Bidirectional unit (BDU) transition – NMI cutover

Fact Sheet

This fact sheet provides background information and guidance on the process to cutover National Meter Identifiers (**NMI**) associated to the battery energy storage systems (**BESS**) registered before 3 June 2024 that are required to cutover from two to one dispatchable unit and commence bidirectional unit operations.

Context

The rule on integrating energy storage systems (**IESS**) introduces the scheduled bidirectional unit (**BDU**). The BDU classification will enable storage units to submit a single bid and to receive a single dispatch instruction. Previously, storage, including BESS, had participated as generation and load dispatchable units (**DUID**).

All grid-scale BESS registered prior to 3 June 2024 must transition to BDU by 3 March 2025. This transition involves the requirement to consolidate NMIs associated with one side of the BESS to the new BDU (**NMI Cutover**). This Fact Sheet summarises the arrangements in respect of NMI Cutover.

The NMI Cutover is a subset of the wider BDU transition process (BDU cutover) outlined in Section 3.2 of the BDU transition and cutover plan, triggered by a “go” decision the day prior and morning of the scheduled BDU Cutover Day.

Key documents

The key documents which relate to this Fact Sheet are as follows..

DOCUMENT	AUDIENCE	PURPOSE
IESS Bidirectional Unit (BDU) transition and cutover plan **(Plan)**	Metering Service Providers BESS providers Software vendors	This document details the BDU and NMI cutover processes. This document details the key concepts in this Fact Sheet.
IESS participant toolbox		This document lists the Frequency Asked Questions (**FAQs**).

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Which participants are impacted by NMI cutover?

The following participants have direct involvement in the NMI cutover activities outlined in the Plan:

- BESS participants.
- Meter Data Providers (**MDPs**).
- Metering Providers Category B (**MPBs**).
- Financially Responsible Market Participants (**FRMPs**).

As background/context, the participants with indirect involvement are as follows:

- Distribution Network Service Providers (**DNSPs**).
- Transmission Network Service Providers (**TNSPs**).
- Registered Network Service Providers (**NSPs**).

Indicative NMI cutover timeline

The indicative process timeline for a NMI cutover is as follows.

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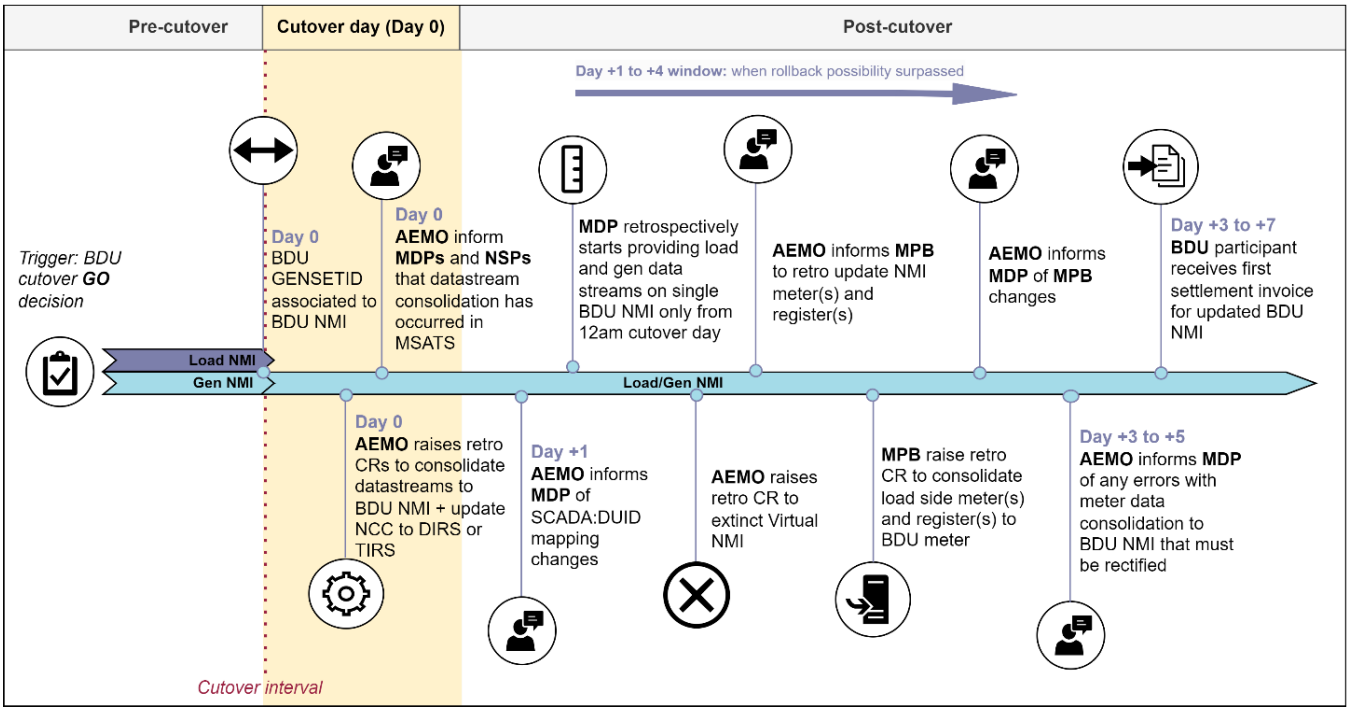

The BDU cutover process involves the following four phases, each with defined activities for participants and/or AEMO to complete. The NMI cutover activities begin from Cutover Day and carry onwards into the Post-Cutover phase.

1. Prerequisites: The preparatory activities required before the cutover schedule can commence.
2. Pre-Cutover: The activities required over the period prior to Cutover Day, primarily to allow visibility of the 1-DUID BDU in pre-dispatch.
3. Cutover Day: The day when the NMI being retained is associated to the new 1-DUID BDU and both generation and load meter data must be sent on that NMI only moving forward.
4. Post-Cutover: The activities required to complete the NMI cutover process retrospectively.

After a final "Go" decision from AEMO and the BESS provider on the morning of Cutover Day, the NMI cutover activities begin. AEMO will also confirm the BDU cutover is not going to be rolled back before requesting MSPs go ahead with the required NMI cutover activities. This will be declared within one-two hours of the BDU cutover time.

Each BESS is currently assigned two NMIs, one for the load side of the battery and one for the generation side. As part of the BDU cutover, in most cases:

- Only one NMI is required for each BDU.
- The NMI currently used for generation will be retained and assigned to the BDU (**Retained NMI**).
- The NMI currently used for load will be made extinct effective after the Cutover Day (**Virtual NMI**).
- Where there is one Transmission Node Identifier (**TNI**) for load and other TNI for generation, one of these TNIs will be retained.

NMI consolidation

To ensure that both load and generation datastreams are available on the retained NMI for downstream settlement processes, the load datastream will be consolidated over to the Retained NMI (in most cases).

Changes to NMI configuration

Changes to NMI configuration are reflected only in how data is captured and will not result in any change to the metering installation at the site.

NMIs and Genset IDs are currently associated one-to-one. A new Genset ID will be created and associated with the new BDU, which will be associated to an existing NMI at the station from midnight on the Cutover Day.

All AEMO updates take place in market systems. Participants must update their own systems to accommodate these changes.

Where can I find more information?

AEMC IESS determination and rule	https://www.aemc.gov.au/rule-changes/integrating-energy-storage-systems-nem
AEMC Implementing IESS determination and rule	https://www.aemc.gov.au/rule-changes/implementing-integrated-energy-storage-systems
AEMO IESS participant toolbox	https://aemo.com.au/initiatives/major-programs/integrating-energy-storage-systems-project/integrating-energy-storage-systems-faqs
AEMO IT change and release management	https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/market-it-systems/it-change-and-release-management

For any further enquiries, please contact AEMO's Information and Support Hub by either

- emailing supporthub@aemo.com.au
- calling 1300 236 600

This Fact Sheet is a summary of the BDU transition arrangements. Applicants are responsible for ensuring they understand the relevant provisions of the National Electricity Rules and other applicable instruments, which prevail in the case of any inconsistency with this Fact Sheet..