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## ETSA Utilities releases major consultation paper

In "an unprecedented period of complexity, change and uncertainty for the energy sector" ETSA Utilities has released a major discussion paper on the future management of the State's electricity distribution network.

In releasing the paper – *The South Australian Distribution Network: Directions and Priorities* – ETSA Utilities CEO, Lew Owens, said it was an important step in preparing ETSA Utilities' submission to the Regulator for the 2010-2015 regulatory period.

"We recognise we manage an essential community asset. As we prepare our regulatory submission, there are a number of complex issues with a great deal of uncertainty impacting how we manage the South Australian electricity distribution network into the future.

"The consultation paper reviews the challenges, directions and priorities for managing the network in this period of complexity, change and uncertainty."

Mr Owens highlighted just some of the issues impacting decision making on investment in the network in 2010-2015 and beyond. They include:

- maintaining reliability performance, safety and security of the network
- catering for the changes and growth in the SA economy and in patterns of demand from residential and business users
- undertaking the long-term task of renewing South Australia's ageing network infrastructure – much of which was constructed in the 1950s and 1960s
- ensuring network assets are able to cope with increased weather-related stresses due to a changing climate
- accommodating generation alternatives such as solar and wind
- ensuring ETSA Utilities is able to compete for and retain skilled employees in a highly competitive job market and to equip them for the tasks ahead.

Copies of the paper are available on line at [www.etsautilities.com.au](http://www.etsautilities.com.au) or ([click here to view PDF](#))

Feedback should be provided by 26 September 2008.

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### **About ETSA Utilities**

ETSA Utilities is South Australia's electricity distributor, delivering energy from the transmission network through poles, wires, substations and transformers to about 800,000 customers. With more than 60 years experience, we are one of South Australia's largest organisations which employs about 1700 people throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia.

ETSA Utilities is 51 percent owned by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Hongkong Electric Holdings, which form part of the Cheung Kong Group of companies. The remaining 49 percent is owned by Spark Infrastructure. Spark Infrastructure began trading on the ASX in December 2005.