



## Metering coordinator planned interruptions

### Stakeholder submissions invited on new rule change request

#### Overview of the rule change request

The AEMC has commenced consultation on a rule change request submitted by the Chair of the Competitive Metering Industry Group (CMIG). The rule change request seeks to introduce metering coordinator planned interruptions for the purposes of installing, maintaining, repairing or replacing an electricity meter.

The rule proponent considers that customers in multiple-occupancies, or who otherwise share an isolation fuse with other customers, face delays in meter installations as their metering works could not commence without interrupting supply to another customer or customers.

#### Background

Currently, only retailers and distributors can arrange for planned interruptions. Distributors can arrange for planned interruptions for a number of reasons including planned maintenance, repairs to the electricity network and maintenance of metering equipment. Retailers can arrange a supply interruption only for the purposes of installing, maintaining, repairing or replacing a meter.

If the customer is in a multiple-occupancy, or otherwise shares an isolation fuse with another customer, the customer faces delays in metering installation as under the current rules the retailer is unable to interrupt the supply of the other customers. The retailer is required to enlist the distributor to arrange for a planned interruption so the metering work can be completed.

The AEMC's *Metering installations timeframes* final rule imposed obligations on retailers to install meters within specified timeframes, and provided more flexibility for both retailers and distributors in arranging for planned interruptions. In the final rule there were a small number of exceptions to the meter installation timeframes, including where the installation of a new meter cannot occur without interrupting the supply to another customer.

#### Issues for consideration

The rule change request raises a range of issues that are further explained in the consultation paper. Stakeholders are invited to comment on these issues, which include:

- the costs and benefits of allowing metering coordinators to arrange planned interruptions for any customers for the purposes of installing or replacing a meter
- whether there are any other options which would reduce the timeframes and costs of replacing or installing a customer's meter where there is shared supply services or shared isolation fuses
- how metering coordinator planned interruptions would interact with retailers, distributors and metering parties' existing obligations in the National Electricity Rules or National Energy Retail Rules
- whether there are additional considerations to be addressed such as changes to the level and detail of customer information that metering coordinators will require access to.

## Consultation process

The consultation paper and the rule change request are available on the AEMC's website. Stakeholders are invited to make submissions by **10 October 2019**.

For information contact:

Director, **Ed Chan** (02) 8296 7839

Senior Advisor, **Alisa Toomey** (02) 8296 0633

Media: Communication Director, Prudence Anderson 0404 821 935 or (02) 8296 7817

29 August 2019