

15/10/2018

Mr Sebastian Roberts
General Manager, Transmission and Gas
Australian Energy Regulator

By email: AERInquiry@aer.gov.au

Dear Sebastian,

Transmission Annual Planning Report Guidelines draft determination

TransGrid welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) draft Transmission Annual Planning Report (TAPR) Guidelines.

TransGrid is the operator and manager of the high voltage transmission network connecting electricity generators, distributors and major end users in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. TransGrid's network is also interconnected to Queensland and Victoria, and is instrumental to an electricity system that allows for interstate energy trading.

In accordance with the National Electricity Rules (NER), TransGrid undertakes an annual planning review and publishes the results by 30 June each year in the TAPR.

TransGrid supports the TAPR's role as a forward-looking document which provides useful information for stakeholders in relation to network planning, and potential opportunities for non-network alternatives. The TAPR assists in identifying an appropriate level of investment to enable the network provider to deliver required services at an efficient cost. We also support the AER's TAPR guidelines as a means of establishing some consistency between the TAPRs produced by different transmission network service providers (TNSPs).

In this context, TransGrid considers there is an opportunity for some of the information requested in the AER's draft TAPR guidelines to be more targeted so that the benefits of the guidelines can be provided in a more efficient way. This is particularly the case in relation to the historical information sought in the draft guidelines. TransGrid would welcome the opportunity to work with the AER to come up with an effective solution to this issue.

On a separate matter, the AER should be aware that the information in the draft guidelines sought on connection enquiries may give rise to potential confidentiality concerns. For this reason, the AER should reconsider the seeking of this information.

If you would like to discuss any matter raised in this submission, please contact Zainab Dirani, Strategic Analyst on 02 9284 3534.

Yours faithfully



Caroline Taylor
Acting Executive Manager Regulation