

Spotlight on energy retailers to highlight impact of energy reform

Energy retailers are facing more scrutiny from the state's independent economic regulator to ensure new consumer protections are being rolled out to Victorian households.

The Essential Services Commission is planning to update reporting requirements for electricity businesses to ensure households are being offered a new fairer price for energy – [the Victorian Default Offer](#) – as well as being told if they're on their retailer's '[best offer](#)' for them.

Commission energy director Sarah McDowell says the proposed changes will shine a light on the impact of new customer protections which came into effect on or before 1 July this year.

"We want to know how many households are on the Victorian default offer, how many are receiving the required 'best offer' messages on their bills or getting [early notification of bill changes](#).

"We also want to check on the take up of [self-meter reads](#) and new rules designed to protect Victorians experiencing family violence," she said.

Ms McDowell says updating the reporting requirements will help us understand whether our energy market is delivering the intended outcomes of the reforms and, more broadly, meeting community expectations.

"Victorians should be told whether the market is delivering outcomes in their interests.

"That is why we have made it a priority in [2019–20](#) to gather important information from energy companies to enable us to paint this important picture," she said.

The new reporting requirements are included in the commission's draft Compliance & Performance Reporting Guideline now open for consultation via [Engage Victoria](#) until 14 October 2019.

Go to our [consumer information page](#) for more information about your energy rights.

For further information call: Clayton Bennett, Senior Communication Adviser, Strategic Communication, 0447 933 140