

C/21/29380

25 October 2021

Letter to VEU energy retailers and accredited persons

Extension to the 30 April 2022 due date for relevant entities to surrender their 2021 compliance year VEU certificate liability

The Essential Services Commission (commission) has been contacted by a number of Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) participants over the last few months concerned about the availability of Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) and the increasing VEEC price. The commission has met with a number of participants and also discussed the matter with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The last 18 months has been a difficult period for many VEU participants, including energy retailers and accredited providers, and the Essential Services Commission (commission) has been considering how it may assist VEU participants.

In previous years the commission has granted energy retailers a three-month extension to the 30 April due date to surrender their previous compliance year obligatory VEEC liability. After meeting with a number of participants, the commission has decided to extend the 30 April 2022 due date for energy retailers to meet their 2021 VEU compliance year VEEC obligation. The commission has decided to extend the due date to 31 July 2022 for all energy retailers. This extended date will be reflected in the correspondence to be sent by the commission to energy retailers later this month that will commence the 2021 energy retailer VEEC audit process.

In addition to this decision, the commission has also reviewed some processes that we believe will also assist VEU participants. We have streamlined the VEEC validation process to reduce the time taken to register VEECs. We have also engaged more staff to assess applications by businesses wanting to participate or expand their involvement in the VEU program and we have streamlined the business accreditation process – these changes have already had a significant impact on reducing the time to approve accreditations.

The commission is looking into other ways we can assist participants as covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In collaboration with DELWP we are looking at the provision of information that may assist participants, including data on activities being conducting. We note that within the covid restrictions



and guidelines, a number of activities have proceeded. Notably business lighting activities, water heating, in home displays and project-based activities have progressed and will provide a flow of VEECs going forward. The commission has also recently approved the first cold room accreditation application and we look forward to this activity gaining traction.

The commission will continue to be available to meet with participants to understand ongoing concerns and assess other areas we may be able to assist participants.

If you have any questions in relation to the VEU actions the commission has announced please contact Jeff Cefai at jeff.cefai@esc.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hamill", is written over a light grey horizontal line.

John Hamill
Chief Executive Officer