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**From:** Tony Snell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 October 2020 7:24 PM  
**To:** Adjudication  
**Cc:** Camilleri, Lyn; Ross, Nicole; Sood, Rajat; Drake, Michael; Janissen, Robert; Brett Hausler; Mark Stedwell; Healy, Rosannah; Archer, Luke  
**Subject:** AEMO Interim Authorisation dated 24 July 2020: report for period 21 - 27 September 2020

We refer to condition 1 of the interim authorisation granted by the ACCC on 24 July 2020 (**Interim Authorisation**) and the reporting protocol contained in Attachment B of the draft determination and interim authorisation.

Set out below is AEMO's report for the period 21 – 27 September 2020 (**Reporting Period**).

This report can be published on the public register.

**1. Material contracts, arrangements, understandings or decisions that rely on the Interim Authorisation**

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

AEMO notes that the fortnightly industry update on AEMO's operational response to COVID-19 occurred on Thursday 24 September. AEMO reported on the impact of COVID-19 on system operations. AEMO also provided forecasts for potential upcoming demands based on a number of factors, including weather and likely impact of COVID-19 and associated border restrictions.

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

- a) A meeting between AEMO, AGL, Alinta, AusNet, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Energy Australia, Origin, Basslink and Snowy Hydro (**Victoria Meeting Participants**) was held on Friday 25 September. 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 Victoria Meeting Participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19 (such as additional time being required to complete work or issues sourcing labour and/or parts, in particular due to border closures and quarantine requirements). The Victoria Meeting Participants also discussed planned AusNet Services, Basslink and Murraylink transmission outages. The next meeting of Victoria Meeting Participants is scheduled for Friday 2 October 2020.
- b) A meeting between AEMO, CS Energy, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Queensland) (**DNRME**), Powerlink, Intergen, Stanwell, Origin and Cleanco (together, **Queensland Meeting Participants**) was held on Friday 25 September. The ACCC attended the meeting as an observer. 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 Queensland Meeting Participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance and the specialist skills required. The Queensland Meeting 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. The Queensland Meeting Participants also discussed the process for critical energy sector employees to apply for specialist worker exemptions for employees travelling from declared COVID-19 hotspots, including potential upcoming changes to this process. The next meeting of Queensland Meeting Participants is scheduled for Friday 2 October 2020.

**2. Update to the Energy Coordination Mechanism**

The Energy Coordination Mechanism did not meet during the Reporting Period.

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

Kind regards

**Tony Snell** AM

Group Manager, Legal

Australian Energy Market Operator Limited

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

*In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AEMO has adopted digital and remote ways of working to protect our people and critical operations. Please be aware that most meetings will now be conducted digitally to minimise physical contact and allow business to continue. Given the dramatic increase in load on our systems, please bear with us while we work through any technical issues that may result.*