

13/05/2020

COAG Energy Council

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To COAG Energy Council,

Submission to consultation on the independent review of the Energy Security Board

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the COAG Energy Council's consultation on the independent review of the Energy Security Board (**ESB**).

TransGrid is the operator and manager of the high voltage transmission network connecting electricity generators, distributors and major end users in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Our network is also interconnected to Queensland and Victoria, and is instrumental to an electricity system that allows for interstate energy trading.

The ESB has played an important and valuable role to date in coordinating the implementation of recommendations in the Finkel review, providing oversight of the reform program to enhance energy security and reliability and improving long term planning for the NEM. An important part of the ESB's work has been to develop regulatory changes to action the Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan (**ISP**). The effective actioning of the ISP is critical to the NEM as it has the potential to facilitate the efficient and timely development of nationally strategic transmission infrastructure, resulting in significant market benefits and lower price outcomes for consumers. We commend the ESB for its engagement with stakeholders on this important reform and for delivering the rule changes required to action the ISP.

Open and transparent consultation by the ESB during reform processes is essential to ensuring that reform recommendations are soundly based and take into account input from all stakeholders, including end use consumers and industry participants. We encourage the ESB to continue to develop its stakeholder engagement approach and invite participation from a wide group of stakeholders on all its reform projects.

We look forward to continuing our active engagement in the ESB's important reform projects in 2020, including the ESB's post 2025 market design project and its work to facilitate renewable energy zones.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the COAG Energy Council's consultation. If you would like to discuss this submission, please contact me or Catriona Webster, Head of Public Policy on 02 9284 3147.

Yours faithfully

Eva Hanly
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