



## Definition of Temporary Over-Voltage Limits

Final rule determination: 19 January 2012

**On 19 January 2012, the AEMC published its final rule determination for the Definition of Temporary Over-Voltage Limits rule change request. The Commission has determined not to make the proposed rule.**

### Hydro Tasmania's rule change proposal

Hydro Tasmania's rule change request relates to the limits allowed for temporary over-voltages (TOV) at a connection point. The rule change request proposes that TOV limits be able to be increased to allow for greater power flow on transmission lines under certain conditions. While the proposed rule would apply to the whole National Electricity Market (NEM) power system, the proponent of the rule change request is principally concerned with the impact on the Basslink interconnector. An increase in TOV limits at the George Town connection point could potentially reduce the need to limit Basslink flows during periods of low fault level in Tasmania.

### Reasons for the Commission's decision

The Commission recognises that under the proposed rule there are potential benefits associated with possible increases in the flexibility and the efficient use of the NEM network infrastructure. Under some circumstances this could contribute to an increase in reliability and security of supply, thereby lowering the long-term costs to consumers.

However, the Commission is not satisfied that the proposed rule will, or is likely to, contribute to the achievement of the National Electricity Objective (NEO). The potential benefits of the proposed rule are outweighed by the following considerations:

- a change to TOV limits at one connection point may create network conditions that are better suited to some existing connected participants while potentially being a barrier to entry by increasing the costs for new connections; and
- technical limitations would appear to prevent an effective application of the proposed rule at the George Town connection point, the only current likely application that the Commission has been advised of.

For information contact:

AEMC Chief Executive, **Steven Graham** (02) 8296 7800

Media: Communication Manager, Prudence Anderson 0404 821 935 or (02) 8296 7817

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