

Policy management approach



Central to Origin's policy advocacy approach is that energy policy needs to be assessed against the criteria of energy security, affordability and sustainability.

The energy industry is not only highly regulated but it is also in transition, as are energy markets around the world. The emergence of new technologies such as distributed generation and storage, as well as the move to a lower carbon economy, are external factors that are changing the way in which we produce and use energy.

While the impact of these factors will take some time to play out; prioritising the reliability and security of our energy supply at an affordable price is crucial for the Australian economy. In response to the state-wide blackout in South Australia in 2016 and rising wholesale energy prices driven by the retirement of ageing coal plant with little notice, there has been a heightened level of public scrutiny of Australia's energy security and affordability. As a result, energy policy is more prominent with governments and the community now than ever before. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in even greater government focus on the importance of affordable electricity and gas to the economy.

Origin advocates for energy policy to be assessed against the criteria of energy security, affordability, and sustainability. Our industry is faced with long lead times for the development of assets with lives of up to 40 years. Therefore, an integrated approach to energy and climate change policy is important to provide energy companies with the confidence to invest in new electricity generation and gas supply that our customers need.

While Origin regularly engages with policymakers across all levels of government to put forward well-informed policy positions, we have adopted a broader approach to our advocacy activities. We continue to support the policy debate by participating in public forums, think tanks and research. We also provide advice and support industry associations, and use a variety of channels to inform the general public of the importance of sound policy.

As part of our advocacy work we also attend a small number of political party functions. The value of the contributions we make to attend these functions is reported annually to the Australian Electoral Commission in line with their disclosure requirements. Our Anti-bribery and Corruption Directive governs the political functions we attend. Our *People and culture* management approach contains additional information in relation to our approach to bribery and corruption.

