

Open Networks Common Evaluation Methodology Background

In 2020 the Open Networks Project initiated a product to develop a common methodology, to be used by DNOs, for evaluating the intervention options to solve an identified network meet. This product was managed under Workstream 1A and was titled the ANM vs Flexibility vs Reinforcement Common Methodology as the aim of the product was to develop a tool that could evaluate alternative options like flexibility or ANM against traditional reinforcement. The developed approach and the tool have been renamed as the Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM) and Tool.

Development

In March 2020 Baringa was appointed to assist with the development of the common evaluation methodology and throughout spring 2020 the product team and Baringa created the methodological framework for the evaluation. Throughout its development progress was reported to the Steering and Advisory Groups and in July 2020 the draft methodology and tool were included as part of the Flexibility Consultation.

Feedback from the consultation was positive and responders asked for use cases and worked examples for evaluating ANM and energy efficiency to be included in the published materials for this product; this has been done. In addition, the ongoing development of the methodology and tool will be under open governance arrangements, managed by the Open Networks Project and a development plan proposed for 2021.

In parallel a [Whole System CBA](#) has been developed within Workstream 4, also with the assistance of Baringa. This CBA has been developed to take into account the costs and

benefits of multiple parties, both regulated and non-regulated entities.

Implementation

The CEM and Tool were updated following the comments back from the consultation and version 1 of the CEM and Tool are available for the DNOs to use from December 2020. The CEM materials are available to download – see below.

All DNOs have confirmed that they will begin to use the CEM on or before 1 April 2021 when undertaking cost benefit analysis to consider flexibility solutions.

The CEM and Tool will evolve through further development work in 2021 with the User Forum, including the Product team and other stakeholders, specifically reviewing option value and carbon assessment. See ONP 2021 PID for further information. All DNOs have agreed to refer to this webpage from their own website, so this is the master repository for all the WS1A P1 materials.

To find out more detailed information on the flexibility consultation, its results, and the Open Networks Project's response, see our [full consultation response slide deck](#).

Open Governance

In 2021 the Product team will continue developing the methodology under open governance arrangements. As part of this, a forum will be created in Q1 2021 that will have representation from the Product team and stakeholders to support the review and development of changes to the CEM and tool. Further details on this will be outlined in the 2021 Project Initiation Document.