



# AUSTRALIAN ENERGY COUNCIL

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Australian Energy Council is the representative body for Australia's major electricity and downstream natural gas businesses operating in competitive wholesale and retail energy markets, as well as organisations and individuals with a business or professional interest in the energy industry.

The Council's 22 member businesses collectively generate the overwhelming majority of electricity in Australia and sell gas and electricity to over 10 million homes and businesses.

### Expertise and networks

Our secretariat is a team of expert energy analysts, economists and public policy advocates with extensive experience in the energy industry. The Council has well-established relationships with government, opposition and allied stakeholders across all jurisdictions. The Council uses this expertise to support its members, and assist in managing the key issues impacting member businesses and the energy sector.

### A voice for industry

Utilising our extensive networks across media, industry and government, we are proactive in public debates and use this platform to promote key strategies, inform consumers, defend the industry against unwarranted or incorrect criticism and advocate for the industry generally.

### Types of memberships

Members have access to a range of industry benefits and services. There are two categories of membership:

#### **Full Membership**

Full membership is available to retailers, generators or gentailers in the Australian electricity industry, participants in a gas market in Australia, and providers of technology services to those industries. A Full Member can vote at the Council's AGM, participate in CEO Forums, and have a representative attend the Council's various Working Groups and overarching Policy Committee.

Full Members receive the Council's Communication Services and membership benefits (outlined below). Up to 50 email addresses can receive the daily *Energy News Brief* and the weekly *EnergyInsider* feature piece email. Full Member logos are also featured on the Council's website.

Full Membership fees are 'banded' each financial year according to turnover or on a pro-rata basis for new memberships commenced during the year. These bands are determined by the Board.

### **Associate Membership**

Associate Membership is available to any organisation or individual with a business or professional interest in the energy industry. Associate Members receive the Council's Communications Services, Electricity Gas Australia and briefing opportunities (outlined below).

Associate membership is renewed from 1 April each year or pro-rata for new memberships commenced during the year. Associate members are charged an annual flat fee which is determined by the Board.

## **Membership benefits**

### **CEO forums and working groups**

CEO forums provide Full Member CEOs with valuable networking opportunities with key industry participants, government and other stakeholders. Held twice a year, the Council arranges for guest speakers on topics of interest and a facilitated discussion to determine what the most important issues for the industry are, and the direction the Council should take.

Throughout the year the Council works with members to ensure our policy positions and advocacy strategy accurately reflect our members' views and priorities. Detailed work is undertaken through the overarching Policy Committee and various member working groups. These groups draw on subject matter experts from Full Member companies. Policy matters and draft submissions go directly to these groups for review.

### **Communications services**

All members can rely on regular communications for accurate summaries and analysis of key industry news and issues. Publications include:

- Energy News Brief: a daily summary of important media coverage on the energy sector (via email);
- EnergyInsider: weekly in-depth feature articles on issues shaping the industry (via email); and,
- Reports: on key areas of interest to the energy sector and members.

### **Electricity Gas Australia**

All members receive access to Electricity Gas Australia, an annual statistical publication of electricity and gas retail and generation data.

### **Regular member-only briefings and industry events**

The Council holds a series of member briefings each year to outline activities and policies, promote discussion on issues affecting Australia's energy industry, and enable networking with key industry influencers.

All members can also receive discounted rates to major energy industry conferences.

### **Promotion from AEC website**

Our website is a central information point for consumers, governments, energy companies and other stakeholders. Members have the opportunity to link their own homepage from our website.