



# MEDIA RELEASE

## MARTIN FERGUSON

Minister for Resources and Energy  
Minister for Tourism

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### NEW PUBLICATION HELPS POWER ENERGY REFORM

The sixth volume of the *Powering Australia* publication will help to inform Australian energy policy during a period of significant reform.

Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP, will tonight help launch the latest energy sector overview at Old Parliament House in Canberra.

“The 2012 edition of *Powering Australia* once again provides well-rounded analysis to help government and industry address energy sector challenges and opportunities,” Minister Ferguson said.

“Some of the issues raised in the new volume cover investment certainty, retail price rises, carbon price policy and network regulation.

“Editor Keith Orchison has given Australian energy policymakers a valuable resource that will be particularly useful in progressing current energy market reforms.”

The Australian Government is working with the states and territories through the Standing Council on Energy and Resources (SCER) to improve system efficiency and price outcomes for consumers.

SCER will be considering the findings and recommendations of several reviews scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

“The reform agenda focuses on strengthening regulation, empowering customers, enhancing competition and innovation, and ensuring balanced network investment,” Minister Ferguson said.

“This will build on the work of the past decade, including the creation of the National Electricity Market and the introduction of national energy laws and market institutions.

“The reform agenda aims to address a range of complex factors that have seen household electricity bills rise by an average of 40 per cent in the past three years.

“These include the need to invest in new infrastructure to replace ageing assets, meet rising peak demand levels and satisfy a level of reliability the community has come to expect.

“Industry members can help by actively engaging in the policy and regulatory development process, and by demonstrating they are making decisions in the long-term interests of customers.”

**Media contact:** Elyse Gatt – 0407 198 136