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## Energy Charter feedback

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Robin Eckermann

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 11:46 AM

Hello Emma

I have only had a brief look at the draft Energy Charter, but it struck me that a key word was missing from the five principles, perhaps most relevantly, from principle #3. That word is "efficiently".

I offer this comment in the context of the energy revolution that is underway, driven by trends such as:

- the electrification of so much of modern lifestyles (with various heavy demand appliances)
- the emergence of appliances that have considerable energy-management intelligence built into them
- the widespread uptake of rooftop solar
- the looming uptake of battery storage
- the gathering momentum for electric or hybrid vehicles etc

In this environment, I see the electricity industry as being in early stages of much the same sort of upheaval that the telecommunications industry has undergone over the past 20 years with the advent of broadband, necessitating a total rethink and reinvention of business models, investment strategies, network technologies and the like.

In particular, the challenge of balancing supply and demand in the energy sector is become ever-more challenging as variability on both the supply and the demand side increases. It is not longer efficient to address this challenge by "brute force", simply investing in heavier-duty equipment to cater for extreme imbalances that occur only infrequently. Instead, the sector needs to infuse the grid with greater intelligence - sensing, analytics and control - to enable smarter responses to critical needs. Industry participants that do not embrace the challenge of smart grids are not operating efficiently - and this will ultimately compromise other objectives such as affordability and sustainability.

Smart meters have a role to play - but they are only part of the solution. There is considerable scope to deploy appropriate intelligence between zone substations and the consumer to more efficiently meet emerging needs.

I would encourage the stakeholders behind the energy charter to consider introducing the word "efficiently" into the five principles.

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**Regards ... Robin Eckermann AM FIEAust**

Reference Committee Member, Energy Consumers Australia

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Member, 2012 & 2015 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committees

Chief Architect, TransACT Communications (inception - 2003)