

I have only recently become aware of the Electricity Pricing Review and have had difficulty identifying exactly what is proposed and the likely impacts for consumers.

Pricing should ensure:

- Reliable, safe, efficient and affordable ongoing electricity provision to all households, businesses, premises and other infrastructure and services
- equitable pricing based on both provision and usage
- ongoing provision, maintenance and growth of infrastructure consistent with government and community expectations and sustainability objectives.

Electricity is an essential service and all people should have affordable, fair access and usage rates.

*I oppose the AEMC's proposal to shift network pricing toward predominantly fixed charges. Fixed charges do not encourage people to use less electricity and will only weaken incentives for efficient energy use.*

While everyone should contribute to ongoing infrastructure provision, overall charges should include a large component for usage. Those who use more of the products from the infrastructure (electricity) should contribute more to its provision in addition to paying for the electricity they use.

Perhaps like Council and Water rates and accounts, the provision component could be based on property values. This is a proxy for user capacity to pay.

Governments have been encouraging people to move away from gas and towards the use of solar and batteries and energy efficient appliances. People who have invested significant amounts of their own funds to tackle these environmental and policy objectives should not be disadvantaged by significant (and in this case, unexpected) pricing increases.

The pricing model should not charge people, directly or indirectly, for the power they generate for themselves. Households and other consumers should not be penalised for having installed the government-encouraged infrastructure to supply their own needs. They should pay for ongoing base level infrastructure provision in recognition of their ongoing ability to use the grid when they may need to. This could include variable feed in rates based on cost of generation at the feed in time and the need the grid has for power generated privately.

Pricing needs to be transparent and fair to all. Disadvantaged consumers should continue to receive assistance such as pensioner discounts.