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WA ELECTRICITY REFORM GOOD NEWS FOR CONSUMERS

Western Australian electricity customers will be better off under national energy reforms to be introduced by the WA Government.

Energy Networks Association Chief Executive Officer John Bradley welcomed the update by Treasurer and Minister for Energy Mike Nahan to the COAG Energy Council meeting in Perth.

"The WA Government is taking the right steps to reform Western Australia's challenging electricity market for households and businesses," Mr Bradley said.

"As the engine room of the Australian economy, WA urgently needs a modern electricity market and regulation to unlock competition and put downward pressure on prices."

Mr Bradley said there was strong national support for the Government's integrated reform program to introduce national regulation of network services, full retail competition and new measures to encourage competition in generation.

"WA customers will benefit as the Australian Energy Regulator draws on the industry benchmarking and performance analysis being used across the rest of Australia," Mr Bradley said

Mr Bradley said the Government's reform would help to remove barriers to innovation and new providers.

"Western Australia has internationally high rates of solar penetration, an expensive fleet of large generators and massive geographic area for its electricity network.

"It has incredible potential to lead the nation in smarter, more efficient energy services, including substituting network infrastructure with distributed resources where that saves money.

"Retailers should be competing on the price and service benefits they can offer consumers and rewarding people who reduce peak demand.

"Australia needs two energy regulators about as much as it needs separate rail gauges in each State, so the WA Government deserves full marks for cutting red tape," Mr Bradley said.

ENDS.

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ENA is the peak national body for Australia's energy networks; and represents gas distribution and electricity network businesses on economic, technical, environment and safety regulation as well as national energy policy issues.