

25 August 2015

Mr John Pierce
Chairman
Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
Sydney South NSW 1235

Lodged electronically: www.aemc.gov.au

Reference: ERC0175

Dear Mr Pierce,

RE: National Electricity Amendment (Aligning Network and Retail Tariff Structures for Small Customers) Rule 2015 Draft Rule Determination

The Energy Retailers Association of Australia (ERAA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments in response to the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) Consultation Paper (**the Consultation Paper**) on the COAG Energy Council's proposed rule change: Aligning Network and Retail Tariff Structures for Small Customers.

The ERAA represents the organisations providing electricity and gas to almost 10 million Australian households and businesses. Our member organisations are mostly privately owned, vary in size and operate in all areas within the National Electricity Market (NEM) and are the first point of contact for end use customers of both electricity and gas.

The ERAA supports the AEMC's determination not to make a draft rule in response to the COAG Energy Council's rule change request. The ERAA does not believe that a rule change should be made which would assist in facilitating government intervention in the market. Intervention in the market, including mandated standing offer and tariff structures by jurisdictions, would reduce competition between retailers and consequently lead to less choice for consumers. The ERAA believes open and competitive markets serve the best interests of consumers by encouraging retailers to develop products that meet consumer needs.

Should you wish to discuss the details of this submission, please contact me on (02) 8241 1800 and I will be happy to facilitate such discussions with my member companies.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Fraser
Interim CEO
Energy Retailers Association of Australia



The collective voice of
electricity and gas retailers