

COAG Energy Council

Meeting Communique

Friday 20 April 2018

ENERGY MINISTERS MET TODAY IN MELBOURNE FOR THE SIXTEENTH COAG ENERGY COUNCIL MEETING

Ministers met to discuss their top priority – ensuring the security, reliability, affordability and sustainability of the electricity market whilst working towards a lower emissions future.

The new South Australian Minister for Energy and Mining, the Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan, was welcomed by the Council. The Council also acknowledged the significant contribution of the previous South Australian Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis.

Ministers acknowledged the significant and enduring contribution of Mr Terry Effenev, who sadly passed away in March 2018. Mr Effenev held many leadership positions in the electricity industry in Queensland and was highly regarded by the energy industry in Australia. Mr Effenev was also a panel member of the Finkel Review and was remembered for his willingness to share his time and expertise, his warmth and his strength of character.

The National Energy Guarantee

Dr Kerry Schott AO, Chair of the Energy Security Board (ESB), presented the ESB's high level design proposal for the National Energy Guarantee (the Guarantee). The Commonwealth Government also presented its paper, including the emissions target and the treatment of emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries.

The Energy Council noted the ESB's National Energy Guarantee High Level Design Document and the Australian Government's National Energy Guarantee – Update on Commonwealth Design Elements Paper. The Energy Council agreed the ESB progress development of the detailed design of the Guarantee for determination by the Council at its August 2018 meeting.

As part of this process, ESB will consult with jurisdictions on the specific details of the design. The meeting noted that the states have raised issues that will require further work ahead of the August meeting. Ministers agreed to convene again in a phone hook-up in June to discuss the progress of the detailed design. The development of the detailed design will also include opportunities for stakeholder feedback.

The ESB and Commonwealth papers are available on the COAG Energy Council [website](#).

Transmission Planning and Interconnection

Ministers agreed the Energy Security Board would have responsibility for coordinating the work of the energy market bodies on planning and regulation of the transmission system and interconnection, and report to ministers at the August 2018 meeting about the progress of this coordinated work.

Equipment Energy Efficiency

Ministers agreed to further improve lighting energy efficiency regulation by phasing out inefficient halogen light bulbs and introducing minimum standards for LED light bulbs in line with European Union standards.

Resources issues

Ministers discussed the Resources 2030 Taskforce, which has been established by the Commonwealth Government to inform the development of a Resources Statement. The Resources Statement will outline a long-term vision for a competitive and sustainable Australian resources sector to 2030 and beyond.

Membership

The COAG Energy Council comprises Commonwealth, State, Territory and New Zealand Ministers responsible for energy and resources.

Commonwealth (Chair)	The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP Minister for the Environment and Energy
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
New South Wales	The Hon Don Harwin MLC Minister for Resources Minister for Energy and Utilities Minister for the Arts
Victoria	The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change The Hon Timothy Pallas MP Treasurer Minister for Resources
Queensland	The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Western Australia	The Hon Bill Johnston MLA Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Commerce and Industrial Relations, Electoral Affairs, Asian Engagement The Hon Ben Wyatt MLA Treasurer Minister for Finance Minister for Energy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
South Australia	The Hon Daniel van Holst Pellekaan MP Minister for Energy and Mining
Tasmania	The Hon Guy Barnett MP Minister for Energy and Resources Minister for Building and Construction
Australian Capital Territory	Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability
Northern Territory	The Hon Kenneth Vowles MLA Minister for Primary Industry and Resources The Hon Nicole Manison MLA Treasurer Minister for Children Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
New Zealand	Hon Dr Megan Woods MP Minister of Earthquake Commission Minister of Energy and Resources Minister of Greater Christchurch Regeneration Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

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