

Submission on the Bill for an Australian Local Power Agency

Dear Committee Members,

I am a professional environmental engineer for almost 50 years and urge the Committee to support the Local Power Agency Bill

I consider that the proposed Bill is a vital step forward for Australia to expand a flexible power industry fit for the 21st Century. The historical basis of electrical power generation based on large coal fired power stations is no longer appropriate given climate change and the changes being made in all countries to ensure that carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere stop increasing.

The benefit of local distributed power generation is that it provides for a larger mix of technologies and diversification. We need a power generation industry which is not brought to a stop by mechanical failures like that at Callide of wind and fire storms. The generation network using distributed technology can be made to respond immediately to sudden changes and ride through disruptions. There needs to be an acceptance of chaos interruptions in the network but resilience can be expanded provided that the right regulatory conditions are applied and widely understood.

We need not be afraid of chaos but instead change the network to live with it.

The Local Power Agency Bill will facilitate the expansion of small networks that are effectively integrated to form the network. The current regulations impose unnecessary restrictions on the formation of community units. Investments by local residents are integral to this Bill. This will assist with community resilience and development.