



14 June 2016

ENA welcomes SA Government support for interconnector study

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) welcomed today's announcement by the South Australian (SA) Government that it will contribute \$500,000 to study the feasibility of a new high voltage electricity transmission interconnector.

ElectraNet, operator of South Australia's transmission network, will examine the economic viability of a new interconnector linking South Australia with the eastern states, as a high priority, in a \$1 million project over the next 12 months.

ENA Chief Executive Officer, John Bradley, supported examination of the potential for additional interconnector capacity and welcomed the contribution of the SA Government to help fast-track the study.

"A cleaner energy future is likely to be an interconnected future," Mr Bradley said.

"Governments and industry around the world recognise that stronger interconnection between regions is likely to be a key enabler of an affordable, reliable, low carbon future.

"Where the economics stack up, additional interconnectors can support higher levels of intermittent renewable generation and support balance in the energy system and power system security."

Mr Bradley said South Australia had some of the most significant levels of renewable energy generation of any Australian State.

"The contribution by the SA Government will assist ElectraNet in examining a range of interconnector options, in a timely way, for the benefit of South Australian electricity customers," Mr Bradley said.

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Media Contact:

Simone Reading
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.