

Ministerial Council on Energy

Energy Market Reform - Bulletin No. 168

Energy Bill Benchmarking – Consultation Regulation Impact Statement

This Bulletin announces the release of the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for a residential customer Energy Bill Benchmarking (EBB) initiative.

The Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) in its approval of Stage One of the National Framework on Energy Efficiency (NFEE) in 2004 included an objective to raise the awareness of consumers regarding the benefits of energy efficiency, to enable consumers to make better informed decisions about actions to reduce energy consumption and to motivate general consumers to implement energy saving actions.

The EBB proposal seeks to achieve this objective by filling the current information gap for residential energy customers. Most customers are unable to compare their energy consumption with other people and may have no ability to identify if they are a high energy user. Providing an energy benchmark is a method of filling this information gap and potentially encouraging consumers to implement energy efficiency improvements. The proposal seeks to implement a consistent approach across all jurisdictions so as to minimise cost and inefficiency.

The MCE established the following criteria to determine the case for a EBB:

1. Minimises implementation costs;
2. Provides meaningful benchmark data to the customer;
3. Achieves an efficient outcome that provides a net benefit to the community; and
4. Is simple to implement and understand for both energy retailers and customers.

The RIS has been developed following previous consultation in 2008 with the Energy Retailers Association of Australia and energy distributors and proposes regulation that would be significantly less prescriptive than was originally proposed.

Comment on the RIS is now sought from affected stakeholders and interested parties. Stakeholders are requested to focus on the individual questions contained in the text but other general comments will be considered in the development of the Decision RIS.

The RIS is available at <http://www.ret.gov.au/Documents/mce/energy-eff/nfee/committees/consumer/focus.html#focus1>

Submissions

- via email (preferred) to:
bill.benchmarking@cleanenergy.qld.gov.au
- via mail to: Anne Armstrong
Chair NFREE Consumer Information Implementation
Committee
Office of Clean Energy,
PO Box 15216, City East
Queensland 4002

Submissions should be received no later than 9 December 2009.

Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholders are invited to attend a public forum to discuss and provide feedback on the RIS.

MELBOURNE

Date: 17 November 2009

Time: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: Hilton, Melbourne Airport

If you would like to attend this forum, please register by email to bill.benchmarking@cleanenergy.qld.gov.au by COB 10 November 2009, to ensure that the venue can accommodate prospective attendees.

MCE Standing Committee of Officials

28 October 2009