

17 November 2022

Energy Security Board
Level 15 Castlereagh St
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: info@esb.org.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Positioning Australia as a leader in policy decisions related to interoperability of energy systems

Standards Australia (SA) is pleased to make this submission on the *Interoperability Policy Directions consultation paper*. This submission will explore the importance of standards in supporting an interoperability policy as well as Standards Australia work on the CSIP-AUS handbook.

Supporting interoperability through Standards

Interoperability is a key enabler for the move towards a decentralised energy system. With the choice and flexibility that consumers are desiring, there is a need to develop guidance that enables this freedom whilst ensuring that systems are safe and reliable. Performance based standards support interoperability initiatives by improving security, increasing flexibility and reducing costs for customers. They are a key facilitator of national consistency across jurisdictions, without stifling innovation and choice.

SA works with industry, government, and the community to develop and adopt standards through an open process of consultation and consensus. Our consensus model aims to ensure all views are adequately considered and mediated through the standard development process, in hopes of widespread implementation and adoption. SA has recognised the importance of the energy system's evolution and has categorised it as a strategic initiative, dedicating resources to supporting and prioritising the standardisation needs of this energy transition.

This initiative aims to take a systems level approach to promoting and providing recommendations on how different components of our energy system can work together intelligently to create solutions that provide greater efficiency, affordability and flexibility. To support and advise on technical standards for this area, SA has established an Advisory Group, whose role is to provide advice on the standardisation priorities for the energy transition, assist with the coordination of standards activities and ensure key priority areas are being addressed. The ESB's Customer Energy Resources (CER) implementation plan has been a key input into how priority areas have been identified. This Advisory Group has been constituted with key experts including, but not limited to, representatives from Distributed Energy Integration Program (DEIP) Interoperability Steering Committee (ISC), Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) and Energy Consumers Australia.

CSIP-AUS Standard and Handbook

SA will shortly release the Common Smart Inverter Profile (CSIP) Australia handbook. This handbook has been developed to supplement the IEEE 2030.5:2018 Common Smart Inverter Profile (CSIP) standard and to provide additional guidance on DER management. A handbook is an informative document that may be used to support a standard already in place - usually in the form of aiding its implementation or providing additional information to users of the Standard.

However, this is not always the case as handbooks can be developed as standalone documents for the purposes of providing informative guidance on a particular topic. For the CSIP-AUS, a handbook was determined to be the best solution for offering the Australian industry the necessary guidance in a timely manner. In the future, we can look to work with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) to allow us to influence the development of standards that may not require modifications for an Australian context.

Finally, as noted in the consultation paper, standards and other documents (including handbooks) are voluntary in nature. Therefore, should the ESB or any policymaker determine that the CSIP-AUS should be used nationally, this handbook can be used and referenced as required.

Standards Australia's role in international standards development

SA is a participating member of several international committees aimed at promoting better grid coordination and developing technical standards to improve integration, communication, and network security. We have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrical Commission (IEC) and the IEEE to adopt their standards as required. These partnerships allow us to leverage important international work instead of developing bespoke Australian standards; giving SA the ability to be agile and respond faster to standardisation needs.

Our international partnerships provide industry with the ability to influence and review international standards to ensure they are fit for purpose here in Australia. It is our preference to adopt international standards wherever possible, therefore we deem it extremely important that stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to contribute to international standards. By reviewing and adopting international standards, SA reduces the risks of voluntary standards being developed for the energy sector that are not compatible with the Australian energy landscape.

Conclusion

An interoperability policy will deeply support the trajectory of the energy transition. SA, in our role as the Australia's peak standards development organisation stands ready to support Government in recommending, adopting, and developing technical standards to support policy decisions.

As such, Standards Australia recommends:

1. The ESB work closely with Standards Australia and leverages its network of national and international stakeholders to recommend technical standards that will support Australia's interoperability policy direction.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss the submission in further detail. Please contact Emelia Addo-Appiah, Strategic Initiatives Manager, at Emelia.Addo-Appiah@standards.org.au

Yours sincerely,



Robert Millar
Head of Strategic Initiatives

Standards Australia Limited
Exchange Centre, Level 10, 20 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 476, Sydney NSW 2001
Telephone +61 2 9237 6000, Facsimile +61 2 9237 6010
www.standards.org.au