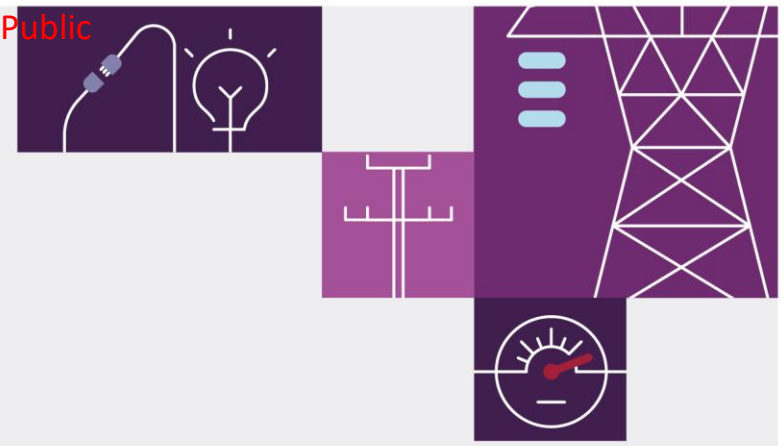
Metering Services Review (MSR) July BPQD IDX Release

April 2026

Coordinated Industry Test Strategy



Important notice

Purpose

The industry testing strategy sets out the high-level approach and principles associated with the National Electricity Market (NEM) testing activities that will support the NEM Reform July 2026 release for the Metering Services Review (MSR) initiative, Release 2 which covers the implementation of Basic Power Quality Data (BPQD) including AEMO's New IDX platform.

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Version control

Version	Release date	Changes
0.1	25/03/2026	Initial draft for Participant feedback
1.0	30/04/2026	Final version following Participant Feedback. In this version, references to the Portal Consolidation deployment have been removed because this has been rescheduled to a later release. This version also details the scope reduction in the IDX July release.

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Contents

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1 Introduction

This section provides background information on AEMO's Metering Services Review July 2026 release for Basic Power Quality Data (BPQD) and the Market Interface Technology Enhancements (MITE) program. It also sets out the purpose, scope, and approach to the development of this Industry Test strategy.

1.1 AEMO's Metering Services Review (MSR) Release 2

The Accelerating Smart Meter Deployment Rule* seeks to implement the recommendations of the AEMC's review of the metering framework in 2023. To enable an acceleration for the deployment of smart meters, the rule outlines a regulatory change covering the following:

1. Creation of a Legacy Meter Replacement Plan (LMRP) by Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs)
2. New processes for the management of site defects and metering installations that have shared points of isolation
3. A requirement for AEMO to develop a guideline to assist MCs in their development of asset management strategies for testing and inspecting metering installations
4. Changes to the arrangements for the testing and inspection of legacy metering installations and the management of metering installation malfunctions
5. A new requirement for Metering Coordinators (MCs) to provide a BPQD service to DNSPs

The first four points above were implemented in the October/November 2026 MSATS releases; the final component is the subject of this Industry Test Strategy and will be deployed on AEMO's new IDX Platform.

* AEMC – Accelerating smart meter deployment – Rule Change

The July 2026 release will be delivered into pre-production on 18 May 2026 and will be deployed to Production on 30 June 2026 in readiness for the rule commencement date of 1 July 2026.

1.2 MITE Program

The **Market Interface Technology Enhancements (MITE)** program is AEMO's coordinated initiative to modernise how market participants interact digitally with AEMO across the National Electricity Market. The program brings together a set of foundational technology upgrades that are prerequisites for major NEM reforms.

The MITE program consolidates three core projects into a single delivery program: **Identity and Access Management (IDAM)**, **Industry Data Exchange (IDX)**, and **Portal Consolidation (PC)**. Together, these initiatives are intended to replace fragmented, legacy interfaces with more secure, scalable, and standardised digital services, improving data sharing, access control, and usability for industry participants.

AEMO's July 2026 release is the first implementation for the MITE program and includes the introduction of the Industry Data Exchange (IDX) to support BPQD.

1.2.1 The IDX Platform

AEMO is introducing an IDX platform providing unified data exchange between AEMO and participants across the NEM, WEM, and Gas markets.

IDX release 1 provides IDX core functionality supporting BPQD. This includes:

- An integration layer for handling message routing and integration, including API endpoints for secure API management for inbound and outbound traffic.
- Support for multiple data exchange patterns and operational controls, including:
    - Fire and forget, large file patterns as per a business functions message exchange requirement. Real-time event notifications delivered using the WebSocket communication protocol.
    - Flow Control capabilities for message sequencing, throttling, and queue management.
    - Transaction logging to track all messages for auditing and troubleshooting.
- Security and access controls:
    - OAuth-based access and role controls for authentication and authorization.
- Support for Business Functions, each with its own schema, schema versioning, and API. The first Business Function on IDX is BPQD. See Industry Data Exchange - Basic Power Quality Data - June 2026.
- IDX WebApp, which enables searching and viewing transaction history, viewing the IDX Hub Queue and viewing and downloading of BPQD payloads.

1.2.2 Portal Consolidation

AEMO's PC project is a core part of its broader NEM Reform digital modernisation program, aiming to replace multiple legacy participant portals with a single, unified, secure, and more efficient browser interface for all market participants.

The PC initiative will provide a new, common User Interface (UI) framework, including a clearer navigation hierarchy and menu structure, more consistent labels and layouts, and improved usability and accessibility. The foundational PC release was scheduled to be implemented in the July 2026 Release, however this has been rescheduled to a later release.

1.3 Purpose of the industry testing strategy

This document provides stakeholders—particularly NEM participants affected by the changes—with a clear understanding of the industry testing planned for the July 2026 MSR P3 release. This will be a coordinated industry test, and AEMO will monitor participants' execution of test scenarios through the Q&A sessions. A dedicated test management tool (for example, PractiTest) is not required for this industry test.

Market participants will be requested to test the in-scope items and report any defects to AEMO via the NEM Reform mailbox (NEMReform@aemo.com.au) or during the scheduled Q&A sessions.

This industry test strategy document will help participants understand and plan for system, process, and operational changes that will commence when the BPQD rule comes into effect on 1 July 2026.

AEMO published a separate draft industry test plan in April 2026, which outlines recommended test scenarios for this industry test. AEMO is developing the test plan in consultation with MCs and DNSPs, and the final version of the plan is due to be published 30 April.

1.4 Reference documents

The related documents mentioned in Table 1 are relevant to the industry testing strategy.

Table 1 July Release reference documents and web sites

#	Document name
1	2025 Metering Services Review Package 3 (BPQD) final report
2	AEMO | Market Interface Technology Enhancements initiative site
3	AEMO Metering Services Review - Accelerating Smart Meter Deployment Initiative Site
4	MSR High Level Implementation Assessment Final
5	IEC BPQD Consultation
6	BPQD Procedure Expedited Consultation
7	Technical Specification - Industry Data Exchange - Basic Power Quality Data - June 2026
8	Technical Specification - Industry Data Exchange - Industry Data Exchange Platform - June 2026
9	Portal Consolidation- Release 1A UI Changes
10	Industry Data Exchange – AEMO Gateway Software – May 2026

1.5 Audience

This industry testing strategy is primarily intended for all NEM participants affected by the July 2026 release, particularly their respective:

- Test managers
- Test leads
- Test analysts (system integration, UAT, industry testing)
- Project managers
- Developers and business and functional SMEs
- Market Participants

Secondary audiences within these organisations include:

- Development managers
- IT operations teams
- Change controllers
- Operations teams

2 Industry testing Framework

This section describes the framework that underpins the July 2026 release industry testing strategy. It explains the industry test strategy's objective, scope, assumptions, communications, data refresh requirements, test environment, and indicative timeline for the July 2026 release.

2.1 Industry testing objective

Industry testing provides market participants the opportunity to test their updated systems and processes against AEMO's new IDX platform.

In relation to the July 2026 release, the overall objective of industry testing is: *To support industry readiness and confirm AEMO's and Participants' preparedness for the respective* July 2026 release *go-live dates.*

2.2 Industry testing scope

The scope of this Coordinated Industry Test will be to enable participants to exercise their respective BPQD processes on AEMO's IDX platform. This functionality will be deployed into the pre-production environment for participants to integrate with their relevant systems.

The Technical Specification documents Technical Specification - Industry Data Exchange - Basic Power Quality Data - June 2026 and Technical Specification - Industry Data Exchange - Industry Data Exchange Platform - June 2026, should be considered as the source of truth and should be referred to for the scope of the July 2026 release.

2.2.1 MSR BPQD IDX scope inclusions

The following functionality will be in scope for the July 2026 release industry test:

IDX Web App

- Participants can confirm access to the new IDX Web App
- Search and view appropriate transaction history (by market role)
- View status and manage flow of messages via the Flow Control screen
- View and download BPQD payloads

IDX Data Exchange

- Participants can verify authorised and authenticated access to IDX API resources
- Test Fire and Forget pattern to post, get and delete BPQD payloads
- Participants that opt to utilise the AEMO Gateway Software can validate their installations against the IDX data exchange framework

- Participants can test the Archive API for retrieving missing or historical data downloads. The Outbound Archive User Interface on the WebApp won't be available until a later release
- The Event Notification API (webSockets) will not be available in this release however the following alternatives will be available:
    - Participants can poll the Power Quality Data API, which provides full access to the same data and functionality
    - Participants can also poll the Flow Control API to retrieve information on other participants who are in a warned or stopped state.

There will be an opportunity for participants to industry test the IDX services that were initially scheduled for this release prior to their production release. The timing of this test window will be communicated to participants as soon as the test and deployment dates are finalised.

2.2.2 Scope exclusions

Industry testing scope exclusions:

- No other IDX functionality will be available for testing in this release. This will become available in the IDX Foundation release
- The Event Notification API (webSockets) for receiving real-time message delivery notifications was initially in scope but has been deferred to a later release due to time constraints
- The Outbound Archive User Interface (WebApp) was also deferred to a later release due to time constraints. The Archive API will be available for retrieving missing or historical data downloads.
- AEMO cannot provide technical support for technical issues that occur outside the IDX platform or AEMO Gateway software
- Testing of any functionality not mentioned in the respective scope sections of this document should be considered out of scope
- Changes to NEM participants' supporting business systems that do not directly interact with AEMO's market systems (i.e. back-end systems). These are addressed by participants own test strategies
- Downstream business processes for each industry participant
- Accreditation: There are no Accreditation requirements for this release

Each NEM participant is responsible for their own preparedness in respect of the above matters and should account for such items within their respective organisational testing programs.

2.3 Approach

The MSR July Release Industry Test will be conducted as follows:

- AEMO will deploy the IDX platform prior to Industry Test.

- AEMO will conduct Business Verification Testing (BVT) to validate the deployment.
- Participants can conduct BPQD IDX testing.
- AEMO will provide support via regular Q&A sessions and via the NEMReform mailbox.
- Participants can continue testing beyond the Industry Test however, this testing won't be directly supported by AEMO Q&A sessions.

2.4 Assumptions

There are several key assumptions underpinning the industry testing strategy:

1. Participation in the Industry Test is voluntary.
2. AEMO will provide and maintain the single Pre-Production environment which will be used for the industry test phase.
3. As part of any changes to Pre-Production, AEMO will give notice to participants of outages or code changes and provide release notes for the changes.
4. AEMO will perform all internal functional testing prior to the release of any changes into pre-production for all the July 2026 release changes.
5. Participants will perform testing on any internal application changes prior to connecting to the AEMO pre-production environment.
6. Participants will have appropriately skilled resource capability for execution and support requirements during industry testing.
7. AEMO will provide support to investigate and resolve defects identified during industry test. All participants engaging in industry testing will report any defects to AEMO by sending an email to NEM Reform inbox: NEMReform@aemo.com.au
8. Results from industry testing may be used by participants for their own assessment of go-live criteria.
9. AEMO will support participants to resolve any connectivity issues within the pre-production environment.

2.5 Communication and Q&A session approach

Commencement of Q&A sessions will be aligned with the test execution for industry testing. These Q&A sessions will be in the form of meetings with below details:

- Scheduled daily for 30 minutes in duration for Participants who seek clarifications or discussions related to industry testing for the duration of the industry test. The frequency of these meetings may be reduced during the industry test based on Participant demand.
- Meetings will be recorded for action taking purposes.
- Questions not answered during the meeting will be taken away and answered following the meeting.

- Ad hoc meetings can be organised between 09:00 and 17:00 hrs (AEST) on business days for any defects that need prioritised attention.
- Latest defect updates, if any, will be sent out after the sessions as part of defect reporting.

Table 2 describes how the progress of industry testing will be monitored and reported. Communications and defect reporting will involve both AEMO and participants.

Table 2 Communications and Q&A session approach

Frequency	Type	Responsible
Daily (frequency will be adjusted according to need)	• MSR BPQD Q&A sessions – 18 May 2026 to 26 June 2026 • Defect reporting via email	AEMO and Participants
Ad hoc	• Defect related meetings will be organised for the defects which needs prioritized attention • Issues in accessing Pre-Production environment	AEMO and Participants

2.6 Data refresh

There is no requirement for AEMO will undertake a Pre-Production data refresh for this initiative. prior to deployment to Pre-Production for market trial.

The last refresh of the Pre-Production environments took place between 24 March 2026 to 28 March 2026. The refresh was sourced from production snapshots taken on the following dates:

- Wholesale System Production snapshot taken on 12 March 2026.
- Retail System Production snapshot was taken on the morning of 18 March 2026. This refresh will contain 6 months of meter data.

Participants are encouraged to align their Pre-Production data, if possible, as this will make aligning data between participants easier.

2.7 Test environment: AEMO pre-production

AEMO will prepare and maintain the single pre-production environment prior to the commencement of Industry testing. Any testing related support for the July 2026 Release in the pre-production environment will be provided between 09:00 and 17:00 Hrs (AEST) on business days. Support will be provided through the NEM Reform inbox: NEMReform@aemo.com.au and via the scheduled Q&A sessions. Pre-production environment and access issues can be raised directly via the AEMO support hub.

2.8 Timeline

The July 2026 Release industry test will be conducted from 18 May 2026. In the first four weeks (formal testing) we aim to cover off all the major test scenarios. In the remaining two weeks (informal testing) Participants will be able to continue testing and AEMO will continue to provide support to Participants via the Q&A sessions.

The Timelines for the industry testing of the MSR BPQD project are shown in Figure 1. Key milestones for the projects are shown on Table 3, below.

Figure 1 MSR BPQD project timeline

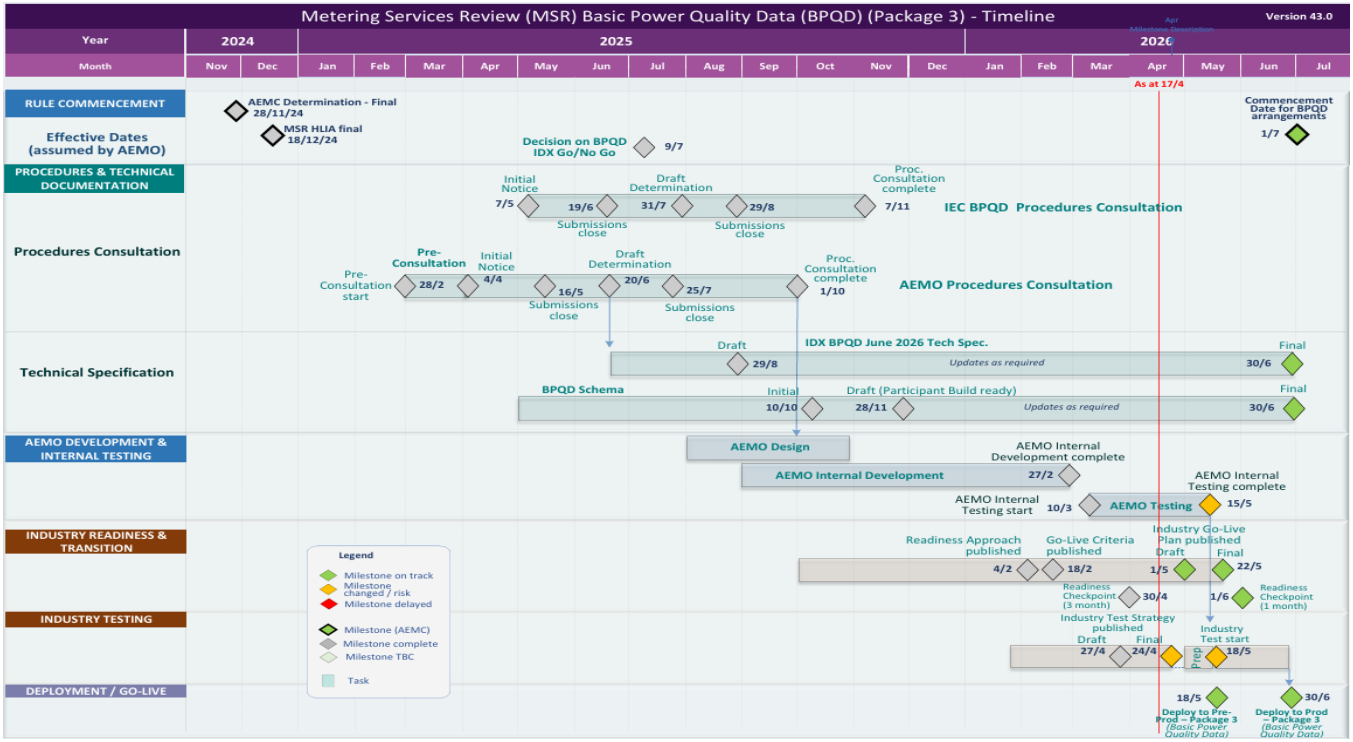


Table 3 MSR - BPQD project milestones

Milestone	Date
July 2026 Release Industry Test Strategy published (Final)	30-April-2026
July 2026 Release Industry Test Plan published (Draft)	02-April-2026 (TBC)
July 2026 Release Industry Test Plan published (Final)	30-April-2026
July 2026 Release Industry Go-Live Plan published (Final)	22-May-2026
July 2026 Release Pre-Production Deployment	Prior to 18-May-2026
Industry Test start	18-May-2026
Formal Industry Test concludes	12-June-2026
Informal Industry Test concludes	26-June-2026
MSR BPQD Production Deployment	29-June-2026

Milestone	Date
Rule Commencement - BPQD Arrangements	01-July-2026

3 Defect management

Industry testing defect management will be a collaborative effort, principally involving AEMO's and participants' testing teams, development teams and business analysis teams.

The objective of defect management is to resolve all defects within the project lifecycle. However, this objective must be balanced against other project objectives, such as achieving the schedule and the system impact and priority of the defect.

Participants can report defects to AEMO by sending an email to the NEM Reform inbox NEMReform@aemo.com.au and AEMO will manage all defects identified during test execution. This includes defects identified by AEMO in its internal testing. Ad hoc meetings can be organised between 09:00 and 17:00 hrs (AEST) on business days for any defects that need prioritised attention for resolution. Defects identified by participants that are not a result of the July 2026 release changes will be raised with the relevant AEMO BAU support team for prioritisation and action. Where it is determined that it is not an AEMO defect, AEMO will coordinate with market participants to obtain the status of the defect.

3.1 Defect management approach

3.1.1 Raising defects

Defects reported by participants during industry testing will be captured by AEMO's test team in Jira, with the following information:

- Description of defect
- Who detected it and the date it was detected
- Defect owner (entered after gaining agreement as to who owns the defect)
- Target fix date (entered by defect owner)
- Defect severity
- Defect priority
- Defect status
- Defect root cause (entered by defect owner).

3.1.2 Defect escalation and triage

All open defects will be discussed in the weekly meeting. If a critical/high priority defect can't be resolved within the agreed timeframes, it can be escalated in the same meeting.

Defect triage meetings will be held internally in AEMO to discuss the status of any reported defects. Defects report will be shared with participants prior to the weekly meeting.

3.1.3 Defect severity and prioritisation

Defects will be classified according to severity and, where there are multiple defects within a severity category, they will be addressed based on priority by the participant test leads in consultation with other affected participants, as described in Table 4. Severity indicates the degree to which the defect affects system capability, test execution, and the overall project. Priority is determined by assessing the probability and impact of system and business impacts, as described in Table 5.

Table 4 Defect severity classification

Severity	Definition
1- Showstopper	Defect is considered critical to business operations and/or testing. Core business and project impact.
2-Major	Defect is considered high impact to the business operations and/or testing. However, core business processes are still able to be completed (possibly via workarounds, etc.) and some testing is still able to continue.
3-Moderate	Defect is considered moderate impact to the business operations and/or testing. Core business processes are unaffected, and workarounds available, with testing still able to continue.
4-Minor	Defect is considered low impact to the business operations and/or testing. Core business processes are unaffected, and testing is still able to continue.

Table 5 Defect priority classification

Priority	Definition
1- Blocker	Entire functionality is blocked, and no testing can be conducted. Fix/resolution turnaround time best endeavour effort in first 4 hours or provide update on impact.
2-Highest	Defect is considered high impact to testing; multiple tests are blocked/failed due to the defect and no workaround is available
3-High	Defect is considered high impact to testing one or more tests can be linked to the defect, but workaround is available, and testing is still able to continue.
4-Medium	Defect is considered moderate impact to testing with one or more tests can be linked to the defect, but workaround is available and none of these tests are currently a priority.
5-Low	Defect is considered low impact to testing, no tests are failed or blocked due to this defect.

Post acceptance of a defect, a resolution date will be added and published in the weekly defect report for all identified defects.

3.1.4 Defect cause

Defect root cause of a valid defect will be updated in Practitest by AEMO's test team once the defect cause is identified. Table 6 shows the available defect causes and their descriptions.

Table 6 Defect cause

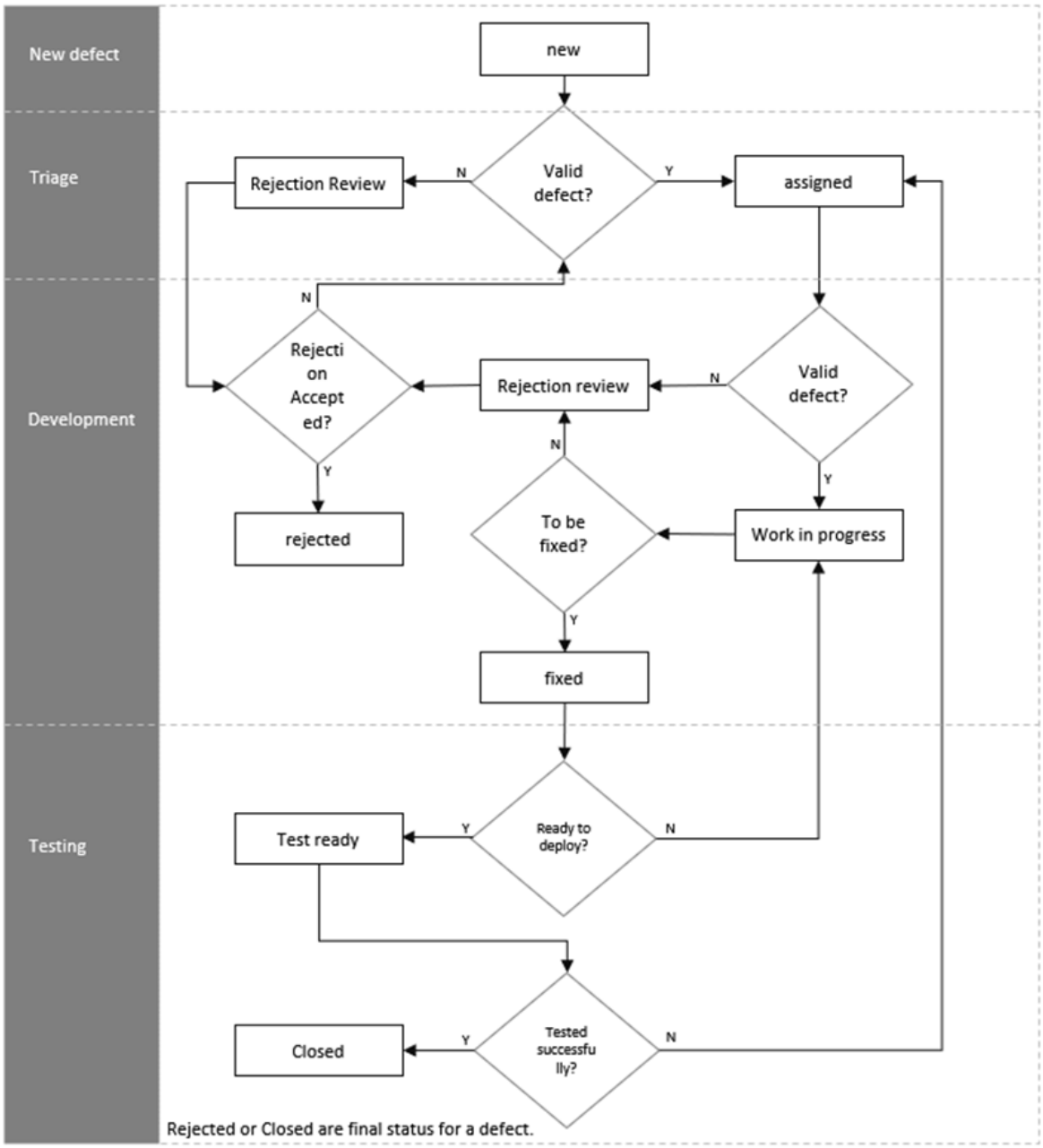
Defect Cause	Definition
Design	The design of the process does not meet the requirements specified. Defect may include examples, algorithm (incorrect calculation), error handling, creation/release of object or memory, decision logic error, loop control, procedure call, failing to validate data values before being used.
Configuration	The intended outcome of the configuration is not met.
Data	There are system data issues for the process that may prevent test completion.

Defect Cause	Definition
Requirements	Unclear or incorrect requirement, Functional and Business specification documentation.
Infrastructure/Hardware	Defect is not in the object being tested but, in the test, set up, for example the wrong configuration or version control of platform, operating system, browser, hardware or networking, system is down, or the environment is down.

3.1.5 Defect process flow

Figure 2 shows the defect management process throughout the various defect management statuses of the defect lifecycle from its inception through to its closure.

Figure 2 Defect management cycle



GLOSSARY

This document uses many terms that have meanings defined in the National Electricity Rules (NER). The NER meanings are adopted unless otherwise specified.

Term	Definition
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
API	Application programming interface
B2B	Business to Business
B2M	Business to Market
BPQD	Basic Power Quality data
BVT	Business Verification Testing
DNSP	Distribution Network Service Provider
FRMP	Financially Responsible Market Participant
IDX	Industry Data Exchange
ITWG	Industry Test Working Group
LNSP	Local Network Service Provider
MC	Metering Coordinator
MDP	Meter Data Provider
MITE	Market Interface Technology Enhancements
MP	Meter Provider
MSR	Metering Services Review
NEM	National Electricity Market
NER	National Electricity Rules
PC	Portal Consolidation
UI	User Interface