



# INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP POLICY

May 2020

<b>Corporate Affairs: AGL Industry Association Membership Policy</b>	
<b>Version</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>CEO</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>July 2020</b>



### 1. Purpose

This policy provides guidance on AGL's approach to joining and maintaining membership of industry associations.

### 2. Scope

For the purposes of this document, the term "**industry association**" refers to a body representing the interests of an industry, policy or issue and of which AGL may be a member (or may be considering becoming a member). Some industry associations are sector-specific and engage in policy advocacy functions; others are issues specific, technical, regional, or focused on the effective functioning of large businesses in the Australian context.

This policy does not apply to membership of "professional associations" by employees of AGL.

### 3. Principles governing AGL membership of Industry Associations

#### 3.1 Value of membership

*Before making a decision to join or renew a membership, AGL will consider the full range of benefits available through membership.*

Benefits may include access to industry information and analysis, networking and relationship building opportunities, FTE and OPEX savings through leveraging the resources of the industry association and an additional avenue to prosecute policy and industry advocacy. There may also be opportunities for AGL to bring sector leadership, share knowledge and experiences, and promote best practice for our employees and the communities in which we operate.

#### 3.2 Policy alignment

*Before making a decision to join or renew a membership, AGL will investigate and assess the extent of alignment on core policy issues (such as climate change and market-based approaches to energy).*

When assessing the policy positions of an industry association, both the documented formal policies of the organisation as well as less formal messaging and representations that the industry association or its representatives will be considered. The Policy & Energy Regulation team, Corporate Affairs must be engaged to assist with the assessment of public policy alignment. Policy & Energy Regulation, Corporate Affairs will engage other internal areas as relevant.

Where possible, AGL will limit membership to those industry associations with which it is broadly aligned on core policy issues. However, AGL recognises that due to the nature of industry associations and their broad membership bases the policy positions and views expressed by an association will not always align with those of AGL. Membership may also provide important opportunities to understand and influence divergent views.

#### 3.3 Values compatibility



*Before making a decision to join or renew a membership, AGL will investigate and assess the compatibility of the industry association's values with those of AGL.*

Where a material incompatibility is identified, the potential to project AGL values and influence those of the association will be a factor in determining whether to proceed with membership.

### **3.4 Ongoing monitoring**

*AGL will actively monitor the policy positioning of those industry associations of which it is a member, particularly as this relates to climate change or other areas which intersect with AGL values.*

Monitoring will be undertaken by the industry association relationship owner at AGL, in conjunction with the Policy & Energy Regulation team, Corporate Affairs.

### **3.5 Engagement on areas of difference**

*Where a material divergence of approach and policy positioning materialises in respect of an industry association of which AGL is already a member, a process of constructive engagement to better understand areas of difference and promote greater alignment will precede any re-evaluation of membership.*

The CEO will be kept informed of relevant developments through the EGM of Corporate Affairs and approve any decision to continue membership following analysis of the areas of difference.

### **3.6 Disclosure**

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, each financial year AGL will publish on its website:

- the industry associations of which it was a member during any time in the relevant financial year, and the membership fees paid during the period;
- any areas where AGL's policy positions differs materially from the industry association's policy and advocacy; and
- whether the results of ongoing monitoring have led to engagement or a decision to cease membership.



#### 4. Approval process for AGL joining and renewing Industry Associations

Before proceeding with any new industry association membership or renewing an existing membership, the **EGM of the area which holds the budget and primary relationship for AGL's membership of the Industry Association** is required to sign off the list of proposed memberships on the recommendation from the **relevant GM**. Approval is then required from the CEO, on the joint recommendation from both the **EGM Corporate Affairs** and **EGM of the area which holds the budget and primary relationship for AGL's membership of the Industry Association**.

The joint recommendation should address, at a minimum:

- the rationale for joining (value to AGL);
- extent of alignment on core policy positions and values (including noteworthy areas of deviation);
- any areas of concern on alignment on core policy issues or values compatibility;
- cost of membership;
- proposed relationship owner within AGL;
- a plan for ongoing monitoring of the industry association's policy positioning in conjunction with the Policy & Energy Regulation team, Corporate Affairs; and
- proposed period for regular review of membership (which should be at least every 12 months).

#### 5. Membership Register

Corporate Affairs will maintain a current register of industry associations of which AGL is a member of, together with relevant review or renewal dates. Any decision to join, leave or not renew a membership must be notified to the Policy & Energy Regulation team, Corporate Affairs.

#### 6. Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

Please contact the Policy & Energy Regulation team, Corporate Affairs if you have any queries on any of the above.