

# SSC Industry Readiness Approach - Final

Shortening the Settlement  
Cycle

September 2025



# Context

AEMO is implementing the [SSC reform](#) following the AEMC's [final rule determination](#) to shorten the NEM settlement cycle to nine business days following the end of a billing period and introduces a new revision 20 business days following the end of a billing period.

The SSC rule has three major implementation components:

- Establish metering and settlement processes that support a new, shorter settlement cycle.
- Adapt the credit limit procedures and supporting process to reflect the shorter settlement cycle.
- Transition metering, settlement and prudential processes from the current settlement cycle to the shorter settlement cycle

In February 2025, AEMO published a final [High-Level Implementation Assessment](#) (HLIA) to provide an overview of how the SSC rule will be implemented by AEMO. It included an indicative industry readiness approach, aligned to the implementation approach, to assist industry with their own planning and delivery activities to be ready for the operationalisation of SSC on **9 August 2025**.

This document defines the final Industry Readiness Approach for SSC by confirming:

- The scope and timings of readiness and participant development support activities
- The criteria against which go-live decisions will be made

The following slides provide:

- A recap on the purpose of the industry readiness approach
- NEM Reform Program industry readiness framework
- The final industry readiness approach for SSC

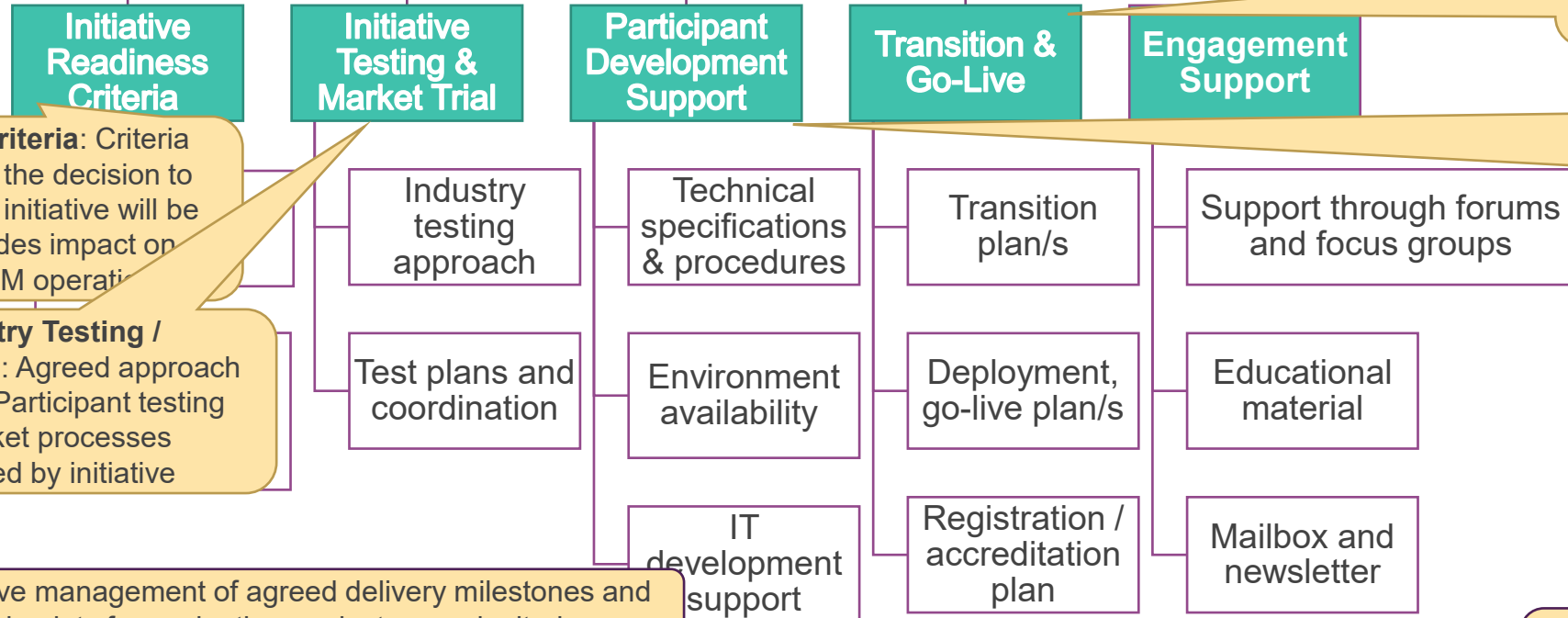
# Purpose of Initiative Readiness Approach

- To assist industry with their own planning and delivery activities to be ready for SSC as it is operationalised.
- To define the criteria against which go-live decisions will be made.
- Aligns to and supports the implementation approach for SSC Release 1:
  - 9 August 2026 - Rule commencement and financial settlement changes

# Context: NEM Reform program industry strategy

## NEM REFORM READINESS STRATEGY (ALL INITIATIVES)

### READINESS APPROACH FRAMEWORK



**Transition & Go-Live:** Approach and management of transitional activities and Go-Live timings, dependencies and communication approaches

**Participant Development Support:** Approaches to provide impacted participants the information required for successful development and implementation of their required changes

**Readiness Criteria:** Criteria against which the decision to implement the initiative will be made. Includes impact on ongoing NEM operations

**Industry Testing / Market Trial:** Agreed approach to support Participant testing of market processes impacted by initiative

Progressive management of agreed delivery milestones and checkpoints for evaluation against agreed criteria

Identification and management of Implementation risks and Agreed contingencies for the initiative

### RISK & CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT

### INITIATIVE READINESS REPORTING & GO-LIVE CRITERIA MANAGEMENT

# Context: NEM Reform program industry strategy

## NEM REFORM READINESS STRATEGY (ALL INITIATIVES)

### SSC READINESS APPROACH

SSC readiness approach adopts the standard NEM Reform Program Framework

#### Initiative Readiness Criteria

AEMO readiness criteria ✓

Individual participant readiness approach ✗

#### Initiative Testing & Market Trial

Industry test strategy ✓

Test plans and coordination ✓

#### Participant Development Support

Technical Specification & Procedures ✓

Environment Availability ✓

#### Transition & Go-Live

Transition Plan ✓

Deployment Go-live Plan/s ✓

Registration / Accreditation Plan ✗

#### Engagement Support

Support through forums & focus groups ✓

Educational material ✓

Mailbox & newsletter ✓

- AEMO solution needs to be updated and tested
- AEMO business needs to be ready to operate
- AEMO IT support needs to be in place

RISK & CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT ✓

INITIATIVE READINESS REPORTING ✓ & GO-LIVE CRITERIA MANAGEMENT ✓

READINESS AREA			SSC RELEASE 1 - FINAL INDUSTRY READINESS APPROACH		
Initiative readiness criteria	Individual participant readiness approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual participant (or participant category) readiness is not a dependency for go-live on <b>9 August 2026</b>. However, rule commencement may require impacted participants to make timely system/process changes to comply with SSC commencement.</li> <li>Introduction of SSC is based on AEMO using the existing standard approach for settlements and reporting to the new settlement calendar, impacting timings only.</li> </ul>			
	AEMO readiness criteria	<p>By the SSC rule commencement date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AEMO's solution needs to be updated and tested for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Wholesale Market systems changes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlements: changes to incorporate new settlements calendar and revision 0 (R0), changes to settlement auto scheduler, changes to utilise estimated settlement data, if necessary, when metering data is unavailable (i.e. for publishing statements)</li> <li>Prudentials: changes to calculations of accruals, changes to ex post reallocation due dates, R0 adjustments, changes to estimating Sent Out and Consumed Energy when metering data is not available for participants who usually provide meter data at the NMI level (i.e. typically generators)</li> <li>Billing: changes to incorporate new billing calendar, interest calculation changes and new Security Deposit (cash) management process</li> <li>Reporting and Invoicing: new reports issued for R0 revision; changes to include Prelim case and additional information used in Final</li> <li>EMMS Data model: to incorporate new Settlement Revision R0 and associated posting timings in billing calendar</li> <li>Markets Portal: new screen for Security Deposit (cash) management</li> <li>APIs: for new and updated Prudential APIs</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Retail Systems changes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meter Data Management to align to new settlement timetable and include new revision (R0)</li> <li>MSATS changes to RM30 report and to support B2M schema changes</li> <li>New B2M schema update to allow for Revision 0 settlement type</li> <li>B2B systems to be determined by B2B working group</li> <li>MSATS Participant Batchter – new aseXML schema for B2M</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>AEMO business needs to be ready to support financial operations</li> <li>IT support needs to be in place.</li> </ul>			
Industry Testing	Market Trial Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate to hold a market trial as AEMO will need to coordinate the execution of settlement runs</li> <li>High-level approach, test objectives and timeframes will be published in the Market Trial Strategy. Draft available <b>1 Dec 2025</b>.</li> <li>Scoping and planning will occur in collaboration with industry and in alignment with the project schedule.</li> <li>Preproduction will be available from <b>4 June 2026 to 31 July 2026</b>. This will allow participants to test changes to their interfaces, adapt to the new billing period and adjust for the SSC settlement financial flows and associated reports.</li> </ul>			
	Test plans and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market Trial Test Plan inclusive of test cycle approach to be published <b>6 February 2026 (Draft)</b> and <b>6 March 2026 (Final)</b></li> <li>Scoping and planning in consultation with participants and in alignment with project schedule.</li> </ul>			

**Participant development support**

Documentation

Consultations for the following documents is required. Documents will be drafted, released for feedback and final versions published by **23 February 2026**

**Wholesale procedure consultations:**

- Credit Limit Procedures
- NEM Settlement Revisions Policy\*
- Reallocation Timetable\*
- Spot Market Operations Timetable
- SSC Transition Calendar/Plan (new) – to be published by 5 December 2025
- NEM TNSP Negative Settlement Residue Procedure\*
- NEM Settlement Estimates Policy

**Retail procedures consultations:**

- Service Level Procedure MDP Services
- MSATS Procedures – MDM Procedure
- Metering Data Delivery Calendar
- UFE Reporting Guidelines
- Metrology Procedure Part A and Part B

\* Dates tentative

Technical specifications

To be published in time for participants to make their system changes:

- EMMS Technical Specification available from **18 September 2025**
- MSATS Technical Specification available from **14 November 2025**
- MMS Data Model v5.7 technical specification with table/report changes for SSC settlement reports released to:
  - Preproduction 5 May 2026
  - Production 2 June 2026
- aseXML schema changes for B2M – **15 Dec 2025 (draft), 27 Feb 2026 (final)**

IT development support

- As required, AEMO will provide industry support via NEM Reform forums, information sessions, focus groups and daily stand-ups for affected participants. Forums occur monthly and remaining engagements will be scheduled as required to support participants development.

**Transition and go-live**

<p>Transition plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Transition Approach for SSC, outlined in the final HLIA – section 2.3, identifies the transition from the current to the shorter settlement cycle to occur between <b>9 August and 17 October 2026</b>, compliant with the rule requirement of August to October 2026.</li> <li>• AEMO will develop an SSC Transition Calendar &amp; Plan to ensure:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• final statements and settlement are maintained in billing week order.</li> <li>• transitional and new calendars are well understood, and industry preparedness is high.</li> <li>• participants understand the process of introducing Revision 0 and can make their own changes as needed</li> <li>• timing for new credit support requirements is clear.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Development of the SSC Transition Calendar &amp; Plan requires consultation with industry to ensure market alignment and readiness for all proposed changes ahead of the rule commencement date.</li> <li>• The final Transition Plan will be published by <b>5 December 2025</b> in line with rule commencement requirements for availability of the transition calendar. Draft expected to be published on <b>20 October 2025</b>, followed by an Information Session on <b>6 November 2025</b>.</li> </ul>
<p>Go-live plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be developed in consultation with industry to confirm AEMO deployment activities and timeframes, any participant co-ordinated activity and required notifications to industry             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Draft plan published - 22 May 2026</li> <li>❖ Final plan published – 1 July 2026</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Registration or accreditation plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SSC final rule does not indicate changes to registration or accreditation frameworks.</li> <li>• SSC Prudential requirements and settlement changes do not introduce or trigger any additional accreditation requirements</li> </ul>

**Engagement Support**

Forums and Focus Groups

- The NEM Reform Program will support impacted market participants in each reform phase from implementation design, procedures development, solution delivery through to industry testing.
- Support will be provided as required via NEM Reform forums

Educational material

- AEMO will make available educational material to support awareness, assessment and preparation for affect participants as required. This may include, guides and fact sheets, FAQs and industry presentations, made available through the project’s dedicated webpage.

Mailbox and newsletter

- Participants support provided via monitored mailbox
- Regular communications around project milestones

**Risk & contingency management**

- Will be developed in consultation with industry

**Initiative readiness reporting & go-live criteria management**

- AEMO will confirm the go-live criteria with Participants by **12 February 2026**.
- AEMO will report to industry, impacts to industry, of any changes to confirmed L1/L2 industry milestones, through NEM Reform forums.
- AEMO will also take formal checkpoints against go-live criteria to provide assurance of implementation preparations ahead of industry test period and go-live, allowing time for finalising AEMO’s and Participants business preparations:
  - ❖ 3-month Checkpoint – 8 May 2026
  - ❖ 1-month Checkpoint – 9 July 2026
- Formalised Participant readiness reporting is not required on the basis that there is no mandatory participant transition or preparatory activities that if not performed will impact technical readiness for market or other participants.

# Feedback

Please note that [feedback](#) on the readiness approach continues to be welcomed anytime.

# Glossary

Term	Definition
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
CLP	Credit Limit Procedures
DM	Data Model
FRMP	Financially Responsible Market Participant
HLIA	High Level Implementation Assessment
ITWG	Industry Testing Working Group
MCL	Maximum Credit Limit
MDP	Meter Data Provider
MSATS	Market Transfer and Settlements Solution
MSUG	Market Systems User Group
NEM	National Energy Market
NER	National Energy Rules
NSP	Network Service Provider
RO	A settlement revision statement proposed to be posted 20 DB following the billing week
R1	A settlement revision statement proposed to be posted 20 weeks following the billing week
R2	A settlement revision statement proposed to be posted 30 weeks following the billing week
SSC	Shortening the Settlement Cycle