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Adviser
Australian Energy Market Commission
GPO Box 2603
SYDNEY NSW 2001

28th January 2021

Submitted online to: <https://www.aemc.gov.au/rule-changes/connection-dedicated-connection-assets>

Dear Ms McCowan,

Connection to Dedicated Connection Assets
Reference: ERC0294

The Australian Energy Council (the “**Energy Council**”) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Australian Energy Market Commission’s (“**AEMC’s**”) *Connection to Dedicated Connection Assets Draft Rule Determination*.

The Energy Council is the industry body representing 21 electricity and downstream natural gas businesses operating in the competitive wholesale and retail energy markets. These businesses collectively generate the overwhelming majority of electricity in Australia, sell gas and electricity to over ten million homes and businesses, and are major investors in renewable energy generation.

Introduction

Although disappointed that the proposed rule will not be able to cater for renewable energy zones, the Energy Council supports the AEMC’s findings, and in particular its proposal to implement a more preferable rule. The Energy Council’s only suggestion for improvement is for the AEMC to consider a mechanism by which the six month delay to the commencement date can be shortened, for parties with projects which are ready for development.

Discussion

It is acknowledged that there are a number of transitional matters which need addressing before the rule can take effect. Nevertheless the Energy Council understands that a number of project proponents have been working together with transmission network service providers for some time, in anticipation of the changes in the dedicated connection asset arrangements, and some transmission network service providers are apparently well-advanced in their development of access policies.

On that basis, it would be helpful if the further delays to the development of new projects could be minimised, by the proposed rule including provisions so that parties which have negotiated access arrangements consistent with the proposed rule can opt-in, in order to expedite their projects.

Any questions about this submission should be addressed to the writer, by e-mail to Duncan.MacKinnon@energycouncil.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Duncan MacKinnon
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Australian Energy Council