



16/07/2025-09/09/2025

Balancing Programme: OBP Delivery Increment (DI)18 Closure Report

Table of Contents

Executive Summary:.....	2
DI18 Completion Report – Success Against Commitments	3
Committed Goals.....	3
DI19 Objectives.....	6
Abbreviations:.....	10

Executive Summary:

DII8 saw numerous, significant changes to the OBP program. Firstly, we embarked on a journey that moves us from component-based delivery aligned to the system to a product-based delivery, aligned to user journeys within our solution trains. This is a key change that is necessary to bring the program in line with NESO's revised ways of working and to allow us to deliver many different functional areas in a concurrent fashion. There is a short-term risk that predictability could be affected as teams start to knowledge transfer aspects of the system that they have not previously worked with.

The amount of work being developed and readied for testing has also picked up pace as more work is refined.

One key element of success was the launch readiness of the new markets service, Non-BM Quick Reserve. This was a significant milestone for OBP given that it enables connectivity through a new secure internet gateway, enabling OBP to reach more participants in our pursuit of harmonising BM and Non-BM units. This also paves the foundations for future services (such as Slow Reserve).

DII8 Completion Report – Success Against Commitments

Committed Goals

 Exceeded
  Met
  Partially Met
  Not Met

 Deliver
  Develop
  Elaborate
  Discover

Intent	Objective	Status	Solution Train	Description	Delivered Value
	Complete build of EDL, EDT, Reverse Adapters and the Committed Level Calculator.		EDL/EDT	Completion of development to enable penetration testing and prove readiness for integrated testing with a participant.	Testing of the associated components needed to prove confidence in the solution and ready the program for early market participant testing with Market Participants (MPs).
	A plan for testing EDL and EDT with MPs (market participants).		EDL/EDT	A plan is needed to be created and interlocked with MPs to enable early testing.	A plan that is aligned with MPs to test in D19 end to end.
	Margin Based Exclusions.		Constraints	The ability to exclude constraint margins when breaches occur within a constraint	This work was delivered and ready for launch, however additional requirements were added.

DI18 Closure Report | 16/07/2025-09/09/2025

				automatically, saving users time and effort.	
	Bulk Dispatch from a Price Stack.		All Instructions	The ability to group BOAs via the price stack, to save users time and effort in dispatch.	Delivered and functional, but blocked due to overall system performance issues.
 Develop	Sync Comp, MFR (mandatory frequency response, Static Reactive Power, Fast Start and LF Relay Developed.		All Instructions	The ability to test end to end, the functionality of other Ancillary Service instruction types.	Delivered the end-to-end capability for all other instructions, proven in our end of DI system demo.
 Develop	Develop step change functionality and enablement of conventional zones.		All Instructions	Split into 3 phases, this functionality will enable OBP to dispatch over a step change window.	Work was de-prioritised in favour of price stack and pump storage related work that was larger than planned.
 Develop	Ready Pump Storage States and individual BOAs (bid-offer acceptance).		All Instructions	OBP has the ability to view pump storage states and send individual instructions.	This functionality has been developed and is in E2E testing for DI19 ahead of an initial states launch.

DII8 Closure Report | 16/07/2025-09/09/2025

 Develop	<p>Ready National Dispatch Optimiser (NDO) for validation against existing optimiser (LDA - legacy dispatch advisor).</p>		<p>All Instructions</p>	<p>OBP is able to use NDO to compare output with that of LDA in production.</p>	<p>This was not launched to production as penetration testing is required along with some additional development effort.</p>
 Develop	<p>Prepare Slow Reserve and Dynamic Response for Market Participant Testing.</p>		<p>Ancillary Services</p>	<p>Modify specific services developed for NBM Quick Reserve to enable initial testing of other services.</p>	<p>Initial proving done for registrations but further work is needed in the upcoming DI for dispatch.</p>
 Develop	<p>Complete platform build for OBP Strategic (Non Production Environments).</p>		<p>OBP Strategic</p>	<p>Deliver working environments for testing aligned to OBP strategic.</p>	<p>All non production platform deliveries are complete and work will now move to Production in DII9.</p>

DI Delivery Summary

At the start of DI planning, 56 features/enablers were committed to be delivered to the definition of complete.

Out of the 56 committed features / enablers, our Release Train delivered 24 committed features. This equates to 43% completion of features/enablers against the baseline commitment, which is 37% below the target 80% set for delivery during each DI. The low completion rate has been compounded by the significant rise in defects associated with performance and an initiative to address this is being worked on in DI19 to allow more work to reach the definitions of Done and Complete.

DI19 Plan – Our Commitments

DI Objectives

Below is an extract of the DI Objectives from the DI Programme Plan. For the Commitment (Committed/Stretch), any items with an asterisk (*) are required achieve the definition of done (to be in production and in use). Items without the asterisk are to be delivered to the definition of complete - completion of system test and may be foundational change for future releases.



PI	Objective	Solution Train	Description	Expected Value
	Wind Manual BOAs.	All Instructions	The ability to send manual BOA instructions to wind units in production.	Expected to support sending of instructions to units that do not follow their schedule (Physical Notifications).

DII8 Closure Report | 16/07/2025-09/09/2025

PI	Objective	Solution Train	Description	Expected Value
	Price Stack for BMUs with bulk dispatch.	All Instructions	The ability to dispatch instructions in bulk, directly from a price stack in production.	Provides an alternative to optimisation by using a price stack to dispatch. Includes all types of BMUs whereas optimisers still need to include wind and pumped storage units.
	AS Instructions – Sync Comp, MFR, Fast Start, Static Reactive Power, LF Relay.	All Instructions	The ability to send Sync Comp, MFR, Fast Start, Static Reactive Power and LF Relay instructions in production.	Control room can send instructions from a unified interface so supporting economic dispatch.
	Margin Based Exclusions + System Tagging with automatic restriction removal,	Constraints	The ability to system tag a constraint group as well as exclude constraint margins when a constraint limit is breached automatically.	Makes more units available for energy dispatch behind a constraint.
 Develop	Expected changes to CLC design and submission history to close this DI. Testing with MPs to commence this DI.	EDL/EDT	Develop hardening changes related to committed level calculator and submission history to enable full testing with BM for the EDL/EDT process. To conduct integrated testing with a Software Provider.	OBP, BM and MPs will be able to start commencing a long period of end-to-end testing and proof pointing to prove the approach to cutover for EDL/EDT.

DII8 Closure Report | 16/07/2025-09/09/2025

PI	Objective	Solution Train	Description	Expected Value
	Testing with BM to commence this DI.			
 <small>Develop</small>	<p>OBP can handle step changes.</p> <p>Pump storage states and Instructions.</p>	All Instructions	<p>Develop the functionality needed to handle units with step changes, to avoid invalid instructions being dispatched.</p> <p>Develop the remaining functionality to enable a launch of pump storage states and commence E2E testing for pump storage instructions.</p>	Progression of this work to enable us to get to a launch in production before the end of 2025 across step changes and pump storage BOAs.
 <small>Develop</small>	Dynamic Response and Slow Reserve Ready to support Market Participant Testing.	Ancillary Services	OBP will showcase service flexibility, building on the NBM Quick Reserve foundations to enable new services to be added and validated with participants.	New services will have enough functionality delivered to prove registration and basic dispatch with test participants.
 <small>Develop</small>	Highly Resilient OBP to be ready for final testing.	OBP Strategic	OBP will be able to prove key disaster and catastrophe recovery scenarios ahead of the OBP strategic launch.	The OBP Strategic solution train will have fixed the key, blocking issues that have blocked final testing of the solution.

DI18 Closure Report | 16/07/2025-09/09/2025

PI	Objective	Solution Train	Description	Expected Value
	<p>Unit registration and mastership shaping and design.</p> <p>Contingency system (CLOGS) replacement refinement.</p>	EDL/EDT	Full elaboration of the unit registration and mastership process for onboarding new units into OBP when mastering EDL/EDT.	Features that are shaped, designed and ready for development.
	Shaping and design of MVAR/Voltage, Stability Pathfinders, AIR and Pump Storage Part 3.	All Instructions	Full elaboration of the remaining instruction types to allow this work to move into delivery in DI20, subject to capacity and prioritisation.	Features that are shaped, designed and ready for development.
	Enhancements to reporting and situation awareness for Dynamic Response and Slow Reserve.	Ancillary Services	Elaboration of the remaining work needed to deliver the full solution for Dynamic Response and Slow Reserve.	Features that are shaped, designed and ready for development.

Appendix

Abbreviations:

- **AS:** Ancillary Service(s)
- **BM:** Balancing Mechanism
- **BMU:** Balancing Mechanism Unit
- **BOA:** Bid Offer Acceptance
- **CLC:** Committed Level Calculator
- **CLOGS:** Contingency Logging System
- **EDL:** Electronic Dispatch and Logging
- **EDT:** Electronic Data Transfer
- **LDA:** Legacy Dispatch Advisor
- **LF:** Low Frequency
- **MFR:** Mandatory Frequency Response
- **MP:** Market Participants
- **NDO:** National Dispatch Optimiser
- **OBP:** Open Balancing Platform