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Nomiky Panayiotakis

Australian Energy Market Commission
Level 15, 60 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submitted via email: aemc@aemc.gov.au

24-28 Campbell St
Sydney NSW 2000
All mail to
GPO Box 4009
Sydney NSW 2001
T +61 2 131 525
ausgrid.com.au

Ausgrid submission to the AEMC Cyber security roles and responsibilities draft determination.

Ausgrid is pleased to provide this letter in support of the draft determination and draft rule confirming and clarifying the Australian Energy Market Operator (**AEMO's**) cyber security role in the National Electricity Rules (**NER**).

Ausgrid operates the electricity distribution network that powers the homes and businesses of more than 4 million Australians living and working in an area that covers over 22,000 square kilometres from the Sydney CBD to the Upper Hunter in New South Wales.

Interruptions to the power system due to cyber security incidents would have major potential impacts on lives and livelihoods. Even a minor cyber security incident for the operation of the National Electricity Market (**NEM**) has the potential to impose significant financial impacts, not just on NEM participants but also on energy consumers and the wider economy. It is appropriate for AEMO to take on a leadership role in coordinating cyber security activities across the energy sector, particularly considering growing concerns around cyber security risks, as outlined in detail in Ausgrid's response to the earlier Consultation Paper.

AEMO's governance of cyber security in the NEM should seek to align industry best practice and drive a more consistent and comprehensive adoption of applicable standards. A stable and consistent approach to cyber security governance will allow AEMO to appropriately match each industry participant's required cyber security capability to its function within the NEM, ensuring that those whose risk is highest have commensurate cyber security measures in place.

We look forward to further engagement with AEMO as it takes on these responsibilities and as it develops its guidance to industry participants.

For further information on this submission, please contact the Ausgrid Cyber Safe team via cyber@ausgrid.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Opdam", written over a horizontal line.

Hank Opdam
Chief Information Security Officer