

31 July 2023

Ms Dora Guzeleva
Director Wholesale Markets
Energy Policy WA
energymarkets@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Guzeleva,

Proposed changes to the Electricity Networks Access Code – Priority Projects

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Energy Policy WA's Consultation Paper on the Proposed Changes to the Electricity Networks Access Code (the Access Code) – Priority Projects.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is supportive of the proposed changes, which will facilitate faster development of network augmentations through identified Priority Projects. Such projects are required to support the energy transition – both through facilitating the connection of substantial quantities of low emissions generation and in enabling load growth from electrification.

AEMO will shortly publish its 2023 Electricity Statement of Opportunities, with preliminary results indicating strong growth forecasts in the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) over a 10-year outlook. These findings are consistent with the outcomes of the SWIS Demand Assessment, which identifies that under all scenarios, generation in the SWIS will need to grow significantly to meet demand.

As the Consultation Paper notes, transmission network projects take several years to plan, build and commission. It is therefore imperative that this work commence as quickly as possible to facilitate demand growth and decarbonisation of the SWIS in accordance with Western Australia's emissions targets, while maintaining power system security and reliability.

If you would like to discuss any matters raised in this submission please contact Mena Gilchrist, Manager – WA Regulatory Affairs at mena.gilchrist@aemo.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Ryan

Executive General Manager – Western Australia & Strategy