

ENERGY SECURITY WORKING GROUP (ESWG)

FIRST MEETING SYNOPSIS

The first meeting of the ESWG was held via teleconference on 19 September 2008. Twelve jurisdictional officers and three energy market operators participated in the meeting which was chaired by Dr Chris Locke (Commonwealth).

The ESWG was established by the Ministerial Council on Energy's Standing Committee of Officials to advise MCE SCO on: an appropriate framework for electricity and gas emergency management on the establishment of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO); and the appropriateness of government powers to deal with national energy sector emergencies.

MEETING OUTCOMES

ESWG Terms of Reference

Members broadly supported the Terms of Reference for the ESWG but recommended MCE SCO be asked to amend these terms to strengthen the requirement for industry consultation. This would both improve consistency with the MCE AEMO Implementation Steering Committee's *Statement of Approach for the establishment of the Australian Energy Market Operator* and improve stakeholder confidence in the work of the ESWG. In particular, Members recommend including an explicit reference to the following groups for soliciting views on emergency arrangements:

- National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC);
- National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee (NOSEC);
- Responsible Officers/Transmission Network Service Providers (TNSP); and
- Gas Market Leaders Group (GMLG).

ESWG Workplan Development

Members considered the draft work plan. The Working Group agreed the approach described in the draft plan was the best way forward dealing with the Terms of Reference in two reasonably distinct phases. Phase one of the project would deal with the transition of existing emergency management arrangement functions to the AEMO (September 2008 to April 2009) and phase two would examine the broader energy emergency management issues (May to August 2009).

Members agreed the next major task would be a stock take of existing emergency management arrangements and the development of a workplan to meet the Terms of Reference for the ESWG.

Members confirmed the next meeting will be held on Friday 31 October 2008 in Melbourne.