Resilient Sydney

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Clare Savage Chair Australian Energy Regulator

Dear Ms Savage,

On behalf of Resilient Sydney, I write to support Ausgrid's Community Power Network trial waiver proposal.

Resilient Sydney is a collaboration of all 33 councils of Greater Sydney working together to drive region-scale action that strengthens our city's ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks. Resilient Sydney builds capacity across local government to address city-wide risk and build stronger, more resilient communities.

The Resilient Sydney Strategy identifies electrification as a critical step towards energy resilience, requiring significant planning and investment to ensure a smooth and equitable transition. Ausgrid's proposed project will explore new business models for energy generation, storage, distribution and financial benefit flows. Resilient Sydney commends the AER's commitment to innovative trials.

This pilot will test and provide insights into how the proposed model might be applied across the broader network to:

- Increase use of underutilised commercial and industrial roof space for solar;
- Strategically incentivise and orchestrate energy storage to enable distribution of renewable energy across demand curves throughout the day;
- Inform regulatory and policy decisions;
- Provide equitable benefits to local communities.

Two thirds of the councils in Greater Sydney have already set net zero targets for their LGAs, with electrification a key mechanism to achieve these goals. Resilient Sydney is working closely with each council to provide the data that informs the path to Net Zero, including energy consumption and uptake of renewable energy solutions. The appetite for solutions such as the Ausgrid Community Power Network among these councils and the broader community is enormous.

Given the scale of transformation required across the NSW and Greater Sydney electricity grid, trials such as Ausgrid's are essential to test and refine emerging, innovative solutions. Ausgrid has committed to working closely with local councils to implement the trial, and in ensuring that financial benefits support local communities.

Resilient Sydney strongly advocates that the AER progress with Ausgrid's proposal and we look forward to supporting the implementation and outcomes of the trial.

Yours sincerely

