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Australian Energy Market Operator
GPO Box 2008
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Submitted via e-mail: stakeholderrelations@aemo.com.au

Renewing AEMO's engagement model – response paper

Alinta Energy welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to AEMO's engagement model response paper and commends AEMO on its open and collaborative approach to this review.

Alinta Energy supports:

- The proposal to focus on uplifting the way AEMO runs its current stakeholder forums, including focusing on improving the existing working group structure – subject to our comments below; and
- AEMO's key areas for improvement and its five-point action plan for ensuring best practice engagement.

These initiatives provide the foundations for a transparent and efficient engagement model which captures the following core aspects:

- Clear and timely communications;
- Opportunity for two-way engagement; and
- Sufficient balance between detailed technical working groups and overview or information dissemination forums.

AEMO stakeholder forum

Alinta Energy supports in-principle the introduction of a new AEMO stakeholder forum.

The response paper describes this forum as a "broad and open new forum for representatives of all registered market participants and select consumer organisations" with the purpose to "share high-level information transparently about [AEMO's] key workstreams and insights" ¹.

While Alinta Energy supports this description and purpose, we are concerned that the proposal for market participants to nominate a single representative to this forum does not align.

Given the breadth of issues likely to be addressed at this forum, including the Quarterly Energy Dynamics, and its primary purpose being information dissemination, Alinta Energy

¹ Section 3.1: Renewing AEMO's Engagement Model – Response Paper

considers that market participant organisations should be able to nominate multiple representatives to attend.

AEMO stakeholder forum: sub-committees

Alinta Energy supports in-principle the establishment of two new sub committees below the AEMO stakeholder forum:

- A budget and finance sub-committee for early consultation on AEMO's budget and fees; and
- A CIO Advisory Group for AEMO/industry discussions about technology matters.

While Alinta Energy agrees that the proposed budget and finance sub-committee should have limited merit-based membership, it is important to note that the existence of the sub-committee should not absolve AEMO of a responsibility to consult more broadly and in good faith on its annual budget.

Adjusting the NEM Wholesale Consultative Forum to become the AEMO Markets Forum

Given many participants retain separation of responsibilities across existing energy and market lines, Alinta Energy has concerns with the proposal to combine electricity and gas into a single forum.

These concerns can be allayed by:

- Allowing market Participants to nominate multiple representatives to attend;
- Ensuring that electricity and gas sections of the agenda are grouped together and kept distinct; and
- AEMO providing early advice on the agenda and likely timing.

This will enable businesses to allocate the most relevant people to attend for particular topics.

If you have any queries in relation to this submission, please contact me via email: Graeme.Hamilton@alintaenergy.com.au or by phone: 0458 376 250.

Yours sincerely,



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