



**Shane Rattenbury MLA**

Attorney-General  
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23/04738

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Dear Mr Thomas

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a stakeholder submission into the Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services. The ACT Government supports efforts to achieve a more efficient and effective deployment of smart meters, and supports the general principles encompassed in the Draft Report released on 3 November 2022.

The ACT Government announced its nation leading transition to an all-electric Canberra in August 2022. It is critically important, as we augment our electricity network to transition away from fossil fuel gas and internal combustion engines, that accurate network information is available for network management and network planning. This will allow higher levels of consumer energy resources to be installed. It is likely to be more cost effective for the Distributed Network Service Provider (DNSP) to access smart meter data than to install network monitoring devices.

At present, important safety information regarding neutral testing is not provided directly to DNSPs from smart metering service providers unless DNSPs request this information, noting that charges are not regulated for this service provision. Those states that are outside of the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) metering framework have established improvements to safety, with jurisdictional safety regulators reporting a significant reduction in shocks and tingles from the electricity network and proactive repair of neutral faults in both Victoria and Western Australia. The AEMC should require mandatory network safety data provision to DNSPs.

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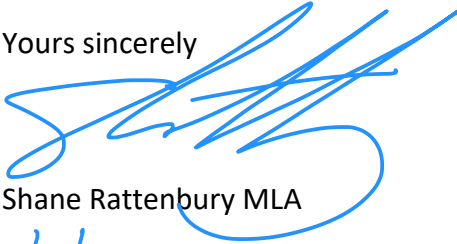
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The present high prices charged for meter data from a limited market of metering service providers (with advice that a single provider controls approximately 90% of the ACT market) prevents DNSP from cost effectively accessing information related to safety, customer communications, continuity of supply and power quality. Noting that customers are charged for smart meters, and that these smart meters collect this information on their behalf, this basic information should be provided at no charge, or a nominal cost recovery charge, to DNSPs. More advanced data, informing network planning and other services, should be subject to a regulated charge per NMI for additional data provision, allowing the Australian Energy Regulator to consider charges for accessing smart meter data in conjunction with proposed capital expenditure for network monitoring devices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback into the review. I look forward to working with the AEMC regarding the implementation of improvements to smart metering services. If you have questions regarding this submission please contact Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy Division via email: [Fiona.wright@act.gov.au](mailto:Fiona.wright@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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