

Ministerial Council on Energy  
Energy Market Reform – Bulletin No. 141

**Release of Exposure Drafts of amendments to the National Gas Law and National Gas Rules for the establishment of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)**

The Ministerial Council on Energy's (MCE) Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) today released proposed legislative amendments to implement the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiative to establish AEMO. These amendments relate to the [National Gas Law](#) (NGL) and the accompanying [National Gas Rules](#) (NGR) (the Gas Amendments).

This is the second stage of the public release of AEMO Exposure Drafts. The draft electricity amendments were released on 19 December 2008, with a six week consultation period concluding on 30 January 2009.

As set out in [EMR Bulletin No. 139](#), the ISC has previously released supporting information relevant to the Gas Amendments. These are as follows.

- Explanatory Materials: summarising the proposed changes to national electricity and gas legislation; and
- ISC response to consultation on the SOPA: setting out the policy positions adopted by the ISC in response to stakeholder feedback on the [AEMO Legislative Framework: Statement of Proposed Approach \(SOPA\)](#).

The gas amendments include empowering provisions for new rules and procedures. Further amendments required to incorporate the various wholesale and retail gas market rules and procedures into the national regime will be consulted upon separately<sup>1</sup>. These will be released for six weeks public consultation in early February.

It should be noted that the package, including the proposed legislative amendments, are for consultation purposes only and do not represent the final views of the MCE or the governments of participating jurisdictions. In particular, the provisions relating to the Victorian specific gas functions are being reviewed to ensure they preserve existing arrangements fully, and the draft provisions may be the subject of additional targeted consultation with relevant stakeholders.

The ISC does not expect there will be a second round of consultation given previous consultation, and the need to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements by 1 July 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> In particular, the immunities for the South Australian gas market are still under review and the resolved position related to these will be included as part of the consultation on the Gas Market Procedures (South Australia).

The ISC will conduct an information session on the attached legislative package at the **Holiday Inn, Melbourne Airport, on Tuesday, 3 February 2009 from 1pm to 5pm** to explain key aspects of the proposed approach to interested stakeholders.

Stakeholders wishing to attend this session are asked to register their interest with the ISC Secretariat at [AEMO\\_ISC@ret.gov.au](mailto:AEMO_ISC@ret.gov.au) by **28 January 2009**.

While stakeholders are encouraged to raise any issues they may have at the information session, the ISC will also accept **written submissions** on the exposure drafts which are to be submitted to the ISC Secretariat by **close of business on Friday 13 February 2009**:

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