

26 April 2013

The Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
Sydney South NSW 1235

email: aemc@aemc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Consultation Paper: National Electricity Amendment (Access to NMI Standing Data) Rule 2013

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to this important consultation. Momentum Energy is a second tier retailer with current retail electricity licenses in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Momentum Energy is fully owned by Hydro Tasmania, one of the largest clean energy producers in Australia.

Momentum Energy supports the rule change as outlined by the AMEC in its consultation paper. While it does not consider that the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) interpretation of 7.7a of the National Electricity Rules (the Rules) is consistent with the intent of the Rules, Momentum Energy nevertheless believes the proposed rule change will remove any ambiguity. Momentum Energy believes the use of third parties to undertake sales on their behalf also represents a better experience for the customer in that the company acting for the retailer can look up their customer's actual network tariff as opposed to making estimation.

In providing access to third party agents Momentum Energy recognises the importance of companies having the necessary safeguard in place to protect both access to the system and the data within it. Momentum Energy also considers that any access provided to a third party must not be used for the purpose of prospecting for customers. Ultimately, Momentum Energy believes it is incumbent on the retailers to assure themselves that their agents are complying with the rules and are liable for any breaches under NECF or jurisdictional consumer protection schemes committed by them.

Momentum Energy has considered alternative approaches to the status quo, including the licensing of third parties, however it does not believe this is viable given the changes to the rules which would be required to introduce a new category of participant. As well as this it is likely to increase costs and not offer any greater customer protection than what currently exists today.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important consultation. Should you or your staff wish to discuss this matter further please feel free to give me a call on (03) 8612-6471.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Phillips
General Manager Regulatory and Compliance