



11 December 2020

Australian Energy Market Operator
GPO Box 2008
Melbourne VIC 3001

Via email to stakeholderrelations@aemo.com.au

Dear Board Members,

Re: Renewing AEMO's Engagement Model – Response Paper

ENGIE Australia & New Zealand (ENGIE) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) regarding the response paper on renewing AEMO's engagement model.

The ENGIE Group is a global energy operator in the businesses of electricity, natural gas and energy services. In Australia, ENGIE has interests in generation, renewable energy development, and energy services. ENGIE also owns Simply Energy which provides electricity and gas to more than 730,000 retail customer accounts across Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia.

There is scope to improve the value of existing forums and working groups

ENGIE supports AEMO's proposal to improve the operation and structure of existing forums and working groups. ENGIE agrees with stakeholder feedback that there is scope to significantly improve the value of existing forums and working groups, such as through greater consistency, transparency and clarity of purpose.

The proposed five-point action plan appears to reflect stakeholder feedback on the key issues with the current forums and working groups. ENGIE expects that AEMO will provide stakeholders with a timeline for the five-point action plan, as well as updates on the outcomes arising from the plan. In relation to the regular reviews or surveys of groups (issue five), ENGIE considers that members of the groups are well placed to assist AEMO with identifying and implementing additional improvements over time. AEMO should also consider publishing the results of its regular reviews and surveys, as this would provide transparency of how members perceive the usefulness of the various groups.

The proposed transparency of AEMO's workstreams and budgets would be beneficial

ENGIE supports AEMO's proposal to regularly share high-level information with market participants and consumer representatives through a new forum. However, it is not clear why AEMO has decided to limit the size of the new Stakeholder Forum to one representative from each organisation. The energy industry has embraced virtual meetings and conferences during 2020, which has improved the accessibility of important industry forums for many participants. ENGIE suggests that AEMO consider utilising video conferencing software to broadcast the Stakeholder Forum to a wider audience, which



would enable additional staff members to hear AEMO's high-level updates and possibly contribute written questions or comments for discussion. Enabling a wider audience to participate in this forum would further promote transparency of AEMO's workstreams and insights.

ENGIE also supports the proposed budget and fees subcommittee, as this would allow improved industry engagement on AEMO's annual budget and fees. In the response paper, AEMO notes that the subcommittee members would be appointed on merit. It would be useful for AEMO to publish the selection criteria for these roles to enable a transparent application and appointment process. ENGIE supports industry associations and AEMO being tasked with assessing the merits of candidates and deciding on appointments.

Should you have any queries in relation to this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Matthew Giampiccolo, Senior Regulatory Adviser on, telephone, 0436 929 403.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Lowe".

Jamie Lowe
Head of Regulation,
Compliance and Sustainability