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Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)
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Melbourne VIC 3000

Submitted by email to energy.forecasting@aemo.com.au

Draft 2023 Transmission Expansion Options Report

Snowy Hydro Limited welcomes the opportunity to comment on matters raised in the AEMO Draft 2023 Transmission Expansion Options Report (Options Report).

The Draft 2023 Transmission Expansion Options Report has undertaken extensive collaboration and joint planning to propose transmission expansion options to inform the development of the 2024 Integrated System Plan (ISP). Transmission augmentation is the critical link that will unlock investment in cheap, clean energy and accelerate the transmission. With the Rewiring the Nation plan demonstrating the commitment to critical transmission projects the transmission expansion report highlights the need for timely investment required. A secure system depends on moving to a combination of renewables and firming technologies but it needs more transmission and it is needed now.

The recent energy crisis has further demonstrated the importance of connecting critical energy supply and putting in place an orderly renewable generation transition to form a clean, reliable grid. It is essential that the transmission planning reflects the urgent need for new transmission.

The Transmission Expansion Options Report should focus on the importance of developing the Sydney Southern Ring which is key to facilitating the connection of future renewable generation to the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong load centers. This reinforcement will remove potential constraints on the existing 330kV Line 39 when Project Energy Connect (PEC), Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI) West, South West Renewable Energy Zone and Snowy 2.0 are developed.

There is also widespread recognition of the urgency of Humelink. Energy Ministers agreed that under the new National Energy Transformation Partnership, Humelink would be a declared transmission project of national significance, to accelerate the timely delivery of the critical project. In addition to this NSW and Australian governments are jointly funding over \$2 billion in energy and emissions reduction initiatives, which includes the HumeLink project. Without the Sydney Ring South, the benefits of Humelink for reliability in the NEM are significantly impaired.

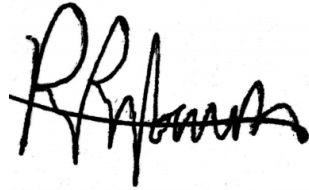
It is critical that AEMO recognises the urgency of Sydney Ring South, and takes appropriate actions to ensure the project is delivered by 2027-28. It is notable that Sydney Ring South was a future ISP Project in the 2020 ISP and an actionable ISP project in the Draft 2022 ISP. Transmission augmentations have long lead times so it is therefore important that early works on these projects start as early as possible.

About Snowy Hydro

Snowy Hydro Limited is a producer, supplier, trader and retailer of energy in the National Electricity Market ('NEM') and a leading provider of risk management financial hedge contracts. We are an integrated energy company with more than 5,500 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity. We are one of Australia's largest renewable generators, the third largest generator by capacity and the fourth largest retailer in the NEM through our award-winning retail energy companies - Red Energy and Lumo Energy.

Snowy Hydro appreciates the opportunity to respond to the AEMO Draft 2023 Transmission Expansion Options Report. Any questions about this submission should be addressed to panos.priftakis@snowyhydro.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Panos Priftakis', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Panos Priftakis
Head of Wholesale Regulation
Snowy Hydro

