

RECEIVED 26 MAR 2014



Mr John Pierce  
Chairman  
Australian Energy Market Commission  
PO Box A2449  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

**Request for an extension of time in relation to development of common definitions**

Dear Mr Pierce

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2014 requesting an extension to the timeline for the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) to develop common definitions for expressing distribution reliability targets across the National Electricity Market. I am responding in my capacity as Chair of the Standing Council on Energy and Resources (SCER) Senior Committee of Officials (SCO).

SCER considers the development of common definitions, as identified by the AEMC in its *Review of a National Framework for Distribution Reliability*, as a key step in introducing a national approach to setting distribution network reliability requirements. SCER considers that development of common definitions is a first step to providing transparency and consistency in approaches, while recognising requirements may appropriately vary across jurisdictions.

SCER agrees with the AEMC about the need for robust and comprehensive stakeholder engagement in this process and considers that it is important that the AEMC has sufficient time for this consultation. However, SCER also recognises the importance of the timely finalisation of this work given its importance for the implementation of the national framework, to be agreed by the Council.

Consequently, SCER agrees to the AEMC's request for the extension to 5 September 2014. However, SCER notes that any delays to delivery beyond this date may impact on its ability to properly consider the national framework at its meeting at the end of 2014.

Yours sincerely

**Martin Hoffman**  
Chair  
Standing Council on Energy and Resources Senior Committee of Officials  
17 March 2014