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ENA supports AER’s view on opportunities for fairer pricing

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) strongly supports the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) view that cost reflective pricing reforms can make electricity tariffs fairer for customers.

Responding to AER consultation on distribution network Tariff Structure Statements (TSS) in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory, the ENA endorsed the regulator’s view that “moving towards tariffs that take account of a customer’s use of electricity during peak times will make pricing for electricity fairer”.

ENA CEO, John Bradley, said implementing new network tariff structures was also important to improve Australia’s long-term energy productivity during a period of critical change.

“The tariff structures proposed by electricity networks were developed after extensive customer and stakeholder consultation,” Mr Bradley said.

“Customers who take up the new network pricing plans that are being offered will be rewarded for helping to reduce peak demand – a key driver of network investment,” Mr Bradley said.

“Customers would save money with simple changes like not using appliances all at once, and for other choices like participating in load control programs for pools and air-conditioning, smart orientation of solar panels, or new devices like battery storage.”

Mr Bradley said that, through consultation with their customers, network businesses had tailored their approach to managing the transition to more cost-reflective prices.

“Network businesses are implementing changes in a measured and consultative way, considering the ability of customers to receive and respond to new pricing,” Mr Bradley said.

Mr Bradley said the ENA has recently released a draft *Electricity Network Tariff Reform Handbook* for consultation highlighting international and local case studies in achieving fair and efficient pricing outcomes for customers.

The ENA’s response to the AER issues papers on distribution network TSS proposals can be downloaded at www.ena.asn.au/publications/submissions-and-letters

The draft Electricity Network Tariff Reform Handbook can be downloaded at www.ena.asn.au/electricity-network-tariff-reform

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The Energy Networks Association is the peak national body representing Australia’s electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks on economic, technical, environmental and safety regulation, and national energy policy issues. ENA members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia.

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