

9th February 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Response to Consultation on *Incorporating an emissions reduction objective into the national energy objectives*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the incorporation of an emissions reduction objective into the national energy objectives (NEO).

Inclusion of an emissions reduction objective is long overdue in the NEO, and thus I welcome this initiative. The inclusion of this objective recognises that climate and environmental objectives need to be explicitly considered when making decisions about the design and operation of our future electricity system.

In response to the proposed design of the new objective, I would like to make two key points:

1. To date, the NEO has been framed in the context of efficiency, which can also be interpreted to mean the optimisation of a techno-economic system. It is clear that such a framing is no longer adequate or appropriate. In including an emissions reduction objective into the NEO I would encourage a framing that recognises our energy system as **socio-techno-economic**. Such a framing will ensure that the social costs and benefits of emissions reduction can also be incorporated into decision making about the design and operation of our future electricity system.
2. The current approach of having separate electricity, gas and retail objectives is no longer fit for purpose. Instead, a single national energy objective is required. This objective should recognise that the electrification and integration activities underway to achieve economy-wide decarbonisation will lead to a single, fully integrated energy system in the future. At the same time, the nature of energy retail will be forever changed by the shift from clearly differentiated supply and demand sides that is arising due to the uptake of distributed and consumer energy resources. In this context, I would advocate for a unified national energy objective that could be stated as: **A safe, efficient, decarbonised, and resilient energy system that provides energy users with an energy supply that is affordable, reliable, and secure, with participation models that support choice, equity, and opportunity.**

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to this consultation and if you would like any further details about this submission, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,



Lachlan Blackhall
FTSE FIEAust MIEEE PhD Be BSc