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Australian Standards to unlock our distributed electricity future

Australia's energy system will require a thorough overhaul of Australian Standards to deal with transformations in distributed energy, smart grids and empowered customers.

Energy Networks Association Chief Executive Officer, John Bradley, said Standards would be critical for the effective integration of distributed energy resources into electricity networks to support customer choice and more efficient services.

"With rapid changes in technology, improvements must be made to the current suite of Australian Standards to leverage the full value of distributed energy resources," Mr Bradley said.

"Australia's energy transformation is occurring faster than most other countries' – we need to refresh our industry Standards to support innovation and the safe, reliable and efficient delivery of services."

Standards Australia CEO, Dr Bronwyn Evans, said supporting innovation is a key goal of Standards Australia.

"In the energy sector, Standards play a key role in supporting the connections between technologies, providing consistent frameworks for design and implementation, and ensuring safety," Dr Evans said.

The Energy Networks Association (ENA), in partnership with the CSIRO and as part of the *Electricity Network Transformation Roadmap* project, has identified the critical role that Australian Standards will play in enabling a more dynamic energy system.

Mr Bradley said the ENA had asked Standards Australia to facilitate stakeholder feedback to develop a prioritised work plan for improving Australian Standards.

"Energy networks will contribute to the work plan to provide a defined pathway and timeframes for the development and updating of relevant Australian Standards," Mr Bradley said.

The topics and technologies proposed to be covered by new or updated Australian Standards include: distributed generation; grid-side and local energy storage; distributed energy coordination; customer energy management systems; electric vehicles; inverters; supporting technologies; and data frameworks and privacy.

Standards Australia has released a discussion paper for consultation, *Standards and the Future of Distributed Electricity*, available at <http://tiny.cc/3tawcy>

Feedback on the discussion paper is invited by Monday, 7 August 2016, with the prioritised work plan expected to be published by the end of 2016.

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Media Contact: Simone Reading, sreading@ena.asn.au, 02 6272 1524 or 0447 569 029

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and the peak national body representing gas distribution and electricity transmission and distribution businesses in Australia, the Energy Networks Association (ENA), have partnered to develop an Electricity Network Transformation Roadmap (the Roadmap). The Roadmap program is a two-stage process running over approximately 18 months. For more information go to www.ena.asn.au/roadmap