

Territory Electricity Market

Industry Reference Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The Northern Territory Government is introducing fundamental changes to the wholesale electricity market arrangements in the three regulated power systems by establishing the Territory Electricity Market (TEM). The TEM is intended to ensure a smooth transition to a more reliable, affordable, and sustainable renewable energy future in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Government has established an Electricity Market Reform Implementation Taskforce (EMRIT)¹ to oversee reform activities for the implementation of the TEM.

EMRIT recognises the importance of stakeholder engagement in undertaking its role. To enable effective ongoing engagement and input from industry during the implementation phase, an industry reference group will be established.

Scope

The scope of the industry reference group is to provide a critical avenue for EMRIT in receiving a broad range of industry views and feedback as the implementation of the new wholesale market arrangements under the TEM are progressed. The industry reference group's considerations will extend to providing views on the approach to implementing the new electricity supply arrangements in each regulated electricity system, changes to industry governance and institutional arrangements, legislation and regulatory changes, and the necessary technical requirements for maintaining each region's power system security and reliability.

The industry reference group is expected to provide its views consistent with the Northern Territory Government's overarching electricity sector reform objective and the key market design features described in the TEM Overview provided to industry stakeholders.

In addition to receiving views via the industry reference group, EMRIT will also be engaging with a broader spectrum of industry and individual stakeholders impacted by various aspects of the reform. Accordingly, not all matters pertaining to the TEM will be addressed within the scope of the industry reference group's discussions. Specifically, consultation on issues with impacts that are unique to particular stakeholders or stakeholder groups may be undertaken outside of this forum.

The industry reference group is a consultation body only. The Minister for Renewable and Energy, on the advice of EMRIT, retains authority for determining the scope and direction of TEM policy and reform legislative matters.

¹ EMRIT is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and membership comprises the Under Treasurer and an independent electricity sector expert. EMRIT is supported by a dedicated Project Team located within the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade.

Membership

The industry reference group will comprise senior representatives of the following key stakeholders:

- Power and Water Corporation in its capacity as the network operator and system controller/market operator
- Territory Generation
- Jacana Energy
- Private sector generators and retailers operating in the Northern Territory regulated electricity systems
- Select large customer representatives
- Prospective major participants
- Union representatives from Community and Public Sector Union and Electrical Trades Union
- The Utilities Commission (observer)

The membership may also include individuals invited at the request of EMRIT who have relevant interest or expertise in the Northern Territory's electricity sector.

Responsibilities of Members

Members of the industry reference group are expected to meet the following criteria to ensure effective representation and contribution:

- *Authority to represent* – Members must have the authority to represent their organisation, ensuring that their contributions and commitments are backed by their respective entities.
- *Subject matter knowledge* – Members should possess adequate knowledge relevant to the electricity sector in the Northern Territory and the specific issues under reform implementation consideration.
- *Preparation for meetings* – Members must commit to thoroughly reading and understanding all material distributed prior to meetings to ensure discussions are informed, relevant, and productive.
- *Focus on broader issues and impacts* – The industry reference group will focus on broad issues impacting multiple stakeholders. Matters unique to specific stakeholders or groups will be addressed in more targeted settings.

Meetings

The intention is for the industry reference group to meet monthly. Additional meetings or workshops may be scheduled as required and determined as the work program progresses. Online attendance by phone/video will be facilitated.

Meetings will be chaired by the Executive Director, Electricity Market Reform from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) leading the Project Team supporting EMRIT.

The TEM Project Team from DITT and their advisers will also attend the meetings as required.

Secretariat support for the industry reference group will be provided by the TEM Project team.

The role of the industry reference group is to discuss issues and consequently the group will not need to vote. The outcome of these meetings will be documented to assist EMRIT with its deliberations and its task of advising the Northern Territory Government.

Should a member not be able to attend a meeting, that member may send a proxy to represent them. If a member wishes to invite an observer to any meeting, they must first advise the Chair.

Confidentiality

It is important that discussions within the industry reference group are conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confidentiality.

All electronic and written documents provided to the industry reference group members for meeting discussions are for the members with the expectation that members will distribute these documents solely within the group or organisation they represent.