



Membership Benefits

Smart Grid Australia (SGA) differs from other associations by concentrating on the technical requirements for grid modernisation that stem from a rapidly changing industry sector. Consumers (residential, industrial and commercial) are at the centre of this changing landscape. Increasing electrification, the rapid uptake of distributed generation and (potentially, in the future) storage, the prospect of increasing electric vehicle use, smart building technologies etc are all putting pressure on electricity distribution infrastructure that was designed for a much simpler operating environment. Political pressures (responding to consumer concern over rising prices) and environmental concerns (limiting the carbon emissions associated with electricity use) are adding to the challenges confronting the industry at the present time.

SGA seeks to take a strategic approach that takes in the full eco-system, from generation to consumption. As part of its broad focus, it is active in contributing to government deliberations on policy and regulation that can either impede or facilitate progress.

SGA's unique value is that, unlike other energy industry representative organisations, it has a broad membership including government, utilities, consumers, technology suppliers, consultants and researchers. This broader perspective is important because the benefits of smart grids and intelligent technologies are realised through the adoption and integration across the whole electricity eco-system; accordingly we need all stakeholders actively involved and contributing to our activities.

The objectives of SGA are:

- To provide a forum for key industry stakeholders to discuss and build consensus on how to maximise the benefits and overcome the potential challenges associated with the implementation of future intelligent energy technologies;
- To present our member's views to government and regulatory bodies to help them shape the development of Smart Grid implementation frameworks, policy, regulation, and educational messages;
- To share and learn from our peers and from other stakeholders so we can further the development and integration of smart grid technologies across energy networks.

To help fulfill these objectives SGA holds regular conferences to share experiences and network potential with partners and clients and gain a greater understanding of industry developments.

Members can join a number of Sub Committees and [Working Groups](#) which focus on specific areas of interest that are key for supporting the adoption and deployment of future energy technologies. Each of these forums consist of a diverse cross section of industry and content experts that regularly release advice or points of view for discussion and recommendations to facilitate debate and informed decisions. Where appropriate, these views are collated into documents that assist SGA further its objectives and strategic agenda.

The following are some examples of the avenues SGA has utilised to deliver key projects, interactions and influence for its members -

- Federal Ministers for Energy, Climate Change and Communication with policy suggestions such as the one that contributed to \$100m of Government funding being invested in the [Smart Grid Smart City \(SGSC\) project](#). SGA is currently represented on the SGSC Regulatory and Policy Steering Committee, enabling it to continue to further shape smart grid policy.



- Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria – SGA provided a submission to the Review of Advanced Metering Infrastructure in 2011 contributing a much needed international perspective about unlocking the benefits of smart meters using a combined suite of smart grid technologies in energy networks.
- SGA is a member of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Ministerial Advisory Committee in Victoria to provide advice to the Minister and the Victorian Government about measures to unlock the benefits of smart meters using smart grid technologies
- Mineral Resources and Energy NSW Trade & Investment – the Smart Meters – Taking a Big Picture Perspective Taskforce consultations. SGA provided its' views about the challenges of smart meters and better rollout models, including how the integration of smart grids has been successful in other countries.
- Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism - the Mandating Smart Appliance Interfaces paper provided SGA's view on the development of the AS/NZS 4755 standard for electricity distribution networks

SGA has taken the lead in advising and educating governments and industry on smart grids and policy issues through the following activities:

- preparing SGA's Proposal for Smart Grid Policies for the incoming Australian Government and to assist the numerous state and territory governments that are developing energy reform programs. SGA's proposal for Smart Grid Policies provides recommendations about government policies for building a smart energy future. Meetings have commenced with the government.
- developing the statement Towards Australia's Energy Future which summarises SGA's vision of the major issues confronting the electricity industry today and recommending a number of measures aimed at securing the best outcome for Australia.
- developing two documents about the benefits to consumers and the potential challenges with implementing changes to Australia's electricity network:
 - Maximising Consumer Benefits – Report 1
 - Unlocking Consumer Values – Report 2
- producing and continuing to produce case studies that provide an excellent opportunities for members and their utility partners to showcase innovative developments and learnings not just in Australia (to the whole community including policy makers), but also internationally through the Global Smart Grid Federation.

These reports and others are available on the SGA website please see [Publications](#).

In order to produce these documents and discuss SGA policy there are a range of mechanisms for SGA members to work together. We value having access to our members as representatives of key organisations that are important in the development of modernised networks for the future.

SGA is a founding member of the Global Smart Grid Federation and plays an active role in this alliance. This provides members with access to experts in many of the leading smart grid markets around the globe.