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AEMC Pricing Review
submissions@aemc.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the AEMC's proposal to shift network pricing toward predominantly fixed charges. Fixed, unavoidable charges reduce consumers' ability to manage their bills, undermine equity, and weaken incentives for efficient energy use and investment in distributed energy resources.

For more than a decade, households have been encouraged — by governments, regulators and industry — to invest in rooftop solar and, more recently, home batteries. These households have done exactly what was asked of them:

- They invested thousands of dollars of their own money to reduce pressure on the grid.
- They cut peak demand, lowered wholesale prices and reduced the need for expensive network upgrades.
- They contributed to emissions reduction targets and improved system resilience.

Despite this, modelling shows that under the AEMC's proposal, these same households would face **significant bill increases**, while households considering solar and battery installation would see the financial benefits substantially reduced. This weakens investment signals and risks a sharp decline in uptake — at the very moment when distributed energy resources are supposed to support grid stability.

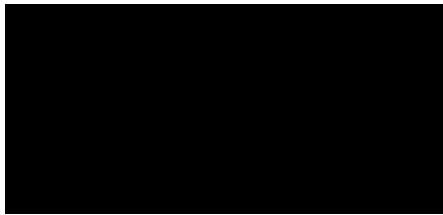
These concerns are amplified by broader system pressures. Australia has been retiring coal-fired power stations faster than firm, dispatchable replacements are being built. As a result, reliability margins have tightened, and the grid is increasingly dependent on intermittent generation that cannot always meet demand during low-renewable periods. In this context, households with solar and batteries have played a crucial stabilising role by reducing peak load and providing local resilience. Penalising them now is counterproductive.

Many Australians are also concerned about the pace of the transition toward net-zero targets, particularly when the supporting infrastructure — long-duration storage, firming capacity, transmission, and market design — is not yet in place. Introducing higher fixed charges during this period of uncertainty risks further eroding public confidence in the transition and unfairly shifting costs onto those who have already taken responsible action.

Predominantly fixed network charges are also regressive. Low-consumption and lower-income households — including renters, apartment dwellers and single-person households — would pay more regardless of their ability to reduce usage. This entrenches structural inequities rather than addressing them.

Given this is a self-initiated review, the AEMC should not progress such a fundamental change without publishing detailed bill-impact modelling, distributional analysis, and evidence of how consumers and retailers would respond to such a shift.

I urge the AEMC not to proceed with the proposal to introduce predominantly fixed network charges. Pricing structures must preserve consumer agency, protect equity, and maintain strong incentives for clean-energy investment — not penalise those who have already done the right thing, nor undermine confidence in the reliability and affordability of Australia's energy transition.



Copies:

Mr Andrew Wilcox MP, Member for Dawson - Andrew.Willcox.MP@aph.gov.au
Hon Matthew Canavan, Senator for Queensland - senator.canavan@aph.gov.au
Senator Malcolm Roberts, Senator for Queensland - senator.roberts@aph.gov.au
Senator Pauline Hanson, Senator for Queensland - senator.hanson@aph.gov.au