are passed from MSATS to MDM as part of the standard ETL process.

2.5 Schema updates

FTA Release 1 includes changes to the following enumerations files for r46:

- ElectricityEnumerations.xsd: New enumerations for simple types ReasonForNotice and CustomerType.
- Enumerations.xsd: Corrected enumerations for simple type AustralianFloorOrLevelType.

These changes are documented in sections 4.5 and 4.6 of the [MSATS Technical Specification May 2026](#).

2.6 Go-live planning engagement

The FTA May Release Industry Go-Live Plan is developed in consultation with industry through the Implementation Forum. Table 1 below illustrates AEMO's engagement approach and timeline for developing the plan.

Table 1 FTA May 2026 Release Go-Live Plan development timeline

Milestone	Date
Publish draft for industry feedback	16 Mar 2026
Deadline for industry feedback	17 April 2026
Publish final plan	4 May 2026

3. Go-live Plan Framework

3.1 Scope

- In Scope
 - Deployment of retail system changes to support the implementation of FTA May Release including Non-Version Enumeration (NVE) changes for B2B and B2M
 - aseXML enumeration file deployments
 - Communications during deployment
 - Support arrangements during the Go-live period

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- Out of Scope
 - Participant contingency plans
 - FTA Release 2 (November 2026 Release) will have a separate Go-live plan.

3.2 Principles

The industry transition and go-live strategy principles apply to the FTA May release changes. These are:

- The changes within the Retail Systems deployment are mandated via Procedure changes – commencement date of 31 May 2026 should be met.
- Operation of the NEM should be uninterrupted during periods of transition and go-live.
- Market system go-live risks should be minimised.
- Participants should be provided with implementation flexibility where possible.
- Participants and AEMO are responsible for their own go-live planning.

4. Industry Go-live Plan

4.1 Industry Test

The Industry Test provides participants the opportunity to test their market systems against AEMO's market systems in the pre-production environment.

AEMO's Pre-Production Retail and Wholesale environments will have been refreshed from Production in preparation for this Industry Test. The data will be taken from copies of Production on the following dates:

- Wholesale production copy taken from 12 March 2026
- Retail production copy taken from 18 March 2026

The Pre-production refresh will commence 23 March 2026 and will result in a 5-day Pre-production outage.

For further details including testing scope inclusions please refer to the [FTA May Release Industry Test Strategy](#).

4.2 B2B and B2M Schemas

Participants should note the following regarding the enumeration changes and migration to aseXML r46:

- All Participants on aseXML r46, B2B or B2M, must implement the latest non-versioned enumeration updates.
- Participants intending to participate in FTA Release 1 – Type 9 Metering must ensure they are operating on aseXML r46 with the latest non-versioned enumeration updates.

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[aseXML r46](#) has been updated to incorporate new enumeration files:

- [Electricity Enumerations v4.0](#) – non-versioned XSD
- [Enumerations v8.1](#) – non-versioned XSD

Participants needing to migrate to aseXML r46 B2B can request a unique timeslot to perform their update via the MSATS Transforms and Protocols screen. AEMO will provide extended support during this timeslot. If you require this support, please email NEMReform@aemo.com.au and the AEMO team will respond to your request to schedule your B2B schema migration window.

Please Note: The updated Enumerations.xsd file is incompatible with r43 and r44 aseXML schemas due to enumeration length changes. If your organisation is currently on with r43 and r44, you will need to either retain the existing file or upgrade your aseXML schema to r46.

For further information on preparing for your schema transition please refer to the following documents: [Guide to Transition of aseXML](#), [B2M transition process](#), [Change your B2B schema](#), [MSATS Technical Specification May 2026](#).

4.3 Go-live Plan

There will be a single production deployment for the FTA May 2026 Release. This is scheduled on Sunday 31 May 2026 during the standard Retail Systems maintenance window.

4.4 Go-live criteria and readiness decision

Solution Go-live Criteria	Description
Solution readiness	AEMO solution tested in-line with requirements. System Changes required to meet initiative requirements and ongoing stability of existing systems.
AEMO business readiness	AEMO business ready to support release changes.

Service Commencement Criteria	Description
Market readiness	Whilst there are no formal Market Readiness requirements, Participants will need to move to aseXML schema r46 if they wish to participate in FTA Release 1.

Checkpoint decisions will be made approximately one month prior to go-live to determine overall initiative readiness for Production and communicated via the Implementation Forum.

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4.4.1 Participant readiness

Participant readiness activities, including participation in industry testing, are not a pre-requisite for AEMO to confirm technical readiness to go-live. As such, the release will not require formalised reporting on participant readiness activities.

AEMO encourages Participants to engage in the industry testing scheduled to commence on 29 April 2026.

4.4.2 Transition period

There are no transition activities identified with this release.

4.5 Communications

Correspondence regarding the FTA May Release go-live will be released through AEMO Support Hub bulletins and the [NEM Reform mailbox](#). AEMO will provide the following forms of updates to participants during the AEMO cutover:

- **General updates** – provide participants with information about the status of implementation activities via the NEM Reform mailbox.
- **Support Hub Notices** – provides information to the market on Software releases including notifications of releases and outage completion.
- **Issues** – should any issues arise or deviations from the previously communicated processes, participants will be notified through the NEM Reform mailbox. If the issue or deviation is in relation to a notice previously sent through AEMO's Support Hub Notices, participants will receive a communication through this channel in addition to the NEM Reform mailbox. Participants experiencing issues as a result of the go-live, should raise these incidents directly via the AEMO Support Hub.

4.6 Go-live schedule

The retail system's production deployment for FTA May 2026 Release is scheduled for Sunday 31 May 2026 during the standard maintenance window of 10:00 to 14:00 Market Time (AEST). During this period the following applications will be unavailable:

User Interfaces

- Users will not be able to access the MSATS and B2B Browser.
- User Rights Management (URM) will continue to operate, however the administration screens will not be accessible.

NEM B2M

- MTRD/MDMT Meter data processing and RM reports will not be available.
- CATS CRs and Cn Reports will not be available.
- NMID NMI Discovery will not be available.

NEM B2B

- B2B Transactions via the SMP eHub will be unavailable.
- Customer Data
- CDR and CDP will not be available.

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Table 2 FTA May 2026 Release Go-live Schedule

Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
Pre-Production				
	Monday 23 March 2026	Pre-production environment will be refreshed	Pre-production will be unavailable from 23 March to 28 March 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Hub Notification
	Tuesday 21 April 2026	Industry Test Kick-off meeting		Teams meeting
	Prior to the 27 April Pre-production deployment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants migrating to aseXML r46 to ensure that B2M schema protocol settings are correct for the cutover in Pre-production. 	
	Tuesday 28 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTA Release 1 deployed to pre-production. This includes the new versions of the Enumeration files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-production outage from 12:00 to 16:00 Participants on aseXML r46 should update to the new versions of the enumerations in Pre-production. Note: Participants on lower schema versions wishing to participate in the FTA release 1 industry test should move to aseXML r46 for B2B and B2M in Pre-production Participants can install validation module version 1.8 in Pre-production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Hub Notification Email to ITWG members when MSATS is available.
	Any Time Prior to Industry Testing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants migrating to aseXML r46 B2B can update their B2B schema settings via the MSATS Transforms and Protocols screen in Pre-production. 	
	Thursday 30 April 2026	Industry Test for FTA Release 1 commences	Participants can commence testing FTA Release 1 in Pre-production	Q&A sessions commence via Teams
	Friday 29 May 2026	Industry Test for FTA Release 1 concludes	Participants can continue testing beyond this date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Implementation Forum and ITWG members at completion

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Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
Production Go-live 31 May 2026				
	Prior to the 31 May Production deployment		<p>Participants wishing to participate in FTA will need to move to aseXML r46 for B2B and B2M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to email NEMReform@aemo.com.au to schedule supported B2B schema migration window. Participants migrating to aseXML r46 B2M to ensure that B2M schema protocol settings are correct for the cutover in Production. 	
	Sunday 31 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTA Release 1 changes are deployed to production. This includes the new versions of the Enumeration files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production outage from 10:00 to 14:00 AEST Participants on aseXML r46 should update to the new versions of the enumerations in Production. Note: Participants on lower schema versions wishing to participate in the FTA release 1 industry test should move to aseXML r46 for B2B and B2M in Production Participants can install validation module version 1.8 in Production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Implementation Forum & ITWG members when MSATS is available AEMO to run a Teams call for Implementation Forum & ITWG members for the duration of the deployment Email to Implementation Forum and ITWG members when MSATS is available Incident management on Teams call for prioritisation escalation if required
	Sunday 31 May 2026 (following Production deployment) to Friday 26 June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEMO to provide Hypercare for FTA Release 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants needing to migrate to aseXML r46 B2B can do so during their designated window. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Hypercare Teams sessions will be scheduled for to Implementation Forum & ITWG members
FTA Release 1 Rule effective date 31 May 2026				
	Sunday 31 May 2026	Rule effective date for FTA release 1: the commencement of Type 9 metering installations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to PCF, ERCF Implementation Forum and ITWG members

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4.7 Deployment Contingency

The Release is comprised of updates to current AEMO systems only. Where a task/deployment has a participant impact, AEMO will provide communication confirming the successful deployment.

Where an issue arises that impacts the Readiness and Go-live Criteria, participants will be notified and a path forward will be communicated. This may involve consultation and will be assessed if/when required.

5. Participant Support Arrangements

All production issues should be raised via the Support Hub and managed through the current retail system support processes.

AEMO will run Hypercare for FTA Release 1 until 26 June 2026. There will be heightened SME availability to support participants during this time along with:

- Daily Hypercare Teams sessions to be scheduled to provide direct support for Participants
- Issue Tracking:
 - Publication of identified Issues Log
 - Q&A Sessions as required
 - Participants are requested to follow BAU process and log issues via the AEMO Support Hub
- Communications:
 - Market communications will be used for the notification of any impacts to processing

Glossary

Term	Definition
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
B2B	Business to Business
B2M	Business to Market
CER	Consumer Energy Resources
Cutover	System or process implementation event
ESB	Energy Security Board
FTA	Flexible Trading Arrangements
Industry testing	Informal, uncoordinated testing by participants in AEMO's IT environments. Self-testing of functionality such as connectivity, and/or coordinated multi-party testing of functional scenarios.
ITWG	Industry Testing Working Group
NEM	National Electricity Market
NVE	Non-Version Enumeration
Q&A	Question and Answer
SME	Subject Matter Expert