

**The Hon Patrick Conlon MP**  
**Member for Elder**

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**Government  
of South Australia**

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Dear Dr Tamblyn

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Australian Energy Market Commission's Review of National Framework for Electricity Distribution Network Planning and Expansion Review – EPR0015 (Review).

The South Australian Government supports the establishment and implementation of a national framework and recognises the importance of ensuring efficient planning and development of distribution networks. The South Australian Government considers that this framework is a positive step forward by providing regulatory consistency across the jurisdictions. It also provides market participants and potential investors with transparency and access to relevant information increasing the opportunity for the use of non-network alternatives in the distribution networks.

The South Australian Government supports the draft recommendations of the Review but considers that it would be improved with the inclusion of regional development plans. The Essential Services Commission of South Australia's Guideline 12 requires ETSA Utilities to provide a regional development plan as part of its Electricity System Development Plan. Regional development plans increase transparency and provide useful information to regional communities about ETSA Utilities planning, load forecasts and expected network constraints. Such plans would complement the objectives of the national framework.

On this basis I believe that regional development plans should be retained and included as part of the annual planning process.

I trust these comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Conlon'.

**HON PATRICK CONLON MP**  
**MINISTER FOR ENERGY**

25 August 2009