

# SUBMISSION: Wholesale demand response mechanism

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The Tenants' Union of NSW is the peak non-government organisation representing the interests of tenants in New South Wales. We are a Community Legal Centre specialising in housing and tenancy law. We are the resourcing body for a state wide network of Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Services. Collectively these organisations assist more than 25,000 tenants each year.

As an organisation representing the interests of occupants of residential rental housing, and particularly people in residential rental housing facing vulnerability, we have a long standing interest in ensuring that the cost of housing remains affordable for all. We consider housing costs to include all costs necessary to make the premises habitable, and therefore include energy costs in that calculation.

We write in support of the rule change proposed by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Total Environment Centre and the Australia Institute. We have had opportunity to read their supporting documents. We believe the wholesale demand mechanism explored in more detail in the PIAC, TEC and TAI submission will have a positive impact on the cost of living for tenants in NSW and is the right mechanism to adopt to encourage greater use of demand response to lower the overall bills.

It will be necessary to ensure that both cost reductions at the wholesale level flow through to consumers, and that consumers are not placed at risk of harm by too- remote control of essential services or price pressures to forego the services. We agree with PIAC, TEC and TAI that these concerns can be alleviated by implementing consumer protections in to and taking seriously the need to reduce bills through other means, including network-wide cost savings achieved by greater use of wholesale demand responses.

For more information, please contact:

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