

Ministerial Council on Energy

Energy Market Reform - Bulletin No. 144

Stakeholder Forum on the Smart Meter Consumer Impact Analysis Report

Date: 3 March 2009

Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Venue: The Hilton, Melbourne Airport

In December 2007, the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) committed to work with stakeholders and the appropriate jurisdictional authorities, post the decision on the extent of a national roll-out in 2008, to review consumer protection and safety arrangements and ensure they remain appropriate for each jurisdiction.

To inform aspects of this review SCO engaged Energy Market Consulting Associates (EMCa) to analyse existing interval meter data to:

- investigate the ability of consumers to change their behaviour to counteract cost increases resulting from exposure to time-related pricing;
- assess whether there are any shared characteristics amongst those consumers with limited ability to respond to time-related pricing; and
- identify scenarios likely to exacerbate or create consumer hardship situations according to shared consumer characteristics.

EMCa is analysing existing interval data provided by EnergyAustralia and Integral Energy to investigate the risk of exacerbating hardship conditions. The analysis will also consider the characteristics of other jurisdictions, such as climate, peak demand and air conditioner penetration, to investigate whether any correlation and differences exist.

EMCa will present the findings of their draft report (scheduled for release in late February) at the forum and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to ask questions to learn more about the methodology behind the analysis.

Stakeholders will also be given an overview of the approach to SCO's broader review of consumer protection and safety regulation in light of smart meters.

If you would like to attend the forum, please register by email to MCETMarketReform@ret.gov.au by cob 25 February 2009, to ensure that the venue can accommodate prospective attendees.

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
9 February 2009