AUSNET EDPR 2026-2031 COORDINATION GROUP MEETING #1 MINUTES

Location:	Microsoft Teams
Date:	August 28, 2023
Time:	11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Attendees:	**Coordination Group (CG):** Peter Eben (Chair of CG, meeting Chair) Helen Bartley (Research and Engagement Panel Lead)(meeting Secretary) Kieran Donoghue (Availability Panel Lead) Gavin Dufty (Tariffs and Pricing Panel Lead) Mark Grenning (Benchmarking and Opex Lead) Dean Lombard (Future Networks Panel Lead) Emily Peel (Customer Experience Panel Lead) **AusNet:** Rob Ball Charlotte Eddy Emma Ferrie Lucy Holder
Apologies:	None

I. COORDINATION GROUP'S PURPOSE (REFER SLIDE 3)

- Peter spoke to Slide 3 and the group suggested some changes agreed to by the CG and AusNet are reflected in the attachment (copy also in an appendix to these minutes), with reference to including transparency, working with panels and AusNet, and noting the independent report is consistent with the AER's Better Resets Handbook (BRH) rather than the AER's Early Signals Pathway.

- The CG discussed and agreed that its purpose was not to interact with the CCC, CCP or AER, but these interactions may contribute to our ways of working (noting CCP's line of reporting and advice is to the AER and working relationships are yet to be formally established) (see also below)

II.   INDEPENDENT REPORT(S) (REFER SLIDE 4)

- The CG discussed potential "elevator pitch" for our independent report with views ranging from AusNet's proposal being "capable of acceptance by the AER" to more generally commenting on the effectiveness and quality of AusNet's engagement against the BRH as well as specific elements of the proposal customers and the Coordination Group has engaged on.

- Noting the purpose of the Coordination Group and Panels - the CG generally agreed to the latter focus being on assessing the effectiveness of AusNet's engagement processes and research and how this evidence translated to AusNet's proposals

- General agreement that "less is best" – the report(s) needs to be succinct, may include appendices and cross references to AusNet's proposal.

- The CG also noted that these views are just preliminary and that the report will be discussed further in the coming months.

- The GC would be aiming for a Table of Contents by early 2024.

III.   WAYS OF WORKING (REFER SLIDES 5 AND 6)

- The CG agreed to the **Chair's role** as described on slide 6 (unchanged)
- **Meeting logistics**
  - General agreement that for transparency AusNet should be present in the meetings and that the minutes and materials should be published.
  - Agreed to monthly 90-minute meetings until end of 2023 allowing for in-camera time as needed and meetings may be shortened if agenda is completed in a shorter time.
  - AusNet will separately consider a meeting schedule for the substantive items related to the regulatory proposal building blocks (presented on slides 8 and 9) and any other matters.
  - AusNet to organise a Doodle Poll for remaining meeting dates for 2023. The CG agreed last week of the month is the target.
  - Tentative standing agenda for monthly meetings agreed to as follows:
    a) What have panels done (Panel leads to report what panels saw, heard, learnt, any questions or challenges to AusNet)
    b) What panels are working on and forward plans
    c) Report from AusNet activities and timings
  - Other considerations for meetings: monitoring progress on focus questions
  - Meeting minutes
    - Minutes to be taken by CG members (rotated roster)
    - Shortened minutes will be published on AusNet's Engagement hub via AusNet
- **Conflicts of interest** register – CG and AusNet agreed the CG should adopt AER guidelines around real and perceived conflicts and adopt a similar register – for transparency, this should also apply to any stakeholder who engages with the CG

- **CG information sharing**
  - Chair to set up a repository site for independent information
  - Issues and Action items registers to be established to monitor and manage ongoing issues
- **CCC and CCP interactions**
  - **CCC** agreed the interaction will be organic, flexible when and if the CCC needs and update, noting Peter also Chairs the CCC and Gavin is a CCC member
  - **CCP** to be determined on an as needs basis; the CG needs to consider alongside AusNet what meetings/events the CCP and AER be invited to? (AusNet advised David Prins has been appointed as the CCP's Victorian representative)
- **Chairing of Panel meetings**
  - AusNet advised it is keen to continue chairing panel meetings, and has broader feedback from other panel members in support of this, noting at evert meeting panel members have an opportunity to express concerns and add items
  - CG generally supported AusNet's continued chairing of panel meetings provided the agenda setting was transparent and allowed input from panel members
  - Feedback for F2F panel meetings (Charlotte) - AusNet intent for 6-month all panel F2F meetings
- **Face to face panel meetings**
  - AusNet spoke to the challenges of organising face to face meetings, particularly for regional and remote panel members, but also noted the intent is for 6-monthly F2F (optional) meetings
- **Coordination Group budget** – AusNet to advise at next meeting

IV. BUILDING BLOCKS – PROPOSED SCOPE (ROB BALL)
- AusNet provided materials (refer slides 8 and 9)
- CG happy with the topics, target level of engagement (noting those items flagged as "inform" will be changed to "consult" as they do contain some elements that the CG can reasonably be consulted on)

V. ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Action items
  i. Helen to provide Peter with links to AER's conflicts guidelines and register
  ii. Helen and Peter to finalise minutes
  iii. Peter to attach CG's revised purpose to minutes
  iv. Peter to set up teams site
  v. AusNet to send out Doodle poll to set meeting dates for remainder of 2023

Next meeting – late September (date TBC)

APPENDIX: CG REVISED PURPOSE

1. In a transparent manner work collaboratively with the panels and AusNet, and also where necessary challenge AusNet to prepare a high-quality evidence based proposal reflective of customers' preferences.
2. Identify and raise conflicts / overlaps between panels, and work collaboratively with AusNet to identify value stacking opportunities across workstreams, understand and resolve trade-offs for inclusion in the proposal.
3. Get into detail on building blocks (incorporating panel inputs) and the price path.
4. Reflect customers' interests and value in technical considerations of the proposal with a clear line-of-sight from AusNet's research and engagement program.
5. Author "independent" report(s) required under the Better Resets Handbook covering items such as the effectiveness of the engagement process in identifying customer preferences and the extent to which these are reflected in the Revenue Proposal.