

Essential News

Latest news from the Essential Services Commission

September 2025

Removing unnecessary regulation by revoking outdated codes

We are revoking outdated and unnecessary codes of practice.

We have revoked the Electricity Customer Transfer Code of Practice (Transfer Code) and the Electricity Customer Metering Code of Practice (Metering Code), which are outdated and no longer fit-for-purpose.

Many obligations in the Metering Code are superseded by Victorian regulations and the broader national regulatory framework that governs electricity metering. For example, both frameworks specify:

- how quickly a meter must be installed
- how data should be handled
- who is responsible for maintaining metering equipment.

We consulted with electricity distribution businesses, consumer advocates and government bodies, finding broad support for revoking the codes and aligning customer transfer and metering rules with national regulations.

[Read more](#)



Streamlining public lighting obligations

We have commenced public consultation on our proposal to revoke the Public Lighting Code of Practice (code of practice). Most obligations are outdated or already covered by other requirements, while essential minimum standards will be preserved by transferring them to the [Electricity Distribution Code of Practice \(EDCoP\)](#).



The code of practice was created to ensure a safe visual environment. Key rules include how electricity distributors connect and work with public lighting customers, like councils and VicRoads.

Most of these obligations are duplicated in other Victorian regulations.

[Read more](#)

Supporting migrant and refugee women to engage with the energy market by removing barriers

We have partnered with Women's Health in the North (WHIN) to deliver the Power Up Victoria project, to support migrant and refugee women who have faced barriers accessing and participating in the energy market.

Victoria is a culturally diverse state and the absence of in-language and culturally sensitive support and information can make it difficult for consumers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to navigate the energy market, access a fair electricity deal and confidently manage their energy usage. This means they are often left paying more on energy bills.



We are partnering with WHIN's multilingual educators to work within their communities to deliver workshops, share learning resources, and provide support to women in their engagements with energy businesses.

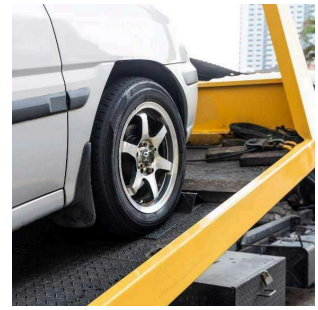
[Read more](#)

Final report on accident towing and storage fees

We have released our final report on accident towing fees, proposing no change to the current fee structures for towing and storing vehicles damaged in road accidents.

The final report finds regulated accident towing and storage fees for metropolitan Melbourne are

appropriate and broadly in line with fees in Sydney, Adelaide and Queensland, and should only be increased in line with the current indexation arrangements.



[Read more](#)

Taxi fares increase reflects rise in insurance and labour costs

Maximum fares for unbooked taxis will increase by 2.8 per cent for a standard unbooked taxi and 2.6 per cent for a high occupancy taxi from 23 September 2025 following an annual fare adjustment.

This adjustment equates to an estimated increase of \$0.47 for a three-kilometre trip in Melbourne's central business district (CBD), or \$1.70 for a longer trip, such as from the Melbourne CBD to the Melbourne International Airport.



This increase aims to strike the right balance between protecting passengers from paying too much and ensuring the industry remains sustainable.

[Read more](#)

Consultations

We're currently seeking feedback on:

- [Review of Life Support protections in Victoria](#) - consultation closes 4 September 2025
- [Lancaster Solar Farm Pty Ltd - application for electricity generation licence](#) - consultation closes 11 September 2025
- [CS SubCo Pty Ltd - application for electricity generation licence](#) - consultation closes 15 September 2025
- [Review of Public Lighting Code of Practice](#) - consultation closes 26 September 2025
- [SUPA Energy Pty Ltd - Application for electricity and gas retail licence](#) - consultation closes 1 October 2025.

This email was sent by Essential Services Commission, Level 8, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia to steven.jauw@esc.vic.gov.au

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