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LABOR SUPPORT FOR A MORE CONNECTED GRID WELCOME

Energy Networks Australia has welcomed a Federal Opposition commitment to supporting new electricity transmission development as part of its energy policy announced today.

CEO Andrew Dillon said the proposal for a \$5 billion investment fund to support projects aligned with those identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in its Integrated System Plan (ISP) was a positive move.

“Around the world, we are seeing a move to greater connection between generation sources and customers as grids modernise to integrate more variable renewable generation,” Mr Dillon said.

“Australia needs better connection between regions and across states so energy can be more efficiently moved around the national system. A key benefit of this is more competition in wholesale markets, which means downward pressure on prices for customers.”

Mr Dillon said the proposal to support more household batteries was also welcome – provided there was a transition to smarter power pricing.

“Battery storage can help smooth electricity demand and reduce the pressure on the grid at peak times on hot summer evenings,” he said.

“But batteries could make things worse if we haven’t got incentives to encourage people to save money by using less power at peak times. Fairer electricity pricing is the key.”

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Energy Networks Australia represents Australia’s electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks. Our members provide energy to almost every household and business in Australia.