

4 November 2023



Kate Symons  
Chairperson  
Essential Services Commission  
Level 8, 570 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Lodged via email: [energyreform@esc.vic.gov.au](mailto:energyreform@esc.vic.gov.au)

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Dear Ms Symons,

### Revoking the Electricity System Code

Jemena Electricity Networks (**Jemena**) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Essential Services Commission's (**ESC**) draft decision to revoke the Electricity System Code (**Code**).

Thank you for the ESC's proactive and timely consideration of this matter. We recognise the value in repealing outdated instruments and obligations to reduce risks of duplication, conflict between rules and other unintended consequences. Streamlining and updating regulatory frameworks also helps reduce the regulatory burden for regulated entities and promotes efficient compliance processes and systems.

We are supportive of the ESC's proposal to revoke the Code in its entirety. We share the ESC's understanding that the Code is a leftover instrument from prior to the development and implementation of the national energy regulatory framework.

We understand the ESC is seeking stakeholder views about whether to retain any aspects of the Code, for example, the HV Protection Sub-Code. Should stakeholders request this, the ESC should carefully consider the risks. This could introduce ambiguity and further fragment the regulatory framework, increasing the regulatory burden and making future reform challenging.

We are reviewing our instruments and documentation to align with the proposed December 2023 revocation timing. We recognise that revoking the Code in the near term is preferable to promote certainty. However, we recommend allowing at least a 3-4 week period between the ESC's final decision and the revocation's effective date to enable consequential amendments to be scheduled ahead of time if necessary.

For the avoidance of doubt, the revocation of the Code would not impact our commitment to practice good asset management as called for under clause 19.2 of the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice. We will continue to work to ensure the security and reliability of the electricity supply for customers in the Jemena network.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Matthew Serpell  
Electricity Regulation and Compliance Manager  
Jemena Electricity Networks