

Suite 201 T: + 61 3 9929 4100
18 Kavanagh Street F: + 61 3 9929 4101
Southbank VIC 3006 E: info@cleanenergycouncil.org.au
Australia www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au
ABN: 84 127 102 443



24 May 2010

The Commissioner
Regulatory Review – Smart Meters
Essential Services Commission
Level 2, 35 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

By email: smartmeters@esc.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Smart meters regulatory review

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body representing Australia's clean energy and energy efficiency industries. Its priorities are to create the optimal conditions in Australia to stimulate investment in the development and deployment of world's best clean energy technologies; develop effective legislation and regulation to improve energy efficiency; and work to reduce costs and remove all other barriers to accessing clean energy.

The CEC advocates the development of policies on behalf of its members at federal and state government levels and promotes understanding of the industry and its potential through channels such as industry events, forums, conferences, newsletters and publications. The clean energy industry includes generation of electricity using wind, hydro, solar, biomass, geothermal and ocean energy as well as the emerging technologies and service providers in the energy efficiency sector, which includes solar hot water and cogeneration.

The CEC welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Essential Services Commission (the Commission) review of smart meters (the review).

The CEC's main focus in this response is the comments we have received about the smart meter roll out through our accreditation scheme for Solar PV installers.

Fundamentally, the CEC supports the roll out of smart meters as we believe it enables consumers to get more accurate information about their energy use which may lead to improved energy efficiency.

In Victoria, when a PV system is installed and a smart meter connected the household is switched onto time of use (ToU) tariffs. Our experience is that many consumers who install solar PV systems are not aware that their tariffs will change automatically to ToU once their

meter is changed to a smart meter. Often their bills will increase as a result of these tariff changes.

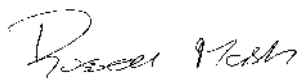
More information for consumers in what will happen when they get a smart meter is imperative.

The CEC believes that the ESC and retailers should provide customers with a fact sheet or similar explaining specific tariff information, and what will happen when they have a smart meter installed. Easily accessible and interpretable data for consumers is required so that users can better identify energy consumption changes and therefore energy saving opportunities.

This should then be reflected in their bill so that a customer can confirm the tariff rates they are on.

To discuss our submission and answer any other questions, please contact Nicole Nsair on (03) 9929 4100 or via email nicolen@cleanenergycouncil.org.au .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Marsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Russell Marsh

Policy Director
Clean Energy Council