



Inter Regional Planning Committee

## INTER-REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Background

Pursuant to the National Electricity Rules (**NER**), NEMMCO must establish an Inter-regional Planning Committee (**IRPC**) to undertake various functions as set in the NER. The key objective of the IRPC is to co-ordinate inter-network planning in the National Electricity Market (**NEM**).

#### Role of the IRPC

The IRPC has the following obligations as set out in the NER:

1. Provide assistance to NEMMCO in connection with the preparation of the statement of opportunities (**SOO**) and the Annual National Transmission Statement (**ANTS**).
2. In relation to proposed transmission augmentations:
  - Publish augmentation technical reports for proposed transmission augmentations upon request from a TNSP;
  - Publish criteria for assessing whether a proposed transmission augmentation may have a material inter-network impact; and
  - Publish criteria for assessing whether a proposed transmission augmentation is a reliability augmentation.
3. In relation to inter-network testing:
  - publish guidelines to determine when inter-network tests are required;
  - make recommendations to NEMMCO in relation to draft test programs; and
  - nominate an officer to co-ordinate inter-network tests.
4. In relation to control and protection settings for equipment:
  - Resolution of disputes between an NSP and a registered participant in relation to parameter settings (clause 5.8.3(d))
5. In relation to the exercise of the last resort planning power:
  - Provide advice to the AEMC



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### Working Groups

To assist in undertaking its role and co-coordinating inter-network planning, the IRPC has established the following working groups which are chaired by NEMMCO representatives:

1. **Market Simulation Working Group:** The MSWG provides advice on matters relating to market simulations. It also contributes to the ongoing development of market simulation skills and expertise as well as the improvement of tools and techniques.
2. **Plant Modelling Working Group:** The PMWG is a technical advisory group to the IRPC. The group provides advice on the modelling techniques to be used by TNSPs. It provides technical guidelines for a consistent approach to be used for limit equations. It also is responsible for the transfer of each TNSP's system model. The members consist primarily of technical experts from the jurisdictional planning bodies. The IRPC may also invite any other party that may have an interest, or may make a contribution to a particular project
3. **Flow Path Working Group:** The FPWG contributes to coordination of planning activities in the NEM through contributions to and feedback on the ANTS.
4. **Load Forecasting Reference Group:** The LFRG is responsible for ensuring that the Energy and Maximum Demand Projections in the SOO (and Annual Planning Reports) are on a consistent basis.
5. **Test Working Group:** The Test Working Group provides advice to the IRPC on inter-network tests and assists the test co-ordinator in conducting these tests.

### Membership

The IRPC membership consists of:

- Representatives of NEMMCO as Convener and Secretary;
- A representative from each jurisdictional planning body (i.e. Powerlink, TransGrid, VENCORP, ESIPIC and Transend); and
- Other members as NEMMCO may invite from time to time.

### Meetings

The IRPC meets approximately every 6 weeks.

- Decisions of the IRPC and any actions arising will be recorded by the Chairperson or his nominee.
- Agendas, Minutes and Action items are to be prepared and distributed to IRPC members by NEMMCO. Minutes may be made available within members' own organisations.
- Any policies or publications of the IRPC will be maintained on a register.