



HC Coombs Policy Forum

National Energy Security Assessment Methods Advancement Project (NESAMAP) scoping workshop

Tuesday 10 May, 2011 9am - 4pm

Jean Martin Room, Level 3 Beryl Rawson Building #13, Ellery Crescent, ANU

The HC Coombs Policy Forum is organising a high-level scoping workshop which will launch a project aimed at supporting the methodological advancement of Australia's National Energy Security Assessment.

Background

The National Energy Security Assessment (NESA) aims to provide an integrated picture of Australia's energy security position. NESA was launched following an election commitment in 2007. The inaugural 2009 NESA focused on the supply of, and demand for, liquid fuels, natural gas and electricity both currently and in the short to long-term.

The tight timeline for preparing the 2009 version of NESA necessitated the use of readily available information and limited the scope for developing a formal methodology with associated metrics. An update of the 2009 NESA is currently underway and a qualitative approach continues to be the primary method of assessment for the 2011 NESA. It is now possible to enhance the utility of NESA in the longer term by considering opportunities to provide expert input into the methodology used to generate these conclusions.

The HC Coombs Policy Forum is a think tank funded by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and operates as a strategic partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian National University (ANU). The Forum seeks to further enhance the role of the ANU in providing policy-relevant advice to the Australian Government. In the energy domain the Forum works closely with the new Energy Change Institute (ECI) at the ANU. ECI draws together a wide range of researchers with expertise in different aspects of energy technologies and policy.

Project aims

The aim of the National Energy Security Assessment Methods Advancement Project (NESAMAP), funded by the HC Coombs Policy Forum and carried out in partnership with the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET), is to provide a source of ideas, information and an arena for informed debate to support the future evolution of NESA. In line with the HC Coombs Policy Forum's distinctive mission, this will be an exploratory project with sufficient flexibility and responsiveness to meet evolving government requirements.

NESAMAP will provide RET with:

- a peer review mechanism for providing informed feedback on the draft 2011 NESA;
- evidence of a commitment to the longer term development of energy security assessment measures via a partnership with stakeholders;
- access to technical expertise world-wide on metrics and methodologies for possible adoption in future versions of NESA;
- a mechanism for assessing the attractiveness and feasibility of adopting different methods (that is able to draw together expertise from academia, government, business and civil society);
- access to relevant insights from underpinning research, development and demonstration (RD&D) capability in different fields of energy;
- access to policy expertise able to relate technological and research policy issues to the use of risk-based assessment methods applied in the policy community, and;
- an additional mechanism for constructive policy engagement over energy security with Australia's region.

Project timeline, organisation and governance

It is anticipated that the initial phase of NESAMAP will run from 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012, with an initial intensive engagement in the first few months, and the option to continue the project should RET require this. The project will be organised to be flexible and responsive and will be governed by a Reference Group consisting of the Executive Director of the HC Coombs Policy Forum and (initially) nominated representatives from RET and DIISR. Representatives from other departments and agencies are eligible to join the Reference Group on request and at the discretion of RET and the ANU.

Purpose of the scoping workshop

The purpose of the scoping workshop is to kick-start the NESAMAP process by:

1. identifying desirable attributes for metrics to use in Australia that align with other nationally and trans-nationally used methods whilst also meeting Australian Government and stakeholder requirements;
2. considering current best practices worldwide in carrying out national energy security assessments;
3. on the basis of the above, developing a road map for future research, development and demonstration/testing of energy security assessment metrics of use to future NESAs, and;
4. prioritizing an initial phase of work on the NESA metrics advancement roadmap.

Prior reading

- 'National Energy Security Assessment', 2009, Department of Resources Energy and Tourism, Commonwealth of Australia. (The pdf was circulated to all invitees by Cindy Olsen, RET.)
- Cherp, A and Jewell, J. 'Measuring Energy Security', Chapter 17 in 'The Routledge Handbook of Energy Security', B.K. Sovacool (Ed), Routledge, London & New York, 2011.
**** Important note - please DO NOT forward or share this article** outside the invited participants to this workshop. If you are unable to attend the workshop, can we please request that you delete this article from computer.

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NESAMAP WORKSHOP AGENDA - TUESDAY 10 MAY, 2011

8.30 - 9.00 Arrival tea and coffee

9.00 - 9.15 Welcome and introduction – Mark Matthews

9.15 - 10.30 Session 1: What does success in advancing NESA methods look like?

Chair: Mark Matthews

Presentation and discussion starter: Background on NESA, the importance of energy security metrics and framing expectations from the workshop. Gino Grassia (RET)

An opening discussion aimed at clarifying RET's expectations as regards the evolution of NESA methods over the short, medium and longer term time horizons and balancing these expectations against those of other stakeholders. A particular emphasis to be placed upon learning from current international work in this area and, specifically, the need to integrate risk/resilience factors specific to different fuel types with more generic portfolio-type approaches aimed at summarizing the overall energy security position and its likely pattern of evolution.

10.30 - 10.45 Morning tea

10.45 - 12.15 Session 2: The current state-of-the-art – strengths, weaknesses & opportunities for improvement

Chair: Mark Matthews

Presentation: Insights from IEA work. Jessica Jewell (IEA)

Discussion starter: Stephen Norman (RET)

Draw upon International Energy Agency (IEA) work on energy security indicators in order to put together a clear picture of the current state-of-the-art as a baseline against which to relate the current NESA methods situation in Australia. Move on to discuss different practical methodological aspects of moving forward.

12.15 - 13.00 Buffet lunch

13.00 - 14.30 Session 3: Developing and prioritising a roadmap for advancing NESA methods

Chair: Mark Matthews

Discussion starter: Ken Baldwin (ECI/ANU) TBC

Discuss how best to develop and prioritise a roadmap for advancing NESA metrics that balances:

- fuel source specific risk factors against more holistic national assessment requirements;
- different time horizons – especially in regard to the way in which future technological advances may impact upon energy security.

14.30 - 15.00 Afternoon tea

15.00 to 16.00 Session 4: Lessons and next steps

Chair: Mark Matthews

An opportunity to consider progress made in the workshop, identify areas still requiring attention during the scoping phase and to discuss and agree next steps in the NESAMAP process. The agreed next steps to focus on near term (and on longer-term advances for use in subsequent NESA exercises. A particular emphasis to be placed upon ways of exploiting existing research of relevance to NESA – both within Australia and internationally.

Discussion starter: Gino Grassia (RET)

Thanks and workshop conclusion