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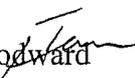
22 JUN 2006

**The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP
Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources**

PO BOX 6022
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

20 JUN 2006

Mr Ian C Woodward
Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box H166
AUSTRALIA SQUARE NSW 1215

Dear Mr Woodward 

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2006 enclosing a copy of the AEMC Reliability Panel's Comprehensive Reliability Review Issues Paper.

I recognise the importance of reviewing reliability arrangements for the National Electricity Market (NEM) and the AEMC's responsibility for this under the National Electricity Rules. I also recognise that there has not been a comprehensive review of reliability settings for the NEM since market-start in 1998.

Given that the AEMC's Comprehensive Reliability Review addresses key policy and regulatory settings for the NEM, the Issues Paper will be considered by the Ministerial Council on Energy's Standing Committee of Officials (MCE SCO).

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely


Ian Macfarlane