



**Reliability Panel**  
**Review of Technical Standards**  
**AEMC Terms of Reference**  
**14 February 2008 (revised 16 September 2008)**

**Introduction**

On 1 September 2006 the AEMC published its “Review of Enforcement of and Compliance with Technical Standards”. In its final report the AEMC recommended that the Reliability Panel (Panel) to undertake a review of the adequacy and content of the technical standards. In the final report for this review the AEMC indicated that the technical standards should be:

- based on actual sustainable plant capability; and
- clear and appropriate.

The AEMC has also noted the Panel’s indicative work program which included the likelihood of this review in 2008.

**Scope of the Technical Standards Review**

Clause 8.8.1(a)(7) of the National Electricity Rules requires the Reliability Panel to:

monitor, review and *publish* a report on the implementation of *automatic access standards* and *minimum access standards* as *performance standards* in terms of whether:

- (i) their application is causing, or is likely to cause, a material adverse effect on *power system security*; and
- (ii) the *automatic access standards* and *minimum access standards* should be amended or removed;

Therefore, the AEMC requests the Panel, in accordance with section 38 of the NEL, to undertake a review of the technical standards, including the individual technical standards as well as the effectiveness of the interaction between the system, access and plant-specific standards as a whole.

The term “technical standards” is not a defined term in the Rules. However, the AEMC indicated in its final report that the technical standards to be reviewed by the Panel should include:

- the performance standards for Generators, Market Customers and MNSPs specified under clauses 4.13, 4.14 and 5.3.4A(g) that are required to be registered with NEMMCO;
- the automatic access standards, minimum access standards and performance criteria required for connection of NSPs, Generators, Market Customers and MNSPs set out in schedules 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.3a respectively, which in the case of Generators, Market Customers and MNSPs, form the basis for specific performance standards required to be registered with NEMMCO;
- the obligations of NSPs, Generators and Market Customers under clauses 5.2.3, 5.2.4 and 5.2.5; and
- the system standards in schedule 5.1a to the extent of their relation to technical matters.

The frequency and reliability standards for the mainland and Tasmania are excluded from the scope of this present review by the Panel.

### **Deliverables**

The AEMC requests that, following the completion of its review of the adequacy and content of the technical standards, the Panel should provide the AEMC with a Final Report that includes the findings and recommendations of its review, and which identifies:

- the principles that should be applied in revising the technical standards; and
- processes for implementing the recommended changes to the technical standards including prospective Rule changes.

### **Process**

This review of the Technical Standards is likely to have important implications for NEM stakeholders. Consistent with its philosophy of engaging with those parties, the AEMC requests the Panel to plan to involve stakeholders by seeking submissions and holding forums on the main review issues paper and on each of its draft decisions.

The Panel may choose to utilise consultant support engaged and provided by the AEMC to assist the Panel in the preparation of scoping and issues papers, draft and final review documents, and undertaking research and analysis.

The Panel is requested to deliver its Final Report by 30 April 2008.

The Panel should also keep the AEMC informed of progress during the review.