

AEMO's summer energy outlook report

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has today released its 2018/19 summer readiness report which highlights the plans and actions both AEMO and the industry have taken to prepare Australia's power system for the summer ahead.

"Findings from AEMO's 2018 Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO) projected a heightened risk of involuntary load shedding in Victoria and South Australia for the upcoming summer, in the absence of further action. Our summer readiness plan outlines the actions we have taken to achieve our objective of delivering reliable, secure and affordable energy to all Australians," said AEMO Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Audrey Zibelman.

"The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a hotter and drier summer which, coupled with other risks we have identified, suggest we have a challenging summer awaiting us. But while we know that unexpected events can and do happen, particularly when the power system is under pressure and most prone to failure, AEMO is confident the plans we have made and the targeted actions we have taken in collaboration with the wider energy industry and governments, have appropriately equipped us to tackle any unforeseeable events the upcoming summer might bring," said Ms Zibelman.

These actions have led to the sourcing of up to 930 megawatts of off-market reserves through the Reliability and Emergency Trader (RERT) mechanism. This initiative enables AEMO to have sufficient resources to manage potential high risk scenarios that typically occur in summer, such as extreme or extended heatwaves, bushfires and/or unplanned infrastructure outages.

"As highlighted at the end of last summer, AEMO continues to look at all avenues to reduce the costs of strategic reserves for Australian consumers.

"Our continued operational efficiencies and refinements in our forecasting methodologies, together with the increased capacity of approximately 2,100 megawatts of new generation capacity, means we did not need to procure the same level of strategic reserves as last summer. We will continue to engage in discussions with industry to ensure additional reserves are available to us should unforeseen circumstances arise," said Ms Zibelman.

AEMO's 2018-19 summer plan also focused on undertaking extensive emergency preparedness exercises and hosting information sharing sessions with a wide range of industry stakeholders and all government jurisdictions.

Beyond this summer, AEMO is expecting almost 6,000 megawatts of new wind and solar to be operational in the next two years, which will alleviate the short-term risk of involuntary load shedding during summer peak periods. However, mid to longer term strategic planning and resource investment, such as those outlined in AEMO's Integrated System Plan, will be necessary to not only manage the power system during peak summer periods, but also to ensure ongoing reliability and stability of Australia's power system throughout the year.

AEMO will continue to work closely with fellow market bodies, industry and governments to progress developments that will enable an affordable, reliable, and secure energy system for Australian energy consumers now and into the future.

AEMO will continue to use our Energy Live online media portal to provide the community with live updates on events as and when they occur throughout summer.

For more information: AEMO Media | Mobile: 0409 382 121 | Email: media@aemo.com.au |



About AEMO:

AEMO is responsible for operating Australia's largest gas and electricity markets and power systems, including the National Electricity Market and interconnected power system in Australia's eastern and south-eastern seaboard, and the Wholesale Electricity Market and power system in Western Australia.

AEMO also operates the Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market and the Victorian gas transmission system; the wholesale gas Short Term Trading Market hubs in Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane; the Wallumbilla Gas Supply Hub in Queensland; and the Moomba Gas Supply Hub in South Australia.

As Australia's independent energy markets and power systems operator, AEMO provides critical planning, forecasting and power systems security advice and services to deliver energy security for all Australians. For more information, head to www.aemo.com.au

As Managing Director and CEO, Ms Zibelman also serves on the Energy Security Board.

About AEMO Energy Live

Launched in December 2017, [AEMO Energy Live](#) is our digital news and information hub dedicated to all things energy. AEMO Energy Live features commentary, analysis, interviews, news and views delivered via videos, podcasts, full-length feature articles, infographics and easy to understand explainers.