



Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Level 15, 357 Collins Street
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7 February 2019

The Reliability Panel
c/- Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
Sydney South NSW 1235

Ref: REL0069
Email: aemc@aemc.gov.au

AEMO Request for Protected Event Declaration

Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd and Powershop Australia Pty Ltd (**MEA Group**) thank the Australian Energy Market Commission (**AEMC**) for the opportunity to comment on AEMO's request for a Protected Event Declaration (**Request**).

The MEA Group is generally supportive of the requested declaration and considers that the Request is a clear example of the types of events that should be covered by such a declaration. The Request should result in a small investment on behalf of consumers to produce significant benefits in enhanced reliability and security.

Before formally declaring the Protected Event some consideration should be given to whether there are any alternative solutions that could produce greater benefits for lower costs. In the absence of such alternatives the declaration should proceed.

Consideration should also be given to developing processes for ensuring that consumers receive the maximum return from any such investment. At a minimum this should include ensuring all new monitoring information is made widely available so that industry participants can effectively plan for events.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ed McManus
CEO of Meridian Energy Australia and Powershop Australia