ELECTRICITY SECTOR CLIMATE INFORMATION PROJECT

The Australian Government is providing $6.1 million over three years, from 2018-19, to improve climate and extreme weather information for the electricity sector.

The project is designed to improve the reliability and resilience of the National Electricity Market to the risks from climate change and extreme weather.

Changes in the future climate, including an increasing number of extreme weather events, can increase stress on the power system, so it is important that the system is resilient to these risks.

The project will tailor climate change data and information to ensure it is usable by the people who need it, to support improved long-term climate risk planning for electricity infrastructure.

The work is funded through the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and is being undertaken by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology in collaboration with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

What is the project delivering?

The project will deliver the following:

- Guidance materials, training, user-testing and engagement with industry to tailor and communicate existing climate data and information for the electricity sector.
- Identification of gaps in existing climate information that are critical to understanding long-term climate risk, including information on network vulnerabilities, to support decision-makers in the National Electricity Market.
- Tailored climate data and information, including high-resolution projections of selected climate variables, to better assist planning within the electricity sector. Other sectors will also be able to benefit from this through the development of a best practice methodology for analysing climate change risks.

Early Progress

The project has already achieved a number of successes through early engagement with the electricity industry.

Examples of achievements so far include:

- Identification of the climate-sensitive decision-making processes in the sector.
- Engagement with the sector to identify how climate hazards have an impact on the electricity system
- Early engagement to identify the climate information required by the sector and how to deliver this information effectively.
- Capacity development within AEMO to broaden knowledge on integrating climate data into modelling, including through training on how future climate information can be used in existing processes to influence decision making.
- On-track to deliver future climate information at a fine spatial and temporal scale for specific climate variables, such as temperature and wind.

For More Information

energysecurity@industry.gov.au

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

CSIRO

AEMO
AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET OPERATOR

Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology