

TAC meeting minutes

25/05/20

The TransGrid Advisory Council (TAC) met on Monday 25 May for the second meeting of 2020. The meeting was held over the digital platform WebEx due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the need to maintain social distancing.

TransGrid's CEO Paul Italiano chaired the meeting, providing an update on the impacts of COVID-19 on the NSW electricity market and TransGrid's business.

TransGrid updated members on the current steps being taken to provide financial relief for energy consumers during COVID-19, including participation in the voluntary ENA network Relief Package and discussed the proposed AER COVID-19 rule change and its likely financial impacts.

Executive Manager Major Projects, Sean McGoldrick, updated the TAC on TransGrid's current projects, and particularly the role they may play in providing economic stimulus to support the recovery from COVID-19. An overview and update on current major projects was presented to TAC members, including the impact of COVID-19 on project timelines and the steps taken to ensure the safety of all involved.

TransGrid updated members on progress with the Energy Charter and discussed how best to engage with members on the process.

Key points from the advisory council meeting include:

- COVID-19 and its impacts were discussed with TAC members. TransGrid's provided an update to members on the current business and highlighting the impacts of COVID-19 and the steps being taken to ensure the safety of staff and the continued operation of the network. TransGrid and TAC members discussed the current relief efforts being undertaken by the industry to provide relief for energy consumers.
- TransGrid updated members on current safety performance and discussed a number of initiatives in progress to further improve the safety of staff and contractors.
- Members received an update on the progress of the current suite of major projects with a focus on impacts of COVID-19. TransGrid noted the positive impacts that its pipeline of projects could have as economic stimulus for the Australian economy post COVID-19, highlighting international examples.
- TransGrid's CEO provided an update on Project Energy Connect, discussed the current benefits assessment for the project and reinforcing that the business would not invest in any project that was not demonstrated to benefit consumers. The regulatory assessment framework was discussed, and in particular and the narrower band of benefits considered compared to other international models.
- TransGrid provided an update to TAC members on progress with the Energy Charter, and invited members to provide feedback on the level of engagement they wanted within the process.