

Mr John Pierce
Chairman
Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
Sydney South NSW 1235



Marjorie Black House
47 King William Road
Unley SA 5061

P. 08 8305 4222
F. 08 8272 9500
E. sacoss@sacoss.org.au
www.sacoss.org.au

ABN 93 197 662 296

Lodged online

11 October 2017

Dear Mr Pierce,

RE: 2017 Energy sector strategic priorities

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on strategic priorities for the energy sector. As the peak body for the health and community services sector in South Australia, the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) has an established history of interest, engagement and provision of proposed advice on the necessary market mechanisms for and regulation of essential services. Our research shows that the cost of basic necessities like electricity impacts greatly and disproportionately on vulnerable people. Our advocacy is informed by our members and direct consultations with consumers and other consumer organisations: organisations and individuals who witness and experience these impacts in our community.

SACOSS supports the analytical framework and goals as described in the Discussion Paper. We believe the proposed initiatives and work programs listed are sufficient to deliver on the goals, and have not identified any gaps. In relation to the sequencing and prioritisation of goals and initiatives / work programs, we support what is proposed and particularly commend the AEMC on its rapid progress with the work around system security. There is an extremely large volume of work that the AEMC has already undertaken to provide significant system security safeguards and SACOSS is extremely appreciative of the effort, diligence and discipline involved.

We thank you in advance for consideration of our comments. If you have any questions relating to the above, please contact SACOSS Senior Policy Officer, Jo De Silva on (08) 8305 4211 or via jo@sacoss.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Womersley
Chief Executive Officer