ELECTRICITY RETAIL LICENCE

ENERGY AUSTRALIA
ABN 67 505 337 385

As varied on
14 January 2005
ELECTRICITY RETAIL LICENCE

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1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this licence, words and phrases appearing like this have the meaning given to them in part 1 of schedule 1.

1.2 This licence must be interpreted in accordance with the rules set out in part 2 of schedule 1.

2. GRANT OF LICENCE

2.1 Subject to:

(a) the conditions set out in this licence; and

(b) any prohibition on the Licensee from selling electricity to persons or classes of persons specified by any order in force under section 23 of the Act and deemed by that section to be included in a condition of this licence,

the Licensee is authorised to sell electricity.

2.2 Under this licence, the Licensee may not sell electricity through the wholesale electricity market.

3. TERM

3.1 This licence first had effect on 3 October 1994 and has been varied on the dates set out in schedule 2.

3.2 The Commission may revoke this licence in accordance with clauses 3.3 or 3.4.

3.3 The Commission may at any time agree with the Licensee that this licence should be revoked, in which case the term of this licence ends on the day agreed.

3.4 The Commission may at any time give notice of revocation in accordance with clauses 3.5 and 3.6 to the Licensee if:

(a) the Licensee does not comply with an enforcement order or an undertaking; and

(b) the Commission is satisfied that revocation of this licence is necessary having regard to the objectives,

in which case, subject to clause 3.7, the term of this licence ends on the expiration of the period of the notice.

3.5 If the enforcement order or undertaking relates to:

(a) a breach of clause 4 or 5.1; or
(b) a breach of this licence which in the Commission’s opinion is causing serious and immediate detriment to customers,

the Commission must give at least 5 business days notice of revocation to the Licensee under clause 3.4.

3.6 If clause 3.5 does not apply, the Commission must give at least 20 business days notice of revocation to the Licensee under clause 3.4.

3.7 The term of this licence does not end at the expiration of the period of a notice of revocation given under clause 3.4 if, before the expiration, the Licensee complies with the enforcement order or the undertaking (as the case may be).

4. ELECTRICITY PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 The Licensee must have in place agreements or arrangements for the purchase of electricity through the wholesale electricity market or otherwise, and any necessary related authorisations, as are required if the Licensee is to be able to perform its obligations under contracts for the sale of electricity with customers.

4.2 The Licensee is deemed to comply with clause 4.1 if it is registered with NEMMCO as a ‘Customer’ under the National Electricity Code.

5. ENERGY ONLY CONTRACTS AND CUSTOMERS IN EMBEDDED NETWORKS

5.1 The Licensee must not enter into a contract for the sale of electricity with a relevant customer unless the contract also provides for the provision or procurement by the Licensee of distribution services.

5.2 Clause 5.1 does not apply if:

(a) the relevant customer has informed the Licensee that the relevant customer has entered into an agreement with a licensed distributor for the provision of distribution services; or

(b) the relevant customer takes an intermediary distribution or supply of electricity (as defined in the General Exemption Order) from a distributor exempt from the requirement to hold a distribution licence under the General Exemption Order.

6. USE OF SYSTEM AGREEMENTS

6.1 Subject to clause 6.4, the Licensee must have a use of system agreement with each distributor in respect of whose distribution area the supply point of any customer of the Licensee is located. Each use of system agreement must be in writing.

6.2 If a distributor offers the Licensee a new form of default use of system agreement under clause 4.8 of its distribution licence, the Licensee must not unreasonably refuse to accept such an offer.
6.3 Any question as to whether a use of system agreement unreasonably discriminates, or has the effect of creating unreasonable discrimination, between retailers or between customers of any retailer, or whether a refusal to accept an offer of a new default use of system agreement is unreasonable, is to be decided by the Commission on the basis of the Commission’s opinion on the matter.1

6.4 If the Licensee is also a distributor, clause 6.1 does not require the Licensee to have a use of system agreement with itself. The Licensee instead must act on the notional basis that the Licensee’s retail business has and must comply with a use of system agreement with the Licensee’s distribution business. That notional use of system agreement must be in writing.

6.5 Clause 6.1 does not apply to the Licensee in respect of a distributor until 60 business days after the date on which the Commission first approved a default use of system agreement submitted to the Commission by the relevant distributor under its distribution licence.

7. CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

7.1 The Licensee must not enter into a contract for the sale of electricity with a relevant customer unless the terms and conditions of the contract expressly deal with each matter which is the subject of a term or condition of the Energy Retail Code. If a term or condition of the Energy Retail Code is incorporated by reference into the contract, it is taken to be expressly dealt with.

7.2 The Licensee must not enter into any contract for the sale of electricity with any domestic or small business customer at a tariff which is different from a tariff offered by the Licensee in accordance with its obligation under clause 8.1 unless the terms and conditions of the contract are materially different to the terms and conditions offered with that tariff.

7.3 Each term or condition of the Energy Retail Code is a term or condition with which a contract for the sale of electricity to a relevant customer must not be inconsistent.2

7.4 The Licensee must comply with the terms and conditions of any contract for the sale of electricity with a relevant customer.

8. OBLIGATION TO OFFER TO SELL

8.1 The Licensee must offer to supply and sell electricity to any domestic or small business customer in relation to the Licensee:

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1 This provision may be amended if the Commission approves and publishes in final form its new Electricity Ring-Fencing Guideline, so that the discrimination terminology in this provision is more consistent with the terminology in that guideline.

2 For the purposes of section 36(1)(b) of the Act.
(a) at tariffs determined by the Licensee and published by the Licensee in the Government Gazette at least 2 months before they take effect; and

(b) on terms and conditions determined by the Licensee and approved by the Commission and published by the Licensee in the Government Gazette at least 2 months before they take effect.

8.2 The obligation of the Licensee under clause 8.1 does not apply to the extent nominated by the Commission in any communication given to the Licensee.

8.3 An offer in accordance with clause 8.1 must be made to a domestic or small business customer by the Licensee within ten business days after a request from the customer.

8.4 If a domestic or small business customer accepts an offer made by the Licensee in accordance with clause 8.1, the Licensee must comply with the resulting contract.

8.5 This clause 8 applies subject to section 35 of the Act and to any order in force under section 13 of the Act.

9. INFORMATION TO CUSTOMERS

9.1 The Licensee must include at least the following information in a bill issued to the customer for the supply or sale of electricity:

(a) the National Meter Identifier (NMI) assigned to the customer’s metering installation and the NMI checksum or, if there is no assigned NMI, the meter number or another unique identifying mark assigned to the metering installation;

(b) the relevant tariff or tariffs applicable to the customer;

(c) if the Licensee directly passes through network charges to the customer, the separate amount of the network charge; and

(d) information concerning greenhouse gas emissions connected with the generation of electricity supplied to the customer or the generation of electricity in general.

9.2 If a variation is made to the tariff or to terms or conditions of a contract and unless notice of the variation has been previously provided to a customer, the Licensee must include with the customer’s next bill, or otherwise as soon as practicable, a statement setting out details of the variation.

9.3 Unless clause 12 applies, the Licensee must give notice to a customer who is party to a deemed contract with the Licensee on or as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the deemed contract which:

(a) informs the customer that there is deemed to be a contract between the customer and the Licensee for the supply and sale of electricity;

(b) sets out the tariff and summarises other terms and conditions under the deemed contract;
(c) describes the methods by which the *deemed contract* may be terminated and related terms and conditions; and

(d) outlines the options available to the *customer*.

9.4 Where the Act or this licence requires or has required the *Licensee* to publish the *Licensee’s* tariffs in the Government Gazette, the *Licensee* must also publish on the same day or as soon as practicable in a newspaper circulating generally in Victoria:

(a) the tariffs; and

(b) a statement that the *Licensee’s* related terms and conditions are available on request and free of charge in English and, if the *Licensee* has a significant number of *customers* from the same non-English speaking background, in such other languages as are agreed with the *Commission* (and the terms and conditions must actually be available in those languages).

9.5 If the contract between a *customer* and a *retailer* is a fixed term contract, prior to the expiry of the fixed term the *retailer* must notify the *customer*:

(a) that the contract is due to expire;

(b) when the expiry will occur;

(c) the tariff and terms and conditions that will apply to the *customer* beyond the expiry of the contract if the *customer* does not exercise any other option, which the *retailer* may determine at its discretion; and

(d) what other options are available to the *customer*.

The information must be given no sooner than two months before, and no later than one month before, the expiration of the fixed term (unless the fixed term is less than one month in which case the information must be given to the *customer* at the commencement of the term).

9.6 Where the *Licensee* has financial responsibility in the *wholesale electricity market* for a NMI relating to premises which it knows to be vacant, the *Licensee* must, if it elects to leave the premises energised, deliver to the premises an information package relating to offers of retail contracts which are available.

10. PAYMENT METHODS

10.1 The *Licensee* must not implement a pre-payment meter scheme without the prior approval of the *Commission*.

10.2 The *Licensee* must notify the *Commission* at least 20 *business days* prior to the termination of an arrangement with any agency or payment outlet through which *customers* of the *Licensee* may pay bills.
11. COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATION AGREEMENTS

If so directed by the Secretary to the Department of Human Services, the Licensee must enter into an agreement with the State for the provision of community services on terms and conditions determined or agreed in accordance with section 47 of the Act.

12. RETAILER OF LAST RESORT

12.1 On or before a date to be nominated by the Commission in a communication given to the Licensee, the Licensee must submit to the Commission proposed tariffs, terms and conditions upon which the Licensee would sell electricity in accordance with the requirement under clause 12.2.

12.2 Subject to clause 12.3, the Licensee must sell electricity to a customer at tariffs and on terms and conditions approved or determined by the Commission under section 27 of the Act.

12.3 Despite clause 7.1, in approving proposed terms and conditions under clause 12.2 the Commission may approve terms and conditions which do not deal with the subject matter of all of the provisions of the Energy Retail Code.

12.4 The requirement under clause 12.2:

(a) applies only if the Licensee is so directed by the Commission in a communication given to the Licensee; and

(b) imposes an obligation on the Licensee to sell electricity to a customer which:

(1) commences when a last resort event occurs in respect of the customer’s other retailer; and

(2) ends:

(A) after three months;

(B) when the customer advises the Licensee in writing that the sale is no longer required;

(C) when the customer transfers to another retailer; or

(D) when the customer enters into a new contract for the sale of electricity with the Licensee,

whichever occurs first.

12.5 As soon as practicable after being notified by the Commission or otherwise becoming aware of its obligation to a customer under clause 12.2, the Licensee must give the customer notice in writing:

(a) that a last resort event has occurred in respect of the other retailer;
that, as a result, the *Licensee* and the *customer* are deemed to have entered into a contract for the sale of electricity under section 27 of the *Act*;

(c) of the date the *deemed contract* commenced;

(d) of the tariff and the terms and conditions of the *deemed contract*;

(e) that the *customer’s* meter has been or will be read, or an estimate will be made, as at the date the *deemed contract* commenced so that it can be established what amount of electricity has been sold to the *customer* by the *other retailer* prior to the occurrence of the *last resort event* and what amount of electricity has been and will be sold to the *customer* by the *Licensee* after the occurrence of the *last resort event*;

(f) of that meter reading or estimated meter reading. Notice of the meter reading or estimated meter reading may be given after notice of the other matters contemplated by this clause 12.5 is required to be given;

(g) whether any debt owed by the *customer* to the *other retailer* or by the *other retailer* to the *customer*, as the case may be, will continue to be so owed and, if it will not, to whom and by whom it will be owed;

(h) of alternatives available for the *customer* to arrange a transfer to another *retailer* or to obtain any different tariff, or different terms and conditions, from the *Licensee* including that the *customer* may advise the *Licensee* in writing that the sale of electricity by the *Licensee* is no longer required; and

(i) of how and where to obtain further information.

12.6 If the *Licensee* must publish notice of tariffs, terms and conditions in the Government Gazette under section 27(8) of the *Act*, the *Licensee* must do so as soon as practicable after the *Commission* approves the tariffs, terms and conditions.

13. **CO-OPERATION WITH VENCORP**

13.1 As soon as practicable after any request made by *VENCorp*, the *Licensee* must supply such information to *VENCorp* as *VENCorp* may reasonably require to perform its functions and exercise its powers under the *Act*.

13.2 A question as to the reasonableness of a requirement by *VENCorp* for information as contemplated by clause 13.1 is to be decided by the *Commission* on the basis of the *Commission’s* opinion of the reasonableness of the requirement.

14. **COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS, CODES AND GUIDELINES**

14.1 As well as complying with this licence, the *Licensee* must comply with all applicable provisions of:

(a) any *order*;
(b) the following codes:

(1) the *Electricity Distribution Code*;

(2) the *Electricity System Code*;

(3) the *Electricity Customer Metering Code*;

(4) the *Electricity Customer Transfer Code*;

(c) any *guideline*, if the *guideline* itself requires the *Licensee* to comply or the *Commission* has informed the *Licensee* that compliance is required by way of a *communication* given to the *Licensee* by the *Commission*;

(d) a code dealing with *retailers’* marketing conduct which has been developed by *retailers*, to the extent required by the *Commission* (after consultation with the *Licensee*) in a *communication* identifying the code or *guideline*; and

(e) if after consultation with *retailers* and representatives of *customers* there is no identified code to which paragraph (d) refers, a code or *guideline* dealing with *retailers’* marketing conduct issued by the *Commission* after further consultation with the *Licensee* and representatives of *customers* and identified in a *communication* given by the *Commission* to the *Licensee*.

14.2 The *Licensee* must monitor its compliance with this licence and any *order*, code or *guideline* it is required to comply with under clause 14.1.

14.3 If the *Licensee* becomes aware of a material breach of this licence or any *order*, code or *guideline* by the *Licensee*, the *Licensee* must notify the *Commission* of the material breach as soon as practicable.

15. REGULATORY AUDITS

15.1 Upon request by the *Commission*, the *Licensee* must appoint an independent auditor to conduct audits of:

(a) its compliance with obligations under this licence, including obligations to comply with codes and *guidelines*; and

(b) the reliability and quality of information reported by the *Licensee* to the *Commission*, and the consistency of that information with the *Commission’s* specifications.

15.2 The *Licensee* must comply, and must require the *Licensee’s* auditor to comply, with relevant aspects of any *guideline* dealing with audits under this clause 15, including any minimum requirements relating to the appointment of the auditor, the terms and conditions of the appointment of the auditor, the scope of the audit, the conduct of the audit and the reporting of the results of the audit.
16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

16.1 The Licensee must submit to the Commission for its approval, and if approved implement, a scheme for the fair, reasonable and effective investigation and resolution of disputes between it and:

(a) a customer about the Licensee’s services, billing and charging; and

(b) aggrieved persons about the manner in which the Licensee conducts its business under this licence generally.

16.2 Unless it has been notified by the Commission that it need not comply with this clause 16.2, the Licensee must comply with clause 16.1 by submitting to the Commission for its approval an ombudsman scheme and implementing any such scheme that the Commission has approved.

16.3 An ombudsman scheme that is implemented by the Licensee to comply with clause 16.2 must contain and comply with terms and conditions that:

(a) bind the Licensee to participate in the scheme and comply with its rules (as amended from time to time) from the date on which it is approved by the Commission;

(b) provide the Licensee’s customers and aggrieved persons with ready and equal access to the scheme;

(c) subject to clause 16.3(d), present no cost barriers to customers;

(d) do not permit fees to be charged to, or costs to be awarded against, residential and small business customers;

(e) provide that the scheme be governed by a board consisting of an independent chairperson and equal numbers of customer representatives appointed by the Commission and representatives appointed by the members of the scheme;

(f) in accordance with a process approved by the Commission, provide for those members of the scheme and customer representatives that are members of the board to appoint the chairperson after consultation with the Commission;

(g) provide for the board to appoint the ombudsman;

(h) require the board to inform the Commission of any proposed amendments of the scheme;

(i) confer on the ombudsman the power to make rulings with which the Licensee is required to comply;

(j) provide that, if the scheme prevents a ruling of the ombudsman from exceeding in value a maximum amount, that amount must be no less than $20,000 in respect of a complaint from an individual customer;
(k) confer on the ombudsman the power to impose sanctions on the Licensee for a breach of a ruling;

(l) require the ombudsman to follow fair and efficient procedures, and make decisions that are fair and reasonable having regard to the law, the licences, industry codes, deemed contracts, and good industry practice;

(m) enable the Commission to refer complaints in relation to the conduct of the participating Licensee’s business conducted under this licence to the ombudsman;

(n) require the Licensee to bear a fair proportion of the cost of the development, establishment and operation of the ombudsman scheme;

(o) enable a question as to the fairness of the proportion of the costs which must be borne by a Licensee to be decided by the Commission on the basis of the Commission’s opinion of the fairness of the proportion;

(p) require the ombudsman to report to the Commission as and when required by the Commission on the operation of the scheme in relation to the industry of which the Licensee is part;

(q) require the ombudsman to publish its decisions and annual reports on the operation of the scheme and the performance of each member of the scheme in relation to the industry of which the Licensee is part;

(r) require the board to conduct periodic and comprehensive reviews of the performance of the scheme in consultation with members, customer representatives, the Commission and other interested parties; and

(s) provide for the Licensee to withdraw from the scheme subject to:

(i) the Commission notifying the Licensee that it need not comply with clause 16.2;

(ii) the Licensee providing to the Commission 12 months’ notice in writing of the Licensee’s intention to withdraw; and

(iii) the Licensee satisfying the Commission that the Licensee complies with clause 16.1.

17. SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

The Licensee must ensure that separate accounts are prepared for its retail business.

18. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION

The Licensee must provide to the Commission, in the manner and form decided by the Commission, such information as the Commission may from time to time require.
19. PAYMENT OF LICENCE FEES

19.1 The Licensee must pay as directed by the Commission a licence fee determined in accordance with section 22 of the Act.

19.2 Insofar as a fee or charge determined by the Minister under section 22 of the Act in respect of this licence is an annual fee or charge, it must be paid in either four equal instalments on the last days of September, December, March and June in each year or paid in one payment on or before the last day of September in each year and in the manner notified to the Licensee by the Commission.

19.3 The Licensee must pay as directed by the Commission such other fees and charges in respect of this licence as are determined by the Minister in accordance with section 22 of the Act.

20. ADMINISTRATOR

20.1 If an administrator is appointed to the Licensee's business under section 34 of the Act, the administrator must exercise its functions and powers in such a manner as may be specified by the Commission in the instrument of appointment.

20.2 The Licensee is responsible for the acts and defaults of the administrator.

21. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The Licensee must comply with all applicable laws.

22. VARIATION

This licence may be varied in accordance with section 29 of the Act.

23. TRANSFER OF LICENCE

This licence may be transferred in accordance with section 31 of the Act.

24. COMMUNICATIONS

24.1 A communication must be in writing.

24.2 A communication is to be regarded as having been given by the sender and received by the addressee:

(a) when delivered in person to the addressee;

(b) 3 business days after the date of posting, if the communication is posted within Australia;

(c) 7 business days after the date of posting, if the communication is posted outside Australia;
(d) when, according to the sender’s transmission report, received by facsimile transmission by the addressee; or

(e) when it is an electronic communication, in accordance with the Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000.

THE COMMON SEAL of
THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES
COMMISSION
was affixed pursuant to the
authority of the Commission
on 14 January 2005

JOHN C. TAMBLYN
Chairperson
SCHEDULE 1
DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1. DEFINITIONS

In this licence:

*Act* means the *Electricity Industry Act* 2000.

*administrator* means an administrator appointed by the *Commission* under section 34 of the *Act* in respect of the *Licensee's retail business*.

*authorisation* means an authorisation, licence, registration, consent, declaration, exemption or waiver.

*business day* means a day other than a Saturday or Sunday or a public holiday appointed under the *Public Holidays Act* 1993.


*communication* means a notice, agreement, consent, direction, representation, advice, statement or other communication required or given pursuant to or in connection with this licence.

*customer*, unless the context otherwise permits or requires, means a person who buys or may want to buy electricity from a *retailer* and includes other *retailers*.

*deemed contract* means a contract for the supply or sale of electricity deemed by the *Act* to have been entered into or to otherwise be in place between a *retailer* and *customer*.

*default use of system agreement* means the most recent form of agreement submitted to the *Commission* by a *distributor* under clause 4.1 of its *distribution licence* and approved by the *Commission*, as amended (if at all) at the direction of the *Commission* under clause 4.7 of that licence.

*distribution area* in relation to a *distributor* who holds a *distribution licence*, means the area in which the *distributor* may distribute or supply electricity under the *distribution licence*.

*distribution business* means a business carried on by a *distributor* under a *distribution licence* or exemption granted under the *Act*.

*distribution licence* means a licence to distribute or supply electricity granted under the *Act*. 

distribution services means the transportation and delivery of electricity through a distribution system and any other service which a distributor includes in its network tariff.

distribution system in relation to a distributor, means a system of electric lines (generally at nominal voltage levels of 66 kV or below) which the distributor uses to distribute or supply electricity.

distributor means a person who holds, or is exempt from holding, a distribution licence.

domestic or small business customer in relation to the Licensee and a supply of electricity from a supply point, has the same meaning as in any relevant order.

Electricity Customer Metering Code means the code of that name certified by the Commission.

Electricity Customer Transfer Code means the code of that name certified by the Commission.

Electricity Distribution Code means the code of that name certified by the Commission.

Energy Retail Code means the code setting out terms and conditions relevant to contracts for the supply or sale of electricity determined by the Commission under the Act.

Electricity System Code means the code of that name certified by the Commission.

enforcement order means a provisional or final order made and served by the Commission under section 53 of the Essential Services Commission Act 2001.

explicit informed consent has the meaning given to that term by any applicable guideline.

General Exemption Order means the exemption order made under section 17 of the Act coming into effect on 1 May 2002.

guideline means a guideline published by the Commission.

last resort event in respect of a retailer, means:

(a) the retailer’s retail licence is suspended or revoked; or

(b) the right of the retailer to acquire electricity from the wholesale electricity market is suspended or terminated, whichever first occurs.

Licensee means Energy Australia ABN 67 505 337 385
**Minister** means the person who is the Minister for the purposes of the relevant section of the *Act*.

**National Electricity Code** means the Code approved in accordance with section 6(1) of the National Electricity (Victoria) Law applicable in Victoria as a result of the operation of section 6 of the *National Electricity (Victoria) Act* 1997.

**NEMMCO** means National Electricity Market Management Company Limited ACN 072 010 327.

**NMI** means a national metering identifier.

**NMI standing data** means each of the following in respect of a **NMI**:

(a) the **NMI** checksum;

(b) the transmission node identifier;

(c) the distribution loss factor; and

(d) the *distributor’s* network tariff.

(e) the **NMI** classification;

(f) the read cycle date or date of next scheduled meter read (if applicable);

(g) the characteristic of a parent or a child in an embedded network (if applicable); and

(h) the responsible *distributor*.

**objectives** means the objectives specified in section 10 of the *Act* and section 8 of the *Essential Services Commission Act* 2001.

**other retailer** in respect of a **customer** and a **last resort event**, means the **retailer** which, immediately prior to the occurrence of the **last resort event** in respect of the **retailer**, sold electricity to the **customer**.

**order** means an Order in Council made or in force under the *Act*.

**relevant customer**, in relation to a supply of electricity from a **supply point**, has the same meaning as in any relevant **order**.

**retail business** means the business that a **retailer** carries on under its **retail licence** or exemption granted under the *Act*.

**retail licence** means a licence to sell electricity granted under the *Act*.

**retailer** means a person who holds, or is exempt from holding, a **retail licence**.
**supply point** in relation to the supply of electricity to a person, means the point at which that supply of electricity last leaves a supply facility owned or operated by a **distributor** before being supplied to the person, whether or not the electricity passes through facilities owned or operated by any other person after leaving that point before being so supplied.

**undertaking** means an undertaking given by the Licensee under section 53(5)(a) of the Essential Services Commission Act 2001.

**use of system agreement** means an agreement between a **retailer** (or other person who has made an application for a **retail licence**) and a **distributor** which is necessary to ensure that, subject to the **Act**, electricity is distributed or supplied by means of the **distributor’s distribution system** to the extent necessary to enable the **retailer** (or other person) to sell electricity to its **customers**.


**wholesale electricity market** means the market for wholesale trading in electricity operated by **NEMMCO** under the National Electricity Code.

**writing** includes any mode of representing or reproducing words, figures, drawings or symbols in a visible form.

### 2. INTERPRETATION

In this licence, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) headings, footnotes and schedule 2 are each for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this licence;

(b) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;

(c) words importing a gender include any gender;

(d) an expression importing a natural person includes any company, partnership, trust, joint venture, association, corporation or other body corporate and any governmental agency;

(e) a reference to a condition, clause, schedule or part is to a condition, clause, schedule or part of this licence;

(f) a reference to terms of an offer or agreement is to all terms, conditions and provisions of the offer or agreement;
(g) a reference to any statute including the Act and regulation, proclamation, Order in Council, ordinance or by-law includes all statutes, regulations, proclamations, Orders in Council, ordinances or by-laws varying, consolidating, re-enacting, extending or replacing them and a reference to a statute includes all regulations, proclamations, Orders in Council, ordinances, by-laws and determinations issued under that statute;

(h) a reference to a document or a provision of a document includes an amendment or supplement to, or replacement or novation of, that document or that provision of that document;

(i) a reference to a person includes that person’s executors, administrators, successors, substitutes (including, without limitation, persons taking by novation) and permitted assigns;

(j) other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this licence have a corresponding meaning;

(k) a period of time:

(i) which dates from a given day or the day of an act or event is to be calculated exclusive of that day; or

(ii) which commences on a given day or the day of an act or event is to be calculated inclusive of that day; and

(l) an event which is required under this licence to occur on or by a stipulated day which is not a business day may occur on or by the next business day.
## SCHEDULE 2
### VARIATIONS TO THE LICENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reason for variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 May 1999</td>
<td>To effect administrative changes required to the licence for the commencement of the national electricity market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 December 2000</td>
<td>To establish the regulatory framework for full retail competition, to reflect changes established by the Electricity Industry Act 2000 and to make other minor amendments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March 2001</td>
<td>To amend the dispute resolution clause to establish the Energy and Water Ombudsman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 December 2001</td>
<td>To bring the licence up to date for developments in the full retail competition framework and to make other minor administrative amendments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 April 2002</td>
<td>To include the framework for common arrangements for the electronic communication of customer information between distributors and retailers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July 2002</td>
<td>To clarify the retailers’ obligation to comply with guidelines published regarding confidentiality and informed consent and inclusion of information about greenhouse gas emissions on customer’s bills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 January 2004</td>
<td>To make various administrative and substantive amendments following a review by the Commission of electricity generation, distribution and retail licences.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>