

16 May 2016

## **South Australia at the centre of the energy revolution**

Australian and international energy leaders will converge on Adelaide next week, as South Australia takes the spotlight in the global energy transformation.

Energy Networks Association CEO, John Bradley, said it was fitting South Australia would host *Energy Networks 2016* involving over 760 delegates and 230 companies.

"There is no better place than Adelaide for national and international electricity and gas leaders to discuss the future of energy systems," Mr Bradley said.

"South Australia is a living energy laboratory – it's integrating renewable generation at a phenomenal rate and creating national and global interest."

During the event, Adelaide will host international energy CEOs from the UK, Europe, and the USA, and electricity and gas industry CEOs from around Australia, including AGL CEO, Andrew Vesey.

"South Australia shows how State and Federal policy can have wide impacts on grid operations, generation closures, security of supply and gas market demand.

"In the second week of the Federal election campaign, we will welcome key policy makers including Federal Minister Josh Frydenberg, Opposition Spokesperson Mark Butler and State Treasurer and Minister for Resources and Energy Tom Koutsantonis."

SA Power Networks CEO, Rob Stobbe, will address the conference on innovative new services offered by networks and new market players.

"Whether its rooftop solar, battery storage, electric vehicles or microgrids, customer choices will shape the future of an integrated grid," Mr Stobbe said.

Australian Gas Networks CEO, Ben Wilson, said he looked forward to a focus on the contribution gas can make in achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets.

"Internationally, gas has a recognised role in securing an affordable, low-carbon future and complementing renewable generation – Australia needs to ensure we can unlock this potential at home as well as overseas."

ElectraNet CEO, Steve Masters, said conference delegates would be briefed on ElectraNet's assessment of the potential for large-scale storage to support power system operations in South Australia.

"As conventional power stations close to make way for wind and solar in South Australia, we may see very large batteries supporting the grid security and reliability that's so important to our customers."

*Energy Networks 2016* will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Thursday 19 May and Friday 20 May, following a welcome reception on Wednesday 18 May 2016.

**-Ends-**

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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.

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