

Ministerial Council on Energy
Standing Committee of Officials Bulletin No. 178

Release for consultation of Costs and Benefits of Smart Metering in Off-Grid and Remote Areas

The Ministerial Council on Energy's (MCE) Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) today released the draft report on the *Costs and Benefits of Smart Metering in Off-Grid and Remote Areas*. This report complements the national cost benefit analysis (CBA) completed in 2008, which dealt solely with on-grid electricity use in the National Energy Market (NEM), South West Interconnected System (SWIS) in WA and the Darwin-Katherine network in the NT, by extending analysis to off-grid areas not considered in the national CBA.

The assessment is based on eight case studies considered to be broadly representative of off-grid communities – allowing the information to be transferable between off-grid communities across Australia with similar characteristics taking into account jurisdictional sensitivities, providing a basis for comparisons between on- and off-grid costs and benefits, and highlighting the costs and benefits of smart meters in different types of off-grid communities.

The report has not been endorsed by and does not represent a policy position of MCE, participating jurisdictions, SCO or any jurisdictional supporting officers.

SCO welcomes written submissions on the draft report *Costs and Benefits of Smart Metering in Off-Grid and Remote Areas*. Submissions may be submitted electronically by close of business on 14 July 2010 to:

MCETMarketReform@ret.gov.au

Posted hard copies may be addressed to:

Manager, MCE Secretariat,
Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism,
GPO Box 1556
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 stipulate this in a covering email.

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
3 June 2010