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**ENA congratulates new Minister, pays tribute to Ian Macfarlane**

The Energy Networks Association today congratulates the Hon Josh Frydenberg on his appointment as Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia and acknowledges the leadership and service of outgoing Minister, The Hon Ian Macfarlane.

ENA CEO, John Bradley, said that Minister Frydenberg takes on the energy portfolio at a time of significant change in the sector, with a important task ahead in progressing reform.

“Under the umbrella of COAG Energy Council, Federal and State Governments have identified an important reform agenda for the energy sector, particularly with regard to the transition to a cleaner energy system, electricity network tariff reform, and support for vulnerable customers.

“Evidence-based policy processes should guide our focus in continued energy reform,” Mr Bradley said.

“Australia's energy system is facilitating exciting shifts in technology, with energy networks enabling world leading rates of residential solar and the advent of an energy storage revolution

“As this takes place it is critical that the energy market transitions to electricity network pricing that rewards efficient use.

Fair, efficient tariff structures could save Australian electricity customer an average of up to \$250 per year in electricity bills in the long term and avoid unfair cross subsidies of up to \$650 per year.

“It is also important that domestic gas is able to compete on a level playing field by ensuring energy schemes designed to reduce emissions are fuel-neutral; whilst encouraging wholesale gas supply markets by removing unnecessary barriers to new supply,” Mr Bradley said.

Mr Bradley also paid tribute to outgoing Minister, The Hon.Ian Macfarlane.

“With practical leadership in the energy portfolio Ian Macfarlane has delivered the energy sector with balanced direction at a time of significant reform.

“Ian Macfarlane has worked constructively with energy network businesses to build a strong energy sector, to progress energy sector reform, effective and transparent governance arrangements, and to deliver the best results for the long term interest of consumers,” Mr Bradley said.

**ENDS.**

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ENA is the peak national body for Australia’s energy networks; and represents gas distribution and electricity network businesses on economic, technical, environment and safety regulation as well as national energy policy issues.