

AEMO STATEMENT ON SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE RESILIENCE OF ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN A WARMING WORLD

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) welcomed the opportunity to appear at today's Select Committee into the Resilience of Electricity Infrastructure in a Warming World to discuss AEMO's roles and responsibilities in maintaining power system security under the existing National Electricity Law.

This week in particular has highlighted the complexities and challenges the energy industry faces in managing short-notice generation capacity unavailability amid prolonged high temperatures and increasing electricity consumption in the various regions across the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The emergency load shedding that occurred on Wednesday, 8 February 2017 in South Australia was implemented only as a last resort following a combination of factors that transpired very close to the evening peak period.

Based on where our investigations are at, AEMO does not accept public statements being made questioning AEMO's capability or that we didn't manage the power system in a safe, secure state. Further, AEMO does not accept the assertions that some generators that were available to enter into the market could not do so.

AEMO would like to see incidents such as what occurred on Wednesday as an example of the complexities of the evolving power system for which we can all learn from.

AEMO will be responding to the questions received on notice at today's hearing and will look to make public the facts in a report in the next week.

The safety of the community is the energy industry's number one priority during power system emergencies, and AEMO continues to work closely with the state governments and generators in all NEM regions to manage power system conditions and minimise the impacts of possible localised load shedding on consumers.

AEMO continues to closely monitor energy supply and demand across the NEM and publish updates accordingly.

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For more information: AEMO Media | Mobile: 0409 382 121 | Email: media@aemo.com.au |



About AEMO:

AEMO is responsible for operating Australia's largest gas and electricity markets and power systems, including the National Electricity Market and interconnected power system in Australia's eastern and south-eastern seaboard, and the Wholesale Electricity Market and power system in Western Australia.

AEMO also operates the Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market and the Victorian gas transmission system; the wholesale gas Short Term Trading Market hubs in Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane; the Wallumbilla Gas Supply Hub in Queensland; and the Moomba Gas Supply Hub in South Australia.

As Australia's independent energy markets and power systems operator, AEMO provides critical planning, forecasting and power systems security advice and services to deliver energy security for all Australians. For more information, head to www.aemo.com.au