

27 April 2020

Mr Rod Sims
Chair
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Level 17, 2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

Sent via email: adjudication@accc.gov.au

Dear Mr Sims,

**Support for energy industry participants to coordinate
during COVID-19 pandemic**

I am writing on behalf of members of Energy Networks Australia to indicate the network industry's strong support for the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) application for interim authorisation to allow energy market participants to work together during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Energy Networks Australia acknowledges that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has granted urgent interim authorisation for AEMO to commence some specific, pressing elements of the proposed conduct. Network businesses also support the granting of interim authorisation for the full range of conduct sought by AEMO.

The challenges represented by the COVID-19 pandemic represent an extraordinary circumstance requiring the collective and coordinated action across energy market institutions, market participants and the energy supply chain to deliver the best outcomes for customers.

Maintaining a safe, secure and reliable supply of energy during the pandemic is a critical national priority which will underpin mitigation and recovery efforts. Beneficial conduct to this end, which may otherwise technically contravene the Competition and Consumer Act, is highly likely to be in the consumer interest and should be allowed to proceed in a timely manner with legal clarity.

Energy Networks Australia considers that cooperation among energy industry participants is critical to securing market operation during this period of uncertainty and that this objective will be served by ACCC authorisation in this matter.

We look forward to the finalisation of this authorisation process to further support coordinated action to promote the interests of Australian energy customers.

Regards,



Andrew Dillon
Chief Executive Officer