



New EESA President

Dr Robert Barr Elected EESA National President



At the National Committee meeting of the EESA held in Sydney on 10 April 2007, Dr Robert Barr was elected National President of the Society. Robert follows on from Chris Dalitz who served the EESA as National President for three years.

Dr Barr thanked Chris for his service and dedication to the EESA in his role as National President. Chris has overseen a growth in membership of the EESA and worked very effectively in promoting the society across Australia and within Engineers Australia.

A Word from the New National President

It is a great honour to be elected National President of the EESA and I'm very grateful for the trust placed in me by the state chapters and EESA members. I have been a member of the organisation for almost 25 years and like all many of my colleagues, I've seen enormous change throughout the industry. There is no doubt that this trend is going to continue.

Being a consulting engineer, I'm in a unique position to see and be directly involved at a detailed level with most of the electricity distribution companies across Australia. What I see is a very capable and effective industry working very hard to juggle the sometimes conflicting needs of customers, regulators, governments and owners. I believe our industry is serving the nation well. The competitive structures that we have built are now becoming very mature and providing ongoing benefits to customers and the economy in ways that were not possible under the old centrally planned arrangements.

This is not to say that the electricity industry can rest on its laurels. Climate change, manpower needs, aging infrastructure, generation capacity, reliability and power quality are major issues for the industry. I look forward to providing comments on some of these issues in the future.

Dr Robert Barr
EESA National President

EESA National Conference Moving to Brisbane

Last week, the National Committee of the EESA decided that the August 2008 and 2009 National Conferences would be held in Brisbane. It was further decided that the preferred location for the 2010 national conference was Perth. The National President, Dr Robert Barr said the aim of moving the National Conference around the country was to grow and promote the EESA as a national body by drawing on the strengths and capabilities of all the individual state chapters.

The success of last year's national conference in Melbourne combined with the success of the 2006 Electricity NSW conference demonstrated that moving the venue for the National Conference amongst all the state chapters has the potential to grow and enhance the effectiveness of the EESA as a national organisation.

Dr Barr said that he planned on using the best papers and presentations from the state conferences as a source of papers for the National Conference in addition to using the best National conference papers in the various states. The EESA has a key role in communicating the best ideas and know-how to all our members across Australia.

Electricity 2007 bringing....Power to the People 15th – 17th of August 2007, Melbourne Victoria

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Authors interested in having a paper considered for inclusion in this important industry conference should submit an abstract of their proposed paper for consideration. Abstracts should not exceed two A4 pages, but must be accompanied by a statement of the author's intention and availability to present the paper in person at the Conference.

If you would still like to submit an abstract please do so asap to:
Helen Woodall at events@materialsaustralia.com.au or via the Electricity 2007 website:
www.materialsaustralia.com.au/EESAElectricity2007.

The Electric Energy Society of Australia

News and Issues from around the Industry...

by John Thomson

Peak energy body calls for national leadership on energy smart meters

Ahead of the CoAG meeting on April 13, the Energy Networks Association (ENA) called for national leadership on energy smart meters or risk a 'rail gauge' approach to smart meters - potentially leading to increased costs for consumers. The call came amid ongoing concerns within the industry that the full costs of implementation of a national smart meter rollout are not appreciated at the policy level. There are also questions as to the actual proportion of customers who can benefit from shifting their patterns of energy usage, and how much energy can be so shifted.

ENA's Andrew Blyth said "the benefit-cost analysis is an important tool to ensure that any smart meter rollout occurs on an efficient basis. We need to know the policy environment in order to make these calls – at the moment we have no way of integrating these meters into the electricity market."

Reliability Panel Questions Ability of the NEM to Deliver Required Generation Investment

On April 2 the Reliability Panel of the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) published its Interim Report for the Comprehensive Reliability Review, and pointed to emergence of risks in the NEM that may need addressing with new measures.

The Panel has provisionally formed the view that, despite the NEM's satisfactory performance against the reliability standard to date, certain risks have been identified that may lead to insufficient or untimely investment in generation to meet demand in the future. In response, the Panel has considered a suite of possible options for amending the reliability mechanisms. These options range from amending the reserve trader mechanism or raising the price cap (VOLL) to establishing separate markets for provision of reserves. However, the Interim report also included a draft determination to leave VOLL unchanged for the time being.

The Panel is seeking submissions on the issues raised in the report by 17 May 2007. For the full report go to: <http://www.aemc.gov.au/pdfs/reviews/Comprehensive%20Reliability%20Review/aemcdocs/002CRR%20Interim%20Report.pdf>

Electricity Prices to Increase for Residential and Small Businesses in NSW

Under a draft determination released on 4 April, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales (IPART) announced that electricity prices for residential and small business customers will rise by around 5 per cent on average each year excluding the effect of inflation (or 8 per cent including inflation) for the next three years.

The draft report and draft determination apply to customers that have not entered into a negotiated contract for supply of electricity and are supplied by their incumbent retailer – EnergyAustralia, Integral Energy or Country Energy - and is in response to terms of reference from the New South Wales Minister for Energy.

IPART was asked to set prices based on retail operating costs, margin of a mass market new entrant and market based energy purchase costs based on regulated load.

NSW electricity retailers will have discretion to set their own prices, subject to an overall maximum price level determined by IPART.

Comments on the draft determination close on 2 May 2007, following which a final determination will be made with new prices to come into effect on 1 July 2007. The full draft report and draft determination is available on IPART's Web site at: www.ipart.nsw.gov.au

New Customer-Focused Energy Service Reliability Policy Released by ENA

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) released a new policy for the economic regulation of service standards for electricity and gas network businesses during the Energy Regulation 2007 conference in Sydney on March 20.

"The policy sets out a new path for regulation of energy reliability and service in Australia, by bringing customers into the decision-making process over the energy services they receive", said ENA Chief Executive Andrew Blyth.

The ENA Service Standard Regulatory Policy sets a framework for a national, customer-focused energy service standard framework. This approach to service standard regulation:

- links service reliability and power quality to customer needs and wants;
- actively involves customers in energy service decisions over energy reliability and price; and
- provides flexibility in arrangements to meet diverse Australian conditions.

The policy is timely, given that Energy Ministers are currently developing a new set of rules for the regulation of energy distribution businesses. The ENA is concerned that a national regulator should not substitute for the customer in determining local customer preferences. The policy supports the position that service standards should instead embody community expectations (and willingness to pay) for service delivery, within the constraints of other regulatory objectives.

The Electric Energy Society of Australia

Revenue Reset - Transitional Guidelines Still Coming for ACT & NSW Distribution Regulation

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has stated that it expects transitional guidelines to be developed for the ACT and NSW electricity distribution revenue resets. Regulation of the ACT and NSW businesses will transfer to the AER from 1 July 2007, from the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission, and Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, respectively. The Distribution companies are becoming increasingly concerned on the rules, methodologies and style of regulation which might be applied by the AER.

EESA NSW Chapter News

NSW State Chapter Conference

Balancing the New Energy Equation, 13 & 14 September 2007, Sydney

In an everchanging electrical world where we are seeing the emergence of a national investment body to coordinate public and private spending on energy infrastructure, six state based emission trading schemes, the rollout of smart metering and the tentative emergence of microgrids - an industry based conference looking at the "state of play" in NSW and the rest of the world has never been more welcome.

The EESA NSW State conference to be held in Brighton le Sands, Sydney on the 13 & 14 September 2007 will feature a panel session of CEOs looking at the topic of Energy Supply to NSW - history, present and future challenges. It will also have a solid and timely series of presentations from industry experts on power quality, smart meters, intelligent grids, batteries and asset management, education and training, distributed generation diagnostic monitoring and distribution systems. Expert speakers are being sourced from Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the USA to bring the latest thinking and developments within their subject areas. A panel session on the true nature and cost of emission trading schemes will then complete the conference.

A comprehensive trade display with equipment and hardware utilised in the industry will as usual also be available during the two days of the conference.

The EESA continues to pursue its mission to train and educate industry professionals at all levels and this conference promises to be an exciting addition to a well regarded series of professional industry conferences provided by the power industry at a modest cost.

For more information, to submit an abstract or to register your interest contact Helen Mackenzie, The Meetings Manager Pty Ltd on 02 9810 7322 or meetings@tmm.com.au

Technical Power Seminar, Port Macquarie



Neville Cooper (CE), Col Hackney (CE),
Dr Robert Barr (EESA), Don McBean
(Dulhunty Power), Peter Tapp (EESA),
Leith Elder (CE), Robert Johnston (CE).

The afternoon Technical Power Seminar hosted by Country Energy at Port Macquarie (29/03/07) was very well supported with over 60 delegates attending. Presentations covered a range of topics from renewable energy and its impact on the market place and the network, network reliability data, power factor correction and transmission line rating analysis.

Dr Charlie Macaulay's topic, Renewable Energy Sources in the Australian Energy Market Place provided a good background on NEMMCO's approach to this fast growing aspect of electricity networks and associated regulatory challenges. Col Hackney provided a good practical overview of the challenges involved with the integration of new generation sources into the existing electricity networks. Leith Elder's presentations provided

thought provoking points regarding the reliability of reliability network data and questioned past practices of so-called remedial action to address perceived poor network performance and the cost effectiveness of such actions. Leith also spoke on two software programs he is developing to improve network analysis and design. Don McBean's presentation on real time dynamic transmission line rating systems provided a good insight into developments from overseas which line designers and planners will find very useful in optimising the utilisation of existing transmission lines, particularly during periods of high energy demand. Robert Johnston's final year project for his BE studies covered the practical application of improving the power factor at Country Energy's Terranora Bulk Supply Point substation. Robert showed how he was able to incorporate appropriately designed p.f. correction equipment (including inductors) into the limited substation yard area to optimise the power factor at that substation.

In-coming EESA National President, Dr Robert Barr presented EESA Certificates to Ken Stonestreet (EESA Corporate Membership), Dr Charlie Macaulay and Col Hackney (prize winning papers presented at EESA's NSW Conference, November 2006). Robert also advised delegates of the benefits of being a member of EESA and of the ongoing membership drive throughout Australia.

Due to the success of the Port Macquarie seminar, it is planned to run a similar event there in March/April 2008.

Dr Robert Barr presenting Country Energy's Group GM Networks & Infrastructure Ken Stonestreet with Country Energy's EESA Corporate Membership Certificate



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EESA NSW Chapter News

NSW Events

Friday 25 May 2007

Sydney: Integral Energy Huntingwood
2pm Redevelopment of the Springhill Transmission Substation, including site inspection.
See enclosed flyer for more information

Friday 6 July 2007

Regulatory Seminar: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, followed by the **NSW Chapter AGM**

Thursday 12 July 2007

Canberra: ActewAGL seminar, EA National Office

Nominations for National Council and NSW Committee

Nomination forms for positions on the National Council and also for the NSW Chapter Committee have been included with this Bulletin. All the retiring members of the National Council have indicated that they are willing to re-nominate, however others may also nominate.

Forms for National Council to be received by 6 August and the NSW Committee to be received by 2 July 2007.

EESA VIC/TAS Chapter News

Olex Site Visit

Olex cables are Australia's biggest cable manufacturers and the EESA organised a site visit to the Tottenham factory in February of this year. The site visit was sponsored by Maunsell and John Mann from Olex was our tour guide for the day. Visitors were given a tour of the factory including the LV, HV and EHV cable production sheds, the testing facilities and got to go up inside the landmark Olex silo (which is used for XLPE extrusion). After lunch, a technical information session on cable uses and production was given. There was a short question & answers session before getting back into the bus to Bedford st. EESA would like to thank all at Olex who made it such an interesting and enjoyable day.



EESA VIC/TAS CHAPTER Sustainable Energy One Day Seminar – Melbourne, 17 May 2007

The Electric Energy Society of Australia (EESA) has pleasure in inviting you to attend the EESA's VIC/TAS Chapter's Sustainable Energy Seminar, to be held in Melbourne on 17 May 2007.

The seminar will provide a valuable opportunity to network with professionals across the renewable, sustainable energy and the electricity industry sectors.

For more information see enclosed flyer, or to register, please visit <http://www.materialsaustralia.com.au/EESA/May17/>

EESA Qld Chapter News

Recent events:

- February 2007 – Technical visit to the Castlemaine Perkins Brewery at Milton
- March 2007 – Technical seminar "Our Future Energy Society", jointly sponsored with the Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering, and exploring some of the issues, limitations and sustainability of wind energy, energy storage, solar energy and nuclear energy. The presenters were Martin Poole, Executive Director Epuron Pty Ltd, Steve Hollis, CEO and Executive Director Lloyd Energy and Martin Thomas, Past President Engineers Australia

Forthcoming Qld Chapter events:

- May 2007 – Technical seminar "Energy in a Water Constrained World". This full day event will examine the implications of our current water situation for the energy sector, both from the perspective of water requirements for power generation, and energy requirements for desalination.
- June 2007 – Site visit to the Brisbane Tramway Museum at Ferny Grove. This is a repeat of a very popular event held on July 2005, but this time around the event will be run on a Sunday as a family event.

For more information on the Queensland Chapter's technical programme or other activities, please email qld@eesa.asn.au.

Bulletin 3, June - July 2007

Please email submissions by 9 June 2007 to the Bulletin Editor, Peter Tapp on peter.tapp@gmail.com