

AEMO 20-21 IASR SUBMISSIONS

COMMENT

I have read all the original submissions and attended the AEMO presentations and as a result make the following comments

Submissions

The submissions may be divided into three groups, those from the industry that were generally in agreement with the document, pressure groups intent on their agenda with little apparent knowledge of or concern for the power system and minor groups with a specific comment.

In addition, there were small specific comments in most submissions that were real “gems” of information.

AEMO presentations

A three-hour set of presentations was made covering the set of submissions and AEMO’s changes proposed together with comment on CSIRO Gencost data. It would have been advantageous if the presentation documents were made available even one hour before the meeting. I think the discussion would have been more constructive for the changes AEMO was proposing.

IASR FEEDBACK

The stated aim of the AEMO meeting was to provide a summary of the submissions that were well outlined. Specific comments on various topics are set out below:

Scenarios

Scenarios outline a possible set of outcomes given what information is presently available. The primary scenario outlines what is considered to be most likely outcome based upon the combined deliberations of interested organizations and the legal situation at the time of issue.

Central scenario

Specific attention was made to this scenario using existing legislation as its basis. I agree wholly with as being the only legally defensible direction available.

This was subdivided into two separate scenarios, one similar to the previous Central and one with the present aspirational unlegislated goal of net zero by 2050. I also agree with this decision as being a reasonable extension.

The titles “Current trajectory” and “2050 net zero” are also reasonable titles.

Modelling decarbonization

This is very dependent upon political actions that to date have affected power generation to a far greater extent than other necessary abatement. If this continues the scenarios should identify this anomaly together with the impositions on other sectors of the economy.

Proposed scenarios

The set of five scenarios is considered generally optimistic but probably appropriate.

Themes

The primary theme missing is the timely availability of investment in specific needed equipment necessary to implement the changes necessary to all facilities for the successful development of the NEM.

1 NEM Emissions

The present government action to have the power industry contribute more than its fair share should be noted together with the effect of this on potential system stability/ low load operation over the period in question.

2 Climate change

This is a highly contentious matter subject to extreme change with political elections.

3 Fuel cost

Any world acceleration in action on climate change will reduce Australia's exports of coal and LNG leading to much reduced domestic prices for these fuels together with significantly reduced export income both of which affect the overall trajectory of change.

4, 5 Transmission

Developing a robust process for accelerating transmission approval is critical.

Scenario naming

For various reasons the names of some scenarios were confused with other organizations or other matters. In particular, the central scenario suffered and others were not seen to be appropriate.

Possible changes including numbers or letters with a short explainer.

The scenario considered most likely from the detailed research done by AEMO and its consultants could be called "Anticipated, Expected, Evidence-based" instead of "Current trajectory".

Other scenarios should be indicated as biased in a specific direction.

CSIRO Gencost data FEEDBACK

CSIRO is an organization with a finite income that can afford to investigate a broad range of matters to a specific level. As in any organization focus is rightly directed to those outcomes that seem to fulfill the investigation requirements.

It is noted that CSIRO lists data from running equipment rather than planned proposals.

Numerous comments were made with regard to specific technologies lacking recent data by proponents of that technology. Some of the data provided would not be available in the normal course of events. It is now clear that CSIRO will have access to a broader range of data in these topics that would not otherwise be available.

It is presumed that CSIRO will make available sufficient funds to follow up on these offers of promotion from various organizations.

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