

Ministerial Council on Energy

Energy Market Reform - Bulletin No. 162

Release of the Smart Meter Review of Customer Protection and Safety – Draft Policy Paper One and Final Consumer Impact Analysis

In December 2007, the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) committed to work with stakeholders and the appropriate jurisdictional authorities to review customer protection and safety arrangements and ensure they remain appropriate where smart meters are rolled out. Draft Policy Paper One is the first part of this review.

The draft policy paper discusses smart meter customer protection issues raised by stakeholders that relate to the National Energy Customer Framework (NECF), which was published by SCO as a First Exposure Draft on 30 April 2009 (see Bulletin 152 on the MCE website). The purpose of the draft policy paper is to provide stakeholders with an overview of the impact smart meters may have on the NECF in its current form and to encourage feedback on all or any of the issues.

It should be noted that the policy considerations in the draft policy paper are not settled by SCO and further stakeholder feedback is sought to guide a final policy position.

Stakeholder comments will be considered by SCO and a policy response to customer protection and safety issues associated with smart meters will be included in a final policy paper. Depending on stakeholder feedback and the timing of any required further work, any proposed additions or changes to the NECF to accommodate smart meter issues may be included in the Second Exposure Draft of the NECF.

Stakeholder comments should be confined to only those issues raised in the draft policy paper. Stakeholder feedback on broader issues related to the NECF should have been submitted to the separate consultation process for the NECF.

A stakeholder forum on this paper will be held to discuss the issues raised in the draft policy paper. A further bulletin will be released containing more information on this event.

Written submissions on the draft policy paper may be submitted electronically by close of business on 29 September 2009 to:

Manager, MCE Secretariat,
Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
GPO Box 1564
Canberra ACT 2601
MCETMarketReform@ret.gov.au

Submissions will be published on the MCE website. If you do not wish for your submission to be made publicly available please clearly state this in a covering email.

SCO also announces the release of the final Smart Meter Consumer Impact Analysis undertaken by Energy Market Consulting associates (EMCa) to inform elements of the customer protection and safety review. The final report includes additional analysis in response to stakeholder comments, which can be found in chapter seven of the report.

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
19 August 2009