

From: [Tony Snell](#)
To: [Martin Jaime](#)
Cc: [Hatfield David](#); [Dwyer Ellie](#); [Mark Stedwell](#)
Subject: AEMO authorisation: April 2022 report to ACCC
Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022 6:30:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Ms Martin

We refer to condition 1 of the authorisation granted by the ACCC on 23 February 2022 (**Authorisation**) and the reporting protocol in Attachment A of the Authorisation. Set out below is AEMO's report for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022 (**Reporting Period**).

This report can be published on the public register.

No material contract, arrangement or understanding that relies on the Authorisation was entered into or made during the Reporting Period.

The following decisions that rely on the Authorisation were made during the Reporting Period:

(a) Three meetings of Victorian industry participants occurred during the Reporting Period:

- i. A meeting between AEMO, AusNet, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (**DEWLP**), Energy Australia, Origin, Basslink and AGL was held on Friday 1 April 2022 (as observed by the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Victoria, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed COVID-19 forecasts heading into the winter months and strategies to effectively manage COVID-19 related delays on overseas parts.
- ii. A meeting between AEMO, Ausnet, DEWLP, Energy Australia, Origin and Basslink was held on Thursday 14 April 2022 (as observed by the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Victoria, and the resources required, in light of COVID 19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed COVID-19 forecasts heading into the winter months and strategies to effectively manage COVID-19 related delays on overseas parts (particularly tubing components).
- iii. A meeting between AEMO, Ausnet, DEWLP, Energy Australia, Origin, Snowy Hydro and AGL was held on Friday 29 April 2022 (as observed by the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Victoria, and the resources required, in light of COVID 19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed strategies to manage COVID-19 related delays on overseas parts. DEWLP informed the participants that the Victorian Government's pandemic orders had been extended until July 2022, and requested that participants get in touch with DEWLP to discuss and provide feedback on COVID-19 protocols going forward.
- iv. The next meetings of Victorian Industry Participants are scheduled for Friday 13 May 2022 and Friday 27 May 2022.

b. Three meetings of Queensland Industry Participants occurred during the Reporting Period:

- i. A meeting between AEMO, APA, CleanCo, Department of Energy and Public Works (**DEPW**), Origin, Powerlink and CS Energy was held on Friday 1 April 2022 (as observed by the ACCC). The purpose of the

meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Queensland, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance and the specialist skills required. The participants discussed how current maintenance and outages were progressing, the impact of planned maintenance being delayed, extended or moved due to COVID-19 related issues and the processes for carrying out work in light of COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed COVID-19 forecasts heading into the winter months as well as strategies to effectively manage COVID-19 related delays on overseas parts (particularly transformers).

- ii. A meeting between AEMO, CleanCo, DEPW, Origin, Intergen, Powerlink and CS Energy was held on Thursday 14 April 2022 (as observed by the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Queensland, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed difficulties in securing labour (including specialised maintenance labour) and AEMO emphasised the importance of managing COVID-19 to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the maintenance workforce. The participants also discussed COVID-19 forecasts heading into the winter months and strategies to effectively manage COVID-19 related delays on overseas parts (particularly tubing components). DEPW informed the participants that it was securing further RAT tests and flagged changes to the rules relating to critical exemptions for close contacts in the energy sector.
- iii. A meeting between AEMO, APA, CleanCo, DEPW, Intergen, Powerlink and CS Energy was held on Friday 29 April 2022 (as observed by the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Queensland, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). DEPW informed the participants that the requirement for close contacts to quarantine had been removed (provided that those close contacts did not have any COVID-19 symptoms) and requested that the participants provide their feedback on the Queensland Government's updated health guidelines.
- iv. The next meetings of Queensland Industry Participants are scheduled for Friday 13 May 2022 and Thursday 27 May 2022.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries in relation to this report.

Kind regards

Tony Snell AM
General Counsel (Interim) and Group Manager, Legal



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Working days at AEMO: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday