



Ref. A4802984

2 December, 2021

Ms Samantha Christie  
Manager, Network Planning System Design and Engineering  
Australian Energy Market Operator  
GPO Box 2008  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Ms Christie,

**SUBMISSION ON DRAFT NETWORK SUPPORT AND CONTROL ANCILLARY SERVICES DESCRIPTION AND QUANTITY PROCEDURE**

Powerlink Queensland welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO's) Draft Network Support and Control Ancillary Services Description and Quantity Procedure (the Procedure).

Powerlink supports AEMO's proposed amendment to the Procedure's planning assumption that there should be no pre-contingent line switching for voltage management unless there is a region-specific justification.

The changing nature of the power system means transmission networks now face significant challenges from periods of both low and high network demand. As periods of low demand now occur twice daily as "system normal" conditions, Powerlink considers it is no longer appropriate to plan for pre-contingent line switching to manage what are now routine voltage conditions across the network. This reflects the wear and tear on equipment from repeatedly being brought into and taken out of service and the increased potential for equipment failure during operation to leave critical lines unavailable to meet periods of subsequent maximum demand.

We support AEMO's subsequent amendments in response to the first stage of consultation to clarify the assumption of no line switching for planning purposes applies before a credible contingency event and that post-contingency event line switching is allowable. Post-contingent line switching remains an appropriate strategy to address abnormal network conditions in operational timeframes. Powerlink also appreciates AEMO's adoption of increased transparency around the use of exceptions to the no line switching assumption in its Network Support and Control Ancillary Services Reports.

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Powerlink acknowledges that transmission networks will require additional reactive power capability to manage network voltages in the absence of pre-contingent line switching. As transmission network requirements evolve, we will remain committed to exploring new and existing technologies to address power system security issues in the most efficient manner.

If you have any questions regarding this submission or would like to meet with Powerlink to discuss this matter further, please contact Cameron McLean.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Ascione

**GENERAL MANAGER, ASSET STRATEGIES AND PLANNING**

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