

Friday, 20 April 2018

Energy Security Board

Lodged electronically: info@esb.org.au

NEM Data Strategy Consultation Paper

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia. We represent and work with hundreds of leading businesses operating in solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy, marine and geothermal energy, energy storage and energy efficiency along with more than 5,000 solar installers. We are committed to accelerating the transformation of Australia's energy system to one that is smarter and cleaner.

We welcome the opportunity to input into the Energy Security Board's (ESB's) development of a data strategy for the National Electricity Market (NEM). Data plays a crucial role in operations today as well as in planning for the future. We support the ESB's objective that the strategy should facilitate access to data that supports delivery of the Finkel review's key outcomes of increased security, future reliability, affordability and lower emissions.

The CEC would like to draw the ESB's attention to the following issues that we believe will assist it to develop an effective NEM data strategy that is adaptable to future changes in the energy market. In particular, it will improve the useability of data by different stakeholders.

In the first instance, the ESB should recognise that the ability to access and use data is only valuable if the data itself is of a high quality. The ESB should make explicit that the quality of the raw data collected by the data custodians must be timely and accurate to ensure stakeholder confidence in the data and the success of the data strategy.

Secondly, the CEC appreciates that the data strategy is only intended to cover the NEM. We suggest the ESB discuss with the relevant governments and authorities the potential for the strategy to extend beyond the NEM to cover the Northern Territory and Western Australia energy markets. Making all energy data across the country collatable, comparable and available from easily identified repositories would reduce barriers to entry and improve operations for stakeholders who are present across energy markets. This is likely to be a significant body of work that would require a staged implementation but there is potentially significant value to such a process.

Finally, data is a dynamic resource and the technologies used to collect, store, retrieve and manipulate data are constantly changing. It is important that the ESB recognise this and look to involve those with data technology expertise in the development of the data strategy to ensure the strategy is adaptable to future technology changes.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on these matters. Please contact me on the below details for any queries regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lillian Patterson'.

Lillian Patterson
Director Energy Transformation
03 9929 4142

lpatterson@cleanenergycouncil.org.au