



Delaying implementation of the AER Billing guideline

Overview of the AEC's rule change request

On 30 June 2022, the AEMC received a rule change request from the Australian Energy Council (AEC) seeking to amend Billing Contents and Billing Requirements rule change under Part 16 of Schedule 3 rule 1(2) of the National Energy Retail Rules (NERR). The AEC has proposed delaying the implementation of the corresponding AER Billing guideline by six-months to 30 September 2023 to reduce implementation costs.

Context

The Billing Contents and Billing Requirements rule change was made in 2020. It delegated responsibility to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to develop a mandatory Guideline that would contain requirements for retailers in issuing bills to small customers.

The initial rule change included transitional rules which required the AER to publish a final Billing guideline by 1 April 2022, to come into force on 4 August 2022. The AER was able to specify in the Billing guideline different commencement dates for different provisions, provided that all provisions in the first guideline commenced by 31 March 2023.

The AER has developed the guideline which retailers say will be costly to implement by 31 March 2023.

Issues for consultation

Stakeholders are invited to comment on whether the proposed delay would have a significant impact on the market.

Consultation process

Stakeholders are invited to make written submissions by **15 September 2022**.

The Commission is progressing this rule change on an expedited process on the grounds that it is non-controversial. One round of consultation will be conducted before publishing the final determination on **13 October 2022**, provided no valid objections are received.

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