

14 August 2023

Wenona Hadingham  
Assistant Director  
Energy Policy WA  
Market Development and Coordination Division  
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety  
Level 1, 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000  
Via email

Cc: Brooke Eddington

### **Transition planning and the SWIS Demand Assessment Report**

Dear Wenona,

SEN would like to commend EPWA on the SWIS Demand Assessment (SWISDA) Report. Our view is that it covers a lot of good ground and addresses a number of areas about which SEN has been advocating for several years:

- The need for transmission upgrades, especially/ initially in the north
- Renewable Generation Hubs (known elsewhere as Renewable Energy Zones)
- Addressing climate change and acknowledging the Safeguard Mechanism
- Acknowledging the role of geographically distributed wind generation to balance supply
- Caution about the hype around green hydrogen
- The need for Long Duration Energy Storage – nominally pumped hydro
- The need for proper planning:
  - a new 'Priority Projects' mechanism
  - a “new specialised facilitation body responsible for: overseeing the coordinated deployment of electrification projects in Western Australia” (Page 15)

However, it is this last item that we wish to raise here, because the SWISDA Report only covers this briefly. We accept that EPWA has a role as ‘systems planner’ in predicting future demand on the SWIS and developing the Whole of System Plan. However, we have been arguing that the State Government needs to go beyond this, and establish a transition plan and a body to facilitate this transition and have oversight of individual projects by the various agencies.

In our letter to EPWA on 5 July 2023, we highlighted the:

*Lack of a clearly communicated transition plan that takes into account the fundamental change in the operational context for all affected agencies (including Energy minister’s office, EPWA, AEMO, ERA, Western Power and Synergy) brought about by the rapid energy transition.*

We further argued that:

*The transition plan would complement the WoSP and address meeting major customer expectations and those of the wider community. In addition to scope, schedule and budget, the transition plan would also need to address funding, supply chain, resourcing and also risk.*

The 2020 SEN Jobs Report <sup>1</sup> (Section 4.3 on page 25) provided guidance about a range of facilitation functions that go beyond the role that EPWA currently has:

*The South Australian Government [http://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/clean\\_energy\\_transition](http://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/clean_energy_transition) has put several supports in place to support RE companies to invest in SA. These include an investment portal, investor guides and resources, case management support and assistance with development approvals.*

*The appointment of a Renewable Energy Advocate and strong leadership on renewables from the Victorian Government was important in their RE transition.*

We appreciate that planning is only just beginning on the 'new specialised facilitation body', and we hope that this information is helpful in establishing a body that can best facilitate the transition to vastly reduced carbon emissions in WA.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fraser Maywood'.

**Fraser Maywood**  
Chair  
Sustainable Energy Now Inc

Approved by the SEN Committee on 14/08/2023.

*Sustainable Energy Now Inc. (SEN) is a not-for-profit incorporated association advocating for the utilisation of sustainable energy sources within Western Australia.*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://sen.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/SEN\\_Jobs\\_Report\\_2020\\_cover-no-blanks.pdf](https://sen.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/SEN_Jobs_Report_2020_cover-no-blanks.pdf)