



Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc.

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Manager, MCE Secretariat
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources,
GPO Box 3839
Canberra ACT 2601

Submission to

Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) of the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) "National Electricity Law (NEL) Amendment Bill 2009" to Support the Accelerated Roll-out and Trials of Smart Meters

Dear Secretariat,

Ethnic Communities Council of NSW (ECC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedbacks toward the "National Electricity Law Amendment Bill 2009" proposed by the MCE SCO to facilitate and support the accelerated roll-out and trials of smart meters.

ECC considers the intended framework and proposed NEL changes an appropriate implementation of MCE's policy principles for accelerated smart meter roll-outs since National Electricity Rule changes in general will take about 6 to 12 months of public consultation process. This will delay the roll-out of smart meters.

In addition, ECC considers the NEL provisions an appropriate implementation of MCE's decision to develop a framework for prudent recovery of pilot costs.

The full benefits of the national roll-out of smart meters can only be realised through efficient TOU tariffs set by distributors, a retailer's ability to pass through the price signal and, most importantly, a customer's capacity to respond. However, customers need to have the knowledge and means in order to respond to the price signal, therefore, to reduce peak electrical demand within the particular time period, and/or in the specific network constraint area. Therefore, ECC suggests the AEMC Review Terms of Reference (TOR) should also take this into consideration.

If you have any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 9319 0288.

Sincerely yours,

Joyce Fu
Energy Program Coordinator
Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc.