



EMBARGOED until: 19 May 2016

Energy system future – the hot topic in South Australia

More than 800 representatives from about 230 Australian and international organisations are in Adelaide this week discussing the future of the energy system.

South Australia is at the frontier of the global energy transformation as major power stations close to make way for increasing penetration of renewable energy sources – a change that has challenged power system security.

Energy Networks Association CEO, John Bradley, will today tell delegates at *Energy Networks 2016* that the industry is in an ‘egg and spoon’ race on behalf of energy consumers.

“We must execute a rapid transformation in the energy system without compromising the delicate balance of affordability, sustainability and reliability,” Mr Bradley said ahead of his address.

Mr Bradley said the future of energy would be driven by customers.

“Customers – not utilities – are likely to be responsible for up to \$400 billion in expenditure decisions in rooftop solar and battery storage by 2050.

“The energy grid is enabling the transformation, connecting millions of new, smarter and cleaner applications.

“We will need smart, connected grids to host the new “apps” of the energy system, while maintaining the safe and reliable electricity and gas services that customers care about.”

Over the course of this week, the conference will hear from key Australian and international energy policy makers and practitioners, and the CEOs of Australia’s major energy networks will be ‘front and centre’ in the discussion.

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, Treasurer and Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, will deliver the South Australian Government Ministerial Address this morning.

Basil Scarsella, CEO UK Power Networks and former chief executive of ETSA Utilities will address the conference today on the energy transition occurring in the United Kingdom.

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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.