

Energy regulator sets out roadmap for review of electricity network rules

The Essential Services Commission has outlined the approach it will take in reviewing the state's distribution code to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and protects consumers.

The commission released its [approach paper](#) today, mapping out how it will review and update the state's electricity rules on how distribution businesses manage the network.

Commission energy director Sarah McDowell says the review is needed to ensure the Electricity Distribution Code reflects the changing energy landscape and evolving industry.

"It's a very timely review to safeguard the long-term interests of Victorian customers with an initial focus on the rules and standards critical for ensuring a reliable, safe and efficient network.

"Early areas for review include the technical standards applying to networks as well as customer protections including payments for unreliable power," she said.

The approach has been informed by input from stakeholders from a forum of energy industry leaders, consumer advocates, government policy advisers and regulators held in December.

At the forum, attendees discussed how customers can be better protected, what technical standards are needed to manage electricity supply as well as reporting and process requirements for distribution businesses.

The process will include ongoing consultation with key stakeholders and include the release of draft and final revisions of the code which will be open for public comment.

In recent years, the commission has reviewed and made changes to specific parts of the code including voltage standards to enable the operation of powerline bushfire safety equipment.

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