Submission to AEMC in response to Draft Report - *The pricing review - Electricity pricing for a consumer-driven future*

I am writing to express concern at Recommendation 5 of the Draft Report. I request that the AEMC ***not*** proceed with any move toward predominantly fixed network charges.

Pricing should reflect how much power is consumed and the timing of when it is consumed. Price signals should provide a strong financial **incentive** to switch to energy efficient appliances, to take up household solar and batteries, and to produce or dispatch electricity from batteries during periods of high demand. Similarly, price signals should provide a strong **disincentive** against excessive power consumption, especially during periods of constrained supply. A shift towards a fixed cost model would dampen these important signals.

A predominantly fixed cost model is also regressive, in that it penalises lower income consumers (who own few energy-intensive appliances and thus have low energy consumption) while benefiting heavier consumers of electricity who tend to be better off.

Our household

I live in a multi-adult household sharing a freestanding suburban home in suburban Sydney. We purchased rooftop solar panels five years ago and a home battery at the end of 2023 and have since participated in two virtual power plants before switching to Amber. We are keen to support Australia's transition to a renewables-based economy, as we want to take effective action to help prevent the horrific impacts of climate change.

My experience is that the Amber app, with its display of current market information (price and % renewables in the grid) and its simple real-time alerts, enables my household to easily moderate and/or time-shift our use of appliances. It also helps our battery dispatch excess power to the grid when it is most needed. It gives us agency with minimal day-to-day effort.

Real-time buy/sell price signals are an important component of the Amber offering. The lower power bills that result from modifying our behaviour (and using our battery to support the grid when most needed) help us recover value from our investment in our solar/battery infrastructure.

Examples of our household electricity company bills over recent years are:

Year	Situation	Power bill total incl. GST
2019	No solar panels or battery, no aircon	[redacted]
2023	Solar panels but no battery or VPP; aircon	[redacted]
2025 - 2026	Solar, battery, VPP (7 months Mar- Sept)	[redacted]
	Solar, battery, Amber (5 months Oct- Feb)	[redacted]

Solar is one of the cheapest forms of energy in history, and expanding the uptake of solar plus batteries is a great way for households to help Australia become a renewable energy superpower and lessen our contribution to climate change. The AEMC recommendation pushes in the opposite direction; it weakens the household business case for investing in the technology needed for the clean energy transition.

I strongly encourage the AEMC not to progress any proposal involving a shift toward fixed network charges.

Thank you for considering this submission.