

Ministerial Council on Energy

Energy Market Reform - Bulletin No. 165

Release of Draft Plan and consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on the harmonisation of energy supply industry technical and safety regulation

In November 2007, the Commonwealth Government committed to work with State and Territory Governments and the energy sector to improve the consistency of state-based regulations – such as occupational health and safety requirements – that apply to the energy sector.

At its 13 June 2008 meeting, the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) agreed to establish the Energy Technical and Safety Leaders Group (the Leaders Group) to develop the Energy Technical and Safety Regulation Harmonisation Enhancement Plan.

A discussion paper was released in February 2009, and corresponding stakeholder feedback was taken into account in developing this *Draft Energy Technical and Safety Harmonisation Enhancement Plan* (Draft Plan) and associated consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). This Draft Plan has not been considered by the MCE, and should not be taken to represent agreed MCE policy.

The Draft Plan has been developed consistent with Terms of Reference set by the MCE. In summary these are to:

- put in place best-practice regulation to ensure public and workers safety;
- facilitate greater labour mobility and swifter emergency response, especially in the context of skilled labour shortages;
- enable the efficient delivery of energy services;
- lower the compliance burden for multi-jurisdictional operators; and
- provide regulatory certainty and consistency across jurisdictions.

Taking these principles into account, the Draft Plan proposes recommendations and options for achieving a harmonised legislative framework within which State and Territory energy supply industry technical and safety regulation will operate.

The Leaders Group is seeking **written submissions** on the Draft Plan and/or consultation RIS, which are to be submitted to the MCE Secretariat by **close of business Friday 9 October 2009**.

Electronic submissions are preferred to the following address:

Email: MCETMarketReform@ret.gov.au

Those who wish to make a written submission may do so by submitting their document to the MCE Secretariat:

Manager, MCE Secretariat
Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
GPO Box 1564
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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.

This document is also available at www.mce.gov.au

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
7 September 2009