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By online submission

Enhancing investment certainty in the R1 process

Alinta Energy welcomes the opportunity to comment on the AEMC's consultation paper in this matter.

Alinta Energy considers that the prospect of delays due to the current R1 process are a material risk which has the consequence of increasing the cost of financing for new generation projects in the NEM.

The CEC's proposal provides an improvement over the current process in the following key areas:

1. It provides far greater flexibility in the approval process generally, which will reduce the likelihood that minor or immaterial matters do not unnecessarily delay new connections.
2. It finds a better balance in terms of allocating responsibility for external system security issues that will allow for more efficient solutions via the broader system security frameworks.
3. An avenue for dispute resolution will improve confidence in the outcomes of the R1 process and therefore reduce risk for proponents of new generation.

The connections process in the NEM represents one of the key challenges to managing the energy transition and Alinta Energy supports the AEMC progressing this matter further.

Thank you for your consideration of Alinta Energy's submission. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at hugh.ridgway@alintaenergy.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Ridgway
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