

CIGRE Australia – Director Nominee Statements – 2022

Treasurer

Nominee Statement – Mr. Les Brand

Les has over 28 years of experience in the power system industry, including roles in network utilities, private developers and consultancies, across Australia, Asia and North America. While he has developed a specialty in HVDC projects, the projects he has worked on have spanned a wide variety of technical areas, many covered by other CIGRE Study Committees, including HVDC and power electronics, high voltage cables (land and submarine), AC substations and equipment, overhead transmission lines, distribution networks, system operations and maintenance and control and protection systems. Les is currently the Managing Director of Amplitude Consultants, a Brisbane based consultancy that specializes in the grid connection of generation projects and the delivery of HVDC and FACTS projects.

Les has been actively involved in CIGRE since 2003 (18+ years), predominantly with the B4 Study Committee (DC and Power Electronics). During that time, his roles have included convenor of the Australian Panel for SC B4, convenor of two working groups (B4.63 and B4.90), section leader for the CIGRE HVDC Green Book, Special Reporter for the 2020/2021 Paris sessions and author and presenter of a number of papers. Les is passionate about power system issues and the electricity industry and this was recognised in 2020 when he was awarded Electrical Engineer of the Year by Engineers Australia.

Les is very familiar with the Company Director role, having held a number of Director and Secretary roles for Australian and overseas companies, including Amplitude Consultants (and its international subsidiaries) and Power Systems Consultants Australia, and has a solid understanding of the responsibilities and obligations of company Directors and Australian corporate governance principles.

Les has been a director of the CIGRE Board in the last year and a member of the CIGRE Finance, Risk and Audit Subcommittee. Having been on the FRA Sub-committee he is familiar with its operation and the financial and risk structure of CIGRE Australia and believes he is well placed to be able to take on the Treasurers role.

General Director

Nominee Statement – Dr. Stewart Bell

I am currently the Powerlink Executive General Manager of Network and Business Development responsible for leading Powerlink's business development, network portfolio, planning and asset strategy functions.

I am an electricity industry thought leader with more than 25 years' experience in the electricity transmission industry with extensive experience in renewable generator connections, network investment, asset management, project delivery, and network operations and maintenance.



Powerlink has been a strong supporter and collective member of CIGRE Australia for a number of years. Presently it has member representation on 14 of the 16 CIGRE Australia Panels, as well as contributing to various working groups and performing the role of convenor.

I have been on the CIGRE Board the last two years supporting the new Board chair and the Cairns Symposium including facilitating a number of sponsorships. I will be able to provide Board continuity as we transition to a new Chief Executive following the Retirement of the current CEO.

I am also a member of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Transmission Sector Council; Energy Networks Australia (ENA) Asset Management Committee; and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Thanks you for considering my nomination and I look forward to continuing to contribute and add value to Cigre, its members and the electricity industry into the future.

Regards

Dr Stewart Bell BEng, PhD, MBA, CEng, FIET, RPEQ, GAICD

Nominee Statement – Ms. Alison Andrew

I am currently the Chief Executive of Transpower NZ, the national grid owner operator and the NZ electricity system operator, a role I have held since 2014. Prior to joining Transpower I was the Global Head of Chemicals for Orica plc based in Melbourne, having previously run the Orica NZ chemicals business. I am currently a director of Port of Tauranga and have previously been a director of Genesis Energy.

I have had varied corporate career with experience in the dairy industry with the Fonterra Cooperative group running large parts of their global ingredients network. Prior to that I worked in the Fletcher Challenge group in the energy (petrochemicals; oil & gas; natural gas reticulation; power generation), forestry, and pulp & paper industries.

I have a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical & Materials) from Auckland University and an MBA from Warwick University. I am a fellow of Engineering NZ and a chartered member of the Institute of Directors.

Transpower values our international connections to share and learn best practice from others in our industry. We are active members of CIGRE and many of our engineers chair or are members of specialty working groups.

As the only high voltage transmission grid owner operator and system operator in NZ we are keen to foster our international networks particularly in Australia as our nearest neighbour. As Stephen Jay, GM Operations steps off the CIGRE board, we are keen to maintain this link, hence my interest in standing for the board.