

In July 2015, the Energy Council asked officials to develop a comprehensive strategic work program to consider the policy and regulatory response to addressing key issues in the electricity market relating to new technology, innovation and market change. At its December 2015 meeting, the Energy Council endorsed a program of work proposed by officials to ensure a successful transition of the electricity market and to ensure the regulatory frameworks are fit for purpose to cope with the effects of emerging technologies, such as batteries, and to enable consumers to benefit from innovative services while mitigating any risks. This work program is complementary to the work being done by the Energy Council to better integrate energy and climate policies. The table sets out the provisional work program for 2016. The below projects are in the process of development and consultation and therefore subject to change.

Key Work Stream	Outcomes	Consultation	Contact
ENHANCED COMPETITION AND INNOVATION			
Ring-fencing & contestability			
AER Review of Ring-fencing Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AER issues paper AER Ring-fencing Guidelines – draft 	April 2016 June 2016	AER – Ringfencingguideline2016@aer.gov.au
Contestability rule change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule change proposal to enable appropriate framework for emerging technologies that are provided behind the meter to be fully contestable. 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au
Battery storage			
Framework barriers & other connection issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEMO rule change request on technology neutral definition of 'generator'. 	Decided by AEMC (2 nd half 2016)	energytransformed@industry.gov.au www.aemc.gov.au
Battery registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation paper on the merits of registration and the appropriate registration body 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au
Standards, training and accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap for Standards development (with Standards Australia and industry) Development of safety installation standard (AS5139) 	2 nd half 2016	http://www.standards.org.au
Stand-alone systems/micro-grids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation Paper on appropriate regulatory framework Targeted stakeholder workshop 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au
EMPOWERING CONSUMERS			
Consumer protection framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation Paper on what level of consumer protections are needed in relation to stand-alone systems and emerging technologies Targeted stakeholder workshop 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au
ONGOING POWER SYSTEM SECURITY			
Power system security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEMO advice to Energy Council on adequacy of existing arrangements in context of emerging technologies (ongoing) 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au
EFFICIENT INVESTMENT AND OPERATION OF ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE			

Key Work Stream	Outcomes	Consultation	Contact
Economic Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework & short-term rule changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Regulation: Optimising Network Incentives – considering the merits of different approaches to incentivizing efficient network investment 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMC annual monitoring of risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMC to consult on proposed approach and indicators with reference to Energy Council Terms of Reference 	2 nd half 2016	energytransformed@industry.gov.au