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Submissions
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To Whom It May Concern

SPECIAL REVIEW ON POWER SYSTEM SECURITY, ELECTRICITY PRICES AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) welcomes the “Special Review on power system security, electricity prices and emissions reduction” and strongly encourages policies that enhance power system security and affordability consistent with achieving Australia’s emission reduction targets in the Paris Agreement.

ASBEC is a body of peak organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia, with membership consisting of industry and professional associations, non-government organisations and government observers who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment. Collectively, ASBEC’s membership has direct reach to more 300,000 professionals in the built environment sector and represents an industry worth more than \$700 billion in value.

Buildings contribute to almost a quarter of emissions in Australia and nearly half of the country’s electricity consumption. The building sector presents a profound and cost-effective opportunity for emissions reductions and energy productivity. [Low Carbon, High Performance](#), authored for ASBEC by ClimateWorks, provides a clear policy roadmap for realising this opportunity.

Our report shows how Australia’s built environment sector is uniquely placed to become a global market leader in energy and sustainability.

Through the implementation of an appropriate policy suite, buildings present low cost opportunities to reduce emissions and could deliver almost \$20 billion in energy savings by 2030, in addition to productivity benefits and improvements in quality of life for Australian businesses and households. Buildings could also meet over half of the national energy productivity target, and more than one quarter of the national emissions target.

Strong policies are critical to address existing barriers and accelerate actions. ASBEC has identified five key policy solutions which could support a transition to high performance buildings:

Establish national plan towards zero carbon buildings by 2050 - This includes supporting policy frameworks, governance arrangements with interim and long-term targets, clear responsibility at Ministerial level, co-ordination across different spheres of government and public reporting requirements.

Set strong mandatory minimum standards - Creation of strong minimum standards for buildings, equipment and appliances, and establishment of a forward trajectory for future standards.

Create targeted incentives and programs - Support higher performance in the short-to-medium term through incentives and programs including the use of government market power and a range of financial incentives for building owners and tenants.

Reform the energy market - Support the implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency and distributed energy improvements by removing energy market barriers and distortions.

Resource appropriate energy data, information, research and education measures - Enable informed consumer choice and support the innovation, commercialisation and deployment of new technologies and business models for delivery of energy efficiency and distributed energy solutions.



The cost of inaction in the built environment could lead to over \$24 billion in wasted energy and over 170 megatonnes of lost emission reduction opportunities, through lock-in of emissions intensive assets and equipment.

Our [submission](#) to the *Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market – Preliminary Report* provides a detailed outline of the challenges, opportunities and recommendations. We welcome your consideration of this submission.

Effective collaboration with all stakeholders – including the built environment – will be fundamental achieving the goal of power system security, affordable electricity prices and successful emissions reduction.

ASBEC recommends establishing regular consultation for with key organisations to ensure policy reform reflects industry expertise and maximises opportunities early.

ASBEC’s membership consists of twenty-six industry and professional associations, along with government and academic observers, involved in planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment. As such, we are uniquely placed to facilitate this type of consultation.

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss further the recommendations developed by ASBEC that will help support the delivery of a productive agenda, and to discuss how best ASBEC might assist with ongoing consultation on these important issues.

Yours Sincerely



Suzanne Toumbourou
Executive Director