

Ministerial Council on Energy  
Energy Market Reform – Bulletin No. 139

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**Release of Exposure Drafts of amendments to the National Electricity Law and National Electricity Rules**

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

The associated proposed amendments to the National Gas Law (NGL) and National Gas Rules (NGR) will be publicly released no later than 19 January 2009 for 4 weeks consultation. This consultation period recognises that a number of provisions are common to both electricity and gas and that substantial consultation has also occurred on the [AEMO Legislative Framework: Statement of Proposed Approach \(SOPA\)](#).

Additionally the proposed gas market Procedures regulating retail gas markets will be released for comment by early February along with the amendments to the NGR incorporating the rules for the Victorian gas wholesale market and other matters. Prior to the release of the complete set of Procedures, market operators will manage engagement with stakeholders as drafts of the relevant Procedures become available.

The ISC has also released supporting documents to aid understanding of the proposed AEMO legislative package. 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 SOPA.

For convenience, these documents detail the proposals for both the new electricity and gas arrangements. While some amendments may be made to the gas provisions, any material changes will be communicated in supplementary materials to be released with the gas package.

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.

It should be noted that the package, including the proposed legislative amendments is for consultation purposes only and does not represent the final views of the MCE or the governments of participating jurisdictions.

The ISC will conduct an information session on the attached legislative package at the **Holiday Inn, Melbourne Airport, on Wednesday, 21 January 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 **16 January 2009**.

An additional forum will be conducted in late January on the amendments to the NGL and NGR. Further details about this forum will be provided separately.

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 30 January 2009**.

Those who wish to make written submissions may do so by submitting their documents to the ISC Secretariat:

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Ministerial Council on Energy AEMO Implementation Steering Committee  
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