



## Media Release 10 March 2019

“The future of the state’s energy system now relies on the State government getting the detail of its energy plans right”, the Chair of Sustainable Energy Now (SEN) Ian Porter said today.

Mr Porter was commenting on the announcement by the Minister for Energy Bill Johnston on Wednesday that two major initiatives would be undertaken to help Western Australia respond to the energy transformation underway and plan for the future. [1]

“The government is to be congratulated on this turning point in electricity planning. It was long overdue, coming ten years after the previous attempt at long-term energy planning”, Mr Porter said.

“SEN has been lobbying the Government to undertake such planning for more than a year”.

“SEN’s analysis had identified short term issues that are threatening the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

As rooftop solar continues to be connected behind the meter, coal- and gas-fuelled steam generators in Collie and Kwinana are currently being ‘ramped’ at the upper end of their technically acceptable range and the life and maintainability of the generator units themselves are being compromised.

Mr Porter warned that “these matters pose a real risk of system-wide failure, even catastrophic failure, unless short-term actions are taken”.

“If the short-term issues are addressed adequately as implied in the Distributed Energy Resources Roadmap [2] tabled by the minister, and the Whole of System Plan [3] is comprehensive, WA will be able to transition towards an advanced, reliable clean energy system that will ultimately lower power costs to WA consumers”, Ian Porter added.

“SEN has modelled the SWIS and can accurately predict energy production from solar and wind on the system based on weather data from the last ten years.”

“SEN’s wealth of experience and existing modelling would be of assistance to Western Power and the AEMO as the plans are developed, and SEN stands ready to assist.”

References:

[1] <https://www.treasury.wa.gov.au/Public-Utilities-Office/Industry-reform/Energy-Transformation/>

[2] [https://www.treasury.wa.gov.au/uploadedFiles/Site-content/Public Utilities Office/Industry reform/Distributed-Energy-Resources-Roadmap.pdf](https://www.treasury.wa.gov.au/uploadedFiles/Site-content/Public%20Utilities%20Office/Industry%20reform/Distributed-Energy-Resources-Roadmap.pdf)

[3] [https://www.treasury.wa.gov.au/uploadedFiles/Site-content/Public Utilities Office/Industry reform/Whole-System-Plan-South-West.pdf](https://www.treasury.wa.gov.au/uploadedFiles/Site-content/Public%20Utilities%20Office/Industry%20reform/Whole-System-Plan-South-West.pdf)

Authorised Ian Porter, Chair SEN

For further comment please contact Rob Phillips on 0416 065 054

**About SEN.**

Sustainable Energy Now Inc. (SEN) is a not-for-profit think tank advocating for the utilisation of sustainable energy sources within Western Australia (WA). SEN brings together a mix of multidisciplinary knowledge and capability, providing independent advice on renewable energy (RE).