

Ministerial Council on Energy

Energy Market Reform Bulletin No.16

Australian Energy Market Bills 2004 – Establishment of the Australian Energy Regulator

On 17 June 2004 the Australian Government introduced two new energy market bills to the Commonwealth Parliament. The bills form a key part of the new national legislative framework for the Australian energy market, and are accessible via the Ministerial Council on Energy website.

Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Energy Market) Bill 2004

The [Trade Practices Amendment \(Australian Energy Market\) Bill 2004](#) amends the *Trade Practices Act 1974* to provide for the establishment and operation of the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). The administrative arrangements of the AER are detailed in the Bill, including sections on: membership; terms and conditions of appointment; staffing; meetings; confidentiality requirements and annual reporting.

The responsibilities of the AER will include the regulation and enforcement of the National Electricity Law and Code and other powers and functions as conferred by Commonwealth, State and Territory energy laws.

The Bill also incorporates amendments that will facilitate the streamlining of the National Electricity Code change process, as well as any subsequent process relating to industry access code approval or authorisation under the Trade Practices Act.

Australian Energy Market Bill 2004

The [Australian Energy Market Bill 2004](#) applies the National Electricity Law, Regulations and Rules as laws of the Commonwealth. The Bill identifies the Australian Energy Market Commission and the Australian Energy Regulator as the bodies appropriate to undertake functions arising from these laws.

Further information explaining the purpose, reasons for and effect of both bills is available in the [Australian Energy Market Bill 2004 Second Reading Speech](#).

Information on the new legislative framework, and the place of the bills within the framework, is available in [Energy Market Reform Bulletin No. 13](#).

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
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