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**Political risk too great for energy system**

Energy Ministers must work together for an integrated decarbonisation of Australia’s energy system, Energy Networks Association (ENA) Chief Executive Officer John Bradley told the *All-Energy Australia* conference today.

“Patchwork targets and policies across Australia are not leading to a stable, secure energy system – this is the second emergency meeting of Energy Ministers in seven weeks,” Mr Bradley said.

“There is no doubt Australia faces a higher cost, less secure decarbonisation if it has a mish-mash of inconsistent Federal and State initiatives.

“The NEM is supposed to be a national market, but we are ‘running with scissors’ towards a cleaner energy system. The Energy Ministers’ meeting on Friday can reduce that risk.”

Mr Bradley said the South Australian storm events highlighted the weather and system security risks that the electricity grid has always faced, but governments needed to remove the unnecessary policy risk impacting markets.

“The transformation of energy is essential, but it is fundamentally increasing uncertainty. We need to carefully manage the risks to system security and reliability, efficient investment, or some customers being left behind,” Mr Bradley said.

“Energy Ministers must deliver a national carbon policy for a national energy market. Customers will save significantly if we focus on abatement, rather than particular technologies beyond the current 2020 RET target.”

Mr Bradley said recent analysis by Jacobs for the ENA found ‘Technology-Neutral’ policy could reduce residential electricity bills by \$216 per year over the decade to 2030.

“Outcome-focussed policy measures allow markets to work and that can reduce customer bills by over \$216 per year with economic benefits of up to \$1.5 billion,” Mr Bradley said.

“If we focus on abatement, each technology finds its efficient role and the power system is in a stronger position to support more renewable energy, while avoiding reliability and security risks for customers.”

**-Ends-**

John Bradley’s address to the *All-Energy Australia* conference and presentation slides can be accessed [here](#).

**Media Contact:**

Simone Reading

[sreading@ena.asn.au](mailto:sreading@ena.asn.au)

02 6272 1524 or 0447 569 029

The Energy Networks Association is the peak national body representing Australia’s electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks on economic, technical, environmental and safety regulation, and national energy policy issues. ENA members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia.