

6 December 2016

For Immediate Release

## AusNet Services Well on the Road to Electricity Network Transformation

AusNet Services says it is actively pursuing the goal of a secure, affordable low-emissions future set out today by the CSIRO and Energy Networks Australia (ENA) in their 'Electricity Network Transformation Roadmap' (ENTR).

"It is absolutely possible for Australia to meet our goals of energy security, reliability and decarbonisation – and to significantly reduce the cost of this transformation," said AusNet Services Managing Director Nino Ficca, who is also Chairman of the ENA.

"AusNet Services welcomes this landmark report from ENA and CSIRO. A significant body of research and modelling has gone into the ENTR. If we start adopting these policies we will be on the path to a smart energy transition.

"Australia's energy networks are critical players in achieving these outcomes, and as one of Australia's largest and most diverse network businesses, AusNet Services is working towards a new energy environment in which customers make their own decisions about producing, storing and consuming energy," he said.

AusNet Services' range of innovations which will help drive change and enable customers of all kinds to make their energy goals a reality includes:-

- Development of Australia's first minigrid project in an existing suburb – AusNet Services has equipped 14 homes in the outer Melbourne suburb of Mooroolbark with solar panels and batteries, and is working closely and cooperatively with the residents to learn key technological and consumer insights
- Trial of larger scale network batteries – the Grid Energy Storage System (GESS) is an innovative demand management solution in which a large battery storage system has been successfully used to manage network peak demand, improve reliability, and defer network upgrades.
- Partnerships with communities – AusNet Services is partnering with the Yackandandah community to plan a project whose goal is for a 100% renewables-powered community which is empowered to manage its own energy future.

"These are some of the initiatives already underway at AusNet Services. We strongly endorse the ENTR as a tool for Governments and other industry players to utilise and adopt," Mr Ficca said.

"We understand that Australians want de-carbonisation. They're also concerned about rising energy costs, and the security of supply.

"Now we need Governments and industry authorities right across Australia to implement the Roadmap and set policies to help secure a stable and enduring framework which will reduce the cost and uncertainty of de-carbonisation, he said.

**Ends**