



Energy heavyweight joins Petratherm board

High-profile business executive Lewis Owens has joined the Petratherm board bringing a wealth of experience from the energy sector.

Mr Owens is well known nationally in his former roles as Chief Executive of ETSA Utilities and as South Australian Energy Regulator.

Petratherm Chairman Derek Carter said Mr Owens' extensive experience in the energy and regulatory sectors would provide a unique insight into the opportunities for geothermal energy in the national electricity market.

"In his most recent role as CEO of ETSA, Mr Owens was responsible for assets of \$3.6 billion and more than 1800 employees, delivering electricity to 810,000 customers across SA," Mr Carter said.

"He has extensive knowledge of the electricity market and the opportunities for renewable energy."

Mr Owens has 20 years' experience as a Chief Executive Officer in the public and private sectors. This includes Chairman of the Essential Services Commission of South Australia, responsible for regulating the SA electricity and gas industries, intra-state and Darwin railways, ports and urban water pricing.

He was also the CEO for WorkCover Corporation and Funds SA during the 1990s before returning to the energy industry for the past decade. Mr Owens was an associate Commissioner on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Energy Committee and was the South Australian Independent Industry Regulator for the state's electricity industry.

"Mr Owens has a long involvement in both regulatory and market elements of the energy industry, and longstanding experience in renewable and emission control technologies," Mr Carter said.

"In his role as Executive Officer to the Advisory Committee on Future Electricity Generation Options in the mid 1980s, he was one of the earliest to identify the potential role of wind and geothermal technologies to deliver renewable energy to South Australia."

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Mr Owens is also a Reconciliation Ambassador in South Australia, with a particular interest in indigenous employment initiatives. He was recently appointed as Special Advisor to the Minister on aboriginal initiatives in Port Augusta.

There is also a strong link with the arts and heritage; Mr Owens is currently Chair of the SA Country Arts Trust and a member of the SA Heritage Council.

He is Chair of the University of Adelaide Business School Advisory Board, a member of the Resources and Energy Sector Infrastructure Council and a member of the City of Marion Audit Committee.

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