

EMRC Submission

Cost Benefit Analysis of Smart Metering and Direct Load Control: Overview Report for Consultation.

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is a Regional Council that has been formed by six member Councils, namely the Town of Bassendean, the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont and Swan and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring, to undertake activities on behalf of the region. The EMRC and its member Councils have a strong interest in energy management, participating in the International Council for Local Government Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Program and are consortium members for the Perth Solar City Project, of which Smart Meters are an integral component.

The EMRC appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Cost Benefit Analysis of Smart Metering and Direct Load Control. The EMRC has considered these issues at officer level, in consultation with the member Council staff.

The EMRC supports the inclusion of functionality 16 –“the interface with home area network”. This degree of functionality allows the home owner/tenant to receive timely feedback on energy consumption and this is considered to be an essential tool to educate and encourage individuals to embrace energy efficiency measures and behaviours.

Given that one third of meters in Western Australia require replacing, it would be logical that the meters are replaced with technologies that facilitate the use of time of use tariffs and peak pricing, leading to demand side management and ultimately energy and financial savings. The EMRC supports the roll out of smart meters to replace existing inaccurate meters.

Smart meters in Western Australia are expected to deliver significant energy savings as a result of avoided meter costs and business efficiencies alone, expected demand response will further generate savings through avoided need for new infrastructure etc. Smart meters will allow accurate measurement of these energy savings. Monitoring and measurement of energy data via smart meter technology is an integral component of the Perth Solar City project. Additionally the project will allow for a large scale trial of the technology with robust, scientifically valid data as a result