

Ministerial Council on Energy

Standing Committee of Officials Bulletin No. 157

Release of MCE Standing Committee of Officials Policy Response to submissions on the first exposure draft of amendments to the National Electricity Law (NEL) in relation to smart meters and release of the second exposure draft for consultation.

The Ministerial Council on Energy's (MCE) Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) today released the second exposure draft of proposed amendments to the NEL in relation to smart meters with the intention that these amendments be put to the South Australian parliament in September 2009. These amendments provide heads of power for jurisdictional energy ministers to mandate rollouts of smart meters and related pilots and trials. These proposed legislative changes will support the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) commitment to a staged national mandated roll-out of electricity smart meters to areas where benefits outweigh costs.

SCO has also released a policy response to submissions on the first exposure draft. The SCO Policy Response explains the changes made in drafting the second exposure draft.

To support the NEL amendments SCO has also released a draft rule and explanatory note. This draft initial rule will implement MCE's policy that a distribution network service provider who is obliged to roll out smart meters should have exclusivity over meter provision and responsibility for related metering data provision in respect of the customers covered by the mandate during the roll-out period. SCO intends that this rule be made by MCE as an initial rule, allowing it to be subject to further development by the AEMC to reflect advice to be received from the National Stakeholder Steering Committee on the architectural treatment of smart meters in the rules.

SCO anticipates holding a stakeholder forum on the proposed amendments on the morning of 21 July in Sydney. Further details will be advised in a later bulletin.

SCO is seeking **written submissions** on the exposure draft of proposed legislative amendments and the initial rule, which are to be submitted to the MCE Secretariat by **close of business on 6 August 2009**.

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

Electronic submissions are preferred to the following address:

Email: MCETMarketReform@ret.gov.au

Those who wish to make hard copy submissions may submit them to:
Manager, MCE Secretariat,
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources,
GPO Box 9839

Canberra ACT 2601

Ministerial Council on Energy Standing Committee of Officials, 9 July 2009