



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Ref: A920566

29 September 2010

Mr John Pierce  
Chairman  
Australian Energy Market Commission  
PO Box A2449  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear John,

### **Transmission Frameworks Review**

Whilst Powerlink has contributed to, and fully supports, the more detailed submission from Grid Australia in relation to the AEMC's consultation on this issue, there is a critical matter which Powerlink considers should be given very careful attention.

#### ***Timeliness of Transmission Investment***

In Queensland, the transmission grid is an integral part of the 'export infrastructure chain'. Not only do the new and expanded mines and LNG plants need major developments of Powerlink's electricity transmission grid, so also do the other elements in the export infrastructure chain, including the railways and the ports.

With a large number of major resource developments either underway or imminent, there is considerable pressure on being able to develop transmission grid augmentations in tight timeframes. Today, this is barely achievable. Powerlink notes that the consultation timelines required in the RIT-T are considerably longer than the previous Regulatory Test timelines. These work against the timely development of transmission augmentations to support resource projects.

More generally, for the benefit of the national economy, changes which extend the timelines of the transmission development process should be avoided. Instead changes which shorten these development timelines for electricity transmission investment should be sought.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Jardine".

Gordon Jardine  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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