

***Jaqui Lane, CEO and Publisher, Focus Publishing Interactive***

- Welcome Minister and guests to the official book launch of Powering Australia.
- Its been a terrific opportunity to work with Keith and the supporters of the book over the past year and its certainly an interesting time in the electricity sector in Australia. As the summary on the back of the book states; Electricity supply underpins Australia's economic and social activity.
- Powering Australia is Focus Publishing Interactive's first book on the Electricity sector and we plan to publish this yearly in order to provide a key resource to industry and government decision makers.
- Endorsed by AEEMA, the Energy Networks Association, National Generators Forum and the renewable energy generators, Powering Australia presents a wide ranging commentary on the electricity industry.
- Focus Publishing Interactive is Australia's leading corporate and business publisher. I co-founded the company 18 years ago and over that time we have published over 400 titles for leading companies, state and federal governments, and more recently in conjunction with governments from other nations.
- If you have a story to tell, we're the company that can help you tell it.
- Introduce Keith Orchison

***Keith Orchison, Managing Editor, Powering Australia***

- "Powering Australia" is aimed principally at policymakers and those who influence them
- It is a fact-based canvass of arguably Australia's most important industry
- To quote a Federal Government commentary on the industry, produced by a committee dealing with critical energy infrastructure, which I chaired between 2003 and last year: "electricity is fundamental to Australia's ability to maintain essential services, economic and industrial activity and the amenity and quality of life of its citizens"
- It is also focussed on the whole of the electricity supply chain -- from the fuel sources through generation, transmission, distribution and retail, from the customer perspective as well as the supplier, and onward to the very challenging innovations that must take place if our power supply is to continue to be reliable and cost-effective in a carbon-constrained economy

- With the commercial support of a wide spectrum of the industry, Focus Publishing looks forward to delivering the second yearbook in August
- Introduce the Minister
- Minister, may I formally present this copy of "Powering Australia 2007" to you and invite you to launch the publication

***The Hon Ian Macdonald, Minister***

- It is timely to introduce a book of this kind to the Australian energy scene
- Looking back, it is 120 years this year since the borough of Tamworth, here in New South Wales, became the first place in Australia to commence an electricity service
- Looking forward, on the basis of supply industry predictions, we are confronted by the need to meet a power demand in 2020 across Australia that will be more than 35 percent greater than it is today -- and more than 60 percent greater by 2030
- Servicing that the anticipated demand of 2030 will involve increasing national generation capacity, the industry estimates, from 45,000 megawatts today to around 75,000 MW
- The greater part of that increased demand will be located on the eastern seaboard in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland
- Meeting it will require, on today's capital costs, more than \$45 billion for generation and a similar sum for networks, a massive call on investors
- At the same time, governments will require greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supply to be substantially reduced -- making existing fossil fuelled power stations capable of contributing to this challenge will require many billions of dollars
- A critical part of this challenge will be to make all sectors of customers -- households, commercial operations, factories and very large industrial users -- considerably more energy efficient than they are now
- Good policymaking by governments will play a key role in ensuring we succeed in meeting this challenge; good communications by governments at all levels and by industry will be an essential element, too
- In that context, introduction of a high quality communications contribution like this "Powering Australia" yearbook is to be strongly welcomed; Focus Publishing is to be congratulated on its initiative and the many companies that have supported it -- which include five of the power enterprises owned by the NSW Government -- are to be congratulated on their foresight

- Readers of "Powering Australia" will find a wealth of information about the challenges I have outlined this evening and about the current efforts the industry is making to address them and to provide this critical service to all Australians.

***Keith Orchison***

- Thank Minister for launching "Powering Australia"
- As the first yearbook demonstrates, a critical element in the power supply chain is the network system linking generators to customers
- Our generated power is delivered through more than 852,000 circuit kilometres of high voltage transmission and low voltage distribution wires
- Focus Publishing has been delighted by the high level of support the networks industry has shown for the 2007 edition of "Powering Australia" -- with nine network service providers and the Energy Networks Association involved in supporting this first issue
- Among the leaders of this support has been Integral Energy, one of the NSW Government's network service businesses, and I would now like to welcome Integral Acting Chief Executive, Mr Daniel Lucas, to address us.

***Mr Daniel Lucas, Acting CEO, Integral Energy***

- As has been said this evening, "Powering Australia" yearbook is appearing at a time when the energy supply industry is facing tough challenges in Sydney, across Australia and around the world
- As a key part of the electricity chain, we need to rethink the way we plan, build and maintain networks both to service customer needs and to contribute to community concerns, not least about global warming
- Our largest customers need to use and spend less on energy to remain globally competitive and to reduce their environmental footprints as carbon constraints increase
- In the small and medium business sector, many thousands of firms are home-based and Internet-based; they require almost faultless standards of electricity supply
- In the residential sector, new lifestyle technologies are driving unprecedented household demand for safe, reliable and low-cost energy
- Integral Energy is on the front line of dealing with these challenges
- It delivers power to more than two million people across 24,500 square kilometres of Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, the Illawarra and the South Coast

- ❑ Some of Australia's fastest-growing suburbs in terms of population and power load are in this franchise area; at Rouse Hill, in Sydney's north-west, for example, a city the size of Canberra is planned to emerge between 2005 and 2030
- ❑ In some cases Integral is being called upon to build network systems from the ground up to service new areas -- the company expects to spend an average of \$135 million a year over the next quarter century on upgrading and expanding its network.
- ❑ Our outlay to meet the needs of the next decade will exceed \$2 billion to be spent on substations, power lines and other infrastructure
- ❑ Our planning has to meet not only the needs of the short and medium term; our network systems are expected to be still in operation in 30 and 40 years' time -- and this means that they have to be designed to deal with more extreme weather as a result of climate change
- ❑ In short, to our primary goals of delivering safe and reliable power to customers we must now also plan to do so in the most energy efficient and environmentally safe manner
- ❑ Many skills, not just engineering, come in to taking on this task -- one of them, as has already been emphasised this evening, is excellent communication with all Integral's stakeholders. We welcome and willingly support all opportunities to pursue good quality communication -- and therefore have been very pleased to be an inaugural sponsor of "Powering Australia" yearbook.

***Jaqui Lane***

- ❑ Thank the speakers for their contributions
- ❑ Thank the guests for coming along to participate in launching "Powering Australia"
- ❑ Particularly like to thank the Minister, Ian Macdonald, the Government of New South Wales and Integral Energy for their kind assistance in making this event possible. I'd also like to recognise the Focus team that made this book possible, our Editor Peter Hock and the designer, Marissa McGarry.
- ❑ Focus looks forward to bringing you the next edition of "Powering Australia" in August this year. My colleague Richard Hanney is here and would be more than happy to speak with you about the next edition

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