



## **COMPETITION AND CONSUMER ACT COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

Cigré Australia has a strong commitment to Trade Practices Compliance and seeks to minimise the risk of a breach of the Competition and Consumer Act arising from its meetings and activities. The risk of a breach of the Act is increased with groups such as Panels and Working Groups, where members may include competitors.

### **The Competition and Consumer Risk**

The Competition and Consumer Act prohibits anti-competitive conduct. Specific prohibitions include:-

- sharing of information in relation to prices and the mechanisms for setting of prices;
- agreements or undertakings not to deal with a particular business or class of business;
- collective negotiations that have an anti-competitive effect;
- attempting to influence competitors, or supplier or customer behaviour, in an anti-competitive manner.

Anti-competitive agreements do not need to be in writing. An understanding or arrangement to take, or refrain from taking, a course of action may be illegal.

Representatives of Cigré Australia and other organisations participating in Cigré meetings must take care not to do anything which may result in a breach of the Trade Practices Act. A breach may lead to significant financial penalties for representatives personally, their organisations and Cigré Australia.

### **Compliance at Meetings**

Matters to be discussed at Cigré facilitated meetings that in any way concern:

- electricity or transmission and distribution prices;
- competition in the National Electricity Market;
- collective dealings with regulators and other participants in the National Electricity Market; or
- dealings with electricity consumers;

may be sensitive from a Trade Practices perspective.

It should also be remembered that even though it is legal for participants in the energy supply industry to have a joint position on an issue of mutual concern, there may be a risk in how agreement on a joint position may be pursued collectively.

Trade Practices compliance is important. If you have any concerns regarding the Trade Practices implications of any issue being discussed at any meeting please bring the matter to the immediate attention of the Chairperson and the members at the meeting.