

Queensland Competition Authority

Final Report

Solar feed-in tariff for regional Queensland for 2014–15

May 2014

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Terms of reference	1
1.2	Background	1
1.3	About this review	2
1.4	Submissions received on the draft report	3
2	METHOD AND APPROACH	4
2.1	Estimation method	4
2.2	Approaches to setting a single feed-in tariff rate	4
2.3	Competition considerations	5
2.4	Carbon pricing uncertainty	6
2.5	Arrangements for Essential Energy network	7
3	ESTIMATED SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFF FOR REGIONAL QUEENSLAND	8
3.1	Wholesale energy costs	8
3.2	NEM and ancillary services fees	9
3.3	Energy losses	9
3.4	Estimated feed-in tariffs	10
	APPENDIX A : MINISTERIAL DIRECTION	11

1 INTRODUCTION

On 6 March 2014, the Queensland Minister for Energy and Water Supply (the Minister) issued the QCA with a Direction Notice under section 253AA of the Electricity Act 1994 to conduct an investigation and provide advice on a suitable feed-in tariff rate for the 2014–15 financial year, which could be applied to all regional Queensland small-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) customers, for energy exported to the Queensland electricity grid (see **Appendix A**).

For the purposes of this exercise, the Minister has defined 'regional Queensland' as all Queensland supply networks, excluding the Energex supply network.

1.1 Terms of reference

As part of its investigation into a feed-in tariff value for regional Queensland, the Direction Notice requires the QCA to consider following matters:

- (a) The value should be determined using the general methodology applied for the Ergon Energy distribution area in the Authority's 2013 report 'Estimating a fair and reasonable solar feed-in tariff for Queensland'.
- (b) The value should not impede the development of effective retail competition in regional Queensland.
- (c) The impact that removing Federal carbon pricing legislation would have on the 2014–15 value.
- (d) The arrangements in place for Origin Energy to provide retailer services to Queensland customers connected to the Essential Energy network in southern Queensland.
- (e) Any other matter the Authority considers relevant.

The QCA must publish and provide its final report to the Minister by 23 May 2014.

We published a draft report on 21 March 2014. This final report represents our final advice to the Minister as required under the terms of reference.

1.2 Background

The Queensland Solar Bonus Scheme

The Queensland Solar Bonus Scheme (the Scheme) is a Queensland Government policy administered by the Department of Energy and Water Supply. The Scheme pays eligible customers a prescribed feed-in tariff for surplus electricity generated from solar PV systems and exported to the Queensland electricity grid. During times when a PV system is generating less electricity than the customer's consumption, the balance of electricity demanded is drawn from the network, supplied by the customer's electricity retailer.

On 9 July 2012, the Queensland Government reduced the feed-in tariff under the Scheme from 44 cents per kWh to 8 cents per kWh. Existing participants will continue to receive the 44 cents per kWh feed-in tariff for electricity exports until 2028, provided they remain eligible for the Scheme. Eligible customers who joined the Scheme after 9 July 2012 will receive a feed-in tariff of 8 cents per kWh, which is legislated to end on 30 June 2014.

More information on the Solar Bonus Scheme and changes to the Scheme is available from the Department of Energy and Water Supply's website at <http://www.dews.qld.gov.au/energy-water-home/electricity/solar-bonus-scheme>

QCA's investigation into fair and reasonable feed-in tariffs

In August 2012, the Minister directed the QCA to investigate and report on a fair and reasonable feed-in tariff to apply in Queensland from 1 July 2014, when the 8 cent per kWh feed-in tariff expires.

We produced a final report in March 2013 which recommended that mandatory minimum feed-in tariffs should continue to be regulated in regional Queensland due the lack of access to competitive market feed-in tariffs. We recommended that future feed-in tariffs should be funded by electricity retailers rather than distributors.¹

The Minister has indicated that amendments will soon be made to the *Electricity Act 1994* to implement the new regional feed-in tariff arrangements from 1 July 2014. These amendments will include new functions for the QCA to determine the regional feed-in tariff rate each year, commencing 2014–15.

1.3 About this review

This review is concerned with calculating a retailer-funded feed-in tariff to apply in regional Queensland once the 8 cent per kWh distributor-funded tariff expires on 30 June 2014. This review is not concerned with feed-in tariff arrangements for customers receiving the 44 cent per kWh feed-in tariff. These customers will continue to receive this rate until 2028, providing they remain eligible.

For solar customers in the Energex network area, the Government has indicated it will remove access to a regulated feed-in tariff from 1 July 2014 as foreshadowed when the Government implemented the 8 cent per kWh feed-in tariff in July 2012. From 1 July 2014, these solar customers will need to approach the market to secure a competitive retailer-funded feed-in tariff.

Feed-in tariffs will continue to be regulated for customers in regional Queensland, where there is insufficient competition to deliver the choice of feed-in tariff market offers that are available in south east Queensland.

Matters outside the scope of this review

The terms of reference for this review are specific and require us to use the estimation method that we developed during our 2013 review of fair and reasonable feed-in tariffs. As a result there are a range of issues that are out of scope of this review. These issues include:

- implementing feed-in tariffs that reflect the market value of electricity at the time of day it is exported
- estimating the financial value of environmental costs and benefits of solar PV
- why fair feed-in tariffs are not the same as the consumption rate
- the impacts of solar PV on network peak demand and investment
- the effect of solar PV on wholesale electricity prices (the merit order effect).

¹ See, QCA, *Final Report—Estimating a fair and reasonable solar feed-in tariff for Queensland*. March 2013.

The QCA's consideration of these matters, and reasons for its positions, are set out in its final report on estimating a fair and reasonable solar feed-in tariff for Queensland.² Our positions on these issues are unchanged and have not been revisited during this review.

1.4 Submissions received on the draft report

We received five submissions on the draft report. Retailers were largely supportive of our approach. Submissions did not provide any new or compelling evidence to persuade the QCA to revise its approach to estimating the feed-in tariff for regional Queensland.

Two submissions from R. Ballard and G. Bell challenged the findings of our 2013 review and called for that analysis to be updated in light of new circumstances. The majority of issues raised in these submissions are well beyond the scope of this review, or are matters on which our views remain unchanged. These include which costs are considered avoidable and which benefits should be quantified and returned to PV owners through feed-in tariffs. We do not consider that there have been any fundamental changes that would lead us to an alternative conclusion to that reached in March 2013 regarding the estimation methodology.

G. Bell suggested that the wording of the terms of reference to the QCA does not require it to use the method established in the 2013 review. We disagree with this interpretation and consider that the Direction Notice from the Minister (and incorporated terms of reference) includes a clear requirement and intent that the regional feed-in tariff be estimated using the same general methodology applied in the March 2013 report. Significantly revising the method used for the 2013 review, to the extent suggested in submissions, would be contrary to the terms of reference and would require a new Direction Notice from the Minister.

² QCA, *Final Report—Estimating a fair and reasonable solar feed-in tariff for Queensland*. March 2013.

2 METHOD AND APPROACH

This chapter sets out the method we have used to calculate the solar feed-in tariff for regional Queensland, including our consideration of other matters required under the Direction Notice.

2.1 Estimation method

The Minister's Direction Notice requires the QCA to use the general method of calculating feed-in tariffs for the Ergon Energy distribution area as described in our March 2013 report. This method estimates the value of the efficient feed-in tariff as the sum of the direct financial costs that Ergon Energy (retail) avoids when it on-sells a unit of exported electricity from its solar PV customers. These avoidable costs are:

- wholesale energy costs
- NEM and ancillary fees
- transmission and distribution losses.

Ergon Energy also incurs costs when on-selling exported PV electricity that it cannot avoid. These unavoidable retailer costs include:

- network costs in transporting exported PV electricity to other customers
- costs of complying with green schemes such as the Renewable Energy Target (RET)
- costs of maintaining prudential capital with AEMO.

These costs are calculated by the QCA for the purposes of setting regulated retail prices. For this final report, we have used the most recently estimated values, as used in our final determination on regulated retail prices for 2014–15.³

The QCA considered other costs and benefits of solar PV as part of its 2013 investigation. As noted in section 1.3, our analysis of these issues is contained in our March 2013 report and this review has not revisited those matters or departed from the methodology that the Minister has directed us to apply.

We note that while our 2013 investigation recommended that a range of feed-in tariffs should be applied in regional Queensland based on the differing costs of supply, the terms of reference require us to calculate a single feed-in tariff rate to apply across the entire state. This is a slightly different approach to our March 2013 recommendation, however the underlying method we recommended is equally applicable to the calculation of a single rate.

2.2 Approaches to setting a single feed-in tariff rate

The costs of supplying customers and the avoided costs that arise from solar PV exports are dependent on a number of factors. In regional Queensland, significant drivers of these costs are energy losses incurred in transporting electricity across large distances. It is because of these differing losses that our 2013 investigation proposed a range of feed-in tariffs that reflected the different losses incurred in delivering electricity to different parts of the state. For example, the avoided costs of supply in western Queensland are significantly higher than in more built-up

³ QCA, *Final Determination: Regulated retail electricity prices 2014-15*. May 2014.

areas along the coast, due to the lower customer densities, large distances and higher losses incurred.

Applying the QCA's methodology in accordance with the terms of reference, there are two main approaches that could be used to determine a single feed-in tariff. These options are:

- basing the feed-in tariff on the value of solar PV exports in the lowest average cost pricing region of Ergon Energy's network area (east zone, transmission region one)
- basing the feed-in tariff on a weighted-average value of solar exports across all of Ergon Energy's seven pricing regions.

Weighted-average estimate

One approach is to calculate the weighted-average avoidable cost for all of Ergon Energy's pricing regions. This approach would take the average avoided cost in each of Ergon Energy's pricing regions, weighted by the actual energy delivered through all transmission network connection points in each area. Details of how the QCA estimated weighted-average avoided costs for each of Ergon Energy's pricing regions is available in our March 2013 report.⁴ This approach would take that analysis a step further by using the average of the average marginal loss factors (MLFs) for each pricing region and applying that value to the estimated wholesale energy cost based on the Ergon Energy net system load profile (NSLP), as well as NEM and ancillary services fees.

This approach represents a more rigorous means of estimating an average feed-in tariff across regional Queensland. However, we have some concerns about adopting this approach, which are discussed in section 2.3 below.

Estimate based on Ergon Energy's lowest cost region

Another approach is to set the feed-in tariff based on the avoided cost of supply in the region where most regional solar customers are based, being the east pricing zone – transmission region one. This zone features the lowest average losses and costs of supply and also supplies the majority of customers in Ergon Energy's network area (around 90%).

To apply this approach we would take the estimated cost to supply the Ergon Energy NSLP, plus NEM and ancillary fees, and multiply this by the estimated transmission and distribution losses that correspond to this pricing zone (as advised by ACIL Allen).

This approach is simple and is consistent with how we calculate regulated retail prices for certain customer classes in the Ergon Energy network area. Retailers supported this approach.

2.3 Competition considerations

The terms of reference require that the feed-in tariff value we calculate should not impede the development of effective retail competition in regional Queensland.

Ergon Energy is presently the incumbent retailer outside of south-east Queensland. Unlike south east Queensland, competition in the small customer market has not developed in regional Queensland due to the subsidy arrangements which underpin the Government's

⁴ QCA, *Final Report—Estimating a fair and reasonable solar feed-in tariff for Queensland*. March 2013.

uniform tariff policy.⁵ Reforms are underway to remove some of the barriers to competition in regional Queensland to encourage new entry into the market and improve choice for regional customers.

To this end, it is important to balance the need to provide a feed-in tariff that is fair, while not setting it so high as to discourage potential new entrants from entering the regional Queensland market. Setting a mandatory feed-in tariff that is above the efficient level – that is, the avoidable cost associated with on-selling PV electricity – might be sustainable for Ergon Energy as its loss is largely underwritten by the Queensland Government. However, doing so could make it impossible for other retailers (who are not subsidised) to compete with Ergon Energy, which would discourage them from making offers to solar PV customers.

In light of this concern, we consider that the feed-in tariff should be based on the avoided costs of supply incurred in the lowest average cost of supply region of the Ergon Energy network area, rather than a weighted-average across the entire network. Adopting a weighted-average based on all of Ergon Energy's zones would impose a price that is above the efficient value of PV exports in some regions, particularly in the east pricing zone where over 90% of Ergon customers reside.⁶

Given this concentration of customers, this zone is also the area where competition is most likely to develop initially, so implementing a feed-in tariff that is above the efficient level in this area could discourage new market entrants into regional Queensland and influence potential retailers' willingness to supply to solar PV customers. Basing the feed-in tariff on costs in a relatively low cost of supply area reduces the risk of setting the mandatory feed-in tariff above the efficient level, which could impede the development of effective competition in regional Queensland. Retailers agreed with this view.

On this basis, we consider the most appropriate basis for the feed-in tariff is the avoided cost of supply estimated in the Ergon Energy east pricing zone, transmission region one. Our calculation of the avoided costs in this region are set out in Chapter 3.

2.4 Carbon pricing uncertainty

There is considerable uncertainty regarding the likelihood of carbon pricing remaining during 2014–15. While the Commonwealth Government has initiated the process for repealing the carbon tax it is uncertain if and when the carbon tax will be repealed.

For these reasons we have calculated two potential feed-in tariff rates – one inclusive of carbon costs, and one exclusive of carbon costs. While the carbon tax remains in place, the carbon-inclusive feed-in tariff should apply. However, in the event that the carbon tax is repealed, the carbon-exclusive feed-in tariff would be available to be implemented at the Minister's discretion.

This approach is consistent with our position on the treatment of carbon uncertainty for the final determination of regulated retail prices for 2014–15. Ergon Energy, Origin and the ESAA supported our approach to carbon uncertainty.

⁵ For more information on these matters, refer to the QCA's December 2013 discussion paper on retail electricity price regulation in regional Queensland, available at <http://www.qca.org.au/Electricity/Regional-consumers/Advice-on-Uniform-Tariff-Policy-and-Regional-Price>

⁶ The weighted-average approach would include some, albeit small, weighting of the higher costs of supply in Ergon's west pricing zone, which would increase the feed-in tariff above the efficient level for the east pricing zone.

G. Bell noted an inconsistency between the estimated impact of carbon pricing in the draft feed-in tariff values and the reported difference between the carbon-inclusive and carbon-exclusive tariff 11 in the 2014–15 draft determination on notified prices. This small difference (0.11 c/kWh) arises due to the application of margin and headroom components to the carbon-inclusive wholesale energy cost for tariff 11, which are not relevant in the calculation of the feed-in tariff. Part of the difference is also attributable to the effect of a higher loss factor for the Ergon Energy NSLP compared to that applicable to tariff 11 (which is based on the Energex NSLP and associated lower combined loss factor).⁷

2.5 Arrangements for Essential Energy network

Origin Energy supplies around 5,700 customers in the Goondiwindi, Texas and Inglewood areas of southern Queensland who are connected to Essential Energy's New South Wales distribution network. As at December 2013, there were 92 customers in this area receiving the distributor-funded 8 cent per kWh feed-in tariff from Essential Energy.

The terms of reference require that we consider these arrangements as part of this review.

These customers are supplied by Origin Energy at notified prices in much the same way as Ergon Energy supplies customers throughout the rest of regional Queensland. Like Ergon Energy, Origin incurs a financial loss to supply these customers at notified prices (which are lower than the efficient cost of supply) and is subsidised by the Queensland Government to underwrite this loss.

The efficient underlying energy costs and losses will differ between the Ergon Energy and Essential Energy areas. However, we consider that the retailer-funded, single rate feed-in tariff should also be available to customers in this area. This is consistent with the intent of the terms of reference which require a single feed-in tariff rate to be applied across regional Queensland (outside of the Energex distribution area). No stakeholders objected to this approach.

In response to the draft report, Origin noted that it was examining the implications of the QCA's recommended feed-in tariff of for its internal systems and processes.

⁷ In isolation this would produce an estimated carbon component that is higher than the Tariff 11 component, however this is outweighed by the effect of not applying margin and headroom to the feed-in tariff.

3 ESTIMATED SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFF FOR REGIONAL QUEENSLAND

This chapter sets out our calculation of the recommended feed-in tariff for regional Queensland by applying the method from our 2013 report, updated for the most recent available data.

The feed-in tariff value is calculated as the sum of the costs that Ergon Energy (retail) avoids when it on-sells a unit of electricity exported by its solar customers. Estimating this value requires the following inputs:

- estimated wholesale energy costs (WEC) for 2014–15
- estimated NEM and ancillary service fees for 2014–15
- estimated distribution and transmission loss factors for 2014–15.

These estimates are the same as those used in the QCA's final determination on regulated retail prices for 2014–15.

3.1 Wholesale energy costs

When retailers on-sell a unit of electricity from their solar customers, they avoid purchasing that unit of electricity from the wholesale market. This avoided WEC forms the largest component of unsubsidised, retailer-funded feed-in tariffs.

Consistent with our original methodology, we have used WEC forecasts developed by ACIL Allen as estimates of the avoided wholesale energy costs in regional Queensland during 2014–15.⁸ Table 1 sets out the estimated avoided wholesale energy purchase costs for both the carbon-inclusive and carbon-exclusive scenarios. For 2014–15, the estimated avoided wholesale energy costs (before losses) is 7.775 cents per kWh, including carbon. Should carbon pricing be repealed during 2014–15, the wholesale energy cost is estimated to decrease to 5.575 cents per kWh. These estimates have increased slightly from the Draft Report due to anticipated further mothballing of generation plant (Swanbank E and Wallerawang), announced since the Draft Report estimates were produced, as well as continued expectations of growth in LNG plant loads in Queensland and higher fuel prices (mainly gas).

Table 1 Wholesale energy costs in regional Queensland for 2014–15 (before losses)

<i>Settlement class</i>	<i>c/kWh</i>
Ergon Energy NSLP - with carbon	7.775
Ergon Energy NSLP - without carbon	5.575

Source: ACIL Allen, *Estimated energy costs for 2014–15 retail tariffs*, 7 May 2014.

⁸ Further details of the QCA's approach to estimating wholesale energy purchase costs can be found in our *Final Determination: Regulated Retail Electricity Prices 2014-15*, May 2014 and accompanying report by ACIL Allen, *Estimated energy costs for 2014-15 retail tariffs*, 7 May 2014.

3.2 NEM and ancillary services fees

NEM participation fees are levied on retailers by AEMO to cover the costs of operating the national electricity market. Ancillary services charges cover the costs of the services used by AEMO to manage power system safety, security and reliability.

NEM participation fees and ancillary services fees are paid based on net energy purchased and measured by AEMO at the regional reference node. It follows then that retailers avoid NEM and ancillary services fees at a rate which is proportional to avoided wholesale energy purchases resulting from on-selling solar PV electricity.

To estimate these avoided costs, we have used the NEM and ancillary services fees used in calculating notified prices for 2014–15, as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2 NEM and ancillary services fees - 2014–15

	<i>c/kWh</i>
NEM participation fees	0.047
Ancillary services fees	0.048
Total	0.095

Source: ACIL Allen, *Estimated energy costs for 2014–15 retail tariffs*, 7 May 2014.

3.3 Energy losses

One of the benefits of distributed generation, including solar PV, is that it reduces the need to transport energy long distances and therefore largely removes costs associated with transmission and distribution losses. On this basis, network losses are avoided when a retailer on-sells PV exports and the value of the avoided losses should be included in the feed-in tariff value.

To estimate the value of avoided losses, we have adopted the loss factors for Ergon Energy's NSLP used in our final determination on 2014–15 notified prices. These loss factors reflect the estimated weighted-average transmission losses for the Ergon Energy east pricing zone (as estimated by ACIL Allen) and distribution loss factors published by AEMO. Since the draft report was released, AEMO has published updated distribution loss factors and transmission marginal loss factors to apply for 2014–15 which have informed ACIL Allen's estimates.

The distribution loss factor is multiplied by the transmission marginal loss factor to arrive at the total combined loss factor for the region. To estimate the value of avoided losses in cents per kWh, the sum of the avoided wholesale energy purchases, plus NEM and ancillary services fees is multiplied by the combined loss factor. The loss factors we have applied are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 Loss factors – Ergon Energy's east pricing zone (2014–15)

	<i>Loss factor</i>
Transmission marginal loss factor	1.053
Distribution loss factor	1.094
Combined loss factor	1.152

Source: ACIL Allen, *Estimated energy costs for 2014-15 retail tariffs*, 7 May 2014.

3.4 Estimated feed-in tariffs

Table 4 sets out the recommended feed-in tariffs for regional Queensland for 2014–15 based on the inputs and process discussed above, for both the carbon-inclusive and carbon-exclusive scenarios.

While carbon pricing remains in force, the QCA estimates the efficient feed-in tariff for regional Queensland during 2014–15 to be 9.07 cents per kWh. In the event that carbon pricing is repealed, this value is estimated to be 6.53 cents per kWh.

The increase in these estimates from the draft report represents the anticipated effect of further changes to the supply and demand balance on the modelled wholesale price, as well as a higher average distribution loss factor on the Ergon Energy network for 2014–15.

Table 4 Recommended feed-in tariff for regional Queensland for 2014–15

<i>Cost Component</i>	<i>c/kWh</i>	
	<i>Including carbon</i>	<i>Excluding carbon</i>
Wholesale cost of energy	7.775	5.575
NEM fees	0.047	0.047
Ancillary services fees	0.048	0.048
Subtotal	7.870	5.670
Plus network distribution and transmission losses (%)	15.2%	15.2%
Value of network losses	1.199	0.864
Recommended feed-in tariff	9.070	6.534

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

APPENDIX A: MINISTERIAL DIRECTION



Office of the
Minister for Energy and Water Supply

QLD COMPETITION AUTHORITY

10 MAR 2014

DATE RECEIVED

Ref: EWS/004488
CTS02269/14

Level 13 Mineral House
41 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15456 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3896 3694
Facsimile +61 7 3012 9115

6 March 2014

Mr Malcolm Roberts
Chairman
Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Roberts

I refer to the Queensland Government's recent decision to implement new feed-in tariff (FIT) arrangements for the Queensland Solar Bonus Scheme (the Scheme) from 1 July 2014, when the 8 cent per kilowatt hour distributor-funded FIT expires.

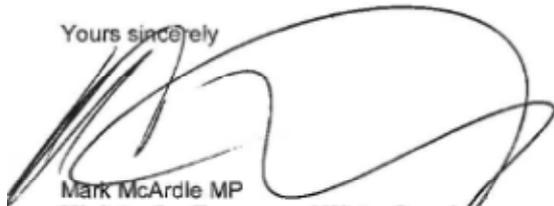
The new arrangements will allow the Queensland electricity retail market to determine the FIT rates for South East Queensland (SEQ) customers, and provide regional Queensland customers with access to a regulated, retailer-funded FIT.

I am writing to direct the Authority under section 253AA of the Act to calculate, consult on and provide information about a suitable single value for exported solar PV energy in regional Queensland, for the 2014–15 tariff year. I attach my direction and the associated Terms of Reference which impose conditions on the Authority when undertaking this function. Consistent with the Terms of Reference, the Authority is required to provide a draft report by 28 March 2014 and submit its final report by 23 May 2014.

In May this year, I intend to bring a Bill before the Legislative Assembly seeking amendments to the *Electricity Act 1994* to implement the new regional FIT arrangements by 1 July 2014. These amendments will include new functions for the Authority to determine the regional FIT rate each year commencing 2014-15.

Mr Tim Quirey, Director, Renewable and Alternative Energy in my department will be pleased to assist with any questions about this direction and can be contacted on 3199 4976.

Yours sincerely



MARK McArdle MP
Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Att. Section 253AA Direction and Terms of Reference

ELECTRICITY ACT 1994
Section 253AA

As the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, pursuant to section 253AA of the Electricity Act 1994, I hereby direct the Queensland Competition Authority (the Authority) to conduct an investigation and provide advice to me on what it considers to be a suitable feed-in tariff (FIT) rate for the 2014-15 financial year, which could be applied to all regional Queensland small scale solar photovoltaic (PV) customers, for energy exported to the Queensland electricity grid.

The following are the Terms of Reference pertaining to this request for advice.

Terms of Reference

The Authority is to investigate and provide information to the Government on:

1. An appropriate single value (feed-in tariff) for energy generated by small scale solar PV systems and exported to the electricity grid in regional Queensland, for the 2014-15 tariff year.

For the purposes of this Terms of Reference regional Queensland describes all Queensland supply networks, excluding the Energex supply network.

Matters to Consider

The matters that the Authority is required by this direction to consider are:

- The value should be determined using the general methodology applied for the Ergon Energy distribution area in the Authority's 2013 report 'Estimating a fair and reasonable solar feed-in tariff for Queensland';
- The value should not impede the development of effective retail competition in regional Queensland;
- The impact that removing Federal carbon pricing legislation would have on the 2014-15 value;
- The arrangements in place for Origin Energy to provide retailer services to Queensland customers connected to the Essential Energy network in southern Queensland;
- Any other matter the Authority considers relevant.

Consultation

The Authority should consult with stakeholders, and consider submissions, within the timetable for investigating a suitable FiT rate for regional Queensland and publishing the draft and final reports. The Authority must make its reports available to the public.

Timing

1) Draft Report

The Authority must publish a draft report on its investigation no later than 28 March 2014. The Authority must publish a written notice inviting submissions about the draft report. The notice must state a period (the consultation period) during which anyone can make written submissions to the Authority about issues relevant to the draft report. The Authority must consider any submissions received within the consultation period and make them available to the public, subject to normal confidentiality considerations.

2) Final Report and information for the Minister

The Authority must publish a final report and provide information regarding the 2014-15 value for regional Queensland, no later than 23 May 2014.

