

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for members: AEMO Community Advisory Council

AEMO is calling for EOIs for membership of a new body, the AEMO Community Advisory Council (the Council).

About the AEMO Community Advisory Council

Under the National Electricity Rules, AEMO is required to develop an Integrated System Plan (ISP) at least every two years. The ISP's prescribed purpose is to “*establish a whole-of-system plan for the efficient development of the [National Electricity Market] power system that achieves power system needs for a planning horizon of at least 20 years for the long-term interests of the consumers of electricity*”.¹

Execution of the large infrastructure development program foreshadowed in the ISP will require investment, coordination and consideration of a range of issues/risks and opportunities by all players in the economy including Governments, industry, consumers and communities.

AEMO considers it crucial to better understand broader community sentiment, execution issues/risks and possible opportunities and pathways forward with a view to factoring them into the development of the ISP. In particular, an inability to secure community acceptance or ‘social licence’ for new infrastructure, can create significant project delays, increased cost as well as threaten the delivery of infrastructure vital for Australia’s transition to net zero emissions by 2050.

In addition, greater insights on social licence matters would benefit AEMO in the execution of its role more generally, beyond its ISP work. This includes in its role contributing to energy market policy reform, as well as in its role as Victorian Planner². Accordingly, AEMO may, therefore, call on the Council for strategic high-level advice in relation to its broader role, and not confine the Council’s role to consideration of the ISP.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference published with this call for EOIs, the role of the Council has three key elements:

- *ISP development* – To provide input on community sentiment, social licence, and the issues/risks and opportunities/pathways forward on the ISP. The Council may be required to collaborate with the ISP Consumer Panel (which is established by AEMO under the (NER) as required. (See below for more on the interface between the Council and the ISP Consumer Panel);
- *Community sentiment and social licence strategic advisor* – To provide social licence insight and advice to assist AEMO more generally in carrying out its other non-ISP functions including as Victorian Planner; and

¹ Clause 5.22.2 of the National Electricity Rules (NER).

² Note that arrangements in Victoria are currently under consideration through the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework review - see <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-transmission-investment-framework>



- *Stakeholder network conduit* – To engage relevant diverse community networks to provide AEMO with greater insight, understanding and potential action regarding social licence and the energy transition. This includes identifying and sharing relevant completed/proposed work and insights with the Council and AEMO, as well as disseminating non-confidential information from the Council and AEMO to community networks as appropriate.

The Terms of Reference sets out the role of the Council more specifically.

Selection criteria

To effectively fulfil its role, the Council needs to represent a diverse range of interested community stakeholders and geographies, with Members able to effectively contribute on social licence and energy transition issues consistent with the Council's role.

The intention is that the Council will include representatives from the following groups, and such other groups as would benefit the work of the Council from time to time:

- First Nations
- energy consumers – residential (including low-income and vulnerable households), small business, commercial and industrial
- rural and regional communities
- agricultural groups and landholders
- environmental groups - biodiversity

As well as ensuring a diversity of Member representation, Members will be selected based on their:

- Experience and understanding of the issues associated with the energy transition for their respective stakeholders and more generally
- Ability to seek and represent the views and sentiment of their stakeholder group
- Demonstrated ability to contribute at a strategic level and to collaborate for better outcomes
- Ability to otherwise effectively contribute to the Council's role

Deadline for receipt of expressions of interest

Expressions of interest close at 5:00pm (Melbourne time) on 21 September 2022.

Please email expressions of interest to stakeholderrelations@aemo.com.au.

By submitting a proposal you are deemed to accept the expression of interest terms.

Contents of expression of interest

In submitting an expression of interest, applicants are requested to provide:

- Full name
- Address, phone and email
- Stakeholder representative group

- Response to selection criteria
- Current CV/resume
- Details of two referees
- Remuneration election – refer to clause 6.3 of the Terms of Reference
- Outline any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest with undertaking this role.

Other matters

Neither this expression of interest, nor a proposal submitted by an applicant, has any contractual, promissory, or restitutionary effect, and does not create any other rights, in relation to proceeding with the expression of interest process or the appointment of an applicant. AEMO may change the expression of interest or the requirements outlined in the expression of interest by issuing an addendum.

AEMO and its representatives will not be responsible for, and no recipient is entitled to be reimbursed for, any expense, liability or loss incurred in the preparation and submission of its proposal, including, without limitation, for any costs incurred in attending meetings with AEMO.

Contact

Any enquiries regarding the expression of interest process can be directed to Oliver Derum, on 02 9239 9196 or oliver.derum@aemo.com.au.